

# SSHLL Softball Major Division In House Rules

Revised and Approved 3.5.2020

The following is a guideline of the rules of play, to be followed by all managers and coaches.

- a. In the event of darkness (weekdays) the game is official. No inning may start after 1 hour and 50 minutes.
- b. Official umpires are used for this division.
- c. The manager and two (2) official coaches are allowed in the dugout.
- d. Runners may steal on the release of the ball from the pitcher's hand.
- e. There is no dropped third strike.
- f. Players will pitch from 40 ft.
- g. The official little league softball pitching rules apply to this division.  
"A pitcher may pitch in a maximum of 12 innings in a day. If a pitcher pitches in 7 innings in a day, one calendar day of rest is mandatory. Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched in an inning."
- h. 10 players will play the field in the following positions (P,C,1B,2B,3B,SS,LF,LC,RC,RF).
  1. Outfielders must play 4 across when a team has 10 or more players in attendance. A short center fielder is not allowed.
- i. If there are three (3) trips to the mound in any one inning, the pitcher must be replaced. If there are four (4) trips to the mound in any one game, the pitcher must be replaced.
- j. This division will use a CBO (Continuous Batting Order). This means all players present at the game will be in the batting order, regardless of whether or not they are playing a defensive position.
  1. A player arriving late to the game will be added to the bottom of the order.
  2. There is no penalty for a player leaving early, as long as there are 9 batters in the lineup.
  3. There is no penalty for a player leaving the field for an injury, even if that is the 9<sup>th</sup> batter in the order. *However, a player may not skip an at bat and then return to the game.*
- k. In the event that a player does not bat in a game (and there is one player who bats twice), the penalty shall be that the player must bat first in the next game. The manager's penalty for the first offense will be a written warning. The second game will be a one game suspension (served in the next scheduled game). The third offense will result in the manager being suspended for the rest of the season.
- l. All players must play a minimum of 3 defensive innings in a complete game.
- m. No more than 5 runs can be scored in one inning with the exception of the completion of the play. This rule does not apply to a team's last at bat.
- n. In an effort to speed up the game, the catcher may be replaced on the bases with the last batted out.

- o. **Mercy rule: If ahead by 10 after 4 complete (3.5 if home team ahead) innings, the "manager of the team with the least runs shall concede to the opponent. Note: (1) If the visiting team has a lead of 10 runs or more, the home team must bat in its half of the inning."**
- p. The minimum number of players in a game is eight (8) players. The penalty is an automatic out in the ninth spot in the batting order.
- q. Players may be borrowed from other teams. Borrowed players may not pitch or catch, and must bat at the bottom of the order. Borrowed players must be confirmed with Player agent before game begins. ***If both teams have less than 8 players, borrowed players must be divided between the teams in order to avoid 9<sup>th</sup> batting spot out.***

## Team Duties and responsibilities (all softball divisions)

*Both teams must work together to make sure rules are being followed.  
We are here for the girls, not ourselves.*

### Home team

- I. Occupies first base dugout
- II. Supplies official scorekeeper if a parent from either team does not volunteer
- III. Marks field batter boxes and foul lines if a parent from either team does not volunteer
- IV. After game, rakes home plate area and half of the field if a parent from either team does not volunteer
- V. Makes sure team cleans dugout, bottles and all garbage must be placed in trash can.

### Visiting Team

- I. Occupies third base dugout
- II. After game, rakes pitching area and bases, and half of the field if a parent from either team does not volunteer
- III. Makes sure team cleans dugout, bottles and all garbage must be placed in trash can.

## Protesting Games

The manager must tell the umpire he/she wants to protest because a rule was broken *when it happens*. The manager must write down what occurred, and then send an e-mail to the president of the league with the details. The protest committee will decide the outcome.

## All Star eligibility

Players must participate in a minimum of 60% of league games to be eligible for All Star teams. Players will be recommended by coaches to attend clinics when the time comes. Players recommended must meet criteria for games played.