



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 ASA Rules 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. 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.
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2. Offensive Rules

4. The batting order will consist of all players in attendance for that game.
5. There is no Infield Fly Rule in this division.
6. There is no Dropped Third Strike Rule in this division.
7. 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.
8. Runners may steal any base except home and may leave the base once the pitcher releases the ball.

9. 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.
 10. There will be a four (4) run limit per inning.
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3. Defensive Rules

11. An eleven-inch (11") softball will be used for all games.
12. Pitching distance will be thirty-five (35) feet from the pitcher's plate to home plate.
13. Defensive alignment will consist of a maximum of ten (10) players:

- Pitcher
- Catcher
- Four (4) infielders
- Four (4) outfielders

Outfielders must remain on the outfield grass until the ball is hit.

14. Full catcher's gear is mandatory for any player playing the catcher position.
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4. Pitching Rules

15. All games will have certified umpires.
16. **Three Walk Limit Per Half Inning**

Once a pitcher has issued three (3) walks in a single half inning, the pitcher will continue pitching; however, any additional walks will not result in the batter being awarded first base.

17. **At-Bat After Three Walks**

After the third walk has been issued in the half inning:

- Each subsequent batter will continue the at-bat against the pitcher.
- The batter will be declared out after three (3) strikes if the ball is not put into play.

18. **Ball Put in Play**

If the batter puts the ball into play before the third strike, the play proceeds normally and the defense may record outs as usual.

19. **Pitcher Remains in the Game**

The pitcher is not required to be removed after three walks and may continue pitching for the remainder of the inning or until substituted by the coach.

20. Any batter receiving three (3) strikes, whether called or swinging, will be called out.

5. General Rules & Sportsmanship

21. No jewelry may be worn on the field. All hair past shoulder length must be securely tied back.

22. No new inning may begin after one (1) hour and twenty (20) minutes from the scheduled start time.

23. Players and coaches will line up at home plate to shake hands following the game.

24. Both teams are responsible for post-game field cleanup including:

- Raking and leveling home plate
 - Raking the pitcher's mound
 - Raking base paths
 - Returning bases and field equipment to the dugout storage area
 - Ensuring all equipment is properly secured after each practice and game
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League Philosophy

The BHBL Minors Division focuses on development first. Coaches are expected to emphasize instruction, teamwork, and sportsmanship while helping players build confidence in both pitching and hitting in a safe and positive environment.