IGSSA & SACSSGSA SOFTBALL RULES

1. TEAMS
   a) Teams are to be selected on ability and labelled ‘A’, ‘B’, and ‘C’, with consideration made to matching of teams where schools have differing number of teams. C grade is assumed to be predominantly middle school students.

2. ELIGIBILITY
   a) If a player has played in the ‘A’ grade match she must not play in the ‘B’ grade match. If team numbers are short in the ‘B’ grade then the replacement must be from a lower team.

3. UMPIRING
   a) All ‘A’ & ‘B’ matches will be allocated Pool umpires. Umpires names must be recorded on result sheet and payment will be made at the end of each term following.
   b) For all other matches the home school is to provide the Plate Umpire.
   c) Umpires must announce starting time and ensure that scorers mark the time and the 1st batting team.
   d) All S.A.S.A. rules apply but consideration must be given to the level of maturity and experience of players and mutual discretion used on how technical rules are enforced in the lower grades.
   e) Masks, throat protector and chest protector must be worn whilst plate or umpiring.

4. COACHING
   a) Coaches must act according to the rules of the S.A.S.A., and coach according to the IGSSA/SACSSGSA Code of Behaviour. A coach may only question appeal plays. All conferences with the umpire must be made through the coach. Once an umpire has made a decision it is final.
   b) All S.A.S.A rules apply, but coaches and umpires must consider the level of maturity and experience of players and use their mutual discretion on how technical they are in the lower grades.

5. MATCHES
   a) 7 innings, or a limit of 75 minutes to be played in ‘A’, ‘B’ grades
   b) 7 innings, or a limit of 70 minutes for all other grades
   c) Games to be played at 8.15am and 9.30am
   d) Mercy Run Rule-
A and B grade will play with a 9 run rule.

All other grades will play with a 7 run mercy rule.

Once the 9th runner crosses home plate in any one innings, the batting innings is completed. **No subsequent runners shall count.**

If the batter has completed their turn when the 9th run is scored the next batter will start the next batting innings. However if their turn to bat is incomplete at the time the runner scores, then that batter commences the next batting innings.

e) **Scoring**-

- In an incomplete innings the score shall revert to that of the last complete innings, unless the team second at bat has equal or more runs when the time expires.
- If the team 1st to bat is batting when time is called then the score reverts
- If the team 2nd to bat is batting when the time is called with less than 3 out:
  1. If scores are equal it is a drawn game
  2. If 2nd to bat team has more runs, the score stands
  3. If 2nd to bat team has less runs, the score reverts back to last even innings.

f) ‘A’, ‘C’ grades must play first, with these matches starting by 8.30 am. Sharp.

g) ‘B’, ‘D’ grades to play second, and these matches start as close to 9.45am as practicable.

h) **Pitching**-

- IGSSA Senior ‘A’ & ‘B’ pitchers
  1. Pitching distance must remain as indicated under Diamond Size
  2. No extra stepping is permitted
  3. Pitcher must commence with both feet in contact with the pitchers plate.

- Procedure for notification of above is:
  1. the umpire will warn the pitcher and coach once
  2. 2nd time, call an illegal pitch and therefore a ball on the batter and the base runners advance one base.
  3. In all other areas the umpire may explain to the coach and player any concerns, no other action is necessary.
  4. Strike Zone in grades below A and B is to read “reasonable ball below head high and on the full, above shin high to encourage a hitting game.

6. **DIAMOND SET UP**

a) the diamond must be set out as per the bylaws (including the bench area)

- Diamond size for all grades is 60 ft. (18m) between bases with pitching distance 40ft (12m).
- pitching distance for grades other than A and B may be shortened if necessary

b) All bases must be sliding bases with a safety base at 1st base

c) For matches at an external venue (i.e. Barrett Reserve, West Beach), the first named team is to provide, and set up, the bases.
7. EQUIPMENT
   a) gloves must be worn by all players
   b) masks, throat protector and chest protector must be worn by catchers
   c) all batters and base runners must wear helmets
   d) Two official ASF leather match balls must be provided by the home school for the ‘A’ & ‘B’ matches.
   e) One good leather ball must be provided by the home school for each of the other games.
   f) Schools are to provide their own warm-up balls
   g) Ball sizes are to be as follows:
      • A and B grade – 12 inch (fluoro yellow)
      • C grade – 11 inch (fluoro yellow)

8. RESULTS
   a) Results of ‘A’ & ‘B’ matches are to be sent to the Executive Officer by the Tuesday following the match.
   b) The winning school will be awarded 3 points, drawn game will be 1 point each and a loss 0 points.
   c) If a match is washed out part way through, there needs to be at least 2 innings completed for a winner to be announced. Otherwise, a tie is awarded. If the match is not even started due to weather, every effort will be made to re-schedule the match.
   d) Shields are awarded to the school winning the most games of the season. If the top position is shared by two or more schools they will share the shield.