

12U Majors Division Rules

General Game Preliminaries

1. The home team head coach is responsible for postponing a game due to weather/field conditions and contacting the umpires and the opposing coach.
2. Prior to each game, batting orders must be exchanged and recorded into the respective scorebooks.
3. All players must be born on or after January 1, 2005. In special circumstances the league may grant age waivers for players that were born before this date. However each team must notify the opposing team of the jersey number(s) and name(s) of the girls who are playing by means of an age waiver. The opposing coach can, on an inning by inning basis, either allow or disallow these players to pitch against them. There shall be NO complaints from the team that is playing with these waived players. It is well within the acceptable rights of the opposing coach to flat out say no. This in no means should be construed as gamesmanship of the opposing coach as these players are fortunate enough to be allowed to play at this age level at all.
4. Teams should be ready to play at the scheduled time.
5. No game shall be started without a minimum of 8 players on a team. A forfeit can be called; however, we are here to let the kids play, so do your best to work it out.
Forfeits require a full game fee for the umpire.
6. The home team is responsible for paying the umpire.
7. If there is no umpire present at game time, both coaches must agree on a substitute or the game should be made up.
8. Home team supplies game balls. A 12” traditional (optic yellow) softball will be used.
9. Coaches are not permitted in the playing field.
10. Catchers must wear full protective equipment, even when warming up.
11. All infielders including the pitcher, are required to wear a fielding mask. It is strongly recommended that the entire outfield wear one as well.
12. All batters and base runners must wear a league-approved helmet at all times. Helmets must contain a face mask.
13. No jewelry, metal cleats, or casts. If a player cannot remove her jewelry she must coverage it with a bandage or athletic tape.
14. All players must remain on the bench or in the dugout when not batting or on deck. The only exception is players warming up with the permission of their coaching staff in designated areas agreed on before the game.

Conduct Rules

1. Coaches are expected to know and abide by all rules.
2. Every coach is responsible for the safety and conduct of his/her team.
3. Good sportsmanship and behavior is expected from players, coaches and parents.
4. 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.

Game Rules

1. All rules not specifically noted here will follow ASA/USA Softball rules.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 1/2 inning. (Home team gets their at bat for the inning).~~
5. Ten players on the field, the short fielder **must** stay in the outfield.
6. 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.
7. If a team has less than 10 players, only the ninth slot in the batting order must take an automatic out if the team does not have an ninth batter. However, they do not have to take an automatic out for the tenth slot in the batting order.
8. Free substitution for defensive positions.
9. Bunting is allowed.
10. No infield fly rule.

11. We will **not** honor the dropped third strike rule.
12. 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).

13. Runners may not leave the base (lead or steal) until the ball has crossed the plate.
14. Runners may steal 2nd, 3rd, or home, but only 2 runs per inning may be scored in this fashion. A steal is defined as an advancement on a non-batted ball.
15. A team may NOT steal once they are up by 10 runs.
16. No pitcher will appear in more than 3 innings. A pitcher may leave the game and return in later innings as long as she doesn't appear in more than 3 innings per game. **One pitch thrown in an inning constitutes an inning of pitching.**
17. Pitching distance is 40 feet – no exceptions.
18. 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
19. 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.