

SSHLL Softball Minor Division

Revised and Approved 04.19.25

The Minor Girls Division follows the Rules in the Little Rule Book with the following modifications. If a rule is not listed below, then any ruling will default to the Little League Softball BOOK Rule for the current year.

The following is a guideline of the rules of play at Snug Harbor Little League, to be followed by all managers and coaches.

Section I: General Rules

- a. Official umpires are used for this division
- b. Regular Season: No inning may start after 1 hour and 45 minutes. Last inning must be declared by umpire and announced to both managers
- c. The manager and two (2) official coaches are allowed in the dugout. Only two coaches are allowed on the defensive field at one time, outfield only. The extra coach must remain in the dugout to keep order and maintain a safe environment.
- d. Fielding masks are mandatory for all players in the field
- e. No more than 5 runs can be scored in one inning. This rule does not apply to a team's last at bat.
- f. The minimum number of players in a game is eight (8) players. The penalty is an automatic out in the ninth spot in the batting order
- g. Regular season: a team must field at least six (6) of its own players to avoid a forfeit loss in the standings, the balance can be filled by replacement players (see section VI below)
- h. Playoffs: a team cannot use replacement players
- i. Manager's of both team's will exchange lineups before the game starts and are each responsible to keep a full book account of the game, not just for their team's at bats
- j. Mercy rule: If ahead by 10 after 4 complete (3.5 if home team ahead) innings, the "manager of the team with the least runs shall concede to the opponent. Note: (1) If the visiting team has a lead of 10 runs or more, the home team must bat in its half of the inning"
- k. If game ends in a Mercy rule, please turn score board runs off and continue to play "scrimmage" innings until time limit so that girls can continue to play. Innings pitched by pitcher post Mercy Rule will not count towards pitchers 9 inning weekly limit.
- l. Only the on-deck batter is allowed in the on-deck area outside of the dugout. All other players must remain inside the dugout (No Exceptions). Failure to adhere to this rule will result in forfeit of the team in violation enforced by the umpire or Field Director.
- m. Coaches can occupy first base and third base designated coaching boxes, the dugout and on deck zone. No player/coach is allowed past the designated boundary in the dugout. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in forfeit of the team in violation enforced by the umpire or Field Director.

Section II: Pitching

- a. Players will pitch from 35 ft.
- b. During regular season games, if a pitcher walks three (3) batters in an inning, the coach for the hitting team will pitch for the rest of the inning. With respect to such, the following rules apply:
 - 1. The coach must pitch from the pitching rubber
 - 2. The player pitcher must remain parallel to or behind the pitching rubber. The player pitcher must be within 4 feet of the rubber.
 - 3. When coach is pitching, there are no called balls, only called strikes, the batter is not awarded first base on a hit by pitch when the coach is pitching
 - 4. When coach is pitching a third called strike by the umpire is a strike out, the batter is out
- c. On a hit by pitch ruling when the pitcher is pitching, the ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base, the hit by pitch is charged to a pitcher's three walk inning limit.
- d. If there are three (3) trips to the mound in any one inning, the pitcher must be replaced. If there are four (4) trips to the mound in any one game, the pitcher must be replaced.
- e. For the Regular Season: The following pitching rules apply:

"A pitcher may pitch in a maximum of 9 innings per week, assuming two scheduled games per week. If a game is re-scheduled due to weather then the pitchers allotment of 9 innings per week carries over and is applied to the makeup game. If a pitcher pitches in 7 innings in a day, one calendar day of rest is mandatory. Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched in an inning."
- f. For the Playoffs: The official little league softball pitching rules apply to this division.

"A pitcher may pitch in a maximum of 12 innings in a day. If a pitcher pitches in 7 innings in a day, one calendar day of rest is mandatory. Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched in an inning."

Section III: Hitting

- a. This division will use a CBO (Continuous Batting Order). This means all players present at the game will be in the batting order, regardless of whether or not they are playing a defensive position.
 - 1. A player arriving late to the game (after lineups are exchanged) will be added to the bottom of the order.
 - 2. There is no penalty for a player leaving early, as long as there are 9 batters in the lineup; if a player leaves early and there are less than 9 batters in the lineup then the vacant spot is an automatic out
 - 3. Regular Season: There is no penalty for a player leaving the field for an injury, even if that is the 9th batter in the order. *However, a player may not skip an at bat and then return to the game.*
 - 4. Playoffs: There is no penalty for a player leaving the field for an injury, as long as there are 9 batters in the lineup; if a player exits game due to injury and there are less than 9 batters in the lineup then the vacant spot is an automatic out

5. If a player is injured and cannot bat, then they also cannot play the field. If a player is injured and cannot play the field, then they also cannot bat.
- b. Bunting is allowed but only when player is pitching; there is no bunting when the coach is pitching.
- c. There is no slash bunting, which is when a player shows bunt and then pulls the bat back and attempts to hit, this is not allowed; the batter attempting to slash bunt will be called out and the play called dead
- d. Slap hitting is allowed, if any part of batter's foot crosses batters box before making contact the batter is automatically out
- e. In the event that a player does not bat in a game (and there is one player who bats twice), the penalty shall be that the player must bat first in the next game. The manager's penalty for the first offense will be a written warning. The second game will be a one game suspension (served in the next scheduled game). The third offense will result in the manager being suspended for the rest of the season. *This rule does not apply to a player who arrives to a game after every player has already batted on her team. (A late player is inserted immediately to the bottom of the order. If a player arrives after the first batter has her second at bat, the player arriving late may not end up batting if the team does not bat around again. There is not a penalty for this)*

Section IV: Base Running

- a. Runners may steal third base when the ball crosses home plate, and only when a player is pitching. There is no stealing home, there is no stealing second.
- b. If a runner leaves the base prior to the ball crossing home plate the runner will be called out and the play will be called dead.
- c. There is no stealing when the coach is pitching.
- d. The catcher's throw down to third base on an attempted steal is a "riskless throw", meaning the runner attempting to steal third base cannot advance past third on an errant throw; if there is a runner on first they cannot advance on the throw
- e. On an errant throw to first base only for a batted ball in the infield, runners may advance maximum one base at their own risk of being tagged out. Errant throw being defined as an overthrow past the intended base (First base only). The runner on first must attempt to advance to second on the errant throw in order for any other runners (on second or third base) to attempt to advance to third or to home. Runners cannot start an attempt to advance towards next base after the ball is in possession of the defensive player.
- f. On a batted ball fielded by an outfielder runners may advance the bases at their own risk but cannot advance past the base they are heading towards (or standing on) once an infielder has possession of the ball in the infield dirt.
- g. In an effort to speed up the game, the catcher may be replaced on the bases with the last batted out.

Section V: Fielding

- a. 10 players will play the field in the following positions (P,C,1B,2B,3B,SS,LF,LC,RC,RF)

- b. There is no infield fly rule
- c. There is no dropped third strike
- d. All players must play a minimum of 3 defensive innings in a complete game.

Section VI: Game Replacement Players

- a. Replacement players are allowed in the spirit of preventing forfeits and games not being played. Any Replacement player is considered to FILL IN and not considered a ROSTERED Player for the team in need.
- b. Replacement players MUST be approved by the Softball Director. If Softball Director cannot approve in time then the replacement players must be agreed to by both Managers.
- c. Managers should request replacement players at least 36 hours prior to the game in need.
- d. Replacement Players MUST Bat LAST in the order and MUST play the OUTFIELD atleast three innings of a complete game. A replacement player should NOT take opportunities away from Rostered players. Replacement players cannot pitch or catch; if a replacement player pitches or catches without the approval of the Softball Director the penalty is a game forfeit.
- e. When a Manager requests a Replacement Player, this should be done when the Manager is 100% certain the player is needed. It will not be acceptable to have Replacement Players volunteer to attend a game, to have them sit on the bench.
- f. For Farms and Minors Manager should request the number of Replacement players that bring them up to 10 Players, for Majors up to 9 Players.

Team Duties and responsibilities (all softball divisions)

Both teams must work together to make sure rules are being followed.

We are here for the girls, not ourselves.

Home team

- I. Occupies first base dugout
- II. Supplies official scorekeeper if a parent from either team does not volunteer

Visiting Team

- I. Occupies third base dugout

Both teams

- I. Before game, marks field batter boxes and foul lines (work together)
- II. Before game, sets the portable mound up and measures from 35'
- III. After game, rakes field including infield, home plate area, pitching area, bases (work together)
- IV. After game, folds up and stores in shed the portable mound

Protesting Games

The manager must tell the umpire he/she wants to protest because a rule was broken *when it happens*. The manager must write down what occurred, and then send an e-mail to the president of the league with the details. The protest committee will decide the outcome.

All Star eligibility

Players must participate in a minimum of 60% of league games to be eligible for All Star teams.

Ejections/Misconduct

Any player, coach, parent ejected from a game must meet with Executive Board for review of the incident. Judgement and penalty for misconduct or ejections up to and including game suspensions and or complex/league bans (either temporary or permanent) will be at the discretion of the Executive Board.