



## Majors Softball Division - Supplemental Rules (Regular Season)

### **Sportsmanship and conduct**

Sportsmanship and conduct are the primary concern of the coaches and assistants. This includes conduct of coaches, players and fans of your team. Proper youth sportsmanship attitudes must be instilled and maintained on every team. Encourage positive cheering by everyone.

All concerns by Coaches, Parents, and Umpires should be brought to the attention of the divisional director or player agent.

### **Schedules**

All games shall begin at their scheduled time. During Regular Season games, when there is a game scheduled to follow - No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 45 minutes of the first pitch. For example if your game started at 10:32 am, no new inning shall start after 12:17 pm. Playoff games will be addressed separately.

Pre game practice is allowed only if there is no game in progress on the field. Each team will have 15 minutes of on-field practice time 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time. The home team will have the first 15 minutes and the Visitors will have the following 15 minutes. For example if your game is scheduled at 6:00 pm, the Home Team will have the field from 5:30 to 5:45 (if needed) and the Visitors from 5:45 to 6:00 (if needed). The Home team uses first base dugout and Visitors use third base.

An umpire will be scheduled for each game. If an umpire does not show at the starting time, the home team will find an umpire volunteer.

### **WBSL Safety**

**The WBSL Safety Manual and procedures will be adhered to and all managers and coaches should be familiar with its contents.**

Lightning or thunder will result in stoppage of play. When a game is suspended a decision will be made within 15 minutes to continue play or cancel the game. This decision is made by the umpire and/or managers of the teams playing with the safety of the players in mind.

When a game is canceled, 4 innings constitutes a complete game and is not to be continued or rescheduled. When teams have had one hour of playing time the game will be considered complete and is not to be rescheduled. The league scheduler, managers, along with the division director can reschedule canceled games. All rescheduled games and practices must be submitted to and approved by the WBSL scheduler ([dcleasby@windhambaseball.org](mailto:dcleasby@windhambaseball.org)).

**The rules for WBSL Softball will be the official regulations and playing rules of Babe Ruth Softball (2013). The Majors Softball Division will follow the 12U Rules and Regulations. Any rules not specifically stated or modified below will be governed by the Babe Ruth Softball rulebook.**

### **Local League Options**

1. Games will be 6 innings in length with time restrictions mentioned above. (BR 0.02 8)
2. Ten players with four outfielders will be used in the field. (Supersedes 1.01/11.07-10U a)
3. The entire roster will bat with late players added to the end of the line up upon arrival. (Supersedes 4.04)



Baseball



Softball



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4. The infield fly rule will be called. (BR def/6.05 e) Intentional walking a batter is **NOT** allowed. Batter advancement on a dropped third strike is allowed (1B open or two outs). (BR 6.05 c/6.09) Bunting is allowed.
5. A limit of 6 runs per inning applies to both teams except for the home team during the last inning of the game.
6. 10 Run Rule (Mercy Rule) – If a Home team is leading by 10 or more runs after 3 ½ innings or the Visitor team is leading by 10 or more runs after 4 innings, the Mercy Rule will apply and the game is completed. (BR 11.05 6)
7. Stealing is allowed for all bases. Base runner can leave upon the release of the ball (BR 7.13)
8. Coaches must teach sliding to avoid being hit by throws, and to avoid collisions and injuries.

### Pitching rules

1. Pitching distance is 40 feet. (BR 1.07) An 8-foot radius circle around the pitchers mound will be used. (BR 1.04) A 12" softball is to be used. (BR 1.09)
2. One pitcher cannot pitch more than 6 innings in a week when two games are played. (Supersedes 0.06) One pitcher cannot pitch more than 10 innings in a calendar week. (BR 0.06 1,2) Pitchers can return to pitch once removed, but only once in the same inning. (BR 3.03) One pitch thrown constitutes an inning pitched. (BR 0.06 1b)
3. Prior to starting the delivery the pitcher shall take a position with: (1) the pivot foot on or partially on the top surface of the pitcher's plate: (2) the non-pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. Both feet must be on the ground within or partially within the pitcher's plate. (BR 8.01)
4. Clarification - A batter hit by a pitched ball, which hits the ground or bounces first, constitutes a hit batter. A reasonable attempt to avoid being hit applies and is an umpire judgment.

### Base running

1. Base coaches may be managers, coaches, other assistants or players. (def/1.16a)
2. Runners may leave the base when the ball is released by the pitcher. Runner is out if called for leaving early (Umpire has right to warn). Runners will not be called out if pitchers do not allow sufficient time for runners to return. Quick pitches result in live ball, runner free to advance without tagging base. Runners are free to move when the ball is live and outside the 16' pitching circle. (BR 7.13)
3. Once the pitcher has the ball within the circle, the runner must move directly toward the next base or the base last touched without any motion or recognition by the pitcher. The runner may not stand motionless, or after returning to the base, may not move off that base with the pitcher in the circle. Failure of the runner to respond as indicated shall cause the umpire to signal the runner out. If the ball is not in the circle or a fake throw is made, the runners are not governed by this rule. (BR 7.13)

### General rules

1. Umpires can call runners out for failing to slide or causing interference on close plays.
2. Players should be encouraged to swing at any balls they think they can hit. Strike zone is just above the knee to the arm pits.
3. A scorebook shall be kept by each team per game. The scorebook will be turned over to the division director at the end of the season.
4. Managers and coaches shall avoid any confrontations/arguments with the umpires, and should enforce this requirement by parents and spectators at the games.
5. To the extent possible, it is the policy of the WBSL that all players get equal playing time during games.