**2023 Senior League Girls Rules**

**Harlan/Hoagland/Monroeville/New Haven/Woodburn**

1. Pitch from 40 feet with 60 feet between bases. The outfield fence will be set as 175 feet or 200 feet depending on the diamond. Twenty-four (24) inch rubbers will be used for all play. A 12-inch softball will be used for play.

1. 1 hour and 45-minute time limit. For the purposes of time, the next inning begins at the time of the third out of the previous inning. No new inning will be started after the time limit, unless the game is tied. If the game is tied, the last player that was out will be placed on second base as written under international rules. After that inning the game will be rescheduled and played from the point where the tied game stopped. A tied game may be played out if there isn’t a game scheduled after it or if it is the last game of the night, up to 2 1⁄2 hours at this point, game will stop and reschedule to resume exactly where it was left off.

1. A sixteen (16) foot diameter circle with the pitching rubber as the center will be used. When the pitcher is in the circle with the ball, play is stopped. If a runner has passed a base as the pitcher is going into the circle, the runner may continue to the next base, but is fair play for the next base if she has not touched the base to which she was initially running before the pitcher entered the circle. Once the pitcher has control of the ball in the pitcher's circle and not making a play, then the runner needs to advance or retreat. If the runner stops or changes direction after the above requirement is met, the runner is out.\*\*\*\*2023 Revision\*\*\*\* If they advance, the runner must be tagged as it is not a force play.

1. Games are 6 innings. Run rules are as follows, 15 runs after 4 innings and 10 runs after 5 innings unless the home team is up, then the game ends a half inning prior. 4 complete innings or 3 1⁄2 with home ahead will constitute a complete game in case of rainout. If not to this point, the entire game will be replayed.

1. A minimum of eight (8) players is required or a forfeit will be declared. Major girl players can be called up to fill roster, if necessary. They may not practice with that team or will only be on call for games. 9 players constitute a full fielding team.

1. Extra Hitter rule is in place and can be used in each game, however, not required. Use of the extra hitter shall be established upon submission of the team's line-up to the opposing team any time prior to the start of the game. Once established, use or nonuse of extra hitter shall be in place for the entire game. Under this rule, the batting line-up will consist of 10 batters, however only 9 will play the field. Except for the pitcher, any 8 or 9 players may play defensively at any position; however, the batting line-up cannot change. (Unrestricted defensive substitutions are allowed within the 8 positions and 9 players). Regular IHSAA substitution and re-entry rules apply to all batters including extra hitters. Injury is the exception – once the injured player leaves the game, she may not return to the game – if the team cannot bat 10 players if using the extra hitter or 9 batters if not using the extra hitter, an out will be assigned to the position in the line-up. Major girls brought up will become part of the roster for that game only! Major girls will not play if Senior League girls are available.

1. NO must play rule. Coaches should consider fair playing time for each player on the roster.

1. No leading off or stealing until the ball leaves the pitcher’s hand. Runners can steal home. They may not “barrel” into the player defending the base/plate. If the runner drops down to do this, that player will be out, and a warning will be given to the team. A second offense on that player regarding this, will constitute ejection.

1. The base runner does not have to slide but must avoid contact if there is a play being attempted on her. It will be at the umpire’s discretion as to whether a play is being made. An infraction of this rule will be declared an out. If the umpire discerns there was intent to injure a player, ejection will result. Teach them to slide.
2. If a player must leave before the end of the game, the opposing coach must be informed before the start of the game to not have an out in that player’s spot. If there is no one to replace that player, the team must take an out when they come up to bat.

1. Metal cleats are permitted in this league.

1. The batter runs on a dropped third strike if there are less than two (2) outs and first base is unoccupied. The batter runs when there are two (2) outs regardless of whether first base is occupied or not.

1. Facemasks on batting helmets are required.

 Defensive masks are encouraged but not mandatory.

1. The infield fly rule will be enforced.

1. Bunting is allowed. A third strike bunt that goes foul is an out. “Slapping” is allowed. Slapping is when the batter moves through the box while swinging. Slashing or showing bunt then taking a cut is not permitted and is an immediate dead ball out.

1. A fair ball that rolls beyond the outfield fence is a ground rule double. The defensive player must raise their hands to alert the umpires.
2. There will be no “coaches’ option” regarding these rules! \*\*\* Coaches who agree to override any

 general rule or league rule will result in an automatic forfeit \*\*\* (2022 Revision)

1. First and second place league and tournament trophies (or other awards) only, will be awarded. League standings are based on the following: team’s overall record, head-to-head record, defensive runs allowed, offensive runs allowed.

 Coaches are responsible for reporting game scores to the division representative or “rep”. The

 division rep will gather and maintain standings for tournament seeding. (2019 Revision) These

 standings are only against teams in that league.

21. Age for the Senior Girls league is 13-14 as of Jan 1st. High School girls who are in the age bracket

 may play but cannot pitch.