

Special Rules for Fall Softball 2019

SCHEDULES:

Each team will play a 10 game schedule plus playoffs. Double headers will be played every Saturday starting Sept 14th and ending Oct 6th. **PLAYOFFS will be Saturday Oct 13th**

ANY RAINOUTS WILL BE MADE UP ON SUNDAY. IF A WHOLE SATURDAY GETS RAINED OUT WE WILL MOVE ALL GAMES TO THE NEXT DAY, SUNDAY. PLEASE MAKE PARENTS AWARE OF THIS SO THERE ARE NO SURPRISES.

GAME TIMES:

- a. All games will start at 10am, 12:00pm and 2:00pm.
- b. All games will start at their scheduled start time. Teams need a minimum of 8 players.
- c. A 15 minute grace period will be allowed and **ONLY** if a team is short players to start. After the 15 minute grace period, if a team does not have enough players to play they will forfeit. FORFEITS will not be made up.
- d. Game time **MAX LIMIT** is **1 hour 40 minutes**. No new inning may start after **1 hour 25 minutes**. An inning will be considered started after the last out in the previous inning. If an inning is not complete at 1 hour 40 minutes the score will revert back to the previous inning unless the home team has gone ahead.

Ex: Bottom 4 home team winning, 1 out. Time limit is reached, it is a complete game home team wins.

- e. If a batter is at bat when the time limit is reached, that batter and the result of the at bat will count
- f. Minor league games are 6 innings if time allowed and Majors are 7 innings if time allows.
- g. Mercy rules are not in effect in either division in the Fall season. We want the girls to play. They are in effect in the playoffs
- h. **Playoff time limits: 1st round no new inning will start after 1:25 but if the inning has started it will be played to completion. Finals will have no time limit.**

RUN LIMIT – Majors & Minors

- a. 6 run limit per inning, no unlimited run innings during regular season. In playoffs the last inning as determined by the umpire will be unlimited. In the FINALS the 6th inning minors and 7th inning majors will be unlimited.

BORROWING PLAYERS (Fall League)

- a. Major League teams may borrow a player from another major league team if at any point in the game you will have less than 9 players. **Borrowed major league players MAY NOT pitch unless you are missing your #1 pitcher. You may borrow 1 pitcher ONLY if you are missing your top pitcher. Major League teams may also call up an 11 year old Minor League player if they do not have a game at the same time. Minor league call ups are NOT allowed to pitch in majors**
 - b. **A team may only borrow the same pitcher 3 times in the season including playoffs.**
 - c. Minor League teams may borrow an opposing team's player to get to the minimum of 8 if it would not bring the other team's total to under 8. We want to avoid forfeits at all costs.
 - d. Minor league teams that are missing pitchers may "borrow" a pitcher from the team you are playing.
 - e. Borrowed players MUST bat last in the lineup and may not play the infield for more than 2 innings, except pitchers.
- (MAJORS & MINORS)
- f. Borrowed players should wear the uniform shirt of their own team so the other team knows they are a borrowed player.

FIELDERS

- a. Majors will play with 3 outfielders & minors will play with 4 outfielders. Outfielders must be on the grass.

PITCHING

- a. Majors: No pitcher can pitch more than 4 innings in a game. Six runs will be added to a team's score for every inning a pitcher pitches in excess of 4 innings.(Majors only). Minors: Pitchers are limited to 3 innings.
- b. If a pitcher HITS 3 batters in an inning, then she must be pulled for the rest of that inning. Majors & Minors. This will also count as a full inning pitched.
- d. Rostered Major League 11 year old players are required to wear a face mask when pitching. Safety is the number one priority.
- e. Coaches can go to the mound once per inning to talk to pitcher. The second visit in an inning the pitcher must be pulled.
- f. New pitchers will be allowed 5 warm up pitches at the start of an inning. Each inning after that they will be allowed 3
- h. Majors league will pitch from 43ft and Minor league will pitch from 40ft.

DROPPED THIRD STRIKE – Major League

Dropped 3rd strike will be allowed in the major league only. First base must be unoccupied to allow the batter to run, EXCEPT when there are 2 outs. See USA rulebook for further explanation.

INFIELD FLY RULE

Infield fly rule will be enforced in both leagues.

STEALING – MAJORS

- a. Stealing is allowed after the ball has left the pitcher's hand. If the runner is caught leaving early they will be called out.
- b. Once a team is up by 10 runs they are no longer allowed to steal

STEALING – MINORS

- a. A base runner may not leave base until the pitched ball has crossed the plate. Any base may be stolen including home.
- b. Once a team is up by 10 runs, they are no longer allowed to steal
- c. Runners may advance only one base on each steal attempt. Ex: If a catcher throws the ball to second to try to catch the runner stealing and the ball is overthrown into the outfield the runner may not advance.
- d. An overthrow back to the pitcher is the same as the catcher overthrowing a base. If the runners have already stolen a base they cannot advance any further on an overthrow back to the pitcher from the catcher or any other fielder. This applies on passed balls or straight steals. On a hit ball the ball is live until the pitcher has it in the circle.

OVERTHROWS

- a. A batted ball that is overthrown to first or third base and goes over the fence, into the netting or out of play is a dead ball and the runners will be awarded one (~~two bases from the last base touched~~) base. Ex: Runner on 1st goes to 2nd on the initial hit, ball is thrown to 1st and goes over fence, runner gets 3rd base and the batter goes to 2nd. All other balls that are overthrown and hit the fence are considered a live ball and runners may advance at their own risk.

SLIDING – Majors & Minors

- a. All players must AVOID contact when there is a play being made to the base they are going to. If a player does not make an attempt to slide and makes contact with the fielder making a play she will be called out. If the fielder is blocking the base and there is no play there is no out. These are judgement calls by the umpires
- b. A **running headfirst** slide into a base is not allowed and is an **automatic out**. A dive back is not considered a head first slide

PLAYING TIME – Majors & Minors

- a. All players bat in a continuous line-up. All players must be rotated into fielding positions and no player may sit out more than one inning in a row or more than a total of 2 innings in Minors or 3 innings in Majors. All players must be rotated into the infield at least one inning during the game if they choose, and **can field the position safely**. (Regular season only.)

FAKE BUNTING (SLASHING)

- a. Fake bunting also known as slashing is not allowed. Fake bunting is when a batter is at the plate and shows bunt to draw the fielders in and then pull back and hits away. This is dangerous and will not be allowed. The batter will be called out if this happens. Slap bunting is allowed.

RAIN OUTS

- a. Should a game be shortened due to rain/lightning, a game will be considered legal if the losing team has batted 3 times in Minors and 4 times in Majors. If you do not get to the required inning the game will be rescheduled as a new game.

All PLAYOFF games will be suspended at the point that play was stopped due to weather, but the game will be replayed in its entirety if the first inning is not completed Ex: If the visitor got up to bat in the 1st inning but the game was stopped due to weather the game will start over as the Home team did not get to bat

All other rules will be taken from the USA rulebook and our regular season rules.

NOTE:

Please have your catchers and pitchers picked out for the next inning ahead of time. If they are on base you may substitute at any time with a pinch runner so they can get ready. You MUST pull your catcher off base with 2 outs. The pinch runner must be the girl who made the last out.

With double headers and teams needing to switch fields for their next game there will not be much time between games so please move the games along at a steady pace. Be at the fields early so we can start the games on time.