

2018 GIRLS MAJOR LEAGUE RULES

1. The HOME team will be responsible for dragging and chalking the field.
2. Games will be 6 innings unless the time limit is reached. **The time limit will be reached when any inning is started after 1 hour 15 minutes.** This inning will be the last inning and will have unlimited runs. There is no time limit in the Championship Game.
3. The umpire will record the start time of each game with the scorekeeper.
4. No new inning will be started after regulation time. An inning started before regulation time will be completed.
5. The bases will be 60 feet apart. The pitcher's mound will be 40 feet.
6. 11 inch softballs will be used.
7. A team must have at least 8 players to start the game or a forfeit will be declared. Teams will have 5 minutes grace. If a player shows up late they will be added to the batting order.
8. All players must wear a helmet when in the on deck circle, when batting and when running the bases.
9. No throwing or abuse of equipment is allowed. **NO ABUSIVE LANGUAGE. TEACH SPORTSMANSHIP!**
10. Ten players will play defense (4 outfielders).
11. Every player must have the opportunity to play a minimum of 3 innings in a defensive position. Defensive players (except catcher) may not play any one position for more than 4 innings, even if the game goes into an extra inning.
12. Home team is responsible for providing both umpires for each game. Umpires should be at least 10th graders next fall.
13. The 15-RUN MERCY RULE will be in effect after 4 ½ innings, and 10 runs after 5 ½ innings. There will be a 5 run rule per inning. Except the 6th or last inning which will be called by the home plate umpire will have unlimited runs.
14. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 3 innings per game. All innings must be consecutive. However if a pitcher is struggling during her 3 innings the coach may pull the pitcher to settle the pitcher down and put her in for the remainder of the pitchers innings.
15. **The batter starts with a 1 and 1 count. With 2 strikes, a batter will be called out on a fouled bunt.**
16. Pitchers are not allowed to throw curve balls, rise balls, or drop balls. Coaches should enforce this.
17. **When the catcher throws the ball back to the pitcher, the ball is LIVE. On an errant throw from the catcher to the pitcher, runners on 1st and 2nd may advance one base at their own risk.**
18. Every player must be in the batting order each game.
19. Stealing is permitted, but the runner can only steal one base at a time. Unless a play is being made on the runner.
20. **Under NO circumstance can a runner from 3rd base advance on an errant throw from the catcher to the pitcher or a wild pitch/passed ball. A runner from 3rd base can only advance if the offensive team puts the ball in play, they are forced home on a walk, or the defensive team makes a play on them.**
21. A runner cannot leave the base until the pitch crosses home plate.
22. Players must slide at all bases if a play is being made on the runner. Except at first base.
23. Batters are OUT on strike 3, even if the catcher does not catch the 3rd strike.
24. If raining, the coaches will decide if play will continue. The safety of the kids will be the most important factor. The game must be stopped upon any sight of lightning. If you hear thunder but don't see lighting continue under extreme caution. The game is official if 4 innings are complete. Play cannot resume until after 20 min. of last lighting sighting..

25. The ball is alive and playable until all of the following occur: (1) the ball is in the infield and in possession of an infielder, (2) no runners are attempting to advance to the next base, (3) time out is called by an infield player.
26. Over Throw Rule: If the ball is thrown out of play from the infield, the runner(s) is/are awarded the next base. If the ball is thrown out of play from the outfield, the runner(s) is/are awarded the next base plus one.
27. If the score is tied at the end of regulation play, an extra inning can be played. If enough light is available to safely play. If a tie still exists each team will be awarded $\frac{1}{2}$ win and $\frac{1}{2}$ loss.
28. If there is a tie for 1st place in the end of the year standings, the first tie-breaker will be head-to-head competition. If a winner still cannot be determined a playoff game will be played. In the event of a 3 way tie, 2 playoff games will be needed with one team receiving a first round bye. A coin toss will be used to determine which team gets the 1st round bye.
29. **Bunting is allowed.**
30. If a ball is dropped by the pitcher while in the pitching motion it will be considered a ball count to the batter.
31. A ball is considered foul if a batter hits the ball on the back swing.
32. If a pitched ball strikes the ground then hits the batter it is considered a hit pitch and the batter is awarded a free base.