

Majors Softball League Rules
Book Rules apply except for the following local rule additions.

1. A full-length game is 6 innings.
2. An official game is when the trailing team has batted at least 4 times. In the event a game must end due to time constraints or darkness, the game will be resumed later, beginning at the point it was suspended. Any resumed game will only continue until the 4th inning is completed. However, if you have played your allotted time of 1 hour & 45 minutes the game will be considered final regardless of the number of innings played.
3. No inning may be started after 1 hour and 45 minutes. Once an inning starts it must be completed.
4. Girls may pitch up to 8 innings during a normal 2 games per week schedule, Sunday to Saturday. When a team plays in its third game, a Girl may pitch in 10 innings for that week. One pitch constitutes an inning pitched.
5. A pitcher is allowed a maximum of 3 hit batters in 1 inning or 4 maximum per game before removal.
6. All Girls will bat. (Continuous batting order)
7. All girls must play in the field for 6 of the first 12 outs. No player sits for two innings before every player sits one inning. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game. Two forfeitures will result in the suspension of the violating manager. It is the responsibility of each manager to notify the opposing manager of substitutions. Late arrivals will be added to the bottom of the batting order after notifying the opposing manager. Any defensive innings missed due to late arrival will be considered innings played for the substitution rule.
8. No adult, male or female, is allowed in the dugout or on the field without a HHHLL background check form on record for 2016.
9. There will be a maximum of 9 players on the field at one time: 1 pitcher, 1 catcher, 4 infielders, and 3 outfielders. On grass fields, outfielders must be on the outfield grass. On dirt fields, no outfielders may be placed in a position to field a ground ball as an infielder.
10. There is unlimited scoring per inning.
11. There is unlimited stealing per inning including home. Any runner is out when –

(a) (5) Major/Junior/Senior/Big League Divisions: the runner fails to keep contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been released by the pitcher on the

delivery.

12. Pitcher in control of the ball in the circle, BALL IS DEAD. Runners more than halfway (at umpire's discretion) may advance to the next base.
13. Base runners can take as many bases as they can on overthrows until the time the ball is back in the infield and the umpire grants time.
No base is guaranteed on an overthrow; the runners must get to the extra base safely to achieve it.
14. Intentional Walks – Pitcher must throw four balls.
15. All HHHLL rules of conduct are the same for all divisions.
16. There is a 15-run mercy rule in effect after 4 innings.
17. Substitute runner for catcher on base allowed with 2 outs. Last batted out, other than your pitcher.
18. On Defense no player can position herself in front of the pitcher's rubber.
19. A minimum of seven (7) players are needed to start & finish an official game. You may borrow players from other teams within your division to avoid a forfeit situation only. Borrowed players cannot pitch, catch, or play any infield position. She must play the outfield & must bat last in the batting order.
20. No Drop Third Strike.
21. The infield fly rule is in effect.
22. Bunting permitted. The batter may not wiggle the bat to distract the pitcher while attempting to bunt. If the batter fails to comply, then the umpire will call a dead ball, and a strike will be called for that pitch.

BUNT is a batted ball not swung at but intentionally met with the bat and tapped slowly. *Holding the bat in the strike zone is considered an attempted bunt. To take a pitch, the batter must withdraw the bat backwards away from the ball.*

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately for all softball divisions, this mandates that the umpire call a strike when the batter holds the bat in the strike zone when the pitch is delivered, even if the batter does not “offer” at the pitch. This will also apply during the International Tournament.

Managers, please encourage players to HIT- NOT WALK.