

2018 Minors Softball Rules

Please review with opposing coach and umpire before each game.

1. Umpires: The umpires are our children. Zero tolerance for influencing, intimidating, persuading or questioning an umpire's judgment call. No coach will say "Nice Pitch" or "Good Eye" until **AFTER** the ump calls a ball or strike. Not a moan or groan. No Joke! Any coach violating this rule will be asked to leave the league "No Questions Asked". Coaches are responsible for advising parents and grandparents about this rule. ***Some towns will be using adult umpires for their minor league games...these umpires are also to be treated with the same guidelines as above.***
2. Games are 6 innings or 2 hours. No inning can start after 1 hour and 45 minutes.
3. If a team does not have enough players to start the game, but has players on their way then to get the game started let the opposing team with sufficient players take the field so the game can begin. Hopefully by the time the team is to take the field they will have enough players. For the sake of getting the game started the team waiting for players becomes the home team. 10 players can play the field, 4 outfielders (manager's option). No short fielder. The outfielders are to be positioned "on the grass" in the outfield.
4. Continuous batting order (all players bat) applies. This is a LL International rule at the Minor League level
5. Innings are 4 runs or 3 outs including the last inning.
****Playoffs – Unlimited runs allowed in last declared inning or any subsequent innings following. The last declared inning will be determined by the umpire.**
6. A Walk is 4 balls...no longer 6 balls when bases are loaded
7. Stealing is permitted at all bases. No stealing of "Home" for 4th run of any inning.
****Playoffs – Stealing of home is allowed in last declared inning or any subsequent innings following. The last declared inning will be determined by the umpire.**
8. A pitcher will only pitch 3 innings per game. Any pitcher may return to pitch. If a pitcher hits three batters in a game then she must be removed from the mound. She can go to any other position during the game. Batters must attempt to avoid being hit.
****If and only if the two managers/coaches agree that a particular pitcher is helping to move the game along by throwing strikes and having the ball put in play, they may allow that pitcher to pitch more than 3 innings. However...keep in mind that**

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this is a learning league and in order to develop pitchers they must have the opportunity to face live batters.

Pitching distance is 35' from the front of the pitching rubber to the back tip of the plate.

9. One base allowed on **any** overthrow from either the infield or the outfield. Runners may not advance on any subsequent overthrow after the first overthrow...ie. Shortstop throws the ball down the right field line – the runner may advance to second. *The play is dead once the runner reaches the next base...*the runner may not advance to third if the right fielder then throws the ball away on the same play. Runners may not advance on an overthrow clearly intended for the pitcher.

10. Stealing - Runners may not advance to the next base when a catcher is attempting to throw out a base runner if the throw goes into the outfield or is dropped or mis-handled by the receiving infielder. Ex. Runner steals third and throw goes into the outfield...runner may not advance to home.

11. No double stealing – example runners on first and third, runner on first steals – catcher throws through. The runner on third can NOT advance

12. No defensive coaches allowed on the field.

13. No continuation rule – Regular season or playoffs

14. Have Fun and please don't forget Rule #1