

Rule and policy reminders for Highland Softball - Majors



1. Dropped 3rd strike: a batter can steal first on a dropped third strike but only if first base is not occupied prior to the 3rd strike pitch.
2. The 5 run rule: a team may not score more than 5 runs in an inning unless the extra runs are scored as the result of a double, triple or home run.
3. Game time/inning limit: games are scheduled for 90 minutes or 6 innings but a new inning cannot be started after after 75 minutes. (Coaches and umpires should agree on start time at the beginning of each game to align on time management. If there is no game scheduled on your field following your game coaches can agree to play all six innings or extra if tied.)
4. A minimum of 3 innings must be completed to register a final score. If weather prevents you from completing 3 innings please work with the opposing coach to continue the game another night.
5. Advancement of runners: runners cannot advance once the ball is returned to the pitcher's circle and is in control by the defense (this rule encourages players to field with urgency and return the ball to the pitcher ASAP)
6. Advancing on an overthrow that leaves the field of play: runners may only advance one base if the ball is thrown out of play.
7. Sliding in to home when there is a play at the plate: umpires may call a runner out if there is a play at the plate and the runner does not slide. This call is at the discretion of the umpire and will usually be called an out if the ump views the play as dangerous. (For safety reasons we need players to learn the art of sliding to avoid collisions. This is a more common out at the Travel and high school level games so we need to teach and encourage our players to slide when appropriate.)
8. Coaches approaching the mound: travel and high school levels have strict rules around this. In majors please limit discussions on the mound to one per game. If there is a pitcher struggling please give the opportunity to pitch to another player.
9. Defensive rotation: we do not use a grid at the Majors level. It's at the coaches discretion as to which positions the players are assigned but please keep in mind the Majors league is intended to develop the players, therefore, some player rotation is strongly encouraged.
10. Players in the dugout: all bench players must remain in the dugout unless at bat/on deck. (Coaches please remind/enforce this habit with your players. This too is a strict rule at the higher levels of play and we want to foster good habits).
11. All players bat, even if not playing in the field. Coaches can set different batting lineups each game but please set a batting lineup with all players for each game.
12. Stealing is allowed. Runners cannot leave the base until the ball leaves the pitchers hand. No leading off.
13. The umpire staff consists of local youth who are learning the craft of umpiring. Please set an example for your players and parents by showing respect to our umps.
14. As a common courtesy Coaches should confirm with each other and align on the number of runs scored each half inning.
15. At the conclusion of a game the final score should be entered into the SportsNgin app by the winning coach.
16. Keep it light, this should be fun for the players and the coaches especially at this age. If the kids aren't having fun, they won't have long softball careers.