

SSHLL Softball Minor Division

Revised and approved 4.1.2021

The softball minor division is meant to continue players' education in the game of softball and to prepare them for play in the major softball division. The major emphasis of this division is to instill the fundamental skills of little league baseball into the children and to teach them good sportsmanship.

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, to be followed by all managers and coaches.

- a. In the event of darkness (weekdays) the game is official. No inning may start after 1 hour and 50 minutes.
- b. Official umpires are used for this division. Volunteer umpires are allowed in the event that an official umpire is not available.
- c. The manager and three (3) official coaches are allowed in the dugout. Only two coaches are allowed on the defensive field at one time. The extra coach must remain in the dugout to keep order and maintain a safe environment.
- d. There is no stealing.
- e. There is no bunting.
- f. There is no dropped third strike.
- g. Players will pitch from 35 ft.
- h. 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."
- i. 10 players will play the field in the following positions (P,C,1B,2B,3B,SS,LF,LC,RC,RF).
 1. Outfielders must play 4 across when a team has 10 or more players in attendance. A short center fielder is not allowed.
 2. Outfielders must be positioned a minimum of 30ft from the baseline when the ball is pitched.
- j. A hit by pitch is considered a ball.
- k. 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.
- l. 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 or until another pitcher is substituted. With respect to such, the following rules apply:
 1. A walk is a base on balls.
 2. The coach must pitch from the pitching rubber

3. The player pitcher must remain parallel to or behind the pitching rubber. The player pitcher must be within 2 feet of the rubber.
- m. On a batted ball, the runner may only advance to first base.
Exception: If the ball is cleanly hit through the infield and into the outfield, the runner may advance past first base at her own risk. Once the ball is retrieved by a fielder and the ball is released from the player's hand on a throw – the runner may only advance toward to the base he is headed towards. It is up to the umpire's judgment to determine which base the player is advancing towards when the fielder released the ball.
- n. Players may not advance on throwing errors or if the ball is in the possession of an infield defensive player.
- o. 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. A player arriving late to the game will be added to the bottom of the order. There is no penalty for a player leaving early.
- p. 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)*
- q. All players must play a minimum of 3 defensive innings in a complete game.
- r. Play stops when the ball is thrown to the pitcher's mound. The umpire should call time and halt play.
- s. No more than 5 runs can be scored in one inning. This rule does not apply to a team's last at bat.
- t. In an effort to speed up the game, the catcher may be replaced on the bases with the last batted out.
- u. **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.**
- v. The minimum number of players in a game is seven players for the Regular Season. There is no penalty for having less than 10 batters.

Game Replacement Player

- 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 assigned by the league Player Agent. Managers and Coaches are NOT allowed to bring down their own replacement players. If a team uses a replacement player without consent of the Player Agent, this game will be forfeited.
- c. Prior to the season start, the Player Agent will survey the players in the league and create a Player Pool for each division of replacement players.
- d. Managers should request replacement players at least 48 hours prior to the game in need. This will give ample time for the Player Agent to reach out to the player pool. This is done in a rotating sequence, so each player in the pool will be contacted on a queue basis.
- e. **Replacement Players MUST Bat LAST in the order and MUST play the OUTFIELD.** This is for ALL Divisions. A replacement player should NOT take opportunities away from Rostered players from playing Infield positions. If this rule is not followed, the game may be subject to a Forfeit. If a Replacement player is ever caught Pitching or Catching, the Manager will be suspended immediately and the game will be Forfeited.
- f. 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.
- g. Manager may only request the number of Replacement players that bring them up to 9 Players. For divisions that allow 10 players in the field, if a team has 9 players confirmed, this team should NOT Request a 10th Player.
- h. Replacement Players are assigned to the GAME and teams by the Player Agent. If a team requests a replacement player, but at game time their rostered player shows up, while the other team is missing a player that was expected to attend that would bring them to the 9th player, the assigned replacement player will play for the team in need. In the spirit of the rule, 1 team should not have 10 players, 1 being a replacement, while the other only has 8. If an assigned Replacement player is at the game, that player is to be used to make sure both teams are at least a player count of 9.

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
- III. Marks field batter boxes and foul lines if a parent from either team does not volunteer
- IV. After game, rakes home plate area and half of the field if a parent from either team does not volunteer
- V. Makes sure team cleans dugout, bottles and all garbage must be placed in trash can.

Visiting Team

- I. Occupies third base dugout

- II. After game, rakes pitching area and bases, and half of the field if a parent from either team does not volunteer
- III. Makes sure team cleans dugout, bottles and all garbage must be placed in trash can.

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. Players will be recommended by coaches to attend clinics when the time comes. Players recommended must meet criteria for games played.