**DICKINSON DIAMONDS LEAGUE RULES**

**AGES  12U**

Section 1.      DIVISION

Girls ages 11-12;   Rules will be governed by USA Softball with the following exceptions.

Section 2.      ELIGIBILITY

A player’s age as of December 31st determines the age in which the player is eligible to play the following year.

Section 3.      COACHING STAFF

A coaching staff will consist of a Head Coach, and not more than 3 assistant coaches.  The Head Coach will assume full responsibility for the actions of his/her coaching staff.  For draft purposes there may be a Head Coach and Assistant Coach only.

The following coaching positions will be allowed:

Offensive coach first base and third base.

Section 4.  PITCHING

1. The girls will pitch to the batters under the rules of USA Softball.

Section 5.  BATTER

1. 6(six) runs per team per half inning. Except in last inning. The umpire will declare last inning for any inning that starts with 10 minutes or less.
2. Batters throwing a bat or helmet will receive a warning for the first offense, after that they may be declared out per subsequent incidents.
3. All players present must bat.  In the event a girl has to leave, she will be skipped in the lineup.  If a girl shows up late, she will be added at the bottom of the lineup.
4. There will be free defensive substitution.  All teams must start 8 players but may finish with 7 due to injury.
5. Teams can only use 9 players in the field.

Section 6.  INTERNATIONAL TIE BREAKER

No new inning will start after 1 hour 15 minutes of play or five (5) innings, with the exception of tie games.  Tie games will be played until there is a winner.  International Tie Breaker will be used.  Please refer to USA Softball Rule Book for definition.  There will be no run limit in the last inning.  The last inning is determined by the umpire with considerations of the time limit and/or the fifth (5th) inning.

Section 7.  THE PLAYING FIELD

1. Pitching distance will be 40 feet for 12u
2. A sixteen (16) foot circle will be placed around the pitching mound.
3. Distance of the bases will be 60 feet.

Section 8.  EQUIPMENT and Misc.

1. There will be no bat restrictions except that they will be made of wood or metal only.  The bat safety grip and knob must meet USA Softball specifications.
2. 12 inch Softball
3. Catchers must wear full catchers’ regulation gear.
4. All players batting must wear a batting helmet equipped with chin strap and face guard that meets USA Softball safety requirements.
5. No metal Spikes
6. No jewelry allowed at any time.  Medical Alert type bracelets and necklaces are permissible when properly secured.
7. A player that is selected to a team at the time of the original team selection process will remain on that team for the entire season. If a player quits and wants to return to play during the same season, that player will be returned to the team that she was selected to during the original team selection.
8. In order for a player to be eligible for tournament play; she must have played in 50% of the regularly scheduled games. Missing games due to an injury does not apply to this rule.
9. Game time is start time.  Forfeiture time is 10 minutes after start time.

Section 9.  PICKUP PLAYERS

1. Teams will be allowed a maximum of three pick-up players for any given game from the same league (12U) or league below (10U).  However, teams will only be allowed to pick up players to fill their roster up to 9 players for that particular game.  For instance:  if you have 9 of your own team players, you will not be allowed to play a pick-up player.  You will play the game with your 9 players.  If you have 8 of your own team players, you will be allowed to play only 1 pick-up player.  If you have 7 of your own team players, you will be allowed to play 2 pick-up players.  If you have 6 of your own team players, you will be allowed to play 3 pick-up players.  If you have less than 5 of your own team players, you will be allowed to play 3 pick-up players, and play the game, however your team will be credited with a forfeit.  League rules allow teams to start with 8 players and finish with 7 due to injury, but do not allow starting with 7 or less.
2. **A team member shall not be placed on the bench to allow a pickup player to play.  A pickup player will not be allowed to play in place of a team member that is at the game unless that team member is on the bench due to injury or disciplinary reasons.**
3. All pick-up players will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
4. Pickup players from other 12U league teams will not be allowed during the league tournament.