

# Town of Tonawanda (TGFSL-Tonawanda Fastpitch Softball League) and COT Rec girls Softball (City of Tonawanda Department of Youth, Recreation & Parks)

2021 TGFSL-COT Rec Girls' Softball League Rules, updated

## League Organization

The TGFSL- COT Girls Rec Softball League will be a USA Softball sanctioned league in 2021. The season will offer a format based on the USA Softball National Guidelines: 16u, 14u, 10u

**Purposes: basically, have FUN & teach the girls Softball!**

*Rec Girls Softball .. it's where it starts !!!*

## **General Rules**

1. USA Softball rules will govern play with modifications providing equitable levels of play for each division.
2. TFGSL & COT Rec will notify managers of rainouts. They will reschedule postponed games only. Teams will be notified within 3 days of the rainout on a re-scheduled time and site. If team managers have not heard by phone or received a mailed rescheduling, it is the teams' responsibility to contact TGFSL at 444-4906 or COT Rec at 505-1024.
3. A player's age on January 1, 2021 is their official league age.
4. Once a player plays on one team, she may not quit to play on another team. Any request of changes must have to approval of the Supervisor.
5. Only players, coaches, and scorekeepers are allowed on the bench.
6. **Time permitting**, 10u are 5 inning games, 14u & 16u are 6 innings unless time restraint **\*\* time determines last inning. Umpire & Coach from each team will agree on last inning, prior to inning start, based on time. Last inning is unlimited runs for each team (not 5 run mercy).**
7. Innings 1 through inning 5 for 14u/16u (through 4<sup>th</sup> inning for 10u), teams will be allowed to score 5 runs. Additional runs that are scored after the 5<sup>th</sup> run that are a continuation of that play will be permitted & counted until play comes to an end. At that time their at bats are over. In the determined last inning and beyond unlimited runs may be scored.
8. Any inning in progress should be completed unless weather, field, light, or league rules warrant otherwise.
9. 4 innings will constitute a complete game when weather or darkness interrupts the game.
10. Only during playoffs will tied games play extra innings.
11. There will be a warning given to any player who throws the bat during their time up to bat. This warning applies to both teams that are playing. The second infraction of any player will result in an out.
12. Ten players play on the field for 10u, Nine players for 13u/14u & 16u. You may play with less than 10 players, 8 players minimum. If a team falls short of 8 players for a game. they can borrow players from other teams in the same division (or a lower age division); the borrowed player can't pitch for the team they are helping. If the added player comes from the opposing team at game time, the borrowed player can't pitch or bat for the team they are helping.

13. All girls are included in the batting order regardless if they are playing in the field. Any player attending the game late may be placed at the last position of the batting line up only.
14. Umpires and opposing coaches must be notified immediately if any player is removed from the game because of illness or injury, or if she will not continue to play in the game.
15. A pitcher must start with one foot on the rubber.
16. Avoidance Rule: Any runner is out when the runner does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag. Leaping over a fielder is not a valid attempt to avoid contact.
17. The umpire(s) prior to the start of the game will check all bats; if an umpire deems a bat illegal it may not be used during that game and any other game that follows. Bats deemed illegal are all types of baseball bats and any bats that are on the USA Softball illegal bat list.
18. No infield fly rule.
19. For 10u & 13u/14u at Veterans 4 diamond, a coach will be allowed to be at the back stop behind the catcher to retrieve past balls.
20. Coaches should seek to play each girl at least three innings.
21. Coaches should text games results within 48 hrs. to TGFSL 444-4906 & COT Rec 417-2359.

### **Sportsmanship**

1. Good sportsmanship applies to all players, coaches, umpires and spectators. Adults should assume the responsibility of demonstrating good sportsmanship to the players.
2. No smoking, drinking, or use of illegal drugs in the vicinity of the field. Immediate suspension is a result of this behavior as determined by the rules committee. This includes the players' bench or the vicinity of the playing field.
3. The use of abusive language will NOT be tolerated from any player, coach, or spectator. Immediate ejection from the playing area will result. Further action could be taken.
4. All coaches are requested to have each girl play at least three (3) innings of defense each game.
5. Coaches should encourage their teams to congratulate each other at the end of each game with at least a passing handshake or high-five at home plate (if Covid rules apply, no contact)
6. Coaches are responsible for their team's spectators and may receive a forfeit loss if their spectators cannot be kept under control.

### **Equipment**

1. Sneakers, rubber spikes or proper footwear is mandatory. No metal cleats or boots.
2. Proper catcher's equipment includes a mask with a throat protector, shin guards, a helmet, and a chest protector.
3. No jewelry may be worn by any player.

### **Important Phone Numbers**

Rick Kech-TGFSL Director	444-4906
Kim Leggett – TGFSL President	870-3267
Kelly Smith-Utzig COT Rec Director	695-8659
Rick Oates-Liason	510-0175

**SPECIFIC RULE MODIFICATIONS:** USA Softball rules are followed with the following modifications only.

**10u Division:**

1. 5 inning games unless time restraint (**no new innings start 1 hr 30 min. after scheduled start time and/or other time limits clarified pre-game start**)
2. The pitching rubber will be set at 35 feet.
3. Limit 3 innings for pitcher (extra inning games, any pitcher can pitch)
4. **3-walk inning rule (\*\* 5-walk limit in playoffs & championship)**. After 3 walks in an inning, there are no more walks in that inning. PITCHERS CONTINUE to PITCH to EVERY BATTER until 3 outs in the inning (does not come off field). All strikes are called; If 4 balls on batter, after 3 walks in an inning, then coach pitcher (from batting team) pitches until ball is either hit or batter strikes out.  
\*the player pitcher remains on field, in pitcher's circle & remains active as a fielder (continues to field batted balls) when Coach pitcher pitches. Coach pitcher does not field a batted ball.  
\*If coach pitcher gets hit by ball that is batted, it's a dead ball and batter gets credited with a double.
5. Batter is automatically out on dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.
6. In 10u, an Illegal pitch will be considered a no pitch (with no penalty assessed).
7. **One base** will be allowed on overthrows.
8. No stealing.
9. Runners may not leave the base until the pitcher releases the ball.
10. Unlimited defensive substitutions; 15 run mercy rule after 4<sup>th</sup> inning
11. Mercy Rule: 5 run mercy rule per inning; 15 run mercy rule after 4<sup>th</sup> inning (game ends if a team is ahead 15 runs after 4<sup>th</sup> inning).
12. Play is ended when ball is in control in the pitching circle

**13u/14u Division:**

1. 6 inning games unless time restraint (**no new innings start 1 hr 45 min. after scheduled start time and/or other time limits clarified pre-game start**)
2. The pitching rubber will be set at 40 feet.
3. A pitcher may not pitch the entire game. Limit to 3 innings for pitcher (unless extra innings; any pitcher can pitch extra innings)
4. If a pitcher hits three girls in one inning, a new pitcher must be put in.
5. Batter is automatically out on dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.
6. Runners may not leave the base until the pitcher releases the ball. Stealing is allowed when the ball is released from the pitcher's hand.
7. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> base can be stolen, not home base. **A runner can never advance to home from 3<sup>rd</sup> base during steals** (on any throw or overthrow. Ex. if catcher makes throw to runner stealing 2<sup>nd</sup> and there is a runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> at this time, the runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> cannot advance to home. We want to encourage Catchers to throw the ball when someone steals)
8. **Two bases** will be allowed on an over throw from the time of the release of the ball.
9. Mercy Rule: 5 run mercy rule per inning (except last inning); 15 run mercy rule after 5<sup>th</sup> inning

**16u Division:**

1. 6 inning games unless time restraint (**no new innings start 1 hr 45 min. after scheduled start time and/or other time limits clarified pre-game start**)
2. Pitching rubber will be set at 43 feet.
3. Unlimited defensive substitutions.
4. All players present must be listed in the batting order.
5. Stealing is allowed.
6. Mercy Rule: 5 run mercy rule per inning (except last inning); 15 run mercy rule after 5<sup>th</sup> inning

**ALL the Best & have a Blast !!!**