

GIRLS MINOR LEAGUE RULES 2024

High School rules will be followed with these exceptions or clarifications:

1. **For the first two weeks of the season (May 13 – 22)** pitchers may pitch no more than 3 consecutive innings, may not pitch more than 3 innings in a game. No player shall walk on 4 pitched balls: they can walk only if a pitch hits them. Once the pitcher has pitched 4 balls, the batter coach then pitches 3 balls, and the batter must hit or strike out. The athlete / pitcher must stand next to coach / pitcher in circle while he/she pitches to the batter. **The coach/pitcher, while pitching, will have to start with BOTH feet inside the pitching ring while pitching to start each pitch.** The coach may not make a play on the ball, unless it is an act of self-defense, and needs to drop the ball immediately for the athlete/pitcher to make to play. The batters coach must wear a glove when pitching. There is no dropped third strike rule. ***If pitcher hits 4 batters (not ground first) by a direct hit that pitcher will not be allowed to pitch the rest of that game.**
2. **Starting the week of May 27 regardless of rainouts, etc.** pitchers may pitch no more than 3 consecutive innings, may not pitch more than 3 innings in a game. ***If pitcher hits 4 batters (not ground first) by a direct hit that pitcher will not be allowed to pitch the rest of that game.**
3. The game will be 6 innings – minimum of 3 innings. A time limit of 1 hour and 30 minutes at which no new innings can be started after 1 hour and 15 minutes. (For double headers on a designated night, each game will only last one hour 15 minutes with 15 minutes in-between games.) 15 run rule will be in affect after 3- and one-half innings. ***Maximum of 5 runs per inning or three outs unless last inning which runs are unlimited up to time limit.***
4. The official ball is an 11” softball. (White or optic yellow)
5. Pitching distance is 35 feet.
6. A team can start a game with no less than 8 players. Less than 8 players is a forfeit. The team with 8 players must place a designated OUT in their batting order. Any player that arrives late can enter the ball game as soon as the player can. If the arriving player is the 9th player, then she is placed in the batting order at the designated-OUT spot.
7. 10 defensive players of which four must play outfield. Every player will play at least 2 defensive innings and 1 time at bat per game unless shortened by the run rule. If a coach has a discipline problem with one of his players and doesn't feel the player has a right to play, the coach should discuss this problem with the opposing coach BEFORE the game. Also, if by mistake a player doesn't get to play in a regular 6-inning game (coach's error), that player will start and not be substituted for the next game.
8. Substitutions – unlimited.
9. All players will always bat in the original batting order (every player to be placed in the batting order). All bats must be softball approved – no little league bats (safety factor). T-ball bats are allowed.
10. **Bunting is allowed starting the week of May 27.**
11. All overthrows (or ball is uncatchable) – additional bases are allowed but home is **CLOSED** in all cases.
12. No infield fly rule. No metal spikes.

13. **During the first two weeks of the season (May 13 – 22) stealing is NOT allowed. Starting the week of May 27 for the remainder of the season stealing is allowed on wild pitches and home is closed.**
Base runner can lead off when the pitch is released from the pitchers' hand.
14. Batters and base runners must always wear their helmets while on the playing field. The player will be warned in the first incident and then after the first incident, the player will be called out and if already out, the next batter will be called out.
15. If a player throws a bat – a warning will be issued the first time at bat, from that point on, the batter will be called out.
16. Sliding – all slides will be feet first except on a pick off play when trying to return to the base on a caught fly ball. (line drive) If there is a possible play, the player must attempt to slide. If there is no play, no slide is required, and the fielder must not fake tags or block the bases if there is no play.
During the first week of the season, if there is a possible play at 2nd, 3rd, or home base a player must slide. If a slide doesn't occur there will be a warning, then will be called out at the second occurrence.
17. Base running – if runner rounds a base but stops with the pitcher in possession of the ball in the vicinity of the pitchers' mound or a fielder attempting to throw the ball to the pitcher, the player must return to that base unless the pitcher fails to field the ball. Any hesitation constitutes stopping. The pitcher is not required to look the runner back.
18. Each team can only always have two coaches on the field and one coach / adult scorekeeper on the bench. Coaches must remain inside the dugout while their team is on defense.
19. Any player that arrives late can enter the ball game as soon as the player can.
20. Warm-up before the game will be 7 minutes on the field for each team-visiting team goes first.
21. Both teams must keep a scorebook and please check with the opposing team after each inning; but the home scorebook will be the official book in all disputes.
22. Put a 6 ft. ring around the pitching mound.
23. In the Minor Summer League, it will be required to have 1 umpire.
24. Any cheering should be positive and for your own team. No chants from the defensive team to distract the hitter at the time of the pitch.

Home team will provide game balls. Home team is required to provide umpire for each game. Umpire must have proper protection and be at least high school age.

MINOR TOURNAMENT – Solon – Saturday, June 15
EACH TEAM WILL PROVIDE \$50 & 2 NEW GAME BALLS.