**2024 Minor A Softball Supplemental Rules**

# League Composition

* This division is composed of league age 8 to 10-year-olds who are experienced softball players looking for a competitive level of play.
* If a family requests that a league age 11 year-old play down in the Minor A Division due to safety concerns they can play down with an approved waiver. Any league age 11 year-old that plays in Minor A via an approved waiver may *NOT* pitch. A league aged 11 year-old that plays at this level will *NOT* be eligible for Majors Allstars.
* A total of 14 games will be scheduled.
* Games will be scheduled on Tue, Thurs. and Saturday (with some exceptions) and will start on the 4th Tuesday of April.

# Standings and Rankings

* Teams will be ranked through the season using a points system.

○ Win - 3 Points

○ Loss - 1 Point

○ Tie - 2 Point

* There will be a ***15 minute*** grace period, from the official scheduled start of the game for a team to field enough players. If ***after*** 15 minutes a team still does not have the minimum number of players present that team will be issued zero (0) points. Two points (2) will be assigned to the team that had the minimum number of players present.
* If a team refuses to reschedule a game, the team refusing to play will be issued zero (0) points. Two points (2) will be assigned to the team that was wanting to play the game.
* If a game isn’t played due to the above circumstances and points are awarded, the score that will be input into the League Admin site will be 6-0 for the Major Division.
* If there is a tie at the end of the season in points, the first tiebreaker will be head to head, second **total** runs allowed.
* District will ***NOT*** issue any forfeits at any time, regardless of circumstance.
* All standings will be kept on the District 13 Softball League Admin Pro website listed later in this document.

# Administration

* Illinois District 13 Staff will be the overall administrators of the district.
* Each League will be responsible for their own teams, managers, coaches, fields, etc. as they are all chartering at the league level.
* Illinois District 13 will serve as the protest committee for District 13 Softball. The district will act on all protests within 72 hours of notification that are presented in accordance with article 4.19 of the Little League International Official Playing Rules.
  + All decisions made by District 13 regarding protests will be considered final and binding.

# Umpires

* The home team is responsible for umpires for their games.
* This division requires at least 1 umpire for a game.
* This division may use youth umpires.
  + *If the umpire is under the age of 18, there must be an adult in charge that is there to support the youth umpire. This adult does not have to be on the field but must be present at the game so that they may act in the young umpire’s defense if needed.*

# Rainouts and Rescheduling

* In the event of inclement weather, the opposing team must provide at least 1 hour 30-minute notification of the game’s cancellation.
  + This timeframe minimizes the negative impact of having to travel without playing a game.
* No game will be rescheduled for any reason except rainouts or school events. ***All Games will be rescheduled within 48 hours of the original game date to be played in the future.*** This does not mean that the game must be played within 72 hours. If a date cannot be agreed upon, District 13 will determine the outcome or reschedule date.
* Once a makeup game is rescheduled the ***VP or Rep*** of the ***HOME***team will contact District so the appropriate changes to the date and time on the league admin pro website.

**Good Sportsmanship**

* Teams may cheer or chant for their ***OWN*** team only, cheers may not reference the opponent’s players.
* ***NO inappropriate*** comments will be made towards the opposing team.
* ***If inappropriate comments are made to an opposing team, the manager will receive a warning from the umpires.* If the comments continue, the manager may be ejected from the game. This is subject to the Umpires’ Discretion.**

# Rules

The Little League Softball Rulebook will be used in all areas except when explicitly stated within this document. The following are amendments that will apply during the ***regular season***.

## General Regulations

* A Double Safety-First Base will be used at all divisions.
* The Mandatory Play Rule will be ***strictly*** adhered to in accordance with Regulation IV (I) of the Little League Softball Rulebook. Minimum play will be met when a player plays 6 defensive outs ***and*** 1 at bat. Defensive outs DO NOT need to be consecutive.
* Each team must have a minimum of **7** players present at the start of the game.
* This is an instructional level, if a team wishes to “donate” a player to the opposing team to start the game it will be allowed.
* There is no Run Rule for this division.
* This division uses neon yellow 11-inch softballs, plush softballs are not allowed.

## Time Limits

* The time limit for this division will be ***1 hour 45 minutes***. After this time no new inning will be started. The current inning will be completed unless the game has been called due to weather or darkness.
* The time limit will begin with the coaches meeting at home plate with the umpire in chief and the specific time will be agreed upon during that meeting.

## Batting Order

* A team’s official batting order, including names and numbers, must be provided to the opposing team at the manager's’ meeting at home plate.
* This division will be using a continuous batting order.

## Playing Rules

* A maximum of 5 warm-up pitches is allowed between innings or when a pitcher relieves another.
* An offensive inning will consist of 5 runs ***or*** three (3) outs, whichever occurs first.
* There is NO dropped 3rd strike.
* Fake bunting is NOT allowed, a fake bunt is where a player shows bunt then pulls the bat back and swings.
* Only 1 extra base may be taken (in total) on an overthrow per live play from a batted ball or on a stolen base attempt.
  + *The exception to this rule is that once a runner reaches 3rd, they cannot continue if stealing of home is NOT allowed.*
  + *Example: runner on 2nd goes to steal to third and the ball is overthrown, the runner has to stay on 3rd and can only advance by either being walked home (bases loaded) or ball batted into play.*

The following will **NOT** be allowed in any games played prior to the Tuesday following Memorial Day Weekend.

* Bunting, slap bunting and stealing of home.
* Continuous Walks
  + Per Little League rule 7.08(a)(5) Note 2: If the pitcher has possession of the ball within the pitcher’s circle, and is not making a play (a fake throw is considered a play), runners not in contact with their bases must immediately attempt to advance or return to a base.
  + *One situation that seems to be confusing to many, focuses on a batter-runner being awarded a base on balls. The batter-runner cannot be frozen at first base on a base-on-balls by merely returning the ball to the pitcher in the circle. The batter-runner after reaching first base may continue on, without stopping, in an attempt to reach second base. Said runner may stop in the baseline after rounding first base. At this point, the umpire should begin a three-second count on the runner. If the runner again begins movement to advance or retreat before the count reaches “three” and does not stop again, this is a legal action and should not be penalized. However, if the runner stops a second time, without an attempt by the defense, that runner is out immediately.*

### Pitching Rules

Prior to the Tuesday following Memorial Day weekend this division is a player/coach pitch division. These rules ONLY apply to games played during that time frame, all other games will follow the Little League Rulebook in regards to pitching and will no longer be Player/Coach Pitch.

**Player/Coach Pitch Rules**

The inning will begin with the player pitching to batters in their entirety and walks are allowed. Once the pitcher has walked **3** batters, then the following coach pitch rules come into play for the remainder of that inning and no more walks are allowed for the remainder of the inning. The number of walks resets in each new inning.

* Once a batter reaches a count that includes 4 Balls, they will be replaced with a coach pitcher for the remainder of that batter's at bat and this will be followed for the remainder of the current inning.
* The coach will get **3 total pitches to the batter**, if after those 3 pitches the batter does not put the ball in play, the batter is out.
* Coach pitches that are fouled off by the batter **DO** count in the 3 total pitches from the coach.
* No walksare allowed as a result of coach pitch.
* **No stealing is allowed during coach pitch**
* After the at-bat is completed, the player would replace the coach for the new hitter.
* Coaches must pitch underhand to batters.
* The Coach must pitch from the pitching mound distance of 35 feet. Soft-Toss or pitching from a closer distance is NOT allowed at any time.
* While the coach is pitching the player/pitcher must remain within the 8 foot circle and be even with, or behind, the coach that is pitching.

If a batter is hit by a pitch they will get the option of taking their base or continuing their at bat with the coach pitch rules.

***If the batter chooses to ‘walk’ to first, this does not count against the ‘walk’ count of the pitcher.***

Even if the batter decides to continue their at bat, the hit-by-pitch will count towards the total number allowed for that pitcher in a game.

If a pitcher hits three (3) batters in an inning, they must be replaced with a new pitcher. Pitchers are allowed (3) per inning and (5) total per game. Once a pitcher has hit five (5) batters, they are no longer eligible to pitch for the remainder of that game.

*Game Management Suggestion: The first player pitching should be a player who has game time pitching experience. Once the first pitcher has walked 4 batters, it is recommended that a beginner pitcher come in for the remainder of the inning with the coach pitch rules. The first pitcher can return at the beginning of the next inning. (Example: Pitcher 1 – walks 4 batters. Pitcher 2 comes in to replace Pitcher 1, no more walks are allowed, and the coach will come in to coach pitch when Pitcher 2 has pitched 4 balls. For the next inning, Pitcher 1 returns to start the next inning)*

# Game Logs

* It is a ***requirement*** that managers for each team log their pitching information and game results within the [League Admin Pro site](http://www.leagueadminpro.com/d13softball/).
* Managers are required to input their results into the League Admin Pro website within ***24 hours*** of the game’s conclusion.
* The Home team manager is responsible for inputting the scores into the system.
* Managers that become repeat offenders for not complying and not using the website, the following will be strongly suggested:
  + 1st Occurrence - Manager will receive a written warning
  + 2nd Occurrence - Manager will receive a one (1) game suspension.
  + 3rd Occurrence - Manager will be suspended for five (5) games
  + 4th Occurrence - Manager will be removed for the remainder of the season
* ***Please note that if a team hasn’t uploaded their game results and pitching information to the League Admin Pro website, pitches a player, and that player is found to be an ineligible pitcher, Little League Rules and Regulations will be followed in regards to ineligible pitchers.***

# League Resources

**IL District 13 :** http://www.illinoisdistrict13.com

**League Admin Pro :** http://www.leagueadminpro.com/d13softball/

# District 13 Contact Information

**● Phil Rizzo**

○ Email: districtadministrator@illinoisdistrict13.com

**● Jenn Merritt - ADA Softball**

○ Email: majorjuniorsoftball@illinoisdistrict13.com