



Vienna Girls Softball League (VGSL) Vienna, Virginia

(last updated 12/1/10)

6U Division Rules

Level of Play:

Most players are in kindergarten or first grade. 6U is intended to get girls used to the flow of the game and teach them the most basic skills, rules and objectives. There is one game on Saturday and one game or practice during the week.

Guidelines

1. The primary purpose of this division is teaching the girls basic softball skills, stressing teamwork and fun.
2. There are no try-outs; everyone who registers will play.
3. 6U players are normally assigned to teams based on their school or neighborhood for carpooling purposes. We try to accommodate all special requests, but there are no guarantees for late registrants as maintaining balanced rosters are a top priority.
4. Score is not kept in 6U games. Coaches are urged not to talk about winning or losing the game. There is no tournament for the 6U division.
5. Each player will get a participation trophy at the end of the season from the league. In addition, coaches may choose to give out their own awards. If a coach does give out awards, there should be an award for some type of accomplishment for each player on your team, e.g., best batter, best base runner, etc. Look beyond the field, too (best cheerer, best helper, etc).
6. In 6U play, depending on the experience of the batter, the coach may elect to pitch the ball or utilize the tee. Coaches will meet and discuss their batting plans prior to the start of the game. Coaches do NOT have to utilize the same batting format for every player in the game.
7. The offensive team should have a coach as a pitcher, another coach at home plate to assist the batter, and if available, have coaches at first and third base.
8. In coach-pitch format, the coach will pitch up to four balls to each batter. The batter gets one extra pitch for every foul ball they may hit. After their pitch limit has been exhausted, the batter must use the tee to put the ball in play.
9. It is recommended that the coaches position themselves halfway between the pitching rubber and home plate on one knee. The underhand toss should be delivered over the plate near the height of the batter's waist, never below the knees or above the shoulders. The coach should bring a bucket of balls onto the field with them. If a batted ball strikes the coach-pitcher or bucket, it is ruled a dead ball base hit and runner(s) will advance one base.
10. When utilizing the tee, it is very important to position the batter or tee in a manner that encourages the batter to make contact with the ball out in front of their body. The coach-pitcher should vacate the field with their bucket when the tee is being used.

11. At the division director's discretion, toward the end of the season, some machine pitching may occur if the players are ready. This is a good way to prepare them for play in the 8U Division. Both coaches must agree to and feel comfortable with playing at that level.
12. Stealing bases is not allowed in 6U play.
13. There will be a limit of taking one base per play, except on hits into the outfield when extra bases may be taken. Otherwise there will undoubtedly be overthrow after overthrow, with no outs ever being made. The ball is dead if, when being thrown to the pitcher, the ball crosses the plane of the pitching circle. If a player, while in control of the ball, makes an attempt on a runner by throwing to a teammate covering a base, that runner may not advance on an overthrow.
14. The last batter of an inning runs around all the bases without being obstructed.
15. Coaches or designated parents serve as umpires.
16. All players will play defensively in all innings. There will only be six infielders with all remaining players in the outfield playing behind the baseline.
17. Games consist of 3 innings, or one hour, whichever comes first. An inning consists of each team going through the batting order one time.
18. For the first half of the season, use discretion in calling players out, allowing even semi-close plays to go to the runner. While we do want to encourage the players in the field to try to make the out, the positive value of hitting the ball should be rewarded. We don't want to discourage the batters when they are starting out. Again, use your discretion, erring towards positive playing. And praise your defense for making a great play.
19. For the second half of the season, the defense will be rewarded after making an out. Outs will be called by on-field coaches. Batters/base runners that are put out must return to the dugout. There is no maximum number of outs per inning. The bases should be cleared after three outs are made, but the inning will continue until all players have batted.
20. The defensive team is allowed up to 3 coaches on the field, with only 2 permitted in the infield. The third coach must be behind second base. Coaches need to help the girls learn what base to throw to if they field the ball.
21. Coaches are responsible for ensuring games start and end on time. Parents from both teams will be responsible for raking the infield after each game and before the first game of the day.
22. At end of the game players and coaches should line-up and congratulate the opposing team.
23. Many teams provide drinks and snacks for their teams after the game. Please clean the dugout and dispose of all trash after the game.