

## **MAJOR GIRLS SOFTBALL**

**PHILOSOPHY:** This league is for girls ages 11, 12, and 13. Emphasis is to be on participation and instruction in throwing, hitting, catching, and pitching, base running and offensive & defensive strategy. Managers, coaches, & parents must be patient with players. Remember: you are out there for the children; they are not out there for you.

**COVID-19:** There are small differences in league play this season to combat the spread of the Coronavirus. Patience, understanding and realizing everyone has their “own” comfort level regarding COVID-19 is essential. We need to be empathetic to everyone’s feelings towards it. It is up to the participant, coach, spectator, umpire to participate at their own risk and to take the proper precautionary measures that will keep themselves and others safe. These procedures/protocols are suggested in addition to those set forth in the traditional rules for league play.

~ **Face Masks:** No longer required but may be worn at the individual’s discretion.

~ **Symptom Checks (self-evaluation):** Anyone experiencing fever or symptoms of illness should stay home.

~ **Reduce Person-to-Person Contact:** Players and coaches should refrain from high-fives, handshake lines, and other physical contact with teammates, opposing players, other coaches, umpires and fans.

~ **Further Reduction of Germs:** No sunflower seeds, gum or spitting. Individual water bottles encouraged.

~ **Sanitizer:** Parents are encouraged to supply their player with antibacterial wipes and hand sanitizer for disinfecting shared playing equipment and hands.

### **LEAGUE RULES: NO HITTING BALLS INTO FENCE**

1. A team on the field consists of nine players (seven player minimum to start and/or end a game).
2. Games will be six innings. No new inning can start after **1 hour 10 minutes** from the start of the game.
3. Games will start at the scheduled time or five minutes after the conclusion of the previous game. For the first scheduled game of the night, 10 minutes grace will be allowed before a forfeit is called due to lack of players.
4. An inning will be three outs or 10 batters whichever comes first. In the sixth inning of the game, three outs must be recorded. If for a particular game you have less than 10 players, both teams will play to their lesser number. For example: If for that game, a team has 9 players, the inning would be 3 outs or 9 batters.
5. **MERCY RULE:** If a team is leading its opponent by 15 runs or more, after 3 ½ or four innings have been played, the game shall be terminated and the team in the lead declared the winner.
6. The batter is out when the third strike is called even if it is not caught by the catcher.
7. No throwing the bat. If a batter throws the bat (more than five feet or hits the catcher) the batter will be called out.
8. Pitchers get five warm up pitches or a one minute time limit between innings. This includes the first inning. Pitchers cannot wear light undershirts under uniforms.

9. If the pitcher hits two batters in one inning or three during the game, Player must be removed as a pitcher for the remainder of the game.
10. On the second trip to the mound in any one inning to the same pitcher, that pitcher must be removed from that inning. A 3rd trip to the mound for the same pitcher during a game will mean that pitcher is to be removed from the pitching position.
11. A pitcher who is removed from the pitching position can re-enter in the game as a pitcher just one additional turn. The additional turn cannot be in the same inning the pitcher was removed.
12. The pivot position of the pitcher must be in contact with the pitching rubber until the ball is released.
13. **LEADOFFS:** Base runners will be allowed to lead off once the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. Stealing is allowed. A player cannot leave the base until the ball leaves the pitchers hand.
14. **STEALING HOME:** A runner on third can only steal home if she breaks after the pitcher delivers the ball and without the aid of a base hit, walk, passed ball or wild pitch.
15. **PASSED BALL/WILD PITCH:** Teams can only score once per inning on a passed ball or wild pitch (a pitch that is too high, too short or too wide and gets away from the catcher); thereby permitting a runner to advance.
16. **OVERTHROWS:** Are considered a continuation play. They are not considered a steal. These can occur at any base (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or home plate.) The runner can advance as long as the play has not stopped. **A wild pitch does not count as an overthrow.**  
  
(The defense is encouraged to hold the ball or to make "good/accurate" throwing decisions. On overthrows, the outfield will have to support the infield and the pitcher will have to learn to back up the catcher.)
17. Each team can use free substitution. Each player must play at least two innings defensively. The catcher position may change only once per inning except for injury. A player cannot sit out two consecutive innings. A continuous batting order will be used.
18. Umpires will not call a player out for missing a base unless the call is appealed by the opposing manager after time is called and before time resumes.
19. Bunting is allowed.
20. The distance between bases will be sixty feet. A forty feet pitching distance will be used.
21. Managers & umpires are required to sign the scorebook at the end of the game.

#### **BAT SPECIFICATIONS:**

1. **Bat Standards:** The bat must be a softball bat which meets Little League specifications and standards as noted in this rule. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick and made of wood or a material tested and proved acceptable to Little League standards. The bat shall be no more than 33 inches in length, not more than two and one-quarter (2¼) inches in diameter. Non-wood bats shall be printed with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.20. Bats may be taped or fitted with a sleeve for a distance not exceeding 16 inches from the small end. Colored bats

are acceptable. A non-wood bat must have a grip of cork, tape or composition material, and must extend a minimum of 10 inches from the small end. Slippery tape or similar material is prohibited.

2. If an illegal bat is used during a game, that team will be warned once and that bat will be ejected from further use. If a second violation occurs then that team will be forced to forfeit the game. If the issue continues throughout the season further actions could be taken against either the coach of the players who are in violation of the regulation.
3. Coaches should do a gear check of the players and players should be told to leave any illegal bat at home.

**REGULATION GAME RULING:**

A regulation game consists of six innings, unless shortened due to game time limits or shortened because the home team needs none of its half of the sixth inning or only a fraction of it after taking the lead with less than three outs or because the umpire calls the game. If the game is called, it is considered a regulation game:

- a. If four innings have been completed
- b. If the home team has scored more runs in three and a half innings that the visiting team has scored in four
- c. If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fourth inning to tie the score

If a game is called before it has become a regulation game, but after one or more innings have been played, it shall be resumed where it left off. Note All Records, including pitching shall be counted.

NOTE: When a TIE game is halted, the pitcher of record may continue pitching in the same game on any subsequent date provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest and has pitching eligibility in the calendar week in which the game is resumed. For scorekeeping purposes, it shall be considered the same game, and all batting, fielding and pitching records will count.

EXAMPLE:

Rule 4.11

	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>VISITORS</b>	0	0	0	4	1	
<b>HOME</b>	0	0	0	5		

Game called in top of 5<sup>th</sup> inning on account of rain. Scores reverts to last completed inning (4<sup>th</sup>) and the home team is the winner  
5 to 4.

All games reverting back to a tie will go on record as a tie. The tied game will not be considered suspended and will not be continued at a later date and time.

**PROCEDURES:**

1. All bats must be approved by Parks & Recreation baseball program staff. All barrels must be 2 ¼" or less. Wooden bats are permitted providing they meet the 2 ¼" or less barrel size. Composites must be Little League approved.

2. Teams should arrive at their scheduled times. Batting practice is not allowed prior to game time.
3. Practicing on the field after a game is not allowed.
4. Prior to the start of the game, the starting pitcher should throw at least 15 minutes to warm up his arm.
5. It is recommended that a runner be used for the catcher.
6. It is encouraged that the pitcher and infielders purchase their own protective face mask and wear it when in the defensive field of play.
7. Home Team manager will be responsible for providing an umpire, if necessary. Visiting Team Manager will provide second umpire, if necessary.
8. Managers must maintain defensive player sheets and return them to the field supervisor at the Pollard Park Pole Barn.
9. Additional practices can be secured by permit.
10. All managers or coaches will return all equipment after the last game to a department representative inside the Pollard Park Pole Barn.

#### **LEAGUE POLICIES:**

1. Positive Cheering only. No comments are to be directed to opposing team or game officials.
2. Scores and standings are kept at the Minor level.
3. Players are not to wear jewelry or wrist bracelets of any kind. No metal spikes.
4. No smoking, tobacco products, or alcohol allowed within 200 feet of any playing field.
5. No dogs are allowed on Township property. Only exception is at the park behind the Township Offices.
6. All "official" practices and games are scheduled through the Parks & Recreation Department and are held at Township facilities unless otherwise noted on the official schedules.
7. Coaches are not to encourage or condone unnecessary roughness. Any player using unnecessary roughness will be called out and warned once per game. On a second occurrence, a player will be removed from the game. A second occurrence must be reported to the Parks & Recreation Department by the next business day. Additional penalties may be assessed.
8. A coach or manager who is ejected from a game will include a minimum suspension of 2 games with further review from department staff depending on infraction.
9. Coaches must return all equipment after the last game to a departmental representative.

10. In case of severe weather, cancellations will be posted by 4:30PM on our weather hotline. Hotline can be reached by dialing 586-949-0400, press 4, then 1. Cancellations will also be posted on our Department Facebook and Twitter pages.
11. In the case of severe weather that occurs after 4:30PM and prior to a practice/game time, cancellations will be determined by the league officials on the field at practice/game time. All players and coaches should report to the practice/game site.
12. At times, there may be questions on rules that are not specifically covered in our house rules. While we are not a Little League affiliate program, we feel their guidelines are best suited to utilize as supplementary to our rules provided. If there is a rule that is a discrepancy between our house rules provided and the Official Little League Rules. The rule in question will automatically default to our house rules.

#### **HAZARDOUS WEATHER:**

The following Little League guidelines are used to determine "Weather it is Safe to Play?"

The quick and easy approach to lightning is "**if you see it, flee it; if you hear it, clear it.**" Lightning can travel up to 10 miles from the storm's edge, so if it is seen or heard, the fields should be cleared and the game paused to wait for lightning to pass. If lightning is not seen for a reasonable time (usually 30 minutes), the game can continue ([www.littleleague.org](http://www.littleleague.org)).

If an umpire calls a game due to lightning, the entire park complex needs to be cleared until the threat passes or games are cancelled. The umpire will report to park staff who will notify the official on every field of the decision to delay/cancel play.

If play resumes, the game should continue with the inning/time limit requirements set forth in the league rules. The delay of game does not count against the time limit.