

WHITE PLAINS LITTLE LEAGUE MINORS SOFTBALL RULES

It is important to note that White Plains Little League modified the Minors Softball Division to be **Instructional** for all the participants. The goal of the Minors Softball Division is to primarily be a training division. The Division is intended to be a “farm organization” for Majors Softball but still allows all girls to enhance their skills and prepare them for possible tournament play in June. As such, please observe the following guidelines:

- There are **NO standings**. Since the goal is to provide instruction to the children, wins and losses are not the emphasis.
- Play will begin in the middle of April and will continue through June.
- **Playoffs will be played under Little League Softball 9/10 Tournament Rules. These rules supersede all Local Rules.**

We will follow all rules in Little League Softball Rule Book with the following exceptions:

1. Playing the Game

- a. **The purpose of Minors Softball is instruction.**
- b. Borrowing Players. Players may be borrowed from any other eligible team in order to play a game. **All borrowed players must bat at the end of the roster and may not play at the pitcher position.**
- c. Playing with Fewer than 9 Players. A team may play a game with 8 of its players; in such situation players may be borrowed from the opposing team to play defensively only. **There will NOT be an automatic out registered at bat for the missing 9th player in the batting order**
- d. Number of Outfielders. **For the Minors Division, the rules dictate that four (4) outfielders should be used. At the pitch, the four outfielders can be no closer than the edge of the outfield grass.**

2. Time Limit

- a. Each game has a **2-hour time limit** with no exceptions. No new inning can begin after 1-hour and 45 minutes.

3. Batting

- a. Roster Batting. Every player on the team bats in a designated spot in the order for the entire game. No batting substitutions are necessary or appropriate.
- b. Mercy Rule: There is **NO** Mercy Rule.
- c. Limit: The inning shall end at the earlier of three (3) recorded outs or the offensive team scored 5 runs. This applies for the all innings, except the home teams last at bat. The home team **may play to a tie**, or until 3 outs are recorded.
- d. Bunting. **Bunting is permitted** at all levels but discouraged for other than strategic reasons; **no slashing**.
- e. Bats. All bats to be in compliance with Little League guidelines.

4. **Defense**
 - a. No player may sit defensively for more than 2 consecutive innings.
5. **Pitching:** The pitching rules will mirror the Little League rule book with the following exceptions:
 - a. Pitchers may pitch a **maximum** of three (3) innings per game and a **maximum** of six (6) innings per week.
 - b. After the third walk or hit batter in an inning, the Manager is **strongly encouraged** to make a pitching change.
6. **Baserunning:**
 - a. Runners may steal any base at any time after the ball crosses the plate. They cannot advance on overthrow except in the case of Rule 6.c (below)
 - b. No delayed steal.
 - c. No advance on an overthrow, including throws to pitcher. (*Games after Memorial Day runners advance at own risk.*)
 - d. No leading or leaving a base until the pitch reaches the batter.
 - e. On a dropped third strike, the batter is automatically out.
 - f. No headfirst sliding except when returning to a base. No intentional contact.
 - g. There will be a maximum of three (3) steals per inning.
 - h. Stealing home is not allowed. (*Games after Memorial Day runners may steal home at own risk. Stealing of home is limited to 2 times per inning.*)

These Rules were adopted in an attempt to create an atmosphere of instructional softball and encouraging the participation of all children on the roster. These rules are intended to apply to ALL Minors Softball Regular Season games without exception. The White Plains Little League Minors Softball Program relies on good faith voluntary compliance by each coach and manager. Any issues should be addressed to your Division Vice-President who will then bring any appropriate issue to the prompt attention to the League's Board of Directors. All problems should be submitted through an e-mail to your Division VP.