

### SSHLL Minor League In house Rules for softball

- Minimum of 7 players needed to start a game. Players may be borrowed from other minor teams, if needed to field a team of 10. Borrowed players MAY NOT PITCH and must bat last.
- Maximum of 3 adults (manager/2 coaches) allowed during the game and also at pre-game warm ups. If a manager/coach is unable to attend a game, a substitute adult will be permitted to be in the dugout.
- All players must play a MINIMUM of 3 defensive innings (does not need to be consecutive).
- Four outfielders are permitted to be spread across the outfield. NO SHORT CENTER. (A player may not be positioned behind second base) Outfielders must be positioned a **minimum of 30ft from the baseline**. If an opposing manager feels outfielders are too close, it is his/her responsibility to inform the umpire BEFORE a pitch is thrown.
- Consecutive batting order will be used for all games. No penalty for girls being removed from the line-up during the game if injured, or leaving the grounds. Injured players may be reinserted to their original batting position, if they recover. Players coming after the game begins will be added to the bottom of the order. There is no penalty for having only 8 batters.
- Maximum of 2 coaches are permitted to stand in the outfield, at least 5 feet off of the infield grass. Coaches may assist, with their voices only, the defensive players before the pitch is made, or may tell the player where to throw the ball/stand to cover a base after the ball is hit. If a player remains in the dugout during the defensive part of the inning, a coach or manager must be present in the dugout.
- There will be no cheering from the score booth. Scorekeepers must appear to be impartial, and not talk to players during the game. It is the manager's responsibility to remind the parents of this rule. **NO COACHING MAY BE DONE FROM THE SCOREBOOTH. Umpires must be made aware of this rule prior to the start of the game.** Umpires may remove anyone from the score booth at any time.
- No spectators may be permitted to stand/sit adjacent to the score booth, even if it's the only spot of sun on the field. All spectators must remain in the stands. *Please inform your players' parents.*
- Only base coaches may stand out of the dugout while on offense. The base coach MUST REMAIN in the coach's box. If no coach's box is drawn, the coach must remain in foul territory, no more than 2 feet from the base in any direction. In the interest of quicker games, coaches may not walk their players to the plate. (Exception: If it is a girl's first few times at bat, the coach may show the batter where to stand....this should not last beyond the first few games of the season)
- Hit by pitch counts as a ball. Teach your players to get out of the way!
- Pitchers will be replaced by the offensive coach after 3 walks in one inning. The pitcher may return to pitch the next inning.
- When the coach comes in to pitch, the coach must pitch from the rubber. Pitcher must remain parallel to or behind the coach, with one foot on the dirt.
- Players MAY NOT ADVANCE on an overthrow to any base. Any *attempt* by a player to make a play at a base will stop the base runner from advancing farther than the base she is headed toward. (Ex. If a player is advancing to third, and the fielder makes a throw to third that is errant, the runner may not advance home. In addition, a girl who is advancing to third on a batted ball MAY NOT score on an overthrow to first base.)
- Runners may only advance one base on balls hit to the infield.

- Girls may continue to advance bases on a clean hit ball to the outfield AT THEIR OWN RISK. Runners are entitled to the base they are running toward after the ball is released from the player's hand AT THEIR OWN RISK. Runners may not advance farther than the one base, once the throw is attempted. (A runner will NOT be called out if she is returning to a base after making the turn to a base to which she is not entitled. However, players can be tagged out if they overrun a base)
- As per Little League rules: **If a player pitches more than one inning, one calendar day of rest is mandatory. A player may pitch in a maximum of 6 innings in a game. A player may pitch in a maximum of 6 innings in calendar week, Sunday through Saturday. Delivery of a single pitch constitutes an inning pitched.** (Rulebook, p. 43)  
(In house exception: If a game goes into extra innings, pitchers will be allowed to pitch beyond the 6 innings to complete the game)
- There is NO STEALING, NO BUNTING, NO DROPPED THIRD STRIKE, NO ADVANCEMENT ON AN OVERTHROW.
- There is a 5 run limit per inning per team. Mercy rule is 10 runs after 4 innings. Games may continue if managers agree.

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FIELD A TEAM FOR ANY GAME, the opposing manager and I must be informed immediately. Umpires must be cancelled, or another team may be called upon to fill the slot, so advance notice is necessary. If you are short players, please call other teams to see if they have anyone available.**