

2024 8-10 Softball Special Rules:

Montana District 1 2024 Minors softball is for players aged 8-10 based off of the 2024 Little League Softball Age Chart. Special exceptions may be allowed for those that are league age 11 next year, but only with District approval prior to the placement of the player on a team.

Softball games will be played in accordance with LL rules, with the following exceptions (local league play rules):

1. 9-10 Softball will include League Age 8-10 years old based off the 2024 Little League Softball Age Chart. **Special exceptions may be allowed for those that will be league age 11, but only with District approval prior to the placement of the player on a team.**
2. 9-10 Softball will NOT use a pitching machine.
3. Minors Pitching rules:
 - a. 9-10 Softball will use a 11-inch hard softball.
 - b. Pitching distance will be set to 35 feet.
 - c. Inning Limit for Pitchers: 6 Innings then a day of rest
4. TIME LIMIT:
 - a. No new inning after 1 ½ hours including weekend games.
 - b. Any inning in progress at the time limit will be completed, unless darkness or weather conditions dictate otherwise, or unless the home team is ahead when it is their turn to bat
5. The **15, 10 and 8-run rules** in the Little League rulebook (See Rule 4.10(e)) are in effect. 15 run rule takes effect after 2 ½ innings if the home team is ahead or 3 complete innings, 10 run rule takes effect after 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead or 4 complete innings. 8-run rule is in effect after 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead or 5 complete innings
6. Runners in this league must maintain contact with the base until the pitched ball has reached the batter. Runners who break contact prior to the pitch reaching the batter shall be called out immediately. [7.08(a)(5)(b)]
7. Batters MAY NOT advance to first base when the third strike is not caught by the catcher. The batter is out on all third strikes. [6.05(b)(2)Minors]
8. **5-run limit is in effect which completes the half inning, regardless of the number of outs. The exception to the 5-run limit is that the inning ends when the play is dead and the ball is returned to the pitcher in the pitching circle or the runner is called out after reaching 1st base. The ball must be a hit into play for this to be in effect. If the result of the at bat is a walk, the play is dead and the inning is over.**

For example: If the score is 5-4 in the bottom of the first inning, runners on 2nd and 3rd and the batter hits a double, the runners on 2nd and 3rd make it home and score, those runs count making the score 5-6 and the inning is then over regardless of the number of outs.

Note: This rule does not apply in the last inning of the game, as determined by the time limit or by the maximum of six innings per game, whichever comes first. (In other words, there is no run limit rule in the last inning of the game) For proper administration of this rule, when approaching the time limit, managers must agree at the top of the inning whether the upcoming inning will be the final inning of the game. Once the inning has been designated as the final inning, no additional innings may be played in that game.

9. In accordance with the Montana District 1 policy, continuous batting and free substitution **MUST** be used in all Majors and below Softball games.