

SSHLL Minor League In House Rules for Softball

- o Minimum of 7 players needed to start a game. Players may be borrowed from other minor teams, if needed to field a team of 10. Borrowed players MAY NOT PITCH and must bat last.
- o All players must play a MINIMUM of 3 defensive innings (does not need to be consecutive).
- o Four outfielders are permitted to be spread across the outfield. NO SHORT CENTER. (A player may not be positioned behind second base) Outfielders must be positioned a **minimum of 30ft from the baseline. If an opposing manager feels outfielders are too close, it is his/her responsibility to inform the umpire BEFORE a pitch is thrown.***
- o Consecutive batting order will be used for all games. No penalty for girls being removed from the line-up during the game if injured, or leaving the grounds. Injured players may be reinserted to their original batting position, if they recover. Players coming after the game begins will be added to the bottom of the order. There is no penalty for having only 7 batters.

- o Maximum of 3 adults (manager/2 coaches) allowed during the game and also at pregame warm ups. If a manager/coach is unable to attend a game, a substitute adult will be permitted to be in the dugout. The adult must have volunteer application completed with the league.
- o Maximum of 2 coaches are permitted to stand in the outfield, at least 5 feet off of the infield grass. Coaches are not permitted in or near the infield. If a player remains in the dugout during the defensive part of the inning, a coach or manager must be present in the dugout.
- o Only base coaches may stand out of the dugout while on offense. The base coach MUST REMAIN in the coach's box. If no coach's box is drawn, the coach must remain in foul territory, no more than 2 feet from the base in any direction. In the interest of quicker games, coaches may not walk their players to the plate. (Exception: If it is a girl's first few times at bat, the coach may show the batter where to stand....this should not last beyond the first few games of the season)
- o Coaches are responsible for maintaining order on the dugouts, including, but not limited to, having the on deck batter prepared to hit, having players prepared to return to the field once there are 2 outs, assuring that players in dugout are not intentionally distracting opposing players, and most importantly, keeping children safe.

- o Hit by pitch counts as a ball. Teach your players to get out of the way!

- o Players MAY NOT ADVANCE on an overthrow to any base. Any *attempt* by a player to throw the ball will stop the base runner from advancing farther than the base she is headed toward. (Ex. If a player is advancing to third, and the fielder makes a throw to third that is errant, the runner MAY NOT advance home. In addition, a girl who is advancing to third on a batted ball MAY NOT score on an overthrow to first base.)
- o Runners may only advance one base on balls hit to the infield.
- o Girls may continue to advance bases on a clean hit ball to the outfield AT THEIR OWN

RISK. Runners are allowed to continue running to the base they are running toward after the ball is released from the defensive player's hand AT THEIR OWN RISK. (A runner will NOT be called out if she is returning to a base after making the turn to a base to which she is not entitled. However, players can be tagged out if they overrun a base). **UMPIRES make the final decision as to whether or not a ball was hit cleanly, or an error. If you feel a player should not advance, you must appeal to the umpire as soon as play is completed.***

- o Pitchers will be replaced by the offensive coach after 3 walks in one inning. The pitcher may return to pitch the next inning.
- o When the coach comes in to pitch, the coach must pitch from the rubber. Pitcher must remain parallel to or behind the coach. The pitcher must stand within 2 ft of the coach.
- o All other pitching rules are stated in the Little League manual. They include, but are not limited to:
 - Pitchers foot must remain in contact with the rubber upon release of the pitch.
 - Pitchers may pitch up to 12 innings in a day.
 - A day of rest is need if a pitcher pitches more than 6 innings in a day.
- o There is NO STEALING, NO BUNTING, NO DROPPED THIRD STRIKE, NO ADVANCEMENT ON AN OVERTHROW.
- o There is a 5 run limit per inning per team. Mercy rule is 10 runs after 4 innings. Games may continue if managers agree.
- o There will be no cheering from the score booth. Scorekeepers must appear to be impartial, and not talk to players during the game. It is the manager's responsibility to remind the parents of this rule. **NO COACHING MAY BE DONE FROM THE SCOREBOOTH. Umpires must be made aware of this rule prior to the start of the game.**
- o No spectators may be permitted to stand/sit adjacent to the score booth, even if it's the only spot of sun on the field. All spectators must remain in the stands. *Please inform your players' parents.*

***Managers from both teams MUST meet with umpire prior to game to review all of the rules, and to exchange lineups. Rules with an * must be discussed with umpire prior to all games.

Please remember we are here for ALL of the girls of Snug Harbor. We cheer for our girls, not against the other team....we cheer when a player does something well, or tries her hardest. Parents, as well as the players, should be aware of this.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FIELD A TEAM FOR ANY GAME, the opposing manager and I must be informed immediately. Umpires must be cancelled, or another team may be called upon to fill the slot, so advance notice is necessary. If you are short players, please call other teams to see if they have anyone available.