

Moore County Parks & Recreation



9-10, 11-12 & 13-15 Fast Pitch Softball  
2021 Rules & Regulations

Covid-19

1. Line-up cards can be obtained from the field supervisor. Once you have filled out your lineup card – deliver it to the field supervisor - they will deliver it to the official scorekeeper.
2. MCPR encourages teams that play on fields #1 & #2 to enter and exit through the Front Gate near the playground area – teams that play on fields #3 & #4 are encouraged to use the Back Gate to enter and exit. This will hopefully cut down on crowding.
3. Coaches will need to use the disinfectant wipes on helmets, bats and catching equipment that is used by more than one player after each use.
4. Coaches will be required to wear a face covering.
5. Players are required to wear a face covering while in the dugout area. They are not mandatory while playing in the field or batting.

General Policies:

\*\* 9-10 Angels – All Pitchers and Infielders are required to wear a protective face mask,

\*\* 11-12 Ponytails & 13-15 Belles – All Pitchers are required to wear a protective face mask and All Infielders are required to either wear a protective face mask or a protective mouth piece when on defense. Mouth pieces will be available at the concession stand for one dollar each.

1. A regulation game will be one (1) hour fifteen (15) minute time limit. After the one (1) hour fifteen (15) minute time limit is over, the batter at bat will finish his/her at bat and the game is over. The clock will begin on the first pitch of the game.
2. Each team may score a maximum of five (5) runs per inning, if a team scores five (5) runs before 3 outs are recorded, the teams will automatically change sides. **This rule does not apply to the 13-15 league.**
3. If a batter is hit by a pitch, she will be allowed to advance to first base if she is hit by player/pitcher. Batter must attempt to move out of the way. If batter squares up to bunt and does not pull bat back it is a strike. **\*\*Our league does not allow hitters to show bunt pull back and swing.**

4. **9-10 Local League Pitching Rule:** After four (4) batters have walked in an inning, the offensive team's manager or coach comes in to pitch for the rest of the inning. Present coach-pitch rules that appear in the Dixie Darlings specific playing rules will apply to satisfy this rule.

**DIXIE DARLINGS coach pitch rules to satisfy this local league options:**

- **Each batter will be allowed five (5) pitches to be thrown to her in which she can: 1) Strike at and miss three (3) pitches thus creating a "strike out" or 2) Hit the ball into fair territory**

**Note: if, on the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) pitch the batter hits a foul ball, the batter shall continue batting until she either swings at and misses the ball or hits the ball into fair territory.**

**Note: A hit batter (by the coach) does not count as a walk**

**Note: A pitcher removed from the mound under this rule may return to the mound in the next inning and continue to pitch until such time her coach removes her for circumstances other than what is covered in this rule**

**Note: Coach that comes into pitch must move out of the defenses way after the ball is hit. He/She may not coach any players (hitter, base runners) after the first pitch has been thrown.**

5. Only coaches, assistant coaches and players are allowed in the dugouts. Umpires can have anyone removed from the dugout area, if necessary.
6. Infield fly rule is in effect.
7. If a game is suspended due to weather, four (4) complete innings constitutes a regulation game. On rainy days, coaches and parents may call the recreation office at 947-4495 for cancellations or go to our web site [www.moorecountync.gov/parks-and-recreation](http://www.moorecountync.gov/parks-and-recreation) to check the status of the games for that day.
8. Absolutely no tobacco products may be used during games or practices, either on or off the field. Smoking is prohibited on all Moore County owned property which includes Hillcrest Park.
9. All youth base coaches and bat persons under the age of sixteen must wear a batting helmet while on the playing field or be restricted to the dugout.

### **Player Participation Requirement**

1. All eligible players must play defense for at least one full inning (three consecutive outs). If a player is kept out of a game due to injury, the coach must report this to the field supervisor before game begins.
2. If a parent wants to discipline their child for personal reasons by sitting her out of a game, they must contact Tony Kirk at the Recreation office prior to the game. If after 5 pm. notify field supervisor before game begins.

3. Ten (10) players play defense in the field in the 9-10 & 11-12 leagues and nine (9) players in the 13-15 league. A team must field eight (8) players to start a game. If a player shows up after the start of a game, she must be added to the bottom of the line-up. All eligible players at the game shall bat in a continuous batting order for the entire game. At the start of the top of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning if a player shows up she is not eligible to participate.

### **Pitching Distance and Ball Size:**

1. **9-10** Pitching distance will be 35 feet.
2. **11-12** Pitching distance will be 40 feet.
3. **13-15** pitching distance will be 43 feet.
4. Bases will be set at 60 feet apart for all leagues.
5. The 9-10 league will use the 11-inch softball
6. The 11-12 & 13-15 league will use a 12-inch softball.

### **Pitching Rules:**

1. **9-10 & 11-12 rule;** A pitcher shall not pitch more than eight (8) innings between Monday through the following Sunday night except that in a tie game at the end of five (5) innings in the 9-10 and six (6) innings in the 11-12's; the starting pitcher may pitch one more inning. Under no condition shall a pitcher pitch in more than five (5) innings in the 9-10 & six (6) innings in the 11-12 league except as noted above.
  - Note: The extra inning rule does not apply to a starting pitcher who was removed from and returned to the mound in the same game, regardless of which inning she returned. Once a starting pitcher is removed from the mound in a game she will be allowed five (5) innings in a 9-10 game & six (6) innings in an 11-12 game.
  - Note: The pitcher shall be charged only for the innings pitched. If a pitcher does not have to pitch in the bottom half of the inning she is NOT charged for that inning.**13-15 rule:** A pitcher shall not pitch more than ten (10) innings between Monday through Sunday night except that in a tie game at the end of the seven innings the starting pitcher may pitch the eighth (8) inning. The extra inning rule does not apply to a starting pitcher who was removed and returned to the mound in the same game, regardless of which inning she returned. Once a starting pitcher is removed from the mound she is only allowed seven (7) innings in which to pitch in that game.

Note: The pitcher shall be charged only for the innings pitched. If a pitcher does not have to pitch in the bottom half of the inning she is NOT charged for that inning.

A pitcher removed from the mound shall be allowed to return to the mound one (1) time in the same game. Note: To satisfy this rule it will be ruled that if a pitcher returns to the mound in the same inning of a game in which she was removed she shall be credited with pitching only one (1) inning for the inning she was removed.
2. A pitcher removed from the mound shall be allowed to return to the mound one (1) time in the same game.
  - Note: To satisfy this rule it will be ruled that if a pitcher returns to the mound in the same inning of a game in which she was removed she shall be credited with pitching only one (1) inning for the inning she was removed.

3. Innings pitched in games declared “no contest” shall count.
4. After the game is finished, the head coach from each team participating will sign the official pitchers inning chart with the official scorekeeper for that field in the field house.
5. All other pitching rules should be referred back to the General Pitching Rules in the Dixie Softball Rule Book pages 41-44

## **Base Running**

### **(9-10 league):**

1. The base runner shall NOT steal a base.
2. The base runner shall NOT advance on a wild Pitch by the pitcher or a passed ball by the catcher.
3. The base runner shall advance only when a ball has been hit into fair territory by the batter or when or when forced to advance by a base on balls and/or a hit batter or when a fly ball is caught in foul territory.
4. If the base runner leaves her base before the pitch reaches the batter, the base umpire shall signal, “delayed dead ball” to indicate the violation at the time it occurs. The defensive team shall have the privilege of having nullified any portion of the play that occurred on the violation.

Note: This rule allows a Dixie Angels base runner to leave the base when the ball reaches the batter but does not allow her to steal a base.

### **(11-12 league):**

1. The base runner is allowed to steal once the ball reaches the batter.
  - If a base runner leaves her base before the pitch reaches the batter, the base umpire shall signal “delayed dead ball” to indicate the violation at the time it occurs. The defensive team shall have the privilege of having nullified any portion of the play that occurred on the violation.

### **(13-15 league):**

Base runners are not allowed to lead off bases. Players may steal once the pitched ball leaves the pitchers hand.

## **Third Strike Rule:**

### **(9-10 league)**

The catcher shall NOT be required to catch the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) strike, except for a foul tip. The batter shall be out and the base runners shall NOT advance.

### **(11-12 league)**

The catcher shall NOT be required to catch the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) strike, except for a foul tip. The batter shall be out and all base runners advance at their own risk.

### **(13-15 league)**

The third strike rule is in effect, Runners/Batter may advance if the 3<sup>rd</sup> strike is dropped by the catcher.

## **Offensive/Defensive Timeouts**

**Offensive-** An offensive team may call time to speak with a batter (1) time per inning.

**Defensive-** A coach may call time to speak with the defensive team two (2) times in the same inning without penalty. On the third time, he shall be required to remove the pitcher from the mound, but not the game.

### **Helmet Rule:**

- A player shall not remove their helmet while outside the dugout on offense.

**PENALTY:** First offense the team shall receive a team warning by the umpire. Second and subsequent team offenses; the player shall be called “out”. If the player was already “out” due to a play on the field, then that player will receive a warning by the umpire and the next offense by that player will result in ejection from the game.

### **Helmet rule continued**

- All youth base coaches and batboys under the age of sixteen (16) shall comply with the helmet rule.

**PENALTY:** Non team players shall be removed from the playing field and team players will be returned to the dugout and replaced by an adult or another player.

### **Bat Rule:**

All bats must be stamped and legible with one of the following for league play: “Official softball”, “Youth Softball” and/or “Fast Pitch Softball”. Page 23 rule book.

## **Zero Policy for Coaches**

1. Head Coaches are not allowed on the field to argue or appeal calls and Assistant Coaches do not argue calls period.
2. An Assistant Coach will be issued a warning (IF not overzealous) if on the field. No more after that. An ejection is warranted immediately for an overzealous assistant coach or a second complaint after a warning. If the assistant coach is in the dugout a restriction can be used the first time **if desired** without warning.
3. If the Head Coach wishes to communicate with the umpire for assistance with a judgment call or a rule; they may come out of the dugout in a professional manner and stay between the dugout and the foul line. The plate umpire will go to the coach. After the Head Coach tells the plate umpire what he is appealing, he is to return to the dugout. If the Head Coach comes back out of the dugout after the umpire’s discussion on the play call or rule, they will be ejected. If the call is changed the opposing coach can come out of their dugout between his dugout and the foul line for an explanation. Once the explanation is given the coach is to return to the dugout. No Arguing.
4. If the Head Coach is acting as a base coach; he may ask to speak with the home plate umpire in a professional manner as above. Coach must remain in coach’s box and home plate umpire will come to the coach. Procedures same as above.
5. After the game is complete; there is to be **No Communication or Contact** between coaches and umpires. If you have a question about a rule; you can ask the field supervisor or call the parks and rec office the next day.

### **Sportsmanship:**

A **coach** that is ejected from a game must serve a two game suspension for the next two games his/her team plays. The coach that has been ejected may attend the next two games as a *spectator*; but will not be allowed inside fenced area or participate in **any** form with the team or game. The penalty may be carried over to the next sport or season.

A **Player** that is ejected from a game is restricted to the dugout for the remainder of that game and must serve a one game suspension for the next game his team plays.

**Any spectator** ejected from a park must leave the premises immediately; the game will be delayed until the offender leaves. If the spectator does not leave the premises in a timely fashion the game will be forfeited. The person who was ejected is subject to the two game suspension rule (same as a coach); they may come to games but must stay outside the park area (fenced). The person who was ejected may not attend another game until he/she meets with a Moore County Parks and Recreation staff person.

**\* Coaches may not get rosters until background check is turned in to MCPR.\***

**All other Rules & Regulations are governed by the Dixie Softball Rule Book.**

[www.dixie.org/softball](http://www.dixie.org/softball)

**MOORE COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE, ADD OR DELETE ANY RULE(S) OR REGULATION AT ANY TIME.**

**Revised: 3/8/2021**