



# McHenry Pigtail League

P.O. Box 1091 McHenry, IL 60051

[www.McHenryPigtail.com](http://www.McHenryPigtail.com)

Revised 11/2020

## 12U Division Rule Exceptions

The McHenry Pigtail Softball League has adopted to follow the rules of the IHSA (Illinois High School Association) with the following exceptions:

### Pitching:

1. The front of the pitching rubber shall be 40 feet from the back tip on home plate.
2. The strike zone is from the shoulders to the knees.
3. Only the starting pitcher may be reinserted back into the pitching position one time in a game. If the starting pitcher is removed before a full inning pitched, it is considered a one full inning pitched.
4. After a third batter is hit she must be removed from the pitching position for the rest of the game.
5. Pitchers must be removed from pitching after three hit batters in any one inning with significant force. If the ball hits the ground first before hitting the batter it is not considered significant force. If the batter is hit with a pitch that the umpire determines was not significant force, the batter will be awarded 1st base. However the pitcher shall not be charged with a hit batter that would count towards her removal from the inning or game. Pitchers may return in subsequent innings. If the pitcher hits four batters in the game she is removed from the pitching for the remainder of the game.
6. Pitching will be IHSA rules.
7. An illegal pitch is ruled a ball. Runners advance one base.
8. Coaches are encouraged to teach the girls the following rules. (Illegal pitches will be in play.)
  - a. Hands apart when pitcher steps on the mound (ball can either be in hand or in glove).
  - b. Pitcher bring hand to the glove. This is the start of the wind up. (Pitcher is not allowed to separate her hands and bring them to the glove again.)
  - c. Forward foot must be in contact with the pitching rubber. Your back foot can be on the pitching rubber or behind the pitching rubber. Either menthed is acceptable. (no step back.)

### Batting:

1. Full roster batting shall be used and kept for the entire game. The team at bat will bat until they receive 3 outs in an inning or have scored 6 runs, whichever comes first.
2. Any batter injured during their turn at bat and can't continue playing will be replaced for the rest of her turn at bat by the player who made the last batted out. If there are no outs made, the last batter in the order will be used.
3. If for any reason a player leaves the game, you will only have to take an out in their lineup spot if you don't have enough players to field a regulation team of 8 players.
4. Players arriving late, after the first pitch of the game, will bat at the bottom of the order and play any position in the field.
5. The 6th inning is played out until the 3rd out is recorded. In case of a tied game, any inning is played out until the 3rd out is recorded.
6. On deck batters need to be behind batter.
7. Unintentional thrown bats will result in an initial warning being given to each team. Subsequent unintentional thrown bats will result in a dead ball out. Intentionally thrown bats are considered unsportsmanlike behavior and may result in ejection.
8. Protective headwear that includes facemask must be worn by all batters on the bases and in the on-

deck circle.

9. Bunting is allowed. The batter cannot take a bunt stance and then pull back and take a full swing at the pitch. If the batter attempts this she is out. This is for infielders safety.

### **Base Running:**

1. The bases will be at 60 feet.
2. Runners may lead off after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. All base stealing per IHSA rules.
3. All runners must slide to avoid contact. Umpire's discretion.
4. You may use a courtesy runner if the batter reaches a base and is injured. The new runner will be the player to have made the last batted out. If there are no batted outs made, the runner will be the last out made. If there are no outs, the runner will be the last player in the batting order. Also, when there are two outs in an inning YOU MAY use a courtesy runner for your catcher as described above. This is to allow time for her to get the catcher's gear on.
5. Drop third strike is in effect. The batter becomes the runner on the third strike if the pitch is not caught before touching the ground as long as,
  - a. 1st base is unoccupied before the pitch.
  - b. 1st base is occupied with two outs.
6. Look back rule (IHSA) NFSH rule 8-7
  - a. Article 1; the look back rule will be in effect when the ball is live, the batter-runner has touched first base or has been declared out and the pitcher has possession of the ball within the pitchers circle.
  - b. Article 2; The runner(s) may stop once , but then must immediately return to the base or attempt to advance to the next base.
  - c. Article 3; once the runner stops at a base for any reason, she will be declared out if she leaves the base.
7. Slide rule; (IHSA) NFHS rule 8-6 "The runner is out" if
  - a. Article 13; The runner does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or illegally alters the actions of the fielder in the immediate act of making a play on her.
  - b. Article 14; she remains on her feet and maliciously crashes into a defensive player. Malicious contact supersedes obstruction.
8. When the ball is thrown out of play 2 bases are allowed at the time of the throw. (The base they are going to plus one.)

### **Defense:**

1. For the team on defense, there will be two conferences allowed per inning. On the second conference, if not done on the first conference, the pitcher must be pulled from that position. Attending and injury will be constituted as an official's time out and not count as an official timeout charged to the team.
2. Managers may substitute freely as long as each player plays at least 3 defensive innings.
3. On defense, a team will field 4 outfielders for a total of 10 players.
4. Each player must not sit more than 2 innings per game if possible. Coaches are encouraged to give equal playing time to all players.

### **Safety:**

1. All players in the field are required to wear fielding face masks.
2. Batting helmets are required to have a full face mask.
3. Proper catchers equipment is required and consists of the following;
  - a. Two shin guards that include toe covers.
  - b. Chest protector.
  - c. Catchers style facemask that is elongated and has quick removable adjustable helmet
4. Bats must have USSSA 1.20 thumb print stamp for 10u-20u divisions
5. No metal cleats
6. On deck hitter must be at the batters back.
7. Medic alerts will be allowed and must be taped down.
8. All players must wear rubber sole non-slip or all purpose rubber spiked shoes. All players must wear all parts of league issued attire. The issued jersey must be worn as an outer garment.
9. No shorts or jewelry may be worn at practices or games.

10. Protective equipment must be worn at all practices or games.

**General:**

1. Both teams are responsible for making the field ready for play. They are also responsible for putting all equipment away after the game is over. Turn out the lights, unless there is a game or practice following your game on that field.

2. A minimum of 10 players per team.

3. A new inning begins as soon as the home team makes the 3rd out.

4. Practice balls allowed on the field for one minute or five pitches per ISHA rules.

5. There is a 1:45 time limit. No inning will start after the time limit has expired. The inning in progress will be played out in full. An official game is 3 ½ innings with the home team ahead or 4 innings with the game being called. A complete game is 6 innings. In the case of a tied game, one tiebreaker inning will be played if time allows. International tie-breaker rules shall apply. Should a regular season game remain tied it shall end in a tie. Playoff games shall be played until a winner is determined with one team score greater than the other.

6. The advantage rule will be a lead of 18 or more runs after 4 innings played (3 ½ if the home team is ahead).

7. From the 5th inning on unlimited runs can be scored until the third out is made.

8. Infield fly rule is in effect. An infield fly is a fair fly ball (not a line drive or bunt) that, in the judgement of the umpire, can be caught by the infielder, pitcher, or catcher with ordinary effort and when there are runners on first or second, and third and less than two outs.

9. All team members are to stay in their dugout area unless they are warming up or on deck to bat. They may go to the bathroom or concession stand. All other times they are to stay in the dugout. Managers or Coaches are not allowed to sit, stand, or be behind home plate or backstop while the game is in play.

10. Players may be borrowed from lower divisions to fill in on your team if you are short of players. Borrowed players may play any position. They must wear their team's jersey and they must bat at the bottom of the order. Any borrowed player must sit before any rostered team player. Borrowed players may play three defensive innings but must be rotated in by using a different rostered team player each inning.

11. If you do not have enough girls (8) to start an official game 20 minutes after your scheduled game time, it will result in a forfeit. You may still play a practice game.

12. If, for some reason, an umpire does not show up for your game, both team managers will have to agree on someone to officiate the game. If this happens, the home team manager will be responsible for notifying the Umpire Coordinator for payment to the person who umpired the game.

13. The home team manager will notify the Umpire Coordinator if no umpire shows up to umpire their game.

14. For a rescheduled or suspended game date, the HOME team manager will contact the Umpire Coordinator within 48 hrs from the scheduled game time (for field assignment). The Umpire Coordinator will notify the managers of the make-up time and date.

15. The WINNING TEAM manager will communicate the results (SCORE) of the game to the Division VP A.S.A.P.

16. There will be no singing, chanting or verbal communication directed towards the opposing team, members of the team, or attendees of the game. There will be no verbal communication from a parent or attendee from the stands directed towards the opposing team, members of the team, or attendees of the opposing team. Any unsportsmanlike conduct (discretion of the Umpire) may lead to ejection from the game for any manager, coach, player, or attendee. They must leave the park entirely until the conclusion of the game. Failure to do so or further incidents is subject to forfeiture of the game by the offending team. If both teams are involved it will result in a double forfeiture.

17. Multi walled bats are not allowed in the McHenry Pigtail Softball League.

18. The team managers are responsible for making sure all attendees connected in any way to their team act in accordance with the league rules. Failure to do so will result in ejections or possible forfeiture of the game.

21. A manager or coach may request a time out but may not enter the playing field until the Umpire has granted time out.

22. Only rule interpretations may be discussed with an Umpire. This will be done ONLY by the team

manager or an official team representative. This must be done in a discrete manner. After requesting a time out and it being granted, approach and talk to the Umpire in a calm manner. Judgment calls cannot be argued or protested.

23. A team manager will notify the Umpire Coordinator and Division VP with any complaints of the umpires in writing.

24. No protests are allowed at any MPL games.

25. All attendees shall not smoke within city parks according to the city ordinance.

**NO SMOKING ON PUBLIC SCHOOL GROUNDS.**

26. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed.

27. There will be an All Star game played at the end of the season. All-star selection process- vote by players.

28. International tiebreaker rule is as followed: The last batted out will be placed on second base. The count will start with one strike, one ball, and one out. An inning will be played until the third out. Both visitors and the home team will complete the inning. For playoff games only, Each additional inning will begin the same way until a winner is declared. For the purpose of regular season games only. Limit one inning will be played no matter if the game ends in a tie.

All rule exceptions/changes must be submitted to the McHenry Pigtail Softball League Board of Directors/Rules Committee. No change will take effect until the following season after being adopted by the McHenry Pigtail Rules Committee/Board of Directors unless special circumstances arise that the Board feels need to be addressed immediately.