

12U Majors Division Rules

General Rules

1. Prior to each game, batting orders must be exchanged and recorded into the respective scorebooks.
2. All players must remain on the bench or in the out of bounds area when not batting or on deck
3. Coaches are not permitted in the playing field.
4. No game shall be started without a minimum of 8 players on a team. A forfeit can be called; however, we are here for the children so do your best to work it out.
Forfeits require a full game fee for the umpire.
5. If at game time an umpire is not present, a substitute (agreed on by both coaches) can be used or the game can be made up.
6. Catchers must wear proper equipment, even when warming up.
7. Players at pitcher, first base, and third base are **required** to wear a fielding mask. It is strongly recommended that the entire infield wear one.
8. The home team is responsible for paying the umpire.
9. A 12” traditional (optic yellow) softball will be used.
10. All Rules not specifically noted in the Cortland League Rules will follow ASA rules.

Game Rules

1. There are 6 innings per game (if time permits). No new inning may begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes have elapsed from the start of the game.
2. Three outs or 5 runs end an inning. The final play of the inning should be allowed to finish even if more than 5 runs are scored. However, only 5 runs should be officially recorded. If time allows, the sixth inning (and ONLY the 6th inning) is an unlimited-run inning.
3. The “mercy rule” for the game is invoked when a team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 4 complete innings. The game cannot end on a ½ inning. (Home team gets their at bat for the inning).
4. Ten players on the field, the short fielder **must** stay in the outfield.
5. All players must be in the batting order whether they played in the inning or not. Pinch-hitting is not allowed. No batting out of order.

6. Free substitution for defensive positions.
7. Bunting is allowed.
8. No infield fly rule.
9. We will **not** honor the dropped third strike rule.
10. A batted ball in the playing field is live until returned to and controlled in the pitching circle.

Clarification: On overthrown balls begun by a batted ball (i.e. balls overthrown in attempt to make a defensive play), runners may attempt to take as many bases as they desire, provided the ball is still within play and not controlled and within the pitching circle. Once the ball is controlled and within the pitching circle, no further advancement can be made other than the base they may be in the process of reaching at the time. If the ball is out of play, it becomes a dead ball and the appropriate out of play advancement is instituted. (One base on an overthrow that goes out of bounds).

11. Runners may not leave the base (lead or steal) until the ball has crossed the plate.
12. Runners may steal 2nd, 3rd, or home, but only 2 runs per inning may be scored in this fashion.
13. A team may NOT steal once they are up by 10 runs.
14. A pitcher must start with both feet in contact with the rubber and push off with their dominant foot. The dominant foot must maintain the plane of the ground.
15. A pitcher may leave the game and return in later innings as long as she doesn't appear in more than three (3) innings per game. **One pitch thrown in an inning constitutes an inning of pitching.**
16. For the safety of all players, any pitcher who hits 3 batters in a game **must** immediately be removed from the pitching position for the rest of the game (she may play any other position). Hit by Pitch (HBP) is determined by the umpire – i.e., at the umpire's discretion, the batter has made a legitimate effort to avoid being hit by the ball. Coaches should review this rule with the umpire before each game.
17. Pitching distance is 40 feet – no exceptions.
18. Cheering for your own team is highly encouraged. Teamwork and building an enjoyable experience for all the girls in the league is our desired goal. However, there comes a time when the line can be crossed and it is up to the coaches and the umpire to be aware of the incidents and to try to maintain a level playing field for both teams. This issue is not only between girls from both teams, it involves coaches and parents. Negative cheers about the other team should not be tolerated. Sudden noises (shouts, horns, foot-stomping, "swing", or other noise making devices) shall not be tolerated. Players and Coaches should not purposely distract the other team's pitcher. Coaches are responsible for adherence to this etiquette for themselves, their other coaches, their players AND their players' parents.
19. The catcher may attempt to throw out a runner at any base who has led off that base too far. In the event that the catcher makes an errant throw to the base, runners may advance until the ball is returned to and controlled in the pitching circle.