

**INDEPENDENCE GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**(MEMBER AND USSSA)**

**OFFICIAL RULES OF IGSA T-BALL**

*Revised March 2011*

T-Ball rules will be the same as USSSA rules, with the following exceptions:

1. Smaller ball will be used to better accommodate young players.
2. A defensive team will consist of all players, with 7 infielders.
3. If a team has 9 or fewer players present, they do not need to field a catcher.
4. The infielders must play behind the pitcher's mound. Outfielders must play behind the base line until the ball is hit. Penalty-free base to the batter-runners advance and score if forced.
5. The pitcher must keep both feet in the pitcher circle until the ball is hit. Penalty-free base to the batter - runners advance and score if forced.
6. The manager will submit a batting order at the start of each game. Each player will then bat in the order as indicated on the roster. If a player who is marked absent on the roster arrives at the game, her status will be changed as present, and that player will assume her batting order as indicated on the roster.
7. All Players on the team will bat each inning, and outs will not count against the team.
8. No stealing – a base runner cannot leave the base until the ball leaves the batting tee. Leaving the base before the ball is hit, the ball will become dead and the base runner will be called out, no runners may advance or score.
9. The first time any player throws a bat, both benches will be warned of the violation, the next batter on either team will be called out for throwing the bat.
10. Any time a thrown ball goes into dead ball territory, the base runners will be rewarded one extra base beyond the base they were attempting to obtain, at the time of the throw. (1+1)
11. Once the ball is in the possession of any defensive player on the infield, (by holding the ball up above the head), advancing runners may advance to the next base they were attempting to obtain if they were at least half way to that next base. If the runners did not reach half way when the ball is in possession, the runners must return to the previous base.

12. Upon seeing play suspended, and no runners advancing, the umpire will call “Ball in”, and the defensive ball player can then throw the ball into the catcher, and no runners can advance.
13. Managers are the sole persons allowed to approach any umpire of an official game and request an explanation of any rules interpretations, not judgment calls. This excludes all coaches, players, parents, and fans.
14. One-hour time limit. No new inning will start after one hour or five complete innings.
15. All batters, base runners, and players on deck will wear a helmet.
16. The batter will be allowed just three strikes before an out is recorded. It is considered a strike if the ball does not get out of the 5 foot arch (intentional or unintentional). It is also a strike if the ball is swung at and missed. That includes hitting the tee only.
17. Bases will be placed 60 feet away, and the pitching mound 34 feet from home plate. There will be a 5 foot arch in front of home plate.
18. One offensive coach shall take a position behind the batter’s box and out of the line of play. He/she shall be responsible for removal of the batting tee from the playing area. Any player touching home plate prior to the batting tee being removed will be called out. Two other offensive coaches can take their positions in the first base or third base coaching boxes. A defensive coach may position himself or herself behind the base line to assist his/her players.
19. The playing field and bench shall be restricted to only the players, manager (1), coaches (2), bat person (1) and umpires. During the game, except for the batter, base runners, the player “on deck” and coaches in the coaching box, all players shall be on their benches or in the bullpen.

*Have fun! And remember...softball is for the kids!*