



## Burnt Hills–Ballston Lake (BHBL) Girls Softball

### 2026 Recreational League – Minors Division Rules

The Minors Division is designed to bridge the gap between Instructional play and full player-pitch softball. Emphasis is placed on skill development, game awareness, sportsmanship, and safe competitive play.

#### **1. Safety & Weather**

1. At the first sign of visible lightning or the sound of thunder, all play must be immediately suspended for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes. There are no exceptions. The 30-minute clock resets with any additional lightning or thunder.
2. Fielding masks are strongly recommended for all defensive players.
3. Anyone under the age of 18 MUST wear a catcher's mask when warming up a catcher, whether on the field or behind the dugouts.

#### **2. Offensive Rules**

4. The batting order will consist of all players in attendance for that game.
5. There is no Infield Fly Rule and no Dropped Third Strike Rule in this division.
6. Any player who throws the bat will receive a warning after the first offense. A second offense will result in the batter being called out. No exceptions.
7. Runners may steal any base except home and may leave the base at the pitcher's release.
8. Only one (1) base may be advanced per overthrow. Play will be stopped once the base is achieved and runners advancing further will be returned to the appropriate base.
9. There will be a four (4) run limit per inning.

#### **3. Defensive Rules**

10. An eleven-inch (11") softball will be used for all games.
11. Pitching distance will be thirty-five (35) feet from the pitcher's plate to home plate. All pitchers must start from the pitching mound.

12. Defensive alignment will consist of a maximum of ten (10) players: one at each infield position including pitcher and catcher, and four (4) outfielders who must remain on the outfield grass.
13. Full catcher's gear is mandatory for any player playing the catcher position.
14. During coach pitch, the pitcher must remain inside the pitching circle to field the position. If a batted ball contacts the coach pitcher, play will be stopped and all runners will be awarded one (1) base.

#### **4. Pitching & Umpires**

15. All games will have certified umpires.
16. Once three (3) total walks occur in an inning, the batting team's coach will step in to finish pitching that inning.
17. Any batter receiving three (3) strikes, whether called or swinging, will be called out. This applies whether pitching is done by a player or a coach. No batters may be walked by a coach pitcher.

#### **5. General Rules & Sportsmanship**

18. No jewelry may be worn on the field. All hair past shoulder length must be securely tied back.
19. No new inning may begin after one (1) hour and twenty (20) minutes from the scheduled start time.
20. Up to two (2) coaches are encouraged to be on the field at all times to instruct players.
21. Players and coaches will line up at home plate to shake hands following the game.
22. Both teams are responsible for post-game field cleanup, including raking and leveling home plate, pitcher's mound, and base areas. All bases and field equipment must be returned to the dugout storage area and properly locked after each practice and game.