

## 2026 Minor 1 Coach pitch—Girls Softball

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### Pre-Game Guidelines:

- **Little League Pledge:** Must be read before each game.
  - **Start Times:**
    - Weekday games begin promptly at **6:00 PM**.
    - Saturday games start at the **scheduled time**.
  - **Time Limit:**
    - No new inning may start after **1 hour and 15 minutes**.
    - Games will not exceed **1 hour and 30 minutes**.
  - **Home Team Responsibilities:**
    - The **home team** is the second team listed on the schedule and will bat last.
    - The home coach should arrive early to:
      - Set up the pitching machine.
      - Line and prepare the field.
    - Bases must be set at **50 feet**.
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### Batting Rules:

- **Pitch Limit:**
    - Each batter receives **7 pitches** unless they hit a **foul tip** on the 7th pitch—then they may continue.
    - **Out Rule:** If a batter does not hit within **7 pitches**, they are out (applies to 7 total pitches, not 7 swings).
  - **Post-May 15th Rule:**
    - Starting **May 15th**, **3 swinging strikes** will be considered an out.
  - **No Tees or Walks:**
    - Batters cannot use a tee, and **walks** are not allowed.
  - **Hard Balls Only:**
    - **No "softie" balls** are permitted—only standard **hard baseballs or softballs** are allowed.
  - **No On-Deck Batters:**
    - Players must remain in the **dugout** until it is their turn to bat.
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### Base Running Rules:

- **No Stealing or Leading Off:**
    - Runners cannot **steal bases** or **lead off**.
  - **Base Advancement:**
    - Players may advance **one base per hit**, unless:
      - **Ball hit in the air to the outfield:** The batter and base runners may advance **two bases** at their own risk.
      - **Ball on the ground passing an outfielder:** Players may also advance **two bases**.
  - **5-Run Limit:**
    - Each inning has a **5-run maximum**.
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### Fielding Rules:

- **Player Participation:**
  - All players must be **in the game** at all times.
  - A maximum of **6 players** in the infield; remaining players should be positioned in the **outfield grass**.

- **Team Size:**
    - **No forfeits**—games will be played regardless of the number of players present.
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**Pitching Machine & Coach Pitch Guidelines:**

- **Coach Pitching:**
    - Coaches must pitch within **3 feet** of the mound/machine.
    - **Only an adult** may operate the pitching machine.
  - **Dead Ball Rule:**
    - If a batted ball **hits the pitching machine, bucket, or coach**, it is a **dead ball**.
  - **Ball Return:**
    - All **7 pitches** must be thrown before returning the ball to the pitcher.
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**Game Cancellation Policy:**

- **Only the League President or Vice President** has the authority to cancel a game.
  - Contact them first if you believe a game should be canceled.