



SOFTBALL MAJORS RULES

General Rules

- ✓ 6 inning Games. 4 innings constitutes an Official Game.
- ✓ **Time Limit** – A new inning **cannot start** after **1 hour and 45 min.** Darkness or weather is the Umpires call which overrides all time rules above.
- ✓ If game is called by umpire for time limit, weather or darkness, score will revert back to last full inning.
- ✓ Innings are 3 outs or 5 runs per inning (if managers agree unlimited runs may be played). The designated “last inning” will be Umpires discretion and **unlimited** runs. She/he will inform the Managers.
- ✓ Only Managers may approach the umpire for rule interpretation.

There is no questioning a judgment call by the Umpire – this means managers, coaches, players, and spectators. Yelling or commenting on a call will not be tolerated. This can result in being asked to leave the field.

- ✓ No one is permitted behind the backstop during the game. This includes all coaches, parents and children.
- ✓ No barreling. You must slide or give yourself up on any play to a base or home plate.
- ✓ Any catcher warming up a pitcher or participating in the infield or outfield drills as a catcher must wear catcher’s mask and chest protector. During the game, the catcher must wear all catching equipment and can use whatever glove she wants.
- ✓ Each player must play the infield for **at least one inning**
- ✓ No NEGATIVE CHANTING – respect the team you are playing against.
- ✓ UNIVERSAL BATTING must be used starting from the first game. At the end of each game thereafter, the on deck batter when the game ends is the first batter for the next game.
- ✓ **To keep the game moving, players should know where they are going before your at bat is over.**
- ✓ Only 1 manager and 2 coaches are allowed in the dugout.

Pitching

- ✓ Regulation 12” ball will be used
- ✓ Pitcher’s mound will be 40” feet. Distance is from back of home plate to back of pitching rubber.
- ✓ A pitcher may pitch unlimited innings per game. One pitch thrown in an inning constitutes a full inning.
- ✓ Pitcher can use windmill or modified pitching and must pitch from the pitching rubber.
- ✓ Once Pitcher motions for pitch, all dugouts must be quiet.

- ✓ If a pitcher hits 3 batters in an inning she must come out but may go back in the next inning. If she hits 5 she must be removed from pitching the rest of the game. Hit by pitch – is a judgment call by the umpire as to whether or not the girl attempted to get out of the way of the pitch.

Fielding

- ✓ 10 girls on the field at a time. Outfielders must play 4 across.
- ✓ A team must field at least 8 players to start a game. If you have less than 8, you can **only pull a player from another MAJORS TEAM**, to make 8, but they **MUST** play outfield and bat last.

Batting

- ✓ Infield fly rule applies and will be called at the discretion of the Umpire.
- ✓ Base runners may tag up on fly ball outs and advance. Bunting is allowed.
- ✓ If a player leaves the game due to an injury or another commitment, the spot in the lineup is skipped and no out is incurred.
- ✓ **VERY IMPORTANT** – Only the player at bat can have a bat in their hands.
- ✓ Only approved ASA softball bats are allowed.

Base Running

- ✓ Bases will be set at 60 feet. Each team may steal **Unlimited** bases.
- ✓ Runners may not lead, but may steal **upon release** of the pitch.
- ✓ No Continuation
- ✓ Runners **can** advance to the next base or home plate on overthrows to 2nd or 3rd base by the catcher. As well as can advance on throw to pitcher the ball is live till in possession of pitcher.
- ✓ Time becomes out when the ball is returned to the pitcher on the mound and time out is requested and then granted by the umpire.
- ✓ A runner more than half way to the next base when time is called will be awarded that base. A runner less than half way will return to the previous base. This is up to the Umpires discretion.
- ✓ If the opposing team's catcher is on base after two outs have been recorded, that player will be replaced with a courtesy runner. The courtesy runner will be the last batter out.

Mercy Rule

- ✓ The **13 run mercy** rule will be in effect after 5 innings, 4 ½ innings if home team is leading.
- ✓ If the visiting team is ahead by at least 13 runs after 5 innings, the home team will bat.
- ✓ If the home team comes within 12 runs or less, the game will continue as long as time permits.

