

HADDAM/KILLINGWORTH MAJOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL RULES

(EFFECTIVE 4/13)

These rules will apply to ALL Major League games played in the Towns of Haddam or Killingworth. It is expected that each coach will conduct him/herself in a manner appropriate in dealing with children. There should be courtesy shown between coaches. The development of technical skills and good sportsmanship shall be first and foremost for our players. Coaches should consider ways to reduce embarrassment to another team in the event the score is widely disproportionate, such as removing your top pitcher or refraining from taking extra bases. There is no point in demoralizing the players when a game is out of hand.

1. Unless otherwise specified, the rules in the official Little League rulebook will apply.
2. Major League players shall be 10 to 12 years old by Dec. 31 of the previous year. (i.e. "Little League Age").
3. Only 3 twelve-year-old players may pitch per week.
4. Any one player may pitch 18 innings per calendar week and a maximum of 9 innings per game.
5. When a player has pitched more than 1 inning, 1 day of rest is required. One pitch constitutes an inning pitched.
6. Bunting is permitted in major league softball, but base runners may not take leads off a base. While leading is not permitted, stealing is permitted, as well as advancing on either passed balls or wild pitches.
7. **Runners may not leave a base until the pitcher releases the ball.**
8. Other than first base, base runners must avoid contact or slide if a play is going to be made at that base. No head first slides into a base.
9. A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher any time in the remainder of the game, but only once in the same inning as she was removed.
10. **All rostered players on a team will bat in the batting order, including players not playing in the field.**
11. **Each player must play nine outs in the field.**
12. Adults (manager and or coach) may coach at one or both bases, but at all times there must be an adult in the dugout/bench. **Only 3 adults are allowed in the dugout during a game, the manager and his/her 2 coaches.**
13. The home team will supply 2 new balls for each game. The softball must meet Little League specifications and standards. The ball shall be not less than 11-7/8" nor more than 12-1/8" in circumference. Nominally know as a 12" softball.

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14. In the absence of a previously assigned umpire, the home team will supply at least one adult umpire for each game.
15. Scheduled weekday games will start at 5:30 PM. The visiting team will warm up at 5:00 PM and the home team will warm up at 5:10 PM. Weekend games will start at their scheduled times.
16. In the event of a rained out game, the home team manager will call the league director who will coordinate all make-up games with the field scheduler for all leagues. There will be a 2 hour time limit if there is a second game waiting to be played. All games must be made up within two weeks unless permission for an extension is obtained from the local league President (permission from both league Presidents is required in the case of an interleague game).
17. Rain out decisions are in the hands of the home team coach until the start of the game; then, any decision on stopping the game will be up to the umpire. If the game is to be canceled before it starts, the home team coach must notify the visiting team coach and umpire (or umpire scheduler) by 4:00 PM when possible.
18. The batter's box, foul lines, first base running lane and 8 foot radius pitching circle must be lined by the home team prior to the game.
19. All players must be off the field and in the dugouts/benches when not playing or coaching in the game. Dugouts/benches should be kept clean at all times.
20. There are no on deck batters, only the batter at the plate should be holding a bat. The offending player shall miss her turn at bat and the team shall be charged with an out.
21. Through May 31, a new inning (that is, the top of an inning) cannot be started past 7:30 PM. From June 1 on, a new inning cannot be started after 8:00 PM. The umpire's watch is the official watch and he/she makes the call.
22. If a game is terminated due to darkness or rain, it shall be considered a complete game if 3 ½ innings have been played and the home team is winning or 4 innings have been played and the home team is losing.
23. Pitchers will be allowed eight (8) warm-up pitches for the start of the game or when they are first brought in as a relief pitcher. Five (5) pitches will be allowed between innings. Warm up pitches shall not consume more than one minute of time.
24. The infield fly rule applies only when there are fewer than 2 outs and there are runners on first and second base or the bases loaded (not when there is only a runner on first).
25. If, in the opinion of the umpire, a player throws a bat, that player and her manager will be issued a warning on the first offense; any subsequent offense by any player can result in ejection at the discretion of the umpire. Play must be allowed to continue.
26. Interleague games will count in the standings within each league
28. Coaches will communicate with the opposing team's coaches about using the game as a time for instruction in the game of baseball and in sportsmanship.

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29. Only a player on the team roster may warm up a pitcher anywhere on the field. Adults may not warm up a pitcher anywhere on the field. Any player acting as a catcher including during infield/outfield practice must wear a catchers mask and helmet.
30. BUNT=> holding the bat in the strike zone shall be considered an attempted bunt and the umpire shall call the pitch a strike. In order to take a pitch, the batter must withdraw the bat backwards away from the ball.
31. Batters may advance on a dropped third strike, providing 1st base is unoccupied or there are two outs.
32. Non-wood bats, in all divisions, must be printed with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.20.