

MINOR DIVISION PLAYING RULES

The purpose of the Minor division is to improve the basic skills of each player and to introduce girls 11 and 12 years of age to a more competitive level of softball. All girls play in every game (1/2 the game time to be played that day). The rules of play are those of ASA with exceptions noted below. Playtime is measured by minutes, not innings. (Example: If your division has a time limit of 1 hour 45 minutes, each player must play at least 52 minutes). Where it gets difficult is if you are in a game where the “Mercy Rule” may come into effect – knowing it is a possibility we ask that you make adjustments to not run up the score and at the same time involve all players.

Base Running

Base runners may attempt to steal a base after the ball has left the pitcher's hand or if a play against a runner has been made.

Batting

There will be no designated hitter.

Field Specifications

- The pitching distance will be 40 feet.
- The distance between the bases will be 60 feet.

Dead Ball

Dropped third strike allowed.

Game Time Limits

- Games will be 7 innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes long. No new innings will begin after the time limit.
- Should a game not qualify as official because it fails the 5 inning rule (5 innings completed within 1 hour and 45 minutes), the head umpire will rule the game official by declaring the winning team the one that was ahead at the end of the last full inning. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the beginning of the game. Any new inning started shall be finished. If the game is tied, the game will end in a tie with one half point being awarded to each team.

Pitching

- 12” ball used.
- No girl may pitch more than 7 innings in each consecutive group of two scheduled games (1,2/3,4/5,6/ etc) of the original schedule.
- One pitch to a batter in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.

Postponed or Suspended Games

- Games called due to weather will be rescheduled by league representative if at all possible.
- Postponed or suspended games shall be rescheduled as soon as possible. A league representative will set the date. Games will be resumed from the point at which play was suspended, rather than from the beginning. Rainouts will be called by

the Chief Umpire. Conditions may change from one game time to another. It is our intent to play every game as scheduled so decisions may not occur until actual game time. Managers and after hours answering service will be notified as soon as a decision has been made.

Protests

The Manager should protest only as a last resort. Do not delay the game. (See ASA Rule Book, Rule 11, sections 1 7).

Substitutions

Unlimited substitutions are allowed with the exception of pitchers. Only the starting pitcher is allowed to re-enter or reassume the pitcher position after having left the game or having assumed another defensive position, provided she has innings available under the seven inning pitching rule, and may do so only once.

Umpires

2 paid umpires

Team Composition

- Teams will consist of 9 positions on the playing field.
- If a girl has to leave a game, for reasons other than ejection, no penalty will occur.
- No games shall start with fewer than 8 players and finish with fewer than 6 players.

Fielding

All outfielders shall remain at least 10 feet behind the baseline.

Mercy Rule

- 12 runs ahead after 3 complete innings
- 10 runs ahead after 5 complete innings
- Does not apply to Tournament Play

Tournament Play

- In case of a tie at the end of 7 complete innings, a runner shall be placed at the start of each team's turn at bat in the extra innings as follows:
- In the 8th inning, the runner (who is the last player to have completed her turn at bat in the 7th inning) shall start at second base.
- In the 9th and succeeding innings, the runner (who is the last player to complete her turn at bat in the preceding inning) shall start at third base.