

South Dayton Fast Pitch Softball League (Excerpt from Official League Rule Book) 2010

5. GIRLS 12U MINOR LEAGUE RULES (Exceptions to Official ASA Softball Rules)

Player Participation

1. Every player who shows must participate in each game unless injured, sick, ejected or disciplined by her coach (see General Playing Rules VII.5 and 6 for minimum participation requirements).

Legal Game

2. A complete game shall consist of six (6) innings. Four (4) innings or time limit shall constitute a legal game and the losing team must complete its times at bat in the last inning.

Legal Team

3. Ten (10) players shall constitute a team (four (4) outfielders), but teams shall be permitted to play with eight (8) players (see General Playing Rules VII.40, 41, 42, 43, and 44 for utilizing players from other teams or a lower league).

Batting Order

4. The batting order for each team in this league will find each team member present batting in a continuous and consecutive batting order. Fielders may be freely substituted provided such substitutions are made prior to starting an inning (see General Playing Rules VII.32).

Pitching

5. Pitchers are permitted to pitch no more than twelve (12) outs per game. The only exception to this rule is if a game goes into extra innings. Pitchers are allowed one re-entry. Pitchers must be removed after hitting three (3) batters in one inning and may re-enter the game at the pitching position subject to the one re-entry rule (see General Playing Rules VII.32, 33, 34, and 35).

6. ASA Softball Rules require pitchers do the following:
 - A. Start with both feet in contact with the rubber and hands apart when starting the pitching rotation.
 - B. The pitchers must begin with both feet in contact with the rubber and come forward (i.e. not step back) to the plate as part of the pitcher’s motion.
 - C. Drag the back foot as the Pitcher’s motion takes her toward home plate (i.e. cannot hop in an effort to gain more velocity on the pitch).

Managers and Coaches are to teach the girls the proper technique for pitching. However, in the spirit of focusing the girls’ efforts on throwing strikes, the umpires have been asked to relax their interpretation of the above rules for all games in the Minor League. If, in the umpire’s judgment, the pitcher is gaining an unfair advantage by not enforcing the above rules, the umpire shall enforce the above rules accordingly.

7. Any pitch declared “illegal” by the umpire shall be declared a “ball” with no advancement by runners unless the batter swings and makes contact. If contact is made, the ball is live and runners advance accordingly. If the batter swings and fouls the pitch, a strike shall be registered. If the batter swings and misses, a strike shall be registered and the runners may not advance.

8. Intentional walks are permitted but the pitcher must throw four (4) balls.

9. Strike Zone: An optional strike zone may be adopted by the plate umpire. This optional zone is defined as follows – The strike zone shall be vertically from the batters shoulder to the knee, and horizontally to 3” from either side of the plate. This is a recommended zone that the plate umpire may enforce. NOTE: THIS MUST BE DISCUSSED AT THE PRE-GAME MEETING OF THE UMPIRES AND COACHES. At mid-season, the strike zone will be called according to ASA rules.

Stealing

10. Stealing/Lead offs can occur only after the ball crosses home plate.

Bunting

11. Bunting is allowed in this league.

Maximum Runs

12. The batting team may score a maximum of six (6) runs per inning. However, if more than six runs are scored within the completion of the batters at bat in which the sixth (6th) run scores, all runs count. For example, if the offense has five (5) runs scored already in an inning and there are runners at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd bases and the batter hits a triple, all three (3) runs count. When the play ceases, all play is stopped and the fielding team becomes the batting team. This rule shall apply to all innings in each game, including the last inning.
13. Pursuant to ASA rules, a complete game will be declared if after four and half (4 ½) innings the home team is ahead by 12 runs or more and if after five (5) innings the visiting team is ahead by 12 runs or more.

Look-Back Rule

14. The Look-Back Rule pertaining to base runners’ actions while the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle will apply. There will be one warning per

team per game. Subsequent occurrences will result in the runner being declared out.

Dropped Third Strike

15. The dropped third strike rule will be enforced in this league. The batter is considered out after the third strike and cannot advance.

Outfielder Positions

16. This league shall field four (4) outfielders as long as the team has ten (10) or more players present.

17. All outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass until the pitch crosses home plate. If playing on a field with a large infield (i.e. a baseball field), outfielders must be positioned twenty (20) feet behind the bases until the ball crosses home plate.

Infield Fly Rule

18. The infield fly rule will be enforced in this league.

Field Maintenance

17. The players of both teams are to clean up the area around the ball diamond after each game.

On Deck Batter

18. Only one (1) player is permitted in the on deck circle.

Playing Field Dimensions and Requirements

19. The foul lines shall be lined and extended ten (10) feet beyond first (1st) and third (3rd) base.

20. A circle, eight (8) feet in radius and sixteen (16) feet in diameter, shall be lined around the pitching rubber.

21. Distance between bases shall be sixty (60) feet.
22. Distance from the front edge of the pitching rubber to the base edge of home plate is forty (40) feet.

Helmets

23. Helmets equipped with cages and chin straps shall be worn for batting, base running, and by the on deck batter.

Thrown Bat

24. A batter throwing her bat is subject to the rules set forth in Team/Player/Manager/Coach/Parent Conduct Rules VI.4.

Spikes

25. Metal spikes are not permitted in this league.

Year End League Tournament

26. This league will play a year end tournament upon the completion of the regular season. To be eligible to participate in the league tournament, a player must have played in at least half (50%) of her team’s regular season games. If, due to injury, a player did not play in at least half (50%) of her team’s regular season games, the player shall be eligible to participate in the year end league tournament.