

Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association

SOFTBALL DIVISION

Contents

1.0 CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE 3

2.0 PLAYERS’ ELIGIBILITY 4

3.0 PLAYERS ON ROSTER 5

4.0 DISTRIBUTION OF PLAYERS 5

5.0 OFFICIAL GAMES 6

6.0 LEAGUE STANDINGS 6

7.0 SCORES 7

8.0 THREE INNING RULE 7

9.0 PROTEST PROCEDURE 7

10.0 PLAYOFFS / POST SEASON TOURNAMENT 8

11.0 ATTENDANCE 8

12.0 MANAGERS 8

13.0 UMPIRES 9

14.0 SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES 9

15.0 EQUIPMENT 9

16.0 APPEAL PLAY 10

17.0 BATTING RULES 10

18.0 PITCHING RULES – 10U KID PITCH AND COACH PITCH 11

19.0 PITCHING AND BASELINE DISTANCE 11

20.0 DEFENSIVE RULES 11

21.0 SPECIAL RULES - T-BALL 11

22.0 SPECIAL RULES - 8U Machine Pitch (formally coach pitch) 13

23.0 SPECIAL RULES – 10U KID PITCH 14

24.0 SPECIAL RULES – 12U and above 15

Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association

SOFTBALL DIVISION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association is organized for the purpose of promoting organized, amateur, recreational softball for the mutual benefit and enjoyment of players, coaches, parents and spectators. Our overall objective is to promote an emphasis of good sportsmanship, learning, and community that facilitates an atmosphere of goodwill for everyone involved.

GENERAL RULES

The Sterling Heights Executive Baseball and Softball Board reserves the right to change any rule, if the need arises. Softball will be played according to the U.S.A. Participant Manual – Official Rules of Softball, except as modified below.

1.0 CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

1.1 The Softball Commissioner shall be notified in all matters concerning conduct and discipline.

1.2 The Softball Commissioner shall be responsible for monitoring the conduct of the managers/coaches within their leagues. Any problems which cannot be resolved shall be brought to the Baseball and Softball Executive Board for assistance and direction.

1.3 Profanity, abusive language, harassment or fighting will not be tolerated. In cases of fighting, the umpire shall attempt to determine the offending participants. Penalty: immediate ejection from the game for all offending participants.

1.4 Managers, coaches, players, and spectators must not advocate or participate in demeaning activity or verbal harassment toward their opponents either prior to, during or after games. Banned activity includes but is not limited to; parading of flags / banners, verbal abuse of an opponent and / or victory celebrations that are meant to degrade the opposition.

1.5 All ejected players, managers, coaches, and spectators must cease all involvement in the game and leave the playing field and the park. Penalty: forfeiture of the game, if the ejected individuals do not do so within one (3) minute from the ejection.

1.6 Any ejected person is automatically suspended from participating in the next scheduled game. Any spectator, manager, coach, or player that has been ejected from the game will be suspended from their next scheduled game (including playoffs). It is the responsibility of the manager or acting manager to ensure the ejected person does not attend the next game and report all ejected persons to their League Commissioner within 24 hours. Attending the next game will result in forfeit of that game and suspension from the following game. Also, failure to comply could result in a one (1) year suspension. Rain outs or forfeits will not be considered as played game.

1.7 Any manager, coach, player, parent or other participant, who receives a second ejection in the same year (including regular and postseason play), will immediately be suspended from all league activities for the remainder of that year. This person must appear before the Baseball and Softball Executive Board before any reinstatement can occur. If the person does participate in the league in the next year the

Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association

SOFTBALL DIVISION

following will apply: ANY SUBSEQUENT EJECTION DURING THAT YEAR WILL RESULT IN AN INDEFINITE SUSPENSION BAN FROM PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE ACTIVITIES.

1.8 In cases where Executive board members did not meet and disciplinary action was taken, no more than a one (1) game suspension can be given. Person(s) may appeal to the full board. If disciplinary action is upheld by a majority of board members, then there will be an automatic two (2) game suspension.

1.9 No disciplinary action may be taken on a player by a manager unless the manager has notified the Softball Commissioner within 24 hours.

1.10 Alcoholic beverages on school or city property will not be tolerated. Penalty: ejection from the premises and possible forfeiture of game at the discretion of the umpire or the Softball Commissioner.

1.11 Smoking on the bench or the playing field by players or coaches participating in the game is prohibited. Penalty: ejection from the game after the first warning.

1.12 No corporal punishment will be tolerated. Penalty: possible dismissal from the Softball Association, at the discretion of the Softball Commissioner.

1.13 Intentional throwing of any softball equipment will not be tolerated. Penalty: the offending individual is to be ejected from the game.

1.14 Abusing softball equipment will not be tolerated. Penalty: the offending individual is to be ejected from the game.

1.15 Any game in which a non-legal (not registered with league) player participates will be forfeited by the offending team. The manager of the offending team will be suspended for the number of games in which the non-legal player participates. Exception is for guest players in the 19 and above adult league

2.0 PLAYERS' ELIGIBILITY

2.1 No player shall play until verification of age is produced. Verification will be the responsibility of the team manager. If a player is found to be over the age limit, the player's team will forfeit all games in which the player has participated. .

2.2 No player will play on more than one (1) team within the club, nor change divisions after the start of the first official game in either of the divisions affected except for those who are playing for a travel team. Exceptions must have the Softball Commissioner's approval. Failure to comply with this will result in disciplinary action.

2.3 Any players added to a team after the team formation meeting will come from a reserve waiting list. No team or ball player will have preference. Exceptions must have the approval of the Softball Commissioner.

2.4 Players can be added to a roster at any point of the season, for hardship cases, to prevent forfeiting remaining games, regular season or playoff, if approved by a minimum of three (3) Baseball and Softball

Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association

SOFTBALL DIVISION

Executive Board members. Hardship cases are defined as players lost due to extended injury (more than one game), family moves, family crisis, quitting, or other causes approved by the Board.

3.0 PLAYERS ON ROSTER

3.1 Each team is allowed only players on the team roster as recorded with the Baseball and Softball Association. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in the forfeiture of any game that an unauthorized player played in. In addition, disciplinary action shall be taken against any manager(s) who knowingly violate this rule.

3.2 Only the manager, coaches, and scorekeeper are allowed on the player's bench or field. The umpires may remove all unauthorized personnel from the playing field or players' bench. Managers, coaches, and players shall not be permitted to observe the game from behind the backstop or home plate.

4.0 DISTRIBUTION OF PLAYERS

4.1 T-Ball teams will be formed by the Softball Commissioner. Players will be placed on teams geographically, based on the nearest elementary school, whenever possible. Exceptions to this rule can be granted by the Commissioner if a valid transportation or family reason is provided by the child's parent or guardian.

4.2 All returning players not protected by their manager will have their names placed in the pool of available players.

4.3 Trades will be allowed immediately after the team formation meeting. Protected players cannot be traded without the Softball Commissioner's approval.

4.4 Players not wanting to play for a given manager shall indicate so at registration and go into the player pool. A player may not list more than one (1) manager for which they do not want to play. Managers cannot protect any player who has asked not to play for them.

4.5 Every manager or their representative must attend the team formation meeting. If a team does not have representation the Commissioner shall assign someone to act on behalf of that team, including making trades.

4.6 ALL LEAGUES:: Each manager may have any amount of protected players up to the team limit set for that league. No pirating of players protected by another team will be allowed. If a protected player refuses to play for that team, they automatically go into player pool. Trading is allowed at the team formation meeting provided it is approved by the respective Commissioner. A coach may recruit player(s) for his or her team, as long as the player(s) did not play on any other team within the Sterling Heights Softball the prior year.

4.7 If the existing manager quits or leaves the team before the formation meeting and the team is taken over by a new manager, the players can have the option of either staying with their existing team if availability allows or go into the player pool.

Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association

SOFTBALL DIVISION

5.0 OFFICIAL GAMES

5.1 Starting and forfeit times will be listed on the game schedules. All games will be seven (7) innings in length, or as restricted by the time limit.

5.2 For Tee-ball, 8u and 10u, no inning will begin after one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes from the game start time. For 12u, no inning can begin after 90 minutes and for Majors and Minors no inning can begin after 105 minutes. The time limit applies to the time of the third (3rd) out of the prior inning. This will apply for regular season games.

5.3 An official game shall consist of the last completed inning at the official time limit (exception: playoffs, which will be 4-1/2 innings if the home team is leading or five (5) full innings must be played).

5.4 The inning completed after the time limit constitutes an official game, regardless of the inning (except playoffs). This includes all leagues.

5.5 An unofficial game that is suspended will not be restarted. The game will be picked up from the point of suspension.

5.6 All games must have eight (8) players per team to start by the forfeit time. If the number falls below eight (8) for any reason, that team forfeits. There is no borrowing of any players from another team allowed.

5.7 It is the manager's responsibility to present a complete batting order, with the player's number, prior to the start of the game.

5.8 It shall be the umpire's responsibility to determine the play-ability of the field.

5.9 The league will follow an approved heat index guide for sporting activities.

5.10 If lightning is observed by the umpire and/or a manager, the umpire will suspend the game until weather conditions determine if the game can be continued or canceled. The umpire will wait a minimum of ten (10) and maximum of (20) minutes.

5.11 All players from any game suspended due to weather shall seek shelter until the umpire determines it is safe to resume the game.

5.12 All rained out games and make-up games will be rescheduled as soon as possible. The Softball Commissioners will notify each manager.

6.0 LEAGUE STANDINGS

6.1 The following formula will determine league standings. For each win, a team will receive two (2) points. For tie games, each team will receive one (1) point. Teams will be ranked in the standings in the order of the points they accumulate.

6.2 In case of a tie for first place in the league standings, the team with the most wins will take the higher position. If the teams are tied in total wins, then the team with the best record against the

Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association

SOFTBALL DIVISION

opponent they are tied with will take the higher position. If there is still a tie, the team with the better record against the teams within their own division will take the higher position. If the teams are still tied, a coin flip will determine which team receives the higher seed for the play-offs.

7.0 SCORES

7.1 Umpires must print and sign their name on the score sheet of both teams after each game.

7.2 It will be the responsibility of the winning team manager to send their scores to the designated text or email address within 24 hours. Failure to enter the score may result in forfeiture of the game.

8.0 THREE INNING RULE

8.1 In an official game, each player must play three (3) innings defensively. Exception: the third inning of the rule is waived in an official game less than six (6) innings. If a player arrives after the first pitch of the game has been thrown, the player must still play but the player is placed in the last spot in the batting order. If the player comes after the 4th inning, the three (3) inning field ruling is waived.

8.2 If a player is injured or sick and is later able to return to the game, the player can re-enter the game at any point.

8.3 No player is allowed to sit two consecutive defensive innings unless it is at the player's request.

8.4 A manager suspected of illegal player substitution shall be reported to the League Commissioners. Any manager found guilty, will be placed on probation with the possibility of forfeiture of the game in question (pending an executive Softball Board hearing). A second (2nd) violation could result in a game forfeiture and a manager suspension / dismissal (pending an executive Baseball and Softball Board hearing).

9.0 PROTEST PROCEDURE

9.1 If a game is to be put under protest, the following procedure must be followed:

- a) The manager of the protesting team must immediately notify the umpire and the opposing manager that the game is being continued under protest.
- b) The umpire will notify the scorekeepers that the game is under protest and both score books will be signed by the umpire.
- c) All specifics relating to a protest must be included in the score book: player at bat, inning, balls and strikes, name of pitcher, number of outs and the bases on which there were runners.
- d) Protest of any game shall be made in writing and filed with a fee of \$20.00 with the Softball Commissioners no later than 24 hours after the game in which the alleged violation occurred. The letter of protest must include the date, name of umpire, and all matters pertaining to the alleged infraction, citing which rule(s) were violated.

9.2 Protest shall not be received or considered if they are based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of judgment on the part of the umpire.

Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association

SOFTBALL DIVISION

9.3 All protests shall be acted upon by the Baseball and Softball Association executive board, decisions by the board shall be final.

9.4 The \$20.00 protest fee will be applied to the general fund - softball division if the protest is denied by the protest committee. If the protest is accepted, the \$20.00 fee will be returned to the protesting team. The appropriate action will be taken by the Softball Commissioner.

10.0 PLAYOFFS / POST SEASON TOURNAMENT

10.1 All city championship games must be a complete, seven inning game. The mercy rule (16.2) will not apply to championship games. For all other playoff games the mercy rule will apply, as will what constitutes an official game (5.2 & 5.3).

10.2 After conclusion of the regular season, a tournament will be played will be played. All teams will be placed in brackets according to seeding based on points from the regular season. If a tie exists: First tiebreaker is the team with the most wins; second tiebreaker is the team with the most points in head to head competition between the teams that are tied. The final tiebreaker will be a coin toss.

10.3 The team with the highest seed will be the home team and will occupy the 3rd base bench. 10.4 Mercy rule – refer to mercy rule section.

10.4 Bench assignments – refer to section on softball playing rules.

11.0 ATTENDANCE

11.1 If a player has two (2) or more unexcused absences from official practices or games he or she may be dropped from the team without the refund of his or her money; subject to manager recommending dismissal to the Softball Commissioner.

12.0 MANAGERS

12.1 All new registered managers must be 21 years of age or older by opening day.

12.2 All new managers or their representatives are strongly encouraged to attend a coach's clinic.

12.3 To ensure the quality of our managers and coaches the Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association (SHBSA) reserves the right to review all coaches and managers periodically and at any time dismiss a coach or manager that is inconsistent with the stated goals and objectives of the SHBSA (Statement of Purpose, page (2) paragraph one). Any participant exhibiting behavior inconsistent with these objectives is subject to review and possible discipline by the board. Any manager that is dismissed will be notified by the Softball Commissioner. An appeal may be filed in writing to the Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association and the person will be granted a hearing in front of the board.

12.4 All managers and their primary assistant coach will be subject to a background check. No official practices can happen until the background checks are complete and come back approved. A practice and/ or a game cannot be held/ played without a coach/ asst coach that has a clear background check.

Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association

SOFTBALL DIVISION

13.0 UMPIRES

13.1 Umpires shall be responsible for monitoring the conduct of teams, and managers and will report to the head umpire any and all poor conduct/sportsmanship violations. The head umpire shall inform the respective commissioner of any significant problems.

13.2 Umpires are not to umpire any games in which they are participating or have an immediate relative participating in the game. That game is to be suspended. Exceptions to this rule are acceptable providing that both managers are in mutual agreement upon who the umpire shall be.

14.0 SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES

14.1 Ground rules according to U.S.A. Softball rule book, except where modified according to special rules.

14.2 Specified warm-up areas will be used at Joe Delia Park. Teams are to warm-up only in these areas or on the field. We need to protect our families and fans. No one, including the pitchers can warm up, throw a ball, swing a bat, etc in any area other than the field of play or the designated practice area. Offending teams will be warned once. After that the coach may face disciplinary action up to suspension.

14.3 The home team shall take the bench that is on the third (3rd) base side of the field unless specified by signs on the benches / dugout. This will apply for all regular season games.

14.4 In the case of combined age groups, the rules for the older age group will take precedent.

15.0 EQUIPMENT

15.1 A player cannot be fielded who arrives wearing a uniform which has been deliberately altered, or has profane, abusive language, alcohol or drug related, distasteful or offensive names, pictures or symbols printed thereon. Subject to the board's discretion, names and numbers are not considered as altering the uniforms. Alterations will be subject to the Softball Commissioner's approval.

15.2 All equipment issued to a team must be returned to the equipment building or league official on or by the designated return day. Penalty: Suspension from participation applies to managers or assistant managers of all teams.

15.3 Any equipment infractions observed by a league official, umpires, and / or managers is to be reported to the commissioners. No action will be taken at the game. Infractions will be discussed with the offending team's manager. A second infraction will be dealt with by the Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball executive Board.

15.4 Catcher's equipment must be worn in its completeness in all leagues above 8U..

15.5 T-Ball and 8U catchers are required to wear the helmet with attached mask at all times while in the field. Shin guards and chest protectors are not required but are encouraged. Shin guards and chest protectors will be made available upon request.

Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association

SOFTBALL DIVISION

15.6 All batters and base runners will wear helmets. An oversight on a forgotten helmet will not cause a batter / base runner to be called out. A runner will not be called out if a helmet accidentally falls off while running the bases. After the play has ceased, the players will be required to replace the helmet. All strikes, balls, out, and base hits will stand.

15.7 All players on a team will wear uniforms alike in color, trim, and style as issued by the SHBSA.

15.8 Visors are optional. If visors are worn by players in fast pitch, they must be worn as issued and worn properly.

15.9 Players may wear outer type garments, for their comfort, under their uniform except for jackets and coats, which may be worn over their uniform.

15.10 Pitchers cannot wear white (softball) or yellow (fast pitch) wristbands on their pitching wrist or arm.

15.11 Full socks must be worn at all times on the field. Socks must cover the calves.

15.12 Bandanas or scarves are not allowed.

15.13 Street shoes, smooth soles and steel cleats cannot be worn. Rubber cleats are mandatory for all fast pitch leagues and recommended for all other leagues.

15.14 Girls minors, majors and 19+ divisions are allowed to have shirts untucked from their pants.

15.15 All girls 10 U and 8U machine pitch, will use an eleven (11) inch yellow synthetic softball.

15.16 Co-ed' T-ball and will use a nine (9) inch Incrediball. 15.18 At the start of an official game, all player must remove all jewelry. This may include, but is not limited to items such as watches, necklaces, rings, bracelets and ear rings. (Excluding medical alert jewelry).

16.0 APPEAL PLAY

16.1 The only appeal play allowed in any Sterling Heights Softball Association game is if a player may have missed a base the coach may appeal this to the umpire

16.2 For remaining rules, refer to the U.S.A. Softball rule book.

17.0 BATTING RULES

17.1 Each league may only use a bat allowed for that specific league (refer to USAA rule book). Example: no t-ball bats are allowed in 8u and no bat that does not say t-ball will be allowed in t-ball.

7.2 Machine pitch league: There shall be ten (10) batters or three (3) outs limit per inning. The tenth (10th) batter must remain at bat until the player strikes out or hits the ball. NOTE: When the tenth (10th) batter comes to bat, the offensive team automatically has two outs against them, any conventional out, or touching of any base or home plate before the tenth batter reaches it and, while the ball is in the possession of a defensive player, constitutes the third out and ends the inning.

Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association

SOFTBALL DIVISION

17.2 The offensive team must notify the opposing team when the tenth (10th) batter is coming to bat.

17.3 On tenth (10th) batter, the ball remains alive until any conventional out in the field, or until home plate is touched while the ball is in the possession of a defensive player.

17.4 All players on a team will be placed in a batting order and will bat whether on defense or on the bench. If a player leaves the game, their place in the batting order will be bypassed. An out shall not be charged to the offensive team. If a player is injured and leaves in the middle of an at-bat, the count will be assumed by the next batter.

17.5 A foul ball will not constitute a third (3rd) strike.

17.6 After the umpire has given a warning to the teams, if any batter throws the bat, the umpire will call the batter out. The ball will be dead and the runners will not advance.

17.7 There will be no infield fly rule in all leagues below girl's majors.

17.8 There are no batting circles for any age groups, except at Joe Delia Park.

18.0 PITCHING RULES – 10U KID PITCH AND COACH PITCH

18.1 Any pitch that hits a batter is considered a ball. Batter must make a reasonable effort to avoid being hit.

19.0 PITCHING AND BASELINE DISTANCE

League	Pitching	Baseline	Home Plate to 2 nd Base
T-Ball (Girl's & Boy's)	30 ft	55 ft	77ft 6in
Girls 8u Machine Pitch	35 ft	55 ft	77ft 6in
Girls 10U Kid Pitch	35 ft	55 ft	77ft 6in
Girls Juniors (11 -12)	40 ft	60 ft	84 ft 7 in
Girls Minors (13-14)	40 ft	60 ft	84 ft 7 in
Girls Majors and 19+	43 ft	60 ft	84 ft 7 in

20.0 DEFENSIVE RULES

20.1 Players shall be defensively placed in positions such that there is a defined infield and outfield: ten (10) players on the field with six (6) infielders and (4) outfielders in the 8U, 10U and 12U divisions. Minors, Majors and 19+ will field 9 defensive players with six (6) infielders and three (3) outfielders.

21.0 SPECIAL RULES - T-BALL

21.1 Each inning, all batters on the offensive team will bat. The inning is over when the last batter is either out, or safe on base. There are outs, but the inning is not over on the 3rd out, it is only over when all the batters have batted.

21.2 When playing in the field, helmets with face cages must be worn by the pitcher and catcher.

Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association

SOFTBALL DIVISION

21.3 The pitcher must keep both feet inside of the eight (8) foot circle until the ball is hit. If he/she does not, then the batter will be credited with a home run.

21.4 An arc will be drawn from the baseline to baseline, with a radius of fifteen (15) feet and the center as home plate. The enclosed area will be foul territory. Any hit ball that comes to rest within the fifteen (15) foot arc shall be considered a foul and dead ball.

21.5 If the bat hits any part of the tee and the ball goes past the fifteen (15) foot radius, it shall be considered a fair ball.

21.6 The defensive teams may use two (2) outfield coaches standing behind the outfielders, for instructional purposes only

21.7 Scoring in T-Ball will be optional.

21.8 There are no playoffs in T-Ball.

21.9 Players must attempt to throw the ball to a base. If a player deliberately attempts to roll the ball to a base, the runner will be considered safe.

21.10 On an overthrow to first base, the batter will be awarded only the base and runners will be awarded only the base they are going to. At first base, an overthrow shall consist of a thrown ball which goes uncaught and passes the first base foul line.

21.11 Dead ball is to be called if the ball passes first or third base line on the initial throw by an infield player. A dead ball is to be called if the ball passes the first (1st) or third (3rd) base line.

21.12 Play shall be considered dead and the base runners cannot advance once a thrown ball is in possession of a fielder in the infield. If runners are between bases when the infielder takes possession of the ball, they may continue to the next base.

21.13 There are no strike-outs in T-Ball.

21.14 SPECIAL RULES - T-BALL, DEFENSIVE POSITIONING

21.14.1 There will be a 26 foot arc from foul line to foul line. No defensive player is allowed in this area before the ball is hit. If a defensive player enters this area before the ball is hit, the batter is awarded a home run.

21.14.2 No player may play a single position for more than two (2) innings per game, except the pitcher can play (3)

21.14.3 Defensive players will be deployed around the field in traditional positions. The outfield players must be positioned no closer than (10) feet from any infield base prior to the ball being put into play by the batter.

21.15 SPECIAL RULES - T-BALL, POSITIONING PLAYERS TO BAT

21.15.1 Managers and coaches will be allowed to call time and position the batters in the batter's box.

Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association

SOFTBALL DIVISION

21.15.2 Players are allowed two (2) practice swings per strike (prior to making contact with the ball).

21.15.3 Players must be positioned in the batter's box with their feet in a straight line to the center of the field. Any player whose feet are positioned to be in line with either base line when they make contact with the ball shall be called out and the ball will be considered dead. All runners will return to their base.

22.0 SPECIAL RULES - 8U Machine Pitch (formally coach pitch)

22.1 The UMPIRE will be responsible for operating and making any necessary adjustments to the pitching machine. The machine will be set at a 3-3-3 for all games and all teams. There will be no switching of machines during a game unless the umpire deems it necessary.

22.2 Pitching: The coach or assistant coach will pitch to their own team using the machine. Pitching rules are detailed in section 19. If the machine is malfunctioning, we will revert back to Coach Pitching

22.3 Two (2) coaches of the team playing defense will be allowed in the outfield for the entire season (including playoffs).

22.4 Umpires will be used in all games. Balls and strikes will not be counted and the hit-by-pitch rule will not apply in coach pitch leagues. Each batter will be given four pitches maximum. After four pitches, if the ball has not been put in play, the batter is considered out.

22.5 Pitchers (children) that are on the field must wear a caged helmet for their protection.

22.6 No player may play a single position for more than three (3) innings per game.

22.7 Players must attempt to throw the ball to a base. If a player deliberately attempts to roll the ball to a base, the runner will be considered safe.

22.7.1 On an overthrow to first base, the batter will be awarded only the base and runners will be awarded only the base they are going to. At first base, an overthrow shall consist of a thrown ball which goes uncaught and passes the first base foul line.

22.7.2 Dead ball is to be called if the ball passes first or third base line on the initial throw by an infield player. A dead ball is to be called if the ball passes the first (1st) or third (3rd) base line.

22.8 Play shall be considered dead and the base runners cannot advance once a thrown ball is in possession of a fielder in the infield. If runners are between bases when the infielder takes possession of the ball, they may continue to the next base.

22.9 The manager or designated coach will assist his / her catcher in retrieving pitched balls that the catcher misses and return the ball to the pitcher. He or she will be positioned near the backstop so there is no interference with the umpire or catcher.

Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association

SOFTBALL DIVISION

23.0 SPECIAL RULES – 10U KID PITCH

23.1 The manager or designated coach will assist his / her catcher in retrieving pitched balls that the catcher misses and return the ball to the pitcher. He or she will be positioned near the backstop so there is no interference with the umpire or catcher.

23.2 On an overthrow to first base, the batter will be awarded only the base and runners will be awarded only the base they are going to. At first base, an overthrow shall consist of a thrown ball which goes uncaught and passes the first base foul line.

23.3 Dead ball is to be called if the ball passes first or third base line on the initial throw by an infield player. A dead ball is to be called if the ball passes the first (1st) or third (3rd) base line.

23.4 No player may play a single position for more than three (2) innings per game. Exception: Pitchers are limited to three (3) innings per game, not including the 7th or extra innings.

23.5 Players must attempt to throw the ball to a base. If a player deliberately attempts to roll the ball to a base, the runner will be considered safe. A dead ball is to be called if the ball passes the first (1st) or third (3rd) base line.

23.6 Scoring shall be limited to five runs per inning. Exception is the trailing team may score as many runs as needed to tie the score.

23.7 A maximum of three walks are allowed by a pitcher per inning. Once there have been three walks in an inning and three balls against a batter, the following occurs:

- a. A designated adult pitcher from the batting team will replace the defensive pitcher with the following rules:
 - i. The designated pitcher will take over the strike count.
 - ii. The designated pitcher will pitch a maximum of three pitches, all will be counted as strikes.
 - iii. A foul ball on the third strike will be declared a no-pitch and replayed until the batter puts the ball in play or strikes out.
 - iv. Pitches must be delivered from the pitcher's mound, inside the circle
 - v. Defensive pitcher must be in the circle when the pitch is thrown
 - vi. The designated pitcher must attempt to avoid a batted ball;
 1. if the designated pitcher is struck by a batted ball, the ball is considered live;
 2. if the designated pitcher is deemed by the umpire as intentionally interfering with a batted ball, the batter is out and the runners must return to their bases at the start of the play.
 - vii. The designated pitcher may not coach the runners after the ball is put in play. After the batter strikes out or puts the ball in play, the defensive pitcher will pitch to the next batter.

Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association

SOFTBALL DIVISION

24.0 SPECIAL RULES – 12U and above

24.1 The 12 U and above leagues will be divided into the following age groups. The softball Commissioner reserves the right to realign all age divisions. 11 – 12 year old (Junior Division) 13 - 14 year old (Minor Division) 15 - 18 year old (Major Division) 19 year old and older

24.2 A twelve (12) inch, yellow, softball will be used for the Junior's leagues, Minors, Majors and 19+ fast pitch leagues.

24.3 A continuous batting order will be used.

24.4 Ten (10) players are allowed on defense.

24.5 Pitchers are limited to three (3) innings per game, not including the 7th or extra innings. Each out is considered 1/3 of an inning for that pitcher. Rule 10.1 (three inning rule) applies. Once a pitcher begins pitching to a batter the pitcher may not be substituted until the at bat is complete. The only exception is due to injury to the pitcher. If the pitcher is substituted due to injury and the batter makes an out, the out (1/3 of an inning) counts toward the original pitcher's three inning limit.

24.6 A courtesy runner is allowed and encouraged for the catcher in order to speed up the game and have the catcher ready for the next defensive inning. The replacement player is to be the last player to make an out. The exception to this rule is for un-timed minimum inning games. (playoffs)

24.7 A fouled bunt attempt on the third strike is a strike out and runners cannot advance.

24.8 For pitching rules, refer to U.S.A Softball Rule Book. EXCEPTION: Pitchers WILL be allowed to use a step-back method of pitch delivery consistent with High School Softball.

24.9 Maximum number of warm up pitches allowed on the field of play between innings is four (4).

24.10 If a pitcher hits three (3) consecutive batters (hit by pitch as ruled by the umpire) or four (4) overall in a game they cannot pitch again in that game.

24.11 A coach may call time out to talk to his/her pitcher a total of three (3) times per game. If a coach calls time out twice in one inning to talk to the same pitcher, that pitcher must be replaced with a new pitcher. If a coach uses the third time out in any inning, on the same pitcher, the pitcher must be replaced at this time. Refer to U.S.A. Softball Rule Book.

24.11.1 A time out shall not exceed one (1) minute from the time the timeout is granted by the umpire.

24.12 Any runner attempting to steal after the maximum allotted steals will be called out immediately after touching the advancing base, regardless if a putout is attempted. At that time play will be stopped and all other runners will return to the base they occupied prior to the play.

24.13 All batters must wear a caged helmet while batting.

24.14 JUNIORS (11 & 12 Year Old)

Sterling Heights Baseball and Softball Association

SOFTBALL DIVISION

24.14.1 Any attempt made by a catcher to put out a runner that results in an overthrow shall result in a dead ball and no further advancement by any base runner, unless the ball was put into play by a batter before the attempt was made.

24.14.2 Scoring is limited to five (5) runs per inning except as noted. The trailing team can score as many runs as necessary to tie the score.

24.14.3 Un-limited steals are allowed per inning except there shall be no stealing of Home. The exception to the stealing home rule is if there is an attempted pick off of a runner on 3rd base. Then the runner can attempt to steal home.

24.14.4 The third (3rd) strike does not have to be caught clean to be ruled a strike out (it can be dropped).

24.14.5 The infield fly rule is not in effect for this division.

24.15 MINORS

24.15.1 Scoring is limited to five (5) runs per inning except as noted. The trailing team can score as many runs as necessary to tie the score.

24.15.2 The infield fly rule is not in effect for this division.

24.15.3 Unlimited steals allowed in each inning.

24.15.4 A dropped third (3rd) strike will be ruled as in the U.S.A. Softball Rule Book. The exception being that if a batter turns toward or takes one step (or more) toward the bench after the 3rd strike, she is considered to have "surrendered" and is out. Movement by the batter after a dropped 3rd strike must be directly up the first base line in order to remain to attempt to reach first base successfully.

24.16 MAJORS and 19+ OLDER

24.16.1 Scoring is limited to seven (7) runs per inning except as noted. The trailing team can score as many runs as necessary to tie the score.

24.16.2 The infield fly rule is in effect for this division.

24.16.3 Unlimited steals.

24.16.4 A dropped third (3rd) strike will be ruled as in the U.S.A. Softball Rule Book. The exception being a batter must show intent to advance before leaving the batter's box or their inaction will be deemed "surrendering" and the batter ruled out.