

**SAUNDERS / BUTLER
GIRLS FASTPITCH**

2008 LEAGUE RULES

8/10/12/14/16/18 UG

(03/02/2008)

2008 SAUNDERS/BUTLER GIRLS FASTPITCH LEAGUE RULES
(10 / 12 / 14 / 16 / 18 & UNDER) (8 & UNDER – see #16)

- 1.) ASA rules will prevail, WITH the following exceptions/emphasis:
 - a. Batter can run on a dropped third strike provided the first base is not occupied with less than two outs, or any time when there are two outs. (Refer to third strike rule).
 - i. ~~10UG batter can NOT run on dropped third strike. Batter is out, ball is still live, runner(s) may advance at own risk.~~ (Removed per vote at '08 League Meeting)
 - b. There will be stealing of bases. Home is open for **10/12/14/16/18 & under**.
 - i. ~~10UG can steal one base per pitch, and home is closed.~~
~~(3rd base runner may go home only on a hit ball or walk by batter)~~ (Removed per vote at '08 League Meeting)
 - c. There will be stealing of bases. Home is open for **10/12/14/16/18 & under**.
 - d. A runner can not leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. A premature start is an automatic out.
 - e. Infield fly rules will be in effect.
 - f. Pitching distance will be 35 feet for 10UG and 40 feet for 12/14/16/18UG.
 - g. The ball can be a 12 inch white stitch or yellow optic .47 core.
 - i. 10UG will use an 11 inch ball.
 - h. The bases will be spaced 60 feet apart for all ages.
 - i. Teams are encouraged to use a safety base for 1st base, and break-away bases for 2nd and 3rd.
 - i. Teams will play with 9 players, minimum of 8. Less than 8 players will be automatic forfeit. When the missing player is up to bat (when using 8 players), an out will be charged. Coaches may mutually consent to play with 10 players, using 4 outfielders (refer to the shorthanded rules).
 - j. There will be bunting.
 - k. All catchers must wear complete catchers equipment (helmets with facemask and throat protector, shin guards and chest protector). Metal cleats are prohibited, rubber cleats are allowed. Helmets with chin straps must be worn by all base runners, the batter and on deck player. Any players warming up the pitcher must wear a helmet and facemask. *Helmets with face guards must be worn by batter, base runners and player on deck. Official helmets with face guards will be needed for teams to enter district/state tournaments. Face guards on helmets are required for all age divisions.*
 - l. If the batter/base runner intentionally throws off her helmet while running bases, she is out.
 - m. Sliding – see ASA rule contact rule. Rule 8, Section 7 Q

- n. Circle rule (around pitcher) – Home team's decision.
 - o. NEW: At least 1 ASA certified umpire behind home plate for 12UG, 14UG, 16UG, and 18UG.
 - p. 10UG only – A player may pitch only three innings. One pitch or more to a batter will count as an inning.
 - q. 10UG only – Reasonable strike zone to promote swinging.
 - r. 10UG only – On a walk, batter may advance to first base only. Runners may advance at own risk.
- 2.) Infield practice will be allowed before the game, but allow the first game to start on time if you have a doubleheader.
- 3.) Official games are 7 innings in length, however, there is a time limit on 12/14/16/18 and under games. **No new innings may begin after 1 hour and 30 minutes for the 12/14/16/18 UG.** If time expires in the middle of an inning, the inning is to be completed. All home teams must provide an official timer to be placed on the backstop. Home plate umpire will start the timer after the first pitch to the first batter. The home umpire is the official timekeeper.
International Tie Breaker Rules will be used in the 8th inning or after allotted time has expired.
- i. Official game for the 10UG teams is 5 innings, limit of 5 runs per inning.
(there may be a time limit when another game follows the 10's – coaches should confer before the start of the game).
- 4.) The game will be officially over if one team is ahead by 12 runs and 3 complete innings, 10 runs and 4 complete innings, 8 runs and 5 complete innings. During regular season league games, a **five run limit per inning (including the 7th inning) applies to 12 UG**, however there will be unlimited runs each inning during league tournament play.
- i. A 5 run limit per inning also applies to the 10UG group and will be followed in the league tournament. Official limit of game is up to 5 innings.
- 5.) The home team will be the official scorekeeper in case of conflict.
- 6.) Coaches will be responsible for the behavior of their players. Coaches, players, and fans are encouraged to promote good sportsmanship.
- 7.) Home teams will furnish both umpires and game balls. When there are 2 games, for all age divisions, the first game starts at 6:30 and the second game at 8:00 p.m. If only one game is played, it will start at 6:30 p.m. **Any variance from the time started needs to be mutually agreed upon by the coaches involved.** Please note the second game may start later than the 8:00 p.m., depending on the outcome of the first game and the age division that is playing.
- 8.) In case of rain, the game must go at least 4 innings for it to be a complete game, or 3 ½ innings, if the home team is ahead. If not, the game must be started over from the first inning, with no score, at a later date. Rainouts should be rescheduled within a week of the rainout. The home team is responsible for rescheduling.

- 9.) The home team will be responsible to notify the visiting team if the fields are not playable. Please take into consideration driving time when notifying the opposing coach.
- 10.) The 12/14/16/18 UG League Tournament, will be held on June 27th, 28th, and 29th, 2008 with the site yet to be determined. The tournament will be a double elimination. Teams will be seeded by **league record only** as of 06/19/2007. Coaches need to provide these records which will be used to determine each age division bracket, by the league president. Tiebreaker for seeding will be determined by head to head, runs allowed and runs scored rulings in that order, if needed. Teams must present copies of players' birth certificates, driver licenses or court approved document and have their league/sanction fee paid to participate.

The 10 and Under Tournament: **NEW FORMAT**

The 10UG tournament will be held on June 13th, 14th, and 15th, 2008 with the site yet to be determined. The tournament will be a three game guarantee format. Teams will play 2 pool play games and then be seeded for single elimination tournament on Sunday. There will be two divisions on Sunday; Gold and Silver. The regular season league rules will be applied to the tournament, with the exception that a 75 minute time limit will be used. Copies of birth certificates must be presented and league/sanction fee paid for teams to participate.

Medals will be awarded to the following:

- 10UG - 1st and 2nd place finishes in each division (Gold and Silver)
- 12UG – 1st-4th place finishes in the tournament (8 teams)
- 14UG – 1st-2rd place finishes in the tournament (3 teams)
- 16UG – 1st-3rd place finishes in the tournament (6 teams)
- 18UG – 1st-2nd place finishes in the tournament (5 teams)

Trophies and medals will be purchased using league fees. Tournament hosts will supply the officials using gate fees to cover the cost. \$10.00 per team will also be given to the host by the league to defray the cost of umpires. Note: The 10UG tournament host will be given \$5.00/team. A game score form will be given to each coach to record game results to be sent back to the President. On request, team standings will be supplied to coaches.

- 11.) League trophies will be award to the top two teams in each age division, except 8UG and 10UG. Tie breaking criteria will be; 1.) Head to head 2.) Head to head against the highest ranking team.
- 12.) Entry fee of \$45.00 per team will charged, except for the 8UG teams, which will be charged \$15.00 for league fees. Each team in the 10/12/14/16/18 UG division will also be ASA sanctioned with a \$20.00 fee paid by the team; unless the team completes individual registration with the ASA. The team roster should be submitted no later than 05/07/2008. Send rosters and fees to: Barb Ohnoutka, 2636 Main Road, Valparaiso, NE 68065.
Email: ko41154@alltel.net
- 13.) Junior Olympic Age Qualifications – A player's age as of December 31st, determines the age in which the player is eligible to play the following year:
 - 10UG – Player born on or after 12/31/1996 is eligible
 - 12UG - Player born on or after 12/31/1994 is eligible
 - 14UG - Player born on or after 12/31/1992 is eligible
 - 16UG - Player born on or after 12/31/1990 is eligible
 - 18UG - Player born on or after 12/31/1988 is eligible

~~14.) The All Star Game will be held at site TBA on 07/23/2007. The All Star Nomination Forms need to be returned to the President, by 07/09/2007. Each coach will be responsible for providing nominations for his/her team. Nominations forms will be given to coaches at the league tournament. Medals will be awarded to all All-Star players.~~

14.) The All Star Game will be replaced by an All Tournament Team per age group. The members of the team will be nominated and voted on by coaches and announced prior to the Championship games of 12-18UG League Tournament.

15.) The 8UG teams have very simple rules:

- i. Every player gets a turn at bat each inning (Don't keep track of outs)
- ii. Coaches will pitch to their own players at bat (usually 5 pitches before the T is used). An 11 inch softie ball is to be used.
Opposing catcher is in full gear.
- iii. There are 3 innings to each game; games are usually about an 1 hour long.
- iv. Players should be rotated each inning (infield/outfield) so they don't play the same position.
- v. There will be NO stealing of bases.
- vi. HAVE FUN!

*** 8UG COACHES:

As a coach, you are responsible for teaching throwing, catching, and batting skills to these young players, along with some basic knowledge of the game. Parental involvement is very important, as these same parents will be supportive and perhaps become more involved as their child moves into the older divisions.

16.) Officers for the Saunders / Butler Girls Fast Pitch League for 2008 are:

Barb Ohnoutka, President 2636 Main Road Valparaiso, NE 68065 (402)784-2442	Greg Bouc, Vice President Valparaiso, NE 68065 (402)784-2313
Deanne Homes, Treasure Valparaiso, NE 68065 (402)784-3654	Leigh Heithoff, Secretary Raymond, NE 68428

Feel free to call with any questions you may have with the 2008 season. GOOD LUCK!

PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES OF THESE RULES TO ALL COACHES, PLAYERS AND OTHER ASSISTING WITH YOUR SOFTBALL PROGRAM.