

BONITA VALLEY GIRLS AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

2020 League Rules



Last updated on 2/14/2020: Pitching rule alignment to USA Softball.

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1. GENERAL

A. Ages of division play are as follows

Age Group	Division
4 -5	T-Ball
6	Super 6'ers
7 – 8	Rookies
9 – 10	Mini-Minor
11 – 12	Minors
13 – 14	Majors
Division of play is determined by age on January 1, 2020	

A player is a girl who is currently registered and is in good standing with the Bonita Valley League, herein after will be referred to as “player”.

B. Snack Bar Rule

- a. All teams and parents are required to help in the snack bar. A schedule will be determined by the Snack Bar coordinator at the beginning of the season. All teams must attend their scheduled time. If a team is unable to send the required number of parents to their scheduled time then arrangements must be made with the Snack Bar coordinator 48 hours prior to their scheduled time.
- b. Teens working in the snack bar must be at least 14 years old
- c. Any T-Ball or Super 6'ers team that fails to make their scheduled time or make arrangements with the Snack Bar coordinator will not be awarded team trophies at the end of the year. Any Rookies, Mini-Minor, Minor, or Major team failing to show up will not be allowed to participate in the Playoffs at the end of the season.

C. The manager must be age 21. The board will approve all managers and coaches.

D. No registration refunds after the draft without Executive Board approval. Refunds will incur a processing fee as determined each year by the current board, based on projected lost administrative costs. Players may be added after the draft with EXECUTIVE BOARD approved and a skills assessment if required according to rule “1” below.

E. League Play – All-Stars Tournament Play

- a. The player must play 75% of the regular league season to be eligible for tournament play (All-stars). Games missed due to injury will be considered as a game played. No player will lose an opportunity due to injury.
- b. Players participating in Travel Ball (as defined by USA Softball in the current year yellow book) after March 31st shall not be considered for All-stars.

Note: "Participate" in the above shall be defined as - A player taking part in a practice, practice game, scheduled game or tournament.

F. Protective Equipment (Practice and Games)

- a. The catcher is required to wear a helmet, mask, chest protector and shin guards.
- b. Batter/Runners must wear helmets with facemasks. Chinstraps are recommended but not required and must be snapped on both sides.
- c. Pitchers will be **required to wear a protective mask at all times**. This applies to all division except T-Ball. The league will provide 1 mask per team upon managers request.

G. A manager must recommend to the EXECUTIVE BOARD, PLAYER AGENT and/or DIVISION COORDINATOR when to "bench" a player for unexcused tardiness, absenteeism, or for any disciplinary reasons. The PLAYER AGENT will do an investigation and the EXECUTIVE BOARD will make a decision on all disciplinary actions for all players. The manager must give a 48-hour notice of intent to bench the player. If the player is benched the manager must notify the umpire and write the intent in the team's official line-up card which is given to the official score keeper and the opposing manager on game day.

H. The EXECUTIVE BOARD will determine removal or suspension of a player from the league. The EXECUTIVE BOARD will meet and confer with the parent of the player prior to the final decision.

I. ALL players must play in their designated age division, EXCEPTION: Any player deemed a safety issue by the Safety Officer and Division Coordinator will forward to the Executive Board for approval permission for the player to move to the next age division. The player will be moved up only if she presents a danger to the other players in her division.

J. ALL new players in the Mini-Minor, Minor, and Major divisions as well as ALL Rookie players moving up to Mini-Minors MUST be evaluated prior to being put on a team. ALL pitchers and catchers MUST also be evaluated prior to being placed on a team.

Players as listed above who do not attend an assessment will not be placed on a team.

- a. Experienced Pitchers and catchers will be defined as any player who has pitched or caught frequently (repeatedly at regular intervals) on a recreation, select, GFL, all-star, travel ball, or similar type team in the past 12 months.
- K. Throwing any equipment or acting with unsportsmanlike conduct by any PLAYER shall result in a warning by the umpire after one offense and the manager shall give instructions to the player. If further infractions occur, the umpire will have sole discretion for disciplinary action.

2. ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

- A. Division Coordinators – Big League, Mini-Minors, Rookie Super 6 and T-Ball
- a. Holds Managers/Coaches meetings before the season starts and at mid-season or as required in order to:
 - b. Discuss and Disseminate League information.
 - c. Discuss common problems and share softball information and knowledge.
 - d. Distribute literature.
 - e. Participate in clinics and workshops.
 - f. Assist and outline practice schedule times and locations.
 - g. Distribute and collect equipment needed.
 - h. Provide each Manager with a League packet at their preseason meeting that includes the League Bylaws, League Rules, League All-Star Policy, Injury report form and Safety Committee information.
 - i. Works with Umpire Coordinator to ensure positive communication between Managers, Coaches and Umpires.
- B. All-Star Coordinator
- a. Shall oversee the scheduling of All-Star Tournament play.
 - b. Shall supervise and oversee the League's All-Star selection and team formation process.
 - c. Shall oversee and order all uniforms required for All-Star teams.
 - d. Shall book all hotel rooms required if teams travel outside of local area.
 - e. Responsible for registering all All-Star teams in tournaments selected by the League and arranging for payment being made in a timely manner.
 - f. Take complaints by the League Membership related to any issue involving All-Star policy or operations taking all un-resolvable issues or disputes to the Executive Board for determination as deemed appropriate by such board.
 - g. Oversees the planning of a League tournament if approved by the board and makes arrangements for trophies for such a tournament.
 - h. Oversees registration, bracketing, scheduling, field prep for any League sponsored All-Star tournament.

- i. Cannot manage for any All-Star team. Allowed to coach on an All-Star staff but all Coordinator responsibilities will take priority over coaching responsibilities.
- C. Field Coordinator (s)
- a. Assumes all duties as it relates to coordinating activities with the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Chula Vista when the 1st Vice President is unable.
 - b. Oversees Fields Sub Committee to prepare fields for play as needed on Saturdays.
 - c. Makes recommendations to the board any needed field improvements
 - d. Coordinates all field improvement activities.
 - e. If crew member cannot complete an assigned shift (schedule is created by VP2), they may trade with a fellow field crew member.
- D. Batting Cage Coordinator
- a. Maintains cleanliness of batting cages
 - b. Ensures all equipment is in good and working order
 - c. Makes recommendations to the board of any needed improvements.
- E. Equipment Coordinator
- a. Provides procurement, security, accountability and distribution of all equipment used in League play and practice.
 - b. Maintains a written record of equipment owned by the League.
 - c. Develops and submits to the Treasurer a detailed quote (minimum of three) identifying the quantity and cost as required accommodating estimated enrollment by the League. Also purchases all supplies needed to prepare the fields for games played.
 - d. Locates and maintains a facility in which League equipment can be stored to insure optimum security
- F. Sponsor Coordinator (s)
- a. Responsible for contacting previous and potential sponsors needed to raise enough money to support the estimated teams for the upcoming League season. Follows up with Treasurer to track current status of incoming donations.
 - b. Works with Trophy Coordinator to ensure proper sponsor awards are prepared for presentation as needed.
 - c. Works with Website Coordinator to ensure all sponsor information is up to date and correct on website.
 - d. Coordinates a "Sponsor Day" once a year to acknowledge all League Sponsors.
 - e. Recommends any changes needed to the League's current sponsor program.

- f. Responsible for the purchase of and displaying of all sponsor banners as outlined in the League sponsor program.

G. Snack Bar Coordinator (s)

- a. Oversees the Snack Bar
- b. Developing an operating budget
- c. Buying all necessary supplies and ensuring all safe keeping of supplies and food in a high quality and safe manner.
- d. Accountable for safe guard of receipts thru Snack Bar Checking account.
- e. Arranging for Staff to service the snack bar Workers must be at least 14 years old and must be supervised by an adult at all times.
- f. Arranging for the opening and closing of the Snack Bar on days schedule to be open.
- g. Coordinating Snack Bar operations at all League sponsored tournaments.
- h. Delivering deposit receipts to Treasurer along with account reconciliation on a weekly basis.

H. Fundraising Coordinator

- a. Coordinates and recommends to the Board any Fundraising ideas
- b. Oversees all League approved Fundraising functions.

I. Uniform/Awards Coordinator (s)

- a. Secures a minimum of three bids for the purchases of League uniforms to present to the board.
- b. Coordinates with League selected Uniform vendor the order, purchase and distribution of necessary softball wearing apparel for League play.
- c. Coordinates with Sponsor Coordinator to ensure all uniforms have proper Sponsor recognition on Shirts.
- d. Responsible for obtaining and distributing awards for League participants.
- e. Works with Sponsor Coordinator in obtaining and distributing Sponsor awards as needed.

J. Umpire and Scheduling Coordinator

- a. Oversees the hiring and scheduling of umpires for League games, including all make up games.
- b. Ensures all umpires are ASA certified (except for mentor program, if in place)
- c. Has Veto power over umpires
- d. Monitor umpires throughout the season. Shall fill out a report on any
- e. Negative activity by an umpire and report to the umpire's organization and the League.
- f. Responsible for preparation and completion of League playing schedule for all divisions at least 14 days prior to opening day. Prepares all make up schedules and coordinates these games with the umpire organization.

- g. Oversees and monitors any mentoring program that might be in place with the umpire organization and the League.
- K. Website Coordinator
 - a. Responsible for maintaining League website for announcements and information.
 - b. Keeps site up to date related to schedule and calendar information
 - c. Works with Secretary in the use of the website to facilitate League registration.
 - d. Updates website with current Board Meeting Minutes, Bylaws and League Rules.
- L. Ways and Means
 - a. Provides assistant to League in special projects as needed.
- M. Photo/Yearbook Coordinator
 - a. Responsible for taking pictures at all league events
 - b. Maintains photo records of and digital files
 - c. Updates and maintains pictures on social medial sites ran by the league
 - d. Puts together a end of season yearbook or slideshow and provides it to league
- N. Team Parent Coordinator
 - a. Responsible for coordinating team parent meeting
 - b. Disseminating league information, news, deadlines, and events
- O. Safety Coordinator
 - a. Reports to the First Vice President in the implementation of the safety program
 - b. Develops and Maintains Safety guidelines for the league including a Coaches Handbook
 - c. Notifies executive board of serious or ongoing safety concerns regarding facilities, equipment, and activities
 - d. Takes reports from Coaches and other members of safety concerns, accidents, and injuries
 - e. Recommends corrective actions when accidents and injuries occur or an unsafe condition exists
 - f. Ensures proper safety equipment is provided and in good repair for snack bar and all teams
 - g. Assists Volunteer Coordinator with ensuring all League Volunteers have passed background check
- P. Volunteer Coordinator
 - a. Collects and submits all related paperwork for conducting background checks for all league volunteers

- b. Coordinates the registration and entering all volunteers on the ASA website.
- c. Distributes all identification badges to league volunteers

All Board members are responsible for maintaining a record of all documents created and a means to pass along vital information for performing each position to the succeeding person.

3. COMMITTEES

A. Section 1

- a. Committees shall be appointed by the President and with board approval. The Board shall determine committee size, objective, responsibility, and designated chairperson. Each committee Chairperson shall be responsible to report directly to the Board regarding the committees' accomplishments and responsibilities.
- b. Permanent Committees are Bylaws, Field Development, Safety, Special Projects, Team Selection Process and Election. All other committees shall be appointed by the President and subject to approval by the board. The Board can remove any committee member failing to fulfill their duties at any time. The Team Selection Process committee will recommend the process for team selection for the current year after review of last year's process. This recommendation once approved by the board will be the process for the current year. The Bylaw committee will review the bylaws on an annual basis and present to the Board any recommended changes, if any prior to February 1 of each year.

B. Section 2 Permanent Committees (Head)

- a. Bylaws/Rules (VP2)
- b. Field Development (VP1)
- c. Safety (VP2)
- d. Special Projects (President)
- e. Team Selection Process (Both Player Agents)
- f. Election (Secretary)

4. THE TEAM

- A. Teams will be formed by a blind draft. Priority during for the draft processes will be the following order:
 - a. Sponsors who are Board Members
 - b. Sponsors
 - c. Board Members (not relatives)
 - d. General Members

If more than one individual qualifies for a group above, the individual order will be determined by random draw.

Sponsors are individuals who have fulfilled a donation specified by the current board.

- B. Managers and coaches will rate all player-combined skills in their respective divisions at the end of each season and turn in Evaluations/Rating sheets to their Division Coordinator (except T-Ball and Super 6'ers). The Division Coordinator will deliver the ratings to the Player Agent. Evaluations/Ratings must be turned in by the last regular season game before league tournament play. A manager failing to turn in rating sheets will not be considered for a manager position the following year.
- C. Derogatory remarks of any kind directed at the opposing team by players, managers, coaches or parents are strictly prohibited. Only positive reinforcements, through cheers and remarks are to be given to the players.
- D. Spectators are not allowed in the bench area. Only USA Softball registered volunteers (i.e. manager, assistant coach, team mom, etc) who have a visible / valid USA Softball registration card may sit on the player's bench during division games. This extends to the practice sites as well; all volunteers assisting with team practices must be USA Softball registered.
- E. Both teams are responsible for lining the field before each game and returning the bases and equipment after the last game of the day is played.
- F. Participating teams (managers, coaches, players, etc.) are responsible for ensuring their spectator and dugout bench areas are clean after each game.
- G. The use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, profanity and temperamental outbursts by a player, coach or manager will not be tolerated at any league facility and will be grounds for immediate disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the league by the EXECUTIVE BOARD.
- H. Coaching will be done only from designated areas. One coach will be allowed to call pitches from outside the dugout, no more than six feet from the dugout opening.
- I. A player, manager or coach having ANY PHYSICAL ALTERCATION on the field/practice with another player, manager, coach, umpire, parent (fans), etc, can and will be suspended for an indefinite period of time, pending review by the Executive Board.

5. THE GAME

- A. There will be an official scorekeeper for all games in all divisions with the exception of the T-Ball and Super 6'er divisions. The home team scorekeeper is the official

scorekeeper. Each team's official lineup card shall list the player's name and uniform number.

- B. In the mini-minor, minors, and majors divisions a score card will be completed and signed by both managers and the umpire to verify the final score and out counts of pitchers. The score cards will be deposited in a designated basket in the coach's lockers at the field where the game was played. Also, a photo of the card should be sent to the division coordinator immediately following the game.
- C. The home team will occupy the bench near third base.
- D. Regulation tie games called due to darkness or any other reason will not be completed. Tie games will count as half win and half loss for both teams. Rained out games are to be rescheduled if possible
- E. All divisions may substitute at the end of any inning. All players are entitled to at least 2 innings of playing time. This rule applies to all divisions (Free Substitutions). Any player that does not play at least 2 complete innings shall play a complete game in the next scheduled game. The exception is rule 1.F.
- F. Fifteen Run Rule: A team will be declared winner if, after five or more innings, a team has 15 or more runs ahead of their opponents.
- G. The side will retire if a team scores 6 runs in an inning. In the Rookie and Mini-Minor divisions, the side will retire once a team scores 4 runs in an inning. There are no open innings
- H. Base coaches may be playing members of the team, manager or coaches. Player base coaches must wear helmets.
- I. All divisions, during the entire regular season and post season play; will require teams to bat the entire roster.
- J. There will be NO protests allowed during the season.
- K. A USA Softball registered manager; coach and/or an adult must attend all games and practices.
- L. The batting order shall include all players in attendance. Players shall be listed in the order they are to bat, and the order shall not change throughout the game. This applies to all divisions. If a player needs to leave at any time during the game, both teams will scratch her name off the roster. The team will not have to take an out. Players arriving late will be added to the bottom of the lineup.
- M. At all times a woman (21 years or older) must be present and attend all team events (i.e. practice, games, etc.).

- N. Pitchers in Mini-minors and below will pitch a maximum of 21 outs per week. A week is considered Sunday to Saturday. When there are (3) games in one week the pitcher will have a maximum of 30 outs per week. Pitchers in Minors and majors may pitch a maximum of 30 outs per week. When there are (3) games in one week the pitcher will have a maximum of 39 outs per week. If a double or triple play causes a pitcher to exceed the out count, the pitcher and her team shall not be penalized.
- a. Note: During post season play there will be no restrictions to the number of outs (innings) that a pitcher may pitch.
- O. If the pitcher should hit two batters she will be given a warning that if a third batter is hit by a pitch she will be removed from pitching for that inning, but will be allowed to return.
- P. The pitcher shall adhere to Rule 6A Section 1C and 1E of the USA Softball Rules.
- a. **Rule 6A. Section 1C:** Both feet must be on the ground within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate. The shoulders shall be in line with first and third bases. The pitcher shall take a position with their pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate and their non-pivot foot in contact with or behind the pitcher's plate.

Comment: Allows female pitchers to start with one or two feet on the pitcher's plate. This aligns the male and female pitching rule as it relates to foot placement.
 - b. **Rule 6A. Section 1E:** The pitcher shall bring their hands together for not less than one second and not more than 10 seconds before releasing the ball. A backward step may be taken before, simultaneous with or after the hands are brought together. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate at all times prior to the forward step.

Comment: Allows female pitchers to take a backward step from the pitcher's plate, before, during or after the hands are brought together. This aligns the male and female pitching rule as it relates to stepping back from the pitcher's plate.
- Q. Standings will be kept for the Major, Minor, Mini-Minor and Big League Divisions. Tie breaker rules for seeding in the Play-Offs for divisions that conduct a playoff is:
- a. Head to Head
 - b. Minimum runs allowed (Based on equal number of games)
 - c. Runs scored
- R. No team standings or scores will be kept in the T-Ball or Rookies Division

- S. Pitching and Base Path distances shall be respectively:
 - a. Major: 43 ft and 60 ft
 - b. Minor: 40 ft and 60 ft
 - c. Mini-Minors: 35 ft and 60 ft

6. T-BALL DIVISION

- A. There shall be a one-hour limit on games or four (4) full innings whichever comes first. Drop dead at 1 hour will be enforced to due scheduling of game times.
- B. Batters shall hit off a tee, which shall be set home plate. A player scoring shall touch a temporary home plate located beside the third base side of home plate and in line with the first base line outside the batters box. During the second half of the season, the coach or any assistant shall throw four pitches to his or her own players. An assistant will catch the pitches from the coach. The pitching distance can be any distance agreed to by both team coaches. If the ball is not hit, the ball will be placed back on the tee for the player to hit.
- C. One player must occupy the defensive position of the pitcher inside the pitching circle.
- D. Defensive players must play their positions and remain behind the pitcher until the ball is hit.
- E. During the first half of the season there will be no called outs, players will run all the bases and you will bat your entire line up. During the second half of the season, managers or assistants will start calling outs and players must return to the dugout.
- F. The side retires when the entire team has batted around.
- G. The batting order shall include all players in attendance. Players shall be listed in the order they are to bat and that order shall not change throughout the game. The runners shall stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit.
- H. USA Softball registered managers and/or coaches may stand near the batter and place them in the proper position in the batters box.
- I. USA Softball registered managers and/or coaches may also position themselves on the field with their defensive players and give advice but not interfere with the play. There shall be no more than four adults in the field as instructors. Spectators are not allowed in the bench area. Only the manager, the coaches, chaperone, team mentor, and the roster team members may sit on the player's bench during division games. Team manager, coaches and roster members, and team mentor may be on the field during league play.

- J. When a ball is hit to the outfield, play is stopped when the ball is returned to the infield and controlled by a defensive player. However, all runners are required to advance or retreat before the ball becomes dead. An outfielder may run the ball into the infield area to put this rule into affect.
- K. When a ball is hit to the infield, there shall be no advance on an overthrow when the ball is stopped in the infield. The runners on base are entitled to the next base only, whether or not there is an overthrow. A ball hit to the infield is any ball remaining on the dirt and fielded by any defensive player.
- L. There is no infield fly rule.
- M. A 10-inch RIF 1 ball shall be used.
- N. The last batter is entitled to run as many bases until the ball is controlled by a defensive player and touches home plate.

7. SUPER 6'ERS DIVISION

- A. This division will be created when voted on by the Executive Council. When it is authorized, it will be active for the current season only. Additional or follow-on seasons will require a new vote by the Executive Council. There shall be a one-hour limit on games or four (4) full innings whichever comes first. Drop dead at 1 hour will be enforced to eliminate scheduling conflicts.
- B. All available players will field a defensive position. No more than one additional player will be in the infield. All other players will play in the outfield.
 - a. One player must occupy the defensive position of the pitcher inside the pitching circle
 - b. Defensive players must play their positions and remain behind the pitcher until the ball is hit.
- C. No base stealing will be permitted. The runners shall stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit.
- D. Bunting will not be allowed.
- E. Runners may take only one base on an overthrow. Runners may not advance once the ball reaches the infield.
- F. The last batter is entitled to run as many bases until the ball is controlled by a defensive player and touches home plate.

- G. The batting order shall include all players in attendance. Players shall be listed in the order they are to bat and that order shall not change throughout the game.
- H. ASA registered managers and/or coaches may also position themselves on the field with their defensive players and give advice but not interfere with the play. There shall be no more than four adults in the field as instructors. Only team manager, coaches, team mentor and roster members may be on the field during league play.
- I. Spectators are not allowed in the bench area. Only the manager, the coaches, chaperone, team mentor, and the roster team members may sit on the player's bench during division games.
- J. There is no infield fly rule.
- K. A 10-inch RIF 1 ball shall be used.
- L. No scores or team standings will be kept in the Super 6er's division.
- M. The first four games of the season:
 - a. The coach or any assistant shall throw four pitches to his or her own players. An assistant will catch the pitches from the coach. The pitching distance can be any distance agreed to by both team coaches. If the ball is not hit, the ball will be placed on the tee for the player to hit.
 - b. There will be no called outs. Players will run all the bases and they will bat the entire line up. The side retires when the entire team has batted around.
 - c. ASA registered managers and/or coaches may stand near the batter and place them in the proper position in the batter's box.
- N. The last six games of the season:
 - a. The coach or any assistant shall throw four pitches to his or her own players. If they do not hit the ball they are out, however, a batter cannot strike out on a foul ball. Managers or assistants will start calling outs and players must return to the dugout. The side still retires when the entire team has batted around.

8. ROOKIE DIVISION

- A. Games shall consist of six (6) innings or end by time limit. There will be no new innings after one hour and fifteen minutes. Regular season games can end in a tie. If six (6) innings have been completed before the time limit (including tournament play) and the game is tied, the USA Softball Tie Breaking rule will be implemented. All tournament games must have a winner. All championship games will consist of six (6) complete innings. A new inning starts at the last out of the previous inning.
- B. No team standings will be kept in the Rookie division.

- C. Sliding is permitted only when proper training has been given to the player. If there is a play at any base, the runner must avoid a collision with the defensive player. If the base runner does not avoid a collision, the runner is out.
- D. There is no infield fly rule.
- E. A batter is out on a third strike even if the ball is dropped. A batter may not run to first on a dropped third strike.
- F. A 10-inch RIF 1 ball shall be used.
- G. Teams will play with ten (10) defensive players. The tenth player must be an outfielder. There will be no rover position. All four outfielders must play behind the grass line.
- H. Team formation will be restricted to the daughter(s) of the manager and one coach. All other players will be assigned to teams via a blind draft.
- I. Runners may take only one base on an overthrow.
- J. A team must field seven (7) players to start a game. If a team is short players during the regular season, the managers/coaches of both teams will combine the teams together and continue to play. During playoffs, a team will forfeit if they cannot field seven players.
- K. Pitching:
 - a. During the first half of the regular season, the pitcher will have a maximum of 4 (four) pitches per batter. If the pitcher does not strike the batter out on the fourth pitch, the manager/coach will pitch to his or her own player and will assume the strike count. Example: the batter has 1 strike and three balls; the manager/coach may pitch 2 pitches to his or her own batter.
 - b. During the second half of the regular season, there will be no "Coach pitch" with one exception: A pitcher may not walk in a run. If a batter walks with the bases loaded, the coach will get 2 pitches to the batter.
 - c. During the playoffs, there will be no coach pitching with no exceptions.

Note: Any time a manager/coach is pitching, they must always pitch from the pitching rubber and the pitcher must remain inside the pitcher's circle. A batter cannot strike out on a foul ball even if pitched by the manager/coach.
- L. Stealing bases:
 - a. During the first half of the regular season, there will be no base stealing permitted. However, players may still take a lead.

- b. During the second half of the regular season and playoffs, players may steal one base per pitch with the exception of home plate. Stealing home is not allowed at any point during the season.
 - c. When awarded first base, the player may not advance to second base until after the next pitch.
- M. Bunting:
 - a. Bunting will not be allowed during the first half of the regular season.
 - b. Bunting will be allowed during the second half of the regular season and playoffs unless the manager/coach is pitching.
- N. Rotating positions:
 - a. During the regular season, players will be rotated so that no player will play more than two innings at any one position. Pitchers will not be allowed to pitch more than three (3) innings per game, and only 2 innings consecutively.
 - b. During the playoffs, there is no requirement to rotate any positions.
- O. Stopping play
 - a. During the first half of the regular season, runners may not advance once a player attempts to throw to the pitcher while the pitcher is in the pitcher's circle.

9. MINI-MINORS, MINORS AND MAJORS

- A. Games shall consist of seven (7) innings or end by time limit.
- B. No new inning will start after one (1) hour thirty (30) minutes. Regular season games can end in a tie. If seven (7) innings have been completed before the time limit (including tournament play) and the game is tied, the USA Softball Tie Breaking rule will be implemented. All tournament games must have a winner. All championship games will consist of seven (7) complete innings.
- C. Dropped Third Strike: The batter may run to first base if the catcher drops a ball on a called or swinging third strike. Note: USA Softball rules apply on "Dropped Third Strike."
- D. Stealing home is allowed.
- E. Sliding: If there is a play at any base the base runner must avoid a collision with the defensive player by making an attempt to slide. If the base runner does not attempt to slide or otherwise avoid a collision, the runner is out. The play shall be a judgment call by the umpire.
- F. A team must field seven (7) players to start a game. If a team, for any reason, cannot field a team, notice must be given to the Umpire Coordinator twenty four hours

prior to the start time of the scheduled game. If seven (7) players cannot be fielded, the game is forfeited.

- G. Teams must play with ten (10) defensive players. The tenth player must be an outfielder. There will be no rover position. All four outfielders must play behind the grass line.
- H. Scores, pitcher outs, and team standings will be kept in these divisions. Pitcher out counts will not normally be published but will be maintained and monitored by the league's division coordinators.
- I. Ball size:
 - a. Mini-minors will play with an 11 inch RIF 10 ball.
 - b. Minors and Majors will play with a 12 inch RIF 10 ball.

10. PLAYOFFS

- A. 10u, 12u, 14u Double elimination brackets will be seeded by end of season standings tiebreaker rules will apply (Sec 2 rule R)
- B. 8u double elimination brackets will be blind seeded at end of regular season coaches meeting
- C. The higher seed will be the home team in ALL winners bracket games; the only exception will be in the finals. The team who wins the winners bracket will be the home team for the Championship Game. A coin flip will determine home team in "if" game. Losers bracket games will have a coin flip to determine home team.
- D. In all divisions, there are no pitching limits.
- E. Winning team will keep the game ball; back up ball(s) will be provided by the home team.
- F. Runs per inning rules will apply 12u and 14u (6 runs) 10u and 8u (4 runs) no open innings
- G. All USA Softball mercy rules will be used.
 - a. 15 runs after 3 innings
 - b. 12 runs after 4 innings
 - c. 8 runs after 5 innings.
- H. Bracket games - 10U, 12U, and 14U: No new inning shall start after one hour and thirty minutes (one hour and fifteen minutes for 8U), the inning must be completed. The umpire keeps the official time of the game. The umpire shall signal the final inning, ITB to follow if game is tied. After time has expired, (1 hour, 15 minutes for 8U or 1 hour, 30 minutes for all other divisions) or 7 innings for 12U and 14U; 6

innings for 8U and 10U are completed and the game is tied it will go into International Tie Breaker (ITB).

- I. Championship games will be played as follows:
 - a. 8u – 6 innings or a time limit of no new after one hour fifteen minutes. ITB to follow if game tied.
 - b. 10u – 6 innings. No time limit. ITB to follow if game is tied.
 - c. 12u, 14u – 7 innings with no time limit. Followed by ITB if game is tied
 - d. If undefeated team from winners bracket loses, a second championship “if” game will be played immediately after a 15 min break