

# Somerville Baseball Inc

PO Box 77

Somerville, NJ 08876

[www.somervillebaseballinc.com](http://www.somervillebaseballinc.com)

[somervillebaseballinc@gmail.com](mailto:somervillebaseballinc@gmail.com)

## Intertown Girls Softball League

### Majors Division - 6-7-8 grade (Seniors)



#### **Purpose:**

**To promote, develop, administer and instruct players in softball. The emphasis shall be FUN and SKILL DEVELOPMENT with maximum participation leading towards learning in a recreational environment. Winning is a byproduct of the recreational activity rather than the only product. The philosophy of winning at any cost shall not be adhered to by participants and coaches in the Intertown League.**

#### **Rules:**

*The league will be governed by the rules according to the Official HS Federation Fast Pitch Rules with the exception of the following:*

1. Each team will field ten defensive players (5 infielders are not allowed with the dividing line between infield and outfield being where the grass and infield meet) and ALL players at games will bat at least once and you must match the number of batters of the opposing team at a minimum (for example if you have 16 and the other team has 13, you must bat 13)). If a team drops below eight players during the course of the game, the manager of the affected team has the option of continuing the game or forfeiting. Lineups must be exchanged between managers before start of game.
2. Every player MUST play a minimum of three innings per game. If a player cannot play three (3) innings due to discipline, illness or injury, the opposing manager must be notified of the situation as soon as possible in order to avoid a protestable rule violation.
3. Free substitution will be in effect, whereas each manager has the option of taking a player out of the game and still being able to put them back in the game anytime during regulation play after they have sat out a minimum of one full inning. The batting lineup does not change when making a substitution. Substituted player will bat in the spot of the player they replaced.
4. No restriction on innings pitched (starting pitcher may remain in until coach removes her) however, the league encourages each team to develop and use several pitchers during the course of the season if possible. Pitching distance is 40'.
5. Pitching rule: If a pitcher hits a batter with a direct pitch twice in a game, she shall receive a warning from the umpire. The third direct hit shall constitute removal from the pitching position for the rest of the game. The batter must have tried to avoid the pitch.
6. Game start time will be noted on the schedule, forfeit time is 15 mins after the scheduled start time. You may add latecomers (15 min from start time only) to the lineup. If a game ends in a tie, one extra inning will be played (conditions permitting).
7. Game end time due to darkness or weather is an umpire decision. Coaches please use your good judgement and consider the safety of your kids. If you think it is unplayable or unsafe you can stop the game. Your kids safety is more important than a completed inning.

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8. Three (3) outs per inning or the six (5) run maximum; however, in the final inning (either the 7<sup>th</sup> or determined by the umpires based on the time of the game) three outs must be made. Home team must bat in final inning, or game is determined by the score at the completion of last full inning.
9. A 10 run, 5th inning rule shall be in effect. If one team is winning by 10 or more at the end of the 5th inning or the completion of any inning thereafter, the game is over.
10. NO APPEAL on leaving base before pitch is released, leaving base before fly ball is caught and a missed base. Umpire will call this play immediately.
11. No advancing to first base on dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.
12. Infield fly rule is not in effect.
13. Stealing is allowed, but only 1 base per runner per batter. Runners may advance only one base per steal even on a catcher overthrow or misplay. This encourages catchers to try to throw the runner out.
14. For the safety of the players, there will be NO STEALING HOME on a passed ball by the pitcher. Home will be an earned play, the ball must be in play. (Clarification: Once the ball is in play, the runner at third may run home. Therefore, if a girl on first steals second and the catcher throws to second to attempt to get her out, the ball is now in play and the runner on third may attempt to go home. This would constitute an earned play not a steal.)
15. Runners can continue to advance bases till the ball is returned to the pitchers circle. If the ball is thrown out of play, the runner will get one extra base.
16. Bunting is allowed, but no squaring up before the pitch as to distract the pitcher.
17. As per HS rules, 12" yellow softball will be used by all teams. (nonrestrictive)
18. USA or ASA Bats ONLY, all types allowed with USA or ASA stamp.
19. Sliding is permitted and it is STRONGLY recommended that players be encouraged to wear long pants. NO JEWELRY. Rubber spikes are permitted. Catchers MUST wear protective helmets, shin guards, chest protectors and throat protectors. Helmets must be worn by batters and base runners. If a runner loses the helmet (accidentally) during the course of a run or play, they will NOT be called out. However, if a runner removes the helmet for any reason, they will be immediately called out and any run or runs scored during this violation will be determined by the umpire at the time of the violation.
20. Pitchers are required to wear fielding masks.
21. Home team is designated on schedule. Home team will provide game balls and occupy third baseline bench,
22. Only the manager has the right to confer with the umpire during the course of the game. Ground rules to be discussed before the game starts.
23. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT by the managers, coaches, or players WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. After one warning by umpire, offender will be dismissed from the game. Additional disciplinary action may be taken by the manager or Recreation director if offensive conduct warrants.
24. The Home team manager whose field you are playing on will be responsible for communicating any cancellations, up to 4:30pm. If the game has not been canceled by 4:30pm, you must assume the game is on as scheduled, and the umpire shall determine whether the fields are playable. Additionally, the umpire has the right to call the game once it is underway. If the umpire calls a game before 4 and one half innings (home team must bat if losing) because of weather or darkness, the game will be suspended and resumed as soon as possible on the affected field.
25. If an official rainout is called or the fields are unplayable, the home team manager will attempt to schedule a make up game. When game is rescheduled, home team manager will contact the other manager (at least 2 days notice) and inform them of date, time and place. If either team does not show up for rescheduled game they will forfeit. If home team manager cannot or does not reschedule game, home team will forfeit. (Please contact other towns if you do not have field available, often there are fields free in other towns.)

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26. Each town is responsible for supplying their own umpire and preparing the field, when the game is played at their field (**60 foot base path, 40 foot pitching rubber**).
27. Home team is responsible for providing 2 game balls.
28. Please understand that insurance coverage (medical) remains the responsibility of each town or organization that has registered individual players with entry fees and parental consent. Administrative fee does not include medical insurance coverage. Any injury that occurs during the course of a game must be reported immediately to your affected Recreation Director. (Please do not call the Directors at home unless it is an emergency!)
29. Winning team is responsible for reporting scores to League Commissioner, Gregg Snyder, at [greggsnyderjr@gmail.com](mailto:greggsnyderjr@gmail.com) or [somerville.baseball.inc@gmail.com](mailto:somerville.baseball.inc@gmail.com), or through text at 908-210-6252. Scores should be reported no later than the morning after the game has been completed.