

2023 MBSL Softball 10U Division Rules

All Games played under USA Softball rulebook with the following exceptions:

1. Field

- a. Pitching rubber to the back of home plate is 35'.
- b. Distance between bases is 60'.
- c. Pitcher's Circle is an 8' radius-circle around the pitching rubber.

2. Equipment

- a. Metal cleats are not permitted.
- b. All jewelry must be removed before a player is permitted to play. The only exception is for medical identification, which must be hidden.
- c. **Offense:**
 - i. No baseball bats.
 - ii. Face masks are required on ALL helmets. NO batter shall bat without a face mask.
 - iii. No slow-pitch softball bats.
 - iv. Chinstraps are recommended.
- d. **Defense:**
 - i. Catchers must wear a chest protector, shin guards, protective mask, and skull helmet during live action and while warming up pitchers.
 - ii. Though not a requirement, players are encouraged to use field face mask/guards (example RIP-IT brand name) or mouthpieces for infield players.

3. Game

- a. Complete game is 6 innings.
- b. Game is regulation if 4 or more complete innings are played (3 ½ if the home team is ahead) unless shortened due to run rule or time limit.
- c. Each team may score a maximum of 5 runs per inning.
- d. No new inning may start after 1hr 15 min.
- e. Run rule is as follows: 12 after 4, 10 after 5

4. Participation

- a. Each player must play at least one inning in the infield within the first 3 innings and two innings in the infield over the course of the game.

- b. No player will sit the bench for two consecutive innings and no player may sit twice before all players have sat one inning.
- c. All players will bat in the lineup. The DP will not be used.
EXCEPTION: Players sat for disciplinary action, illness, or injury. Such players must be announced to the opposing coach.

5. **Pitching**

- a. Pitchers are permitted to pitch in no more than 2 innings per game.
- b. If a pitcher hits three (3) batters in one inning, that pitcher shall be removed from the pitching position.
- c. A player may return to the pitching position one time after being removed, provided she has not exceeded the allowed number of innings.
- d. ASA Softball Rules require pitchers do the following:
 - i. Start with both feet in contact with the rubber and both hands apart.
 - ii. Bring the hands together and pause before starting the pitching motion. A backward step may be taken before, simultaneous with or after the hands are brought together.
 - iii. In the act of delivering the ball, take one step with the non-pivot foot simultaneous with the release of the ball. The step must be forward and toward the batter within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.
 - iv. Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate is illegal.
 - v. *Note:* previously, leaping (the pivot foot leaving the ground during delivery) was considered an illegal pitching motion; leaping became legal in 2022.

Coaches are to teach the girls the proper technique for pitching. However, in the spirit of focusing the girls' efforts on throwing strikes, the umpires have been asked to relax their interpretation of the above rules for all games in the Minors League.

- e. Any pitch declared "illegal" by the umpire shall be declared a "ball" with no advancement by runners unless the batter swings and makes contact. If contact is made, the ball is live and runners advance accordingly. If the batter swings and fouls or misses the pitch, a strike shall be registered and the runners may not advance.
- f. Pitchers will be granted three (3) to five (5) warm-up pitches or two (2) minutes, whichever comes first, before each half inning.

6. **Batting**

- a. There shall be NO WALKS. If the batter receives a four (4) ball count, the team manager of the hitting team, or his/her designee, shall pitch a maximum of three (3) pitches to the batter. The strike count will continue from its previous point, and umpires will continue to call swinging strikes. If during the coach's pitches,

the batter receives a third non-foul swinging strike, the batter shall be called out. In the event the batter fouls the coach's third pitch, the batter's at-bat continues until she either puts the ball in play, swings and misses, or takes another subsequent pitch.

- b. If a batter is hit by a pitched ball from a player, the batter shall be awarded first (1st) base. No such award shall be made if a batter is hit by a pitched ball made by the manager/coach of the hitting team.
- c. NO Bunting is allowed
- d. Infield fly rule is not enforced
- e. **Uncaught Third Strike:** A batter may NOT advance to first base on an uncaught third strike

7. Base Running

- a. Runners must maintain contact with the base until the pitched ball has crossed the plate. If a runner leaves the base early, the ump may place her back to the starting base.
- b. Stealing of second (2nd) and third (3rd) base is allowed when the defensive pitcher is pitching. No runner may steal when the defensive coach is pitching.
- c. No runner shall steal on a called ball. The play is considered dead as the defensive coach enters the field of play.
- d. A runner may advance only one (1) base on a stolen base attempt (no advancement on an overthrow).
- e. There is no stealing of home at any time unless a pick-off attempt is made on the runner at third (3rd) base. If such an attempt results in an overthrow, only the runner from third may advance.
- f. **Courtesy Runner:** A courtesy runner may be used at any time for the catcher or pitcher on base. The runner used must be the last recorded out.
- g. The look-back rule is not enforced.
- h. A runner may attempt to advance a maximum of one additional base on an overthrow from any position. Subsequent overthrows may permit attempts at additional bases (i.e. if first base is overthrown and the runner attempts to advance to second, an overthrow of second base allows the runner to then attempt third base). This rule is designed to prevent runners from running around the bases while an overthrown ball is in play and to teach defenses to limit the amount the ball is thrown around.
- i. Runners are responsible for avoiding collisions with the defensive players. The intent of this rule is to minimize injuries caused by unnecessary collisions. No player shall be called out for simply failing to slide. All of these instances shall be judgment calls by the umpire(s).

8. Defense

- a. Each team shall field 10 players with 4 in the outfield.
- b. All outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass until the pitch crosses home plate. If playing on a field with a large infield (i.e. a baseball field), outfielders must be positioned twenty (20) feet behind the bases until the ball crosses home plate.
- c. Any batted ball fielded by any outfielder must be thrown to an infielder to produce an out in the infield. The intent of this rule is to teach outfielders to throw the ball to the infield