

**Franklin Girls Softball Association 2021**  
**Minor Division Rules**

<b>Rule(s) Description</b>	<b>Minor Division</b>
USA Softball Rules and Regulations followed. Specific league rules are as follows.	X
6 inning games. No new inning to start 1 hour 40 minutes after start time.	X
All playoff games will be played with no time limit. International Tie Breaker will be used to decide winner if game is tied after 6 complete innings.	
4 run limit per inning, excluding 6 <sup>th</sup> or last declared inning.	X
Game is considered complete after 3.5 innings if home team is ahead or 4 innings if visitor is ahead.	X
8 players needed to start and end game.	X
10 fielders with 4 outfielders, each of whom must start on the grass (except the last inning one additional infielder may be used instead of a 4th outfielder)	X
11-inch Stamped ASA ball and 35 feet pitching distance	X
Free substitution of players in the field	X
Mercy Rule: 12 runs after 5 innings	X
Maximum of 3 innings per pitcher. Pitcher may re-enter	X
If Batter is hit by pitch, they may take their base or stay at bat. Pitch will be a "ball"	X
Pitcher cannot walk in a run. After ball four, with the bases loaded, an offensive coach will come in and pitch to the player until the batter strikes out or puts the ball in play. Exception is if player gets Direct Hit by Pitch "No Bounce" with bases loaded and takes first base.	X
Pitcher shall be removed from pitching after directly hitting 3 batters in an inning or 5 in the course of the game (bounced pitches will not count).	X
Continuous batting order. All non-injured players present will bat.	X
If player becomes injured, they will skip their next at bat. Not an "Out."	X
If player is ejected, then subsequent at bats for player ejected will be an "Out"	X
Players who arrive after the start of the game will be added to the end of the order.	X
Courtesy runner can be used for catcher or pitcher on record who is returning to that position the following inning. Courtesy runner is the player who was the last batter in the previous inning. and second to last batter of the previous inning if both pitcher and catcher are on base at the same time).	X
Base stealing Is allowed, except for home	X
Runners may leave the base on release from the pitcher's hand	X
No stealing if team at bat is up by 10 or more runs.	X
No Infield fly rule in effect	X
No Drop Third Strike	X
No Slashing.	X
No Slap hitting and drag bunting are allowed	X
Facemasks are required for all players in the field	X
Base runners may advance one base on an overthrow	X
Base stealer may not advance if ball is overthrown on successful steal	X
No Continuation on a walk	X

**Special Playing Rules (All upper divisions)**

- o Minimum of eight players required to start the game. (scrimmage regardless of forfeit)
- o Games must start once the scheduled start time is reached and both teams have the minimum number of players.
- o All players bat - a continuous batting order will be used. Players who arrive after the start of the game will be added to the end of the order.
- o Free substitution of players in the field
- o All players must play an equal amount of time in the field each game. No player will be on the bench for 2 consecutive innings and all players must play a minimum of 2 innings in the infield.
- o Players must slide or avoid contact. All sliding rule decisions are at the discretion of the umpire.
- o Courtesy runner can be used for catcher or pitcher on record who is returning to that position the following inning. Courtesy runner is the player who was the last batter in the previous inning. and second to last batter of the previous inning if both pitcher and catcher are on base at the same time).