

Rule and policy reminders for Highland Softball – Majors

12/10/2025



Game Format and Equipment

- Games are scheduled for 90 minutes or 6 innings, but a new inning cannot be started after 75 minutes. Coaches and umpires should agree on start time at the beginning of each game to align on time management. If there is no game scheduled on your field following your game coaches can agree to play all six innings or extra if tied.
- A minimum of 3 innings (2 ½ if the home team is ahead) must be completed to register a final score. If the weather prevents you from doing this, please work with the opposing coach to continue the game another night.
- The 5-run rule: a team may not score more than 5 runs in an inning. As such, half innings will be complete when the fielding team gets 3 outs or the hitting team scores 5 runs, whichever comes first.
- In Majors we use 11" softballs
- Pitching rubber is to be placed 35' from the plate.
- Bases are 60' apart
- Infielders should wear fielding masks. Outfielders should also wear fielding masks.
- Batting helmets should have a face mask.
- Nine players on the field: P, C, 1B, 2B, 3B, SS, LF, CF, RF. Teams must have at least 7 players to play an official game. Players can be pulled up from Minors, if needed. The number 8 spot in the batting order will be an automatic out if there is no 8th player. There are no automatic outs if teams' field 8 or more players.

Hitting

- The "dropped third strike" rule will not be used. Batters cannot steal first base on a dropped third strike.
- All players bat and are to be placed in the lineup for each game. Coaches can set different batting lineups for each game, but the batting lineup must include all players that are present at the game.

Baserunning

- Runners cannot advance once the ball is returned to the pitcher at the pitcher's mound and is controlled by the pitcher. This rule encourages players to field with urgency and return the ball to the pitcher ASAP.
- Runners may only advance one base if the ball is thrown out of play.
- Runners cannot steal bases on ball 4, when a batter is walked.

- Players should slide into home when there is a play at the plate. Umpires may call a runner out if there is a play at the plate and the runner does not slide. This call is at the discretion of the umpire and will be called an out if the ump views the play as dangerous. For safety reasons we need players to learn the art of sliding to avoid collisions. Additionally, this is more commonly called an out at the travel and high school levels.
- No leading off, runners cannot leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.

Pitching

- All players who want to pitch should get the opportunity to do so throughout the season.
- Each team should allow multiple pitchers to pitch in each game.
- Coaches may approach the mound. Travel and high school levels have strict rules around this. In Majors, please limit discussions on the mound to one per game. If a pitcher is struggling, please give them the opportunity to pitch to another player.
- Pitching is difficult at this level, expect several passed balls and wild pitches. Take the opportunity to teach players how and when to cover home plate when a runner is on 3rd and there is a wild pitch or passed ball.

Miscellaneous

- A fielding grid is not used at the Majors level and batting orders may be changed each game. It's the coach's discretion as to which positions the players are assigned and what order they bat in. Please keep in mind the Majors league is intended to develop the players; therefore, player rotation is strongly encouraged as is enabling players to have roughly equal at bats. One way to do the latter is to keep the same batting order and pick up where you left off in the order in the previous game.
- All bench players must remain in the dugout unless at bat or on deck. Please remind and enforce this habit with your players. This too is a strict rule at the higher levels of play, and we want to foster good habits.
- Fielding team coaches may not be in the field during the inning.
- Batting team coaches should be at 1st and 3rd base.
- The umpire staff consists of local youth who are learning the craft of umpiring. Please set an example for your players and parents by showing respect to our umps.
- Opposing coaches should confirm the number of runs scored with one another after each half inning.
- Keep it light, this should be fun for the players and the coaches, especially at this age. If the kids aren't having fun, they won't have good, long lasting softball experiences.

Coach responsibilities

- Each team will provide one new/lightly used ball for each game. Additional balls will be provided as necessary by the home team.
- At the conclusion of a game the final score should be entered into the Sports Engine app by the winning coach.
- Home team rakes the field after the game.
- North field bases can remain in the field. South field bases should be removed and put in the storage box.