



*Ash-Carleton Little League  
Minor / Major League Softball Rules*

1. League ages 9-10, girl's 11" softball. League ages 11-12, girl's 12" softball.
2. A game consists of 6 innings or a one and one half hour time limit. No new inning may start after 1 hour 20 minutes. Innings started prior to this time will be finished and at that time all games will be over and official
3. Each team will field a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 10 players (4 outfielders)
4. A half inning is complete when:
  - a. There are 3 outs or
  - b. Five runs have been scored before 3 outs. 5<sup>th</sup> run must be an earned run.
5. 11 Run rule is in effect all season. If a team is leading by 11 runs after 4 innings or 6 runs after 5 innings, the game is a Mercy and will be over and official.
6. Player Pitch
  - a. Pitching line will be 35 Feet (9-10 year olds), 40 Feet (11-12 year olds). (See LL Softball Rule Book)
  - b. When a player reaches ball four, they shall take their base.
  - c. Limit pitchers to a maximum of 3 innings per game. (2 is average.)
  - d. Pitchers may use sling shot or windmill style pitch.
7. Stealing bases: May steal 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases only. May lead off or leave base when ball crosses plate. (Emphasize more stealing during the last 5 games of the season.)
8. Continuous batting order. (Everybody bats.)
9. Runners may advance when ball is outside pitchers circle. Use restraint on simple dropped balls.
10. Sliding encouraged if taught. Runner must avoid contact at any base. No head first sliding.
11. Umpires administer games. Strike zone is from top of shoulders to bottom of knees and can extend 1 inch from either side of home plate. Managers cannot argue balls & strikes. Each umpire will have a slightly different strike zone.
12. No swinging of a bat on deck or any other areas of the dug out or general areas. This is a Little League Rule. Managers are responsible.
13. No player may catch without proper catchers equipment (Catchers mask/helmet/chest and leg pads/Throat protection)
14. Softball rules apply otherwise.
15. Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike rule applies to Majors only.
16. Open field Rule: If a team is short an outfielder or two, a ball hit to an open position in the outfield is a ground rule double.
17. Outfielders must be positioned 1 foot back from the infield before each pitch. After the ball reaches the plate or put into play, they may move to back up the infield, but not take the place of an infielder. At no time, can an outfielder be positioned within the infield area before a pitch is made by the pitcher. Exception: Bunted ball or attempt to bunt.
18. After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat. Exceptions: on a swing or slap bunt, when forced out by a pitch, if catcher does not catch the pitched ball, when time is called, when pitcher leaves the 8 foot circle or catcher leaves batter's box, on a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball.

Inter-league Play - Philosophies differ from league to league and Managers in a league. Before the start of each inter-league game, the managers of each team will meet with the umpire to determine specifics on stealing, equipment, etc.