

# 2020 Softball Rulebook



## HOWELL AREA JUNIOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION – SOFTBALL GENERAL RULES

## **1.0 Purpose**

1.01 The purpose of the HAJBA program is to provide the Livingston County area youth, ages 6-17, an opportunity to play organized baseball, softball, and t-ball with emphasis on good sportsmanship, citizenship, fellowship, and the development of baseball/softball skills.

1.02 UNDER ARTICLE 7.1.1 of the bylaws of the Howell Area Junior Baseball Association, Inc., "the board of directors reserves the right to change any rule at any time."

## **2.0 TEAM SELECTION - DRAFT AND DRAW PROCEDURES**

2.01 age groups - (As of January 1 of the current season/year)

Bantam (8U) softball 6 – 8 years old

Midget (11U) softball 9 –11 years old

Minor (13U) softball 11 – 13 years old

Major (17U) softball 14 – 17 years old

2.02 Teams will be formed by means of an open draft, (Midget (11U), Minor (13U) and Major (17U)) or blind draw (Bantam (8U))

2.03 Head or assistant coaches returning to the same division will retain players from the previous season that are still eligible for that division, and choose to return to the same team/coach. These teams will draft or draw the amount of players to fill their rosters.

2.03a If a Head Coach moves up to the next division and the Assistant coach, returns to the same team as the Head Coach, the team may retain players from the previous season that are still eligible for that division, and choose to return to the same team/coach. These teams will draft or draw the amount of players to fill their rosters. - Rule 2.11 still applies - If the team sponsor changes, the sponsor player will not be placed automatically on the team

2.04 Managers will be supplied a complete listing of players names for their league.

2.05 Prior to the open draft, Midget(11U), Minor (13U) and Major (17U) softball managers will be provided sufficient opportunity to observe players during an evaluation. Players that do not attend player evaluations will not be available for drafting. They will be added to a team via blind draw only.

2.06 Head Coaches may protect players prior to draft. Protected players must be the immediate family relative of the Head Coach and assistant coach. Protected players must be used by the fourth round and must be designated prior to evaluations. Protected players cannot be late registrations.

2.06a Head Coaches may receive an additional protected player if they bring their own NEW team sponsor to HAJBA (with a commitment prior to MARCH 1 of the calendar year). Each team may only have one sponsor protected player per season. All protected sponsor players must be chosen, with parent/guardian approval PRIOR to player evaluations.

2.07 Trading players or draft/draw position is strictly prohibited.

2.08 Managers will draw numbers to determine their position in the draft/draw. The following is an example of the first three rounds of a four-team league draft/draw.

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
1	4	1
2	3	2
3	2	3
4	1	4

2.09 After the last "full" round of draftees is completed, any remaining draft selections must be entered into a "blind draw" with players who did not attend league evaluations.

2.10 Attendance at the draft/draw meeting will be managers, coaches, commissioners, and other league officials involved in administering the draft/draw procedure. Players may not attend draft meetings under any circumstances. No exceptions.

2.11 If your team sponsor from last season is not sponsoring your team this season, the child associated with that team sponsorship from last season will be put back into the draft process and not be placed automatically on your team.

2.12 If you were a head coach/manager/assistant coach for a team last season, and you are not returning as a head coach/manager/assistant coach this season, in the same division, your child will be put back into the draft/draw process and not be automatically placed on the previous team.

### **3.0 Teams**

3.01 All league teams will have a maximum of fourteen, (14), players per team except Co-ed T-ball, which will have a maximum of twelve, (12), players per team. See HAJBA Baseball Rules for T-ball rules.

3.02 Players issued uniforms must be in complete uniform, including hat and socks during their games. Shirts must be tucked in during the game. Penalty: the player will be required to tuck shirt in, in order to be allowed to play. Managers and coaches are not required to wear uniforms. All managers and coaches on the field are RECOMMENDED to wear shirts that match with their team's jersey color, or at worse, do not wear the color of the opposing team.

### **4.0 Players**

4.01 All registrants must present a birth certificate to a board member within 24 hours if any player's age is challenged.

4.02 It is the responsibility of each parent to be sure their player is properly and safely equipped. All bats will meet appropriate standards for the division. All helmets will be crack-free and in good condition.

4.03 Bantam (8U) softball teams will be formed utilizing the blind draw selection procedure. Midget (11U), Minor (13U) and Major (17U) softball teams will be formed utilizing an evaluation, draft, and draw selection procedure.

### **5.0 Coaches and Volunteers**

5.01 The manager must report to a league board member before any discipline will be handed out to a player. This action must be reported to the opposing manager and the umpire before the start of the game.

5.02 Application of release must be approved by the HAJBA board of directors before a player can be released by the team manager for insubordination, misconduct, etc.

5.03 Only the Head Coach or acting Head Coach is permitted to discuss calls by the umpire. There will be absolutely no discussion regarding judgment calls. The umpires are instructed to eject from the game anyone who does not conduct him or herself properly. If a Head Coach, assistant, or volunteer insists on arguing a judgment call with an umpire, after one (1) warning, that person may be ejected for the remainder of the game. If a Head Coach, assistant, or volunteer receives more than one ejection during the season, the HAJBA board of directors will review his/her position.

5.04 Managers and coaches will refrain from acting out a role as an umpire on the playing field for the purpose of swaying an umpire's decision. Umpires may eject a manager or coach for these actions.

5.05 Any adults that are allowed on the field as Head Coach, coach or volunteer assistant must set a good example for all youth to follow.

5.06 Head coaches are vested with the ultimate responsibility for the team. Assistant Coaches (approved by HAJBA) assist the managers. Volunteer parent coaches (non-HAJBA approved volunteers) may assist the manager and assistant coaches; however have no official on-field authorities and may not operate a team without the prior consent of the league commissioner and notification of the opposing coaches and umpires at game time.

5.06a This includes a Head Coach's responsibility for the behavior of their team's parents and fans in attendance at his or her game. If someone outside of the fence behaves inappropriately, umpires may direct the Head Coach to resolve the issue.

5.07 All candidates for managing or coaching positions must be approved by the board of directors and will be subjected to a criminal background check. Coaching and managing applications may be denied by a vote of the board of directors due to the results of the background check, because of a previous HAJBA "warning" or suspension for inappropriate conduct; or if it is determined that it is in the best interest of the players. Individuals also can be removed from consideration if it can be determined that an individual doesn't possess the knowledge or skills to coach the youth athletes at a satisfactory level and/or lack of available coaching openings.

5.08 If there are more head coach applicants than head coaching positions available, head coaches shall be selected in the order of these criteria (assuming they have met all criterion of HAJBA rule 5.07):

- Head coach applicants that are head coaches in another division of baseball or softball that same season shall be removed from consideration.
- First priority: head coaches in the same division in that sport the previous year.
- Second priority: qualified assistant coaches in the same division in that sport the previous year.
- Third priority: head coaches in another division in that sport the previous year.
- Fourth priority: qualified assistant coaches in another division of that sport the previous year.
- Fifth priority: parents or legal guardian of player on team
- Sixth priority: family member of player on team (i.e., brother/sister, grandparent, uncle/aunt).
- Seventh priority: community member with no familial ties to any players.
- Eighth priority: a non-community member.

## **6.0 Schedules**

6.01 A schedule of practices, regular season games, and postseason in-house tournaments will be prepared by the association. There will be no unauthorized revisions of these schedules.

6.02 The regular schedule will provide for not less than one (1) game per team per week.

6.03 In most cases, cancellation of games will not be made prior to official game time. Teams are to report to their scheduled field by game time or risk loss by forfeit. Should the decision to cancel a game be made prior to official game time, the HAJBA board will do its best to notify players and coaches via the HAJBA website, text message, an email, and social media when possible.

6.04 Rescheduling of rained out, postponed, or suspended games is at the discretion of the HAJBA director of scheduling/HAJBA Board. Many factors are involved in determining when and where a rained out, postponed, or suspended game will be played. Make-up and rescheduled games are posted on the HAJBA website. It is the coach's responsibility to check for their make-up games to inform their players.

Please note: in many cases, these games will be scheduled to take place on a Saturday, but this will not be the case for all situations. We are not able to honor requests from coaches for these games to be made up at a specific date/time. The date/time of these games will be determined solely by the director of scheduling/HAJBA Board. In some instances, a coach/team may have only one day's notice concerning a rescheduled game. Due to the number of games we schedule each season, it is important that we get any rained out, postponed, or suspended games rescheduled as soon as possible to allow for any future games that may be rained out, postponed, or suspended.

## **7.0 Games, forfeits, and suspensions**

7.01 All games will start at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise scheduled. Tie games will be played to completion, (see rule 7.07), daylight and weather permitting.

7.02 Game time starts when the umpire calls out the game time prior to saying play ball, before the first pitch. The game time will be marked in both scorebooks.

7.03 The first team listed in the scheduled game will be the visiting team and will use the first base dugout. The second team listed will be the home team and will use the third base dugout.

7.04 If a pre-game practice is desired the following schedule will be used:

The visiting team will have the field for 15 minutes beginning 35 minutes before game time.

The home team will have the field for 15 minutes beginning 20 minutes before game time.

Upon agreement of both managers, pre-game practice may vary.

In every case, teams must vacate the field 5 minutes before game time.

7.05 If either or both teams are not prepared to play fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled starting time, the game will be declared a forfeit for one or both teams.

7.06 Umpires, managers, coaches, and team captains, (if applicable), will meet at home plate five (5) minutes before game time to review the ground rules of the game. No changes of this rulebook can be made by the umpires, managers, or coaches.

7.07 In the event of a tied score at the end of regulation play (complete innings or time limit) the umpire will inform the manager of each team that the tie breaker rule will be invoked as follows: each team shall begin their offensive half of the next inning with a runner on second base and one (1) outs. This runner will be the last player to bat in the offensive team's previous inning. The same situation shall be used each inning until the tie is broken and the inning is complete.

7.08 In the event of inclement weather only the board member of the day can cancel games and completion will follow section 6.04.

7.09 If a game is suspended, due to darkness or weather, any players on a team's roster will be allowed to play in the game upon continuation. If a team has a call-up player(s) in the line-up to start the game, they will not be penalized with outs if the call-up player(s) do not play or if different call-up players replace them.

7.10 The Home team scorebook (paper book or electronic version) is considered the official scorebook for any discrepancies.

7.11 The manager of the winning team is responsible for reporting the score of the game to the league commissioner within 24 hours of the completion of the game. Managers may email, text, leave a voicemail for the league commissioner with the score details. (Home team, coach, score and Visiting team, coach and score)

## **8.0 Field decorum**

8.01 Players, managers, coaches, umpires, spectators, and league officials must conduct themselves with dignity at all times.

8.02 If a dispute arises during the game, the Head Coach(es) and the umpire(s) will meet in front of home plate to discuss and resolve the matter.

8.03 Only uniformed players, managers, coaches, and umpires will be permitted within the confines of the playing field during games. During the game, all players, managers, and coaches must remain in the dugout unless active in the course of the game.

8.04 Smoking, any use of tobacco, or consumption of alcoholic beverages will not be permitted on the school property of which any HAJBA games are taking place.

8.05 Anyone arriving at any HAJBA practice, game, or function, believed to be intoxicated, will be reported to the Howell Police Department or Livingston County Sheriff.

8.06 Alcoholic beverages and any beverages that resemble an alcoholic beverage are not permitted on the facilities! Violators will be reported to the Howell Police Department or Livingston County Sheriff.

8.07 To comply with school rules and for safety reasons, dogs, cats, or other pets are not allowed at the facilities at any time.

8.08 Head coaches are responsible for the behavior of the team's parents and fans in attendance at their game.

8.09 No hitting softballs into fences at any field. Hitting wiffle balls into fences is acceptable.

## **9.0 Equipment**

9.01 Team members must wear uniforms provided by the HAJBA. Players are responsible for their own uniforms.

9.02 Each team must provide batting helmets, which may be furnished by HAJBA. If other helmets are used they must meet the NOCSAE standard.

9.03 The batter, on-deck batter, and all base runners must wear a batting helmet with face mask.

9.04 Catchers must wear catching helmets and masks with a throat protector properly secured, chest protector, and shin guards.

9.05 Players may wear athletic shoes or shoes with molded rubber cleats only. Metal cleats are prohibited.

9.06 If a problem arises where one team is not properly equipped, the opposing team must share their equipment.

9.08 Any player, manager, or coach abusing the equipment or any property owned or used by the HAJBA is subject to suspension.

## **10.0 Protests**

10.01 Protests will be considered only when based on a violation or interpretation of a playing rule or the use of an ineligible player. No protests pertaining to judgment calls will be considered. Equipment which does not meet specifications must be removed from the game and will not be a basis for protest based upon the prior use of such equipment.

10.02 The manager, or his/her coach in his/her absence, will have the right to protest a game.

10.03 Protests will be made as follows:

- The protesting manager must immediately, and before any succeeding play begins, notify the umpire that the game is being played under protest and why.
- Both scorebooks need to be matched to the status of the game at the point, including score, line-up, runners on base and pitcher at the time of the play being protested. If there is a HAJBA board member or division commissioner (that does not have a family connection to the teams playing) available on site at the time of the call, the complaint should be handled immediately, if there is a specific rule that can be confirmed as being called incorrectly.
- If no HAJBA board member is immediately available, the umpire will announce that the game is being played under protest. Failure of the umpire to make such an announcement will not affect the validity of the protest.
- Protests may only be on an incorrect application of the rules, not on any judgment calls by any umpires.

10.04 Protests made due to the use of an ineligible player must be considered only if made known to the umpire before the final out of the game. If ever it is found that an ineligible player is being used, said player will be removed from the game and the game will continue under protest.

10.05 All protests, for any reason, must be submitted by the manager, in writing (email is acceptable) to the HAJBA President, League Division Commissioner and Umpire-in-Chief within twenty-four (24) hours from the end of the game being protested.

10.06 A committee composed of the President and two (2) or more other officers or directors that are not managers or coaches of the teams involved, or umpire of said game, will hear and resolve any such protests. If the protest is allowed, the protest board may order the game to resume from the point at which the infraction occurred.

10.07 Protests do not pertain to infractions or regulations such as field decorum or actions of league personnel or spectators, although these must be considered and resolved by the HAJBA board of directors.

10.08 Precautions should be taken to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offender should be notified immediately. (Example: should a league official, manager, score keeper, or umpire discover a pitcher is ineligible at the beginning of a game, or will become ineligible during the game, or at the start of the next inning of play, it should be brought to the attention of the manager of the team involved. Such action should not be delayed until the infraction has occurred.) Managers should take precautions to insure that violations do not occur. Managers and coaches must remember that they are responsible to set a good example for the youth.

### **11.0 Call-up procedure rules**

11.01 In the event of possibly not having enough players, teams may call-up a maximum of three (3) players from the immediate lower league for the purpose of fielding a team of ten (10) players.

11.02 The league commissioner will work to find call-up players from the next lower division, however, CALL-UP PLAYERS ARE NOT GUARANTEED. To increase the likelihood of being able to secure call-up players, coaches should contact their league commissioner (or another board member) AS SOON AS the need is known. Coaches requesting call-up players the day of the game risk not having players available. At 15 minutes before game time, the opportunity to request Call-up players has closed.

11.03 Call-up players cannot pitch.

11.04 The league commissioner of the next lower league must assign all call-ups. If the league commissioner is not available, a current season board member can assign the needed call-ups.

11.05 The league commissioner is required to abide by and utilize the call-up procedure.

11.06 Call-up players will have the same rights to play in the field and be included in the batting order as the regular players.

11.07 A player may be used as a call-up no more than once per week if they have two (2) regularly scheduled games during the same week. They may be utilized as a call-up twice in a week if they have only one (1) regularly scheduled game.

11.08 When requesting call-up players, the requesting manager must notify his commissioner with the names of the regular players who will be absent. Those regular players will be considered absent and will be ineligible to play in that game, on that day. If the game is suspended or postponed by weather, all

players are eligible to play or be added to the bottom of the line-up. Different call-up players may be used, if needed, by the team.

11.09 Any violation of the call-up procedure rules, or rules governing the use of call-ups, will result in forfeiture of the game.

11.10 Call-up players attending a game must meet minimum play requirements and remain in the batting order for the entire game.

## **12.0 Sportsmanship**

12.01 The object of the HAJBA is to instill in our youth the value of good sportsmanship providing fundamental instruction in the game of baseball and softball.

12.02 Managers or coaches will not participate in or allow any arguing with umpires, or harassment of the opposing team by players or any other person(s). This includes clapping, talking or communicating in any fashion to any opposing pitcher, fielders, batters or runners in an attempt to distract during time of play. Please see the HAJBA code of conduct, which is located at [www.howellbaseball.org](http://www.howellbaseball.org) for additional information. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach affiliated with the offending individual to bring this rule to the offender's attention, parent or otherwise. We must promote a standard of fair play and good sportsmanship for the youth to follow.

## **13.0 Parents role**

13.01 Parents are encouraged to accept responsibility and take initiative to ensure the success of the program. The HAJBA is a nonprofit voluntary effort supervised and assisted by parents. We must all become involved. Please see the HAJBA code of conduct, which is located at [www.howellbaseball.org](http://www.howellbaseball.org) for additional information.

## **14.0 Safety code**

14.01 If a game is cancelled due to inclement weather or unsafe playing conditions, no practice may be held on that field.

14.02 Only background checked adults, players, and umpires are allowed on the playing field during games or practices.

14.03 Coaches must inspect equipment regularly to ensure proper fit and repair.

14.04 Batters, on-deck batters, and base runners must wear protective helmets both during games and practices.

14.05 Horseplay is absolutely prohibited.

14.06 Players who must wear glasses are encouraged to wear safety glasses.

14.07 Players are not permitted to wear jewelry. Exceptions are religious or medical jewelry.

14.08 Catchers must wear face masks while warming up pitchers both between innings and in bullpen practices.

14.09 Motor vehicle drivers must use extreme caution when driving near the facilities. Absolutely no motor vehicles are allowed on the facility. (Exceptions: HAJBA president, equipment manager,

concessions supervisor, or special projects vehicles.)

14.10 The league will make no transportation arrangements.

14.11 Players must be taught to exercise caution and abide by the rules during practices and games. Special attention should be paid to the swinging of bats and the throwing of balls to avoid injury to other players or spectators.

14.12 Head coaches are responsible for the safety of their players and the fans. Swinging a bat outside the confines of the playing field is absolutely prohibited. The only players swinging bats, during games, will be the batter and the player in the on-deck circle. In the event a player illegally swings a bat, inside or outside the confines of the playing field, the umpire will warn the Head coach once. Subsequent penalty may result in the Head coach being ejected for breaking this rule.

14.13 No players may warm-up throwing outside the confines of the playing area. (Exception: where bullpens for warming-up pitchers are assigned under particular league rules.)

14.14 If a game is suspended for any purpose and a pitcher has pitched the maximum number of outs allowed per game. He/she will not be allowed to pitch during the resumption of the game. If a pitcher has not pitched the maximum number of outs allowed, he/she may resume pitching until reaching the maximum number. Assuming they have not already reached their maximum during regularly scheduled games prior.

## **15.0 Team manager and coach selection**

15.01 The commissioner of each league must submit the name of each person that has volunteered to manage a team for board approval. Each year all managers must be approved by the board of directors. The board reserves the right to accept, reject, or remove any person as manager.

15.02 Board considerations shall be based on honesty, integrity, fairness, sportsmanship, knowledge of and ability to teach baseball and softball.

15.03 Each team manager (Head Coach) may select one (1) assistant coach. Each coach's name must be given to the league commissioner. The commissioner will submit all coach's names for board approval before player evaluations and player draws. Co-ed T-ball and Bantam (8U) divisions are allowed two (2) assistant coaches.

15.04 It will be the responsibility of each league commissioner to alert the board of any manager or coach that does not meet any of the above. The board will then determine, by majority of the total board members, one (1) of the following courses of action:

- The manager/coach will be removed for one (1) year from participating in any capacity.
- The manager/coach will be subject to other action to be determined by the board. Please see the HAJBA code of conduct which is located at [www.howellbaseball.org](http://www.howellbaseball.org) for additional information.

## **16.0 Regular season standings**

16.01 All ties in the final standings will be broken by application of the following format:

- winner of head-to-head competition
- the team with the best record against common opponents

- the team that allowed the least runs in head-to-head competition
- the team that allowed the least runs overall
- when possible, if the previous four options does not break the tie, the executive board will make their best effort to schedule a playoff game
- If a game is unable to be scheduled, the winner of a coin toss by the league commissioner gets the higher standing

16.02 No standings will be kept in Co-ed T-ball.

16.03 League Championship Trophies will be provided to the first, second, and third place teams in each division of every league except TBall. Leagues of three (3) or four (4) teams will receive only 1st and 2nd place trophies. Leagues greater than or equal to five (5) teams will receive 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies. Exceptions to this will be made in leagues where two divisions exist. In this case, each 1st and 2nd place teams from each division will receive a trophy. Two (2) teams or smaller divisions will not receive trophies.

16.04 Participation trophies will be provided for all players in T-ball.

### **17.0 Post season tournament**

17.01 After the completion of the regular season schedule, a postseason single or double game elimination tournament may be conducted for all teams in all leagues, except T-ball.

### **18.0 Ejection rules**

18.01 When a player is ejected during a game for unsportsmanlike conduct, that player shall be withheld by his/her manager/coach from participating in that team's next game. Please see the HAJBA code of conduct, which is located at [www.howellbaseball.org](http://www.howellbaseball.org) for additional information.

18.02 When a manager or coach is ejected during a game for unsportsmanlike conduct, that manager/coach shall be prohibited by the HAJBA from coaching or attending at least that team's next game. Please see the HAJBA code of conduct, which is located at [www.howellbaseball.org](http://www.howellbaseball.org) for additional information.

18.03 Failure to comply with rules 18.01 and 18.02 may result in forfeiture of that team's game or the ejected individual's dismissal for the season, or both.

### **19.0 Ejection procedure**

19.01 The umpire shall announce the ejection of a player by number. The umpire shall not make physical contact with the player but shall attempt eye contact at a distance not closer than six (6) feet from the individual.

19.02 The ejected player shall go immediately to the bench and to the manager.

19.03 One (1) game umpire will go to the baseline nearest the ejected players' dugout, make eye contact with the manager, and announce that the player, (identified by number), has been ejected from the game and state the reason.

19.04 Unless the ejected player creates a disturbance, they may remain on the bench.

19.05 The ejection of a manager or coach requires that the umpire approach the manager/coach, announce the ejection to the manager/coach, and request that the manager/coach leave the competition area. An ejected manager/coach will not be allowed to become a spectator.

19.06 Following the game, the umpire shall contact the HAJBA umpire-in-chief and president and league commissioner, to advise the league of the ejection. Contact may be made after the game if one (1) of the mentioned league administrators is present or by phone or email within twenty-four (24) hours.

19.07 Reports may contain more than one (1) incident from the same game for players, managers, and coaches of the same team. A separate report must be made for each team.

19.08 Any player or coach ejected from a game can be subject to additional penalties, suspension or removal from play for the season by the HAJBA Board of Directors following a review.

#### **40.0 HAJBA Bantam (8U) softball league playing rules**

40.1 Current official national federation high school rules with the following exceptions and provisions.

40.02 Managers or coaches will not participate in or allow any arguing with umpires, or harassment of the opposing team by players or any other person(s). This includes clapping, talking or communicating in any fashion to any pitcher, fielders, batters or runners in an attempt to distract during time of play. Please see the HAJBA code of conduct, which is located at [www.howellbaseball.org](http://www.howellbaseball.org) for additional information. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach affiliated with the offending individual to bring this rule to the offender's attention. We must promote a standard of fair play and good sportsmanship for the youth to follow.

40.03 Official Bantam (8U) softball league game shall consist of six (6) innings. No new inning may begin after two (2) hours from the start of the game. In the event of a tie see HAJBA rule 7.07. If at, or beyond, the two (2) hour time limit, in third (3rd) inning or beyond, and the home team is ahead, and is at bat, the game shall be stopped and declared a complete game.

40.03a In a six (6) inning game, if necessary to be stopped, for weather or curfew, a game is considered a complete (regulation game) after four (4) complete innings, regardless of which team is winning, or after three and one half (3 1/2) innings if the home team is winning.

40.03b Any game called because of weather or curfew, which is not a regulation game, will be considered a suspended game and will be completed at a later date when possible based on scheduling. (See general rule 6.04)

40.03c In case of a tie after six (6) innings, the game will continue until no longer able to play, due to weather or curfew. (See rule 7.07.)

40.04 Players arriving more than 30 minutes after the first pitch are not required to meet the minimum play requirements.

40.05 Players are not allowed to play in games while wearing a cast.

40.06 Players leaving for anything other than an injury or illness will be considered out when it is their time to bat (this includes ejections).

40.07 Every player on the team who is present for the game will play a minimum of five (5) innings defensively on an official six (6) inning game. Two (2) innings minimum must be in the outfield or at catcher. The “penalty” for violating this rule will be the loss of HAJBA coaching privileges for future seasons. We as a board do not have the staff to monitor player rotation during games, and we count on the integrity of our coaches to ensure it is followed.

40.08 Each player on the team, who is present for the game, will be included in the batting order and take her turn at bat for the entire game, even though they are not playing defensively.

40.09 Players must bat in the same order throughout the game whether or not they are playing defensively. No order changes will be made to the line-up after it is turned in. Tardy players must be added to the end of the line-up.

40.10 One-half (1/2) inning is three outs or batting a team’s lineup once. Each team will have an equal number of roster batters in any half inning. (Example: if three (3) outs are not achieved and team #1 has fourteen (14) players and team #2 has thirteen (13) players, the number one batter in that inning on team #2 may bat again to equal the number of batters in team #1’s lineup). The ball is dead and the half inning ends when the batter’s progress ceases. This rule is in effect for all innings, except the 6th inning. See Rule 40.10a

40.10a Scoring in the 6th inning is unlimited. During the 6th inning, each team will continue to bat until three (3) outs have been reached, or the outcome of the game has been decided.

40.11 Teams will play ten (10) players at a time defensively. The tenth player must be an outfielder, thus playing four (4) outfielders. A team may start the game with a minimum of eight (8) players. In the event a ninth player does not join the game, an out will be assessed in the ninth player batting order of the same team. In the event of injuries, the game may be completed with eight (8) players and an out will not be assessed in that players’ spot. Less than eight (8) players will result in a forfeit. (In years with 13 on the roster, HAJBA has offered opportunity for teams to play 5 outfielders - this DOES NOT apply in 2017)

40.12 A difference of fifteen (15) runs at the end of four (4) innings will constitute a complete game. (three and one half (3 ½) if the home team is ahead), or a difference of ten (10) runs after five (5) innings will constitute a complete game. (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead).

40.13 The only players swinging bats will be the batter and the player in the on-deck circle. In the event a player illegally swings a bat within the confines of the playing field, the player will be warned once by the umpire. The second team offense is an automatic out.

40.14 Swinging a bat outside the confines of the playing field is absolutely prohibited. Penalty: ejection from the game.

40.15 The designated hitter rule does not apply.

40.16 Base runners are not allowed to steal bases.

40.17 Base runners may not leave the base until the ball crosses the plate. Penalty: the runner is out, and play continues.

40.18 The batter is out on the third strike, even if the catcher does not catch the ball.

40.19 The infield fly rule does not apply.

40.20 In the event that the ball is hit to the outfield, the runners may advance bases until the ball crosses the baselines (the baselines being the imaginary straight line connecting first and second base and second and third base) at this time, any runner past the halfway mark will advance to the base, any runner not to the half-way mark must return to the last base passed. If a conflict should result due to two (2) or more base runners reaching or not reaching the half-way mark, all base runners in this conflict will advance or return to a base coincident to the results of the furthest base runner.

40.21 During the course of the game, the ball becomes dead, and play is stopped if the ball is thrown to a defensive player attempting to make an out at any base and the ball is either overthrown or uncaught by the defensive player. The runners will proceed to the next base if the runner started to advance to the next base at the time of the overthrown or uncaught ball. If a conflict should result, the base runner(s) will be given the bases(s).

40.22 The batter is awarded a hit when an injury occurs to a defensive player attempting to field a batted ball. The batter will be awarded a ground rule single when the injury is to an infielder and a ground rule double when the injury is to an outfielder.

40.23 Pinch runners may only be used in cases of injury.

40.24 An injured base runner, on the immediate previous play, will be replaced by the last batted out. Any player removed from the lineup is not considered an automatic out.

40.25 Two (2) coaches of the defensive team may be placed in the outfield to instruct players. The coaches must remain in the outfield area at all times, and cannot physically assist players, or touch a live ball at any time.

40.26 Home team will be responsible for setting the bases and chalking the fields. Visiting team will be responsible for removing all bases. Both teams are responsible for picking up trash around and in their dugout.

40.27 Slap hitting is not allowed.

40.28 Switch hitting during an individual at bat is legal. A player may hit from both sides of the plate within any at bat.

### **41.0 Bantam (8U) softball league pitching rules**

41.01 During the FIRST three (3) innings of play, the player pitcher will be allowed to throw a maximum of four (4) pitches per batter. During this period, balls and strikes will be called. If at the end of four (4) pitches, the batter has not put the ball into play or struck out, the batting team's standby coach will continue pitching the at bat. The strike count remains the same. The coach will then deliver up to four (4) additional pitches. Once, the four (4) additional pitches have been thrown to the batter, and the batter has not put the ball into play, or struck out swinging, the batter will be declared out. This rule eliminates walks, while encouraging batters to be aggressive at the plate.

41.01a During the FIRST three (3) innings, the player pitcher will only pitch to the first four (4) batters in that inning. The fourth (4th) batter and beyond will only be an adult pitcher and will pitch a maximum of

six (6) pitches per player at bat. If the batter has not put the ball into play, or struck out swinging, the batter will be declared out. This rule eliminates walks, while encouraging batters to be aggressive at the plate.

41.02 Beginning with the fourth (4th) inning and beyond, the batting team's coach will pitch to his/her team for the remainder of the game. The adult pitcher will pitch a maximum of six (6) pitches per player at bat. If the batter has not put the ball into play, or struck out swinging, the batter will be declared out. This rule eliminates walks, while encouraging batters to be aggressive at the plate.

41.03 During all coach pitch occasions, the current pitcher or player designated as a pitcher, will be designated as a pitcher for the purpose of fielding that position. This player must wear a batting helmet with a protective mask and stand in a position within the pitcher's circle no closer to the batter than the adult pitcher. The player pitcher may move closer once the ball has been hit. The player must remain within 6 feet of the pitcher prior and during the pitch.

41.04 The adult pitcher must be on the field, at all times, in the area of the pitcher when his/her team is at bat.

41.05 The adult pitcher must make every attempt to avoid interfering with the ball. A batted ball that strikes the adult pitcher, or cannot be fielded cleanly due to interference by the adult pitcher, according to the umpire's judgment is considered dead, no pitch.

41.06 The adult pitcher shall not act as a base coach while in this position.

41.07 A batter shall not be entitled to first base as a result of being hit by a pitch.

41.08 The balk rule does not apply.

## **42.0 Bantam (8U) softball league playing field**

42.01 Fifty-five (55) foot distance between bases.

42.02 Thirty-two (32) feet from the back point of home plate to the front edge of the pitching rubber.

42.03 There will be a pitching circle around the pitching mound. (16 feet dia.)

42.04 Bantam (8U) games will use a 10 inch softball

## **Midget (11U) softball league rules**

### **50.0 HAJBA Midget (11U) softball league playing rules**

50.01 Current national federation high school rules apply with the following exceptions and provisions.

50.02 Managers or coaches will not participate in or allow any arguing with umpires, or harassment of the opposing team by players or any other person(s). This includes clapping, talking or communicating in any fashion to any pitcher, fielders, batters or runners in an attempt to distract during time of play. Please see the HAJBA code of conduct, which is located at [www.howellbaseball.org](http://www.howellbaseball.org) for additional information. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach affiliated with the offending individual to bring this rule to the offender's attention. We must promote a standard of fair play and good sportsmanship for the youth to follow.

50.03 An official midget softball league game shall consist of six (6) innings. No new inning may begin after two (2) hours from the start of the game. In the event of a tie see rule 7.07. If at, or beyond, the two (2) hour time limit, in third (3rd) inning or beyond, and the home team is ahead, and is at bat, the game shall be stopped and declared a complete game, regardless of the number of outs achieved.

50.03a In a six (6) inning game, if necessary to be stopped, for weather or curfew, a game is considered a complete (regulation game) after four (4) complete innings, regardless of which team is winning, or after three and one half (3 1/2) innings if the home team is winning.

50.03b Any game called because of weather or curfew, which is not a regulation game, will be considered a suspended game and will be completed at a later date when possible based on scheduling. (See general rule 6.04)

50.03c In case of a tie after six (6) innings, the game will continue until no longer able to play, due to weather or curfew. (See rule 7.07.)

50.04 Players arriving more than 30 minutes after the first pitch are not required to meet the minimum play requirements.

50.05 Players are not allowed to play in games while wearing a cast.

50.06 Courtesy runners are only allowed for the Catcher of record, with 2 outs remaining in the inning. Courtesy runner must be the last batted out.

50.07 Players leaving for anything other than an injury or illness will be considered out when it is their time to bat (this includes ejections).

50.08 Every player on the team who is present for the game will play at least five (5) innings defensively of an official six (6) inning game. Two (2) innings minimum must be in the outfield. The "penalty" for violating this rule will be the loss of HAJBA coaching privileges for future seasons. The board does not have the staff to monitor player rotation during games, and we count on the integrity of our coaches to ensure it is followed.

50.09 Each player on the team, who is present for the game, will be included in the batting order and take her turn at bat for the entire game, even though they are not playing defensively.

50.10 Players must bat in the same order throughout the game whether or not they are playing defensively. No changes will be made to the line-up after it is turned in. Tardy players must be added to the end of the line-up.

50.11 Inning termination: A five (5) run limit per inning will apply, with the exception of the sixth (6th) inning, which will be unlimited. During the 6th inning, each team will continue to bat until three (3) outs have been reached, or the outcome of the game has been decided, by the home team batting and achieving a winning score. At which point the game will be complete, regardless of the number of outs.

50.12 Teams will play ten (10) players at a time defensively. The tenth player must be an outfielder, thus playing four (4) outfielders. A team may start the game with a minimum of eight (8) players. In the event a ninth (9) player does not join the game, an out will be assessed in the ninth (9) player batting order of the same team. In the event of injury, an out will not be assessed to that person in the batting order. The

Game may be completed with eight (8) players. Less than eight (8) players will result in a forfeit.

50.13 A difference of fifteen (15) runs at the end of four (4) innings will constitute a complete game. (three and one half (3 ½) if the home team is ahead), or a difference of ten (10) runs after five (5) innings will constitute a complete game. (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead).

50.14 A game called because of curfew that is not a regulation game is considered a suspended game and will be continued at a later date. See HAJBA rule 6.04.

50.15 In the case of a tie score after six (6) innings or time limit, the game will continue until no longer able to play. (Example: weather, curfew, darkness) refer to HAJBA rules 7.01 and 7.06.

50.16 In a six (6) inning game, if it is necessary to be stopped for weather, a game is considered a complete (regulation game) if at least three and one half (3 1/2) innings of the game has been played and the home team is ahead.

50.17 Head coaches are responsible for the safety of their players and the fans. Swinging a bat outside the confines of the playing field is absolutely prohibited. The only players swinging bats, during games, will be the batter and the player in the on-deck circle. On-deck hitters should be on the baseline behind the hitter (3rd baseline for a right-handed hitter, 1st baseline for a left-handed hitter) In the event a player illegally swings a bat, inside or outside the confines of the playing field, the umpire will warn the Head coach once. Subsequent penalty may result in the Head coach being ejected for breaking this rule.

50.18 The designated hitter rule does not apply.

50.19 The only way a runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> – at the time of the pitch can advance is by: batted ball, forced by a walk, or if a play is made at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. This will encourage throws to 2<sup>nd</sup> base for experience sake

50.20 The infield fly rule does not apply.

50.21 The batter cannot advance to first base on a third strike that is not caught by the catcher.

50.22 Stealing of bases will be allowed after the ball crosses the plate.

50.22a Base runners may not steal home.

50.23 On a walk, a runner may not advance beyond first base, unless a play is made at another base.

50.24 The batter is awarded a hit when an injury occurs to a defensive player attempting to field a batted ball. The batter will be awarded a ground rule single when the injury is to an infielder and a ground rule double when the injury is to an outfielder.

50.25 If a defense player is removed from the lineup for any reason, other than injury, the player cannot return to the line-up until the next inning.

50.26 Pinch runners may only be used in cases of injury.

50.27 An injured base runner, on the immediate previous play, will be replaced by the last batted out. Any player removed from the lineup is not considered an automatic out.

50.28 A maximum of two (2) coaches of the defensive team may be placed in the outfield to instruct players. The coach must remain in the outfield area at all times, and cannot physically assist players, or

touch a live ball at any time.

50.29 Runners may advance on overthrows except on stealing of 3rd base, the runners cannot steal home.

50.30 Slap hitting is not allowed.

50.31 Switch hitting during an individual at bat is legal. A player may hit from both sides of the plate within any at bat.

50.32 Players will start each at-bat with a 1-1 count - One ball and one strike

### **51.0 Midget (11U) softball league pitching rules**

51.01 Nine (9) outs maximum per pitcher per day.

51.02 No intentional walks.

51.03 The balk rule does not apply.

51.04 If any pitcher is removed from that position before the maximum number of outs allowed, she may return to pitch until the maximum is achieved. This pitcher may return to the pitching position one (1) time per game.

51.05 The manager will be warned if the pitcher hits two (2) batters in a game. Should the pitcher hit a third batter, as a result of being wild, the umpire will have the pitcher removed from that position for the remainder of the game. This is a judgment call and applies only if the umpire determines that the batter(s) has made a sufficient effort to avoid being hit.

51.06 Pitchers will warm-up within the confines of the playing field. The home team bullpen will be down the third base line, the visiting team bullpen will be down the first base line.

51.07 A pitcher will be limited to 5 warm up pitches thrown between innings.

51.08 During the tournament games pitches are allowed to pitch 9 outs per tournament game.

### **52.0 Midget (11U) softball league playing field**

52.01 Fifty-five (55) foot distance between bases.

52.02 Thirty-two (32) feet from the point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.

52.03 There will be a pitching circle around the pitching mound. Once the ball is in the pitching circle (extended straight up in the air, not just on the ground in the circle) the ball is dead regardless of possession.

52.04 The home team will be responsible for setting the bases and chalking the fields. The visiting team will be responsible for removing the bases after the game. Both teams are responsible for picking up trash in and around the dugouts.

52.05 Midget (11U) games will use an 11 inch softball

52.06 There will be a pitching circle around the pitching mound. (16 feet dia.)

## **Minor (13U) softball league rules**

### **60.0 HAJBA Minor (13U) softball league playing rules**

60.01 Current national federation high school rules apply with the following exceptions and provisions.

60.02 Managers or coaches will not participate in or allow any arguing with umpires, or harassment of the opposing team by players or any other person(s). This includes clapping, talking or communicating in any fashion to any pitcher, fielders, batters or runners in an attempt to distract during time of play. Please see the HAJBA code of conduct, which is located at [www.howellbaseball.org](http://www.howellbaseball.org) for additional information. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach affiliated with the offending individual to bring this rule to the offender's attention. We must promote a standard of fair play and good sportsmanship for the youth to follow.

60.03 An official Minor (13U) league game shall consist of seven (7) innings. No new inning may begin after two (2) hours. In the event of a tie see rule 7.07. If at, or beyond, the two (2) hour time limit, in fourth (4th) inning or beyond, and the home team is ahead, and is at bat, the game shall be stopped and declared a complete game, regardless of the number of outs achieved.

60.03a In a seven (7) inning game, if necessary to be stopped, for weather or curfew, a game is considered a complete (regulation game) after five (5) complete innings, regardless of which team is winning, or after four and one half (4 1/2) innings if the home team is winning.

60.03b Any game called because of weather or curfew, which is not a regulation game, will be considered a suspended game and will be completed at a later date when possible based on scheduling. (See general rule 6.04)

60.03c In case of a tie score after seven (7) innings, the game will continue until no longer able to play. (See rule 7.01 and rule 7.07)

60.04 Players arriving more than 30 minutes after the first pitch are not required to meet the minimum play requirements.

60.05 Players are not allowed to play in games while wearing a cast.

60.06 Courtesy runners are only allowed for the Catcher of record, with 2 outs remaining in the inning. Courtesy runner must be the last batted out.

60.07 Players leaving for anything other than an injury or illness will be considered out when it is their time to bat (this includes ejections).

60.08 Every player on the team who is present for a game will not sit on the bench more than two (2) innings and those innings must not be consecutive. Every player must play a minimum of two (2) infield innings of an official seven (7) inning game. The "penalty" for violating this rule will be the loss of HAJBA coaching privileges for future seasons. The board does not have the staff to monitor player rotation during games, and we count on the integrity of our coaches to ensure it is followed. Teams must start by fielding at least eight (8) players. Fewer than eight (8) players will result in forfeit.

60.09 Each player on the team, who is present for the game, will be included in the batting order and take

her turn at bat for the entire game, even though they are not playing defensively.

60.10 Players must bat in the same order throughout the game whether or not they are playing defensively. No changes will be made to the line-up after it is turned in. Tardy players must be added to the end of the line-up.

60.11 Inning termination: A five (5) run limit per inning will apply, with the exception of the seventh (7th) inning, which will be unlimited. During the 7th inning, each team will continue to bat until three (3) outs have been reached, or the outcome of the game has been decided, by the home team batting and achieving a winning score. At which point the game will be complete, regardless of the number of outs.

60.12 Teams will play ten (10) players at a time defensively. The tenth player must be an outfielder, thus playing four (4) outfielders. A team may start the game with a minimum of eight (8) players. In the event a ninth player does not join the game, an out will be assessed in the ninth (9) player batting order of the same team. In the event of injuries, the game may be completed with eight (8) players. Less than eight (8) players will result in a forfeit.

60.13 A difference of fifteen (15) runs at the end of four (4) innings will constitute a complete game. (Three and one half (3 ½) if the home team is ahead), or a difference of ten (10) runs after five (5) innings will constitute a complete game. (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead).

60.14 A game called because of curfew that is not a regulation game is considered a suspended game and will be continued at a later date. See HAJBA rule 6.04.

60.15 In the case of a tie score after seven (7) innings or time limit, the game will continue until no longer able to play. (Example: weather, curfew, darkness) refer to HAJBA rules 7.01 and 7.06.

60.16 If it is necessary to stop a game due to weather. A game is complete after five (5) innings. (four and one-half (4 ½) if the home team is ahead).

60.17 Head coaches are responsible for the safety of their players and the fans. Swinging a bat outside the confines of the playing field is absolutely prohibited. The only players swinging bats, during games, will be the batter and the player in the on-deck circle. On-deck hitters should be on the baseline behind the hitter (3rd baseline for a right-handed hitter, 1st baseline for a left-handed hitter) In the event a player illegally swings a bat, inside or outside the confines of the playing field, the umpire will warn the Head coach once. Subsequent penalty may result in the Head coach being ejected for breaking this rule.

60.18 The batter may advance to first base on a third strike that is not caught by the catcher.

60.19 The designated hitter rule does not apply.

60.20 Stealing of bases will be allowed after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand on the pitch.

60.21 Home plate may be successfully stolen one time per inning, per team, on any pitcher catcher exchange. Runner on third at the time of the pitch, may not advance home when an attempt is being made to put out a runner at any first or second base.

60.22 On a walk, a runner may not advance beyond first base, unless a play is made at another base.

60.23 The batter is awarded a hit when an injury occurs to a defensive player attempting to field a batted ball. The batter will be awarded a ground rule single when the injury is to an infielder and a ground rule

double when the injury is to an outfielder.

60.24 If a defense player is removed from the lineup for any reason, other than injury, the player cannot return to the line-up until the next inning.

60.25 Pinch runners may only be used in cases of injury.

60.26 An injured base runner, on the immediate previous play, will be replaced by the last batted out. Any player removed from the lineup is not considered an automatic out.

60.27 Runners may advance on overthrows at any base.

60.28 The only way a runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> at the time of the pitch can advance is by: batted ball, forced by a walk, forced by a dropped third strike or if a play is made at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. This will encourage throws to 2<sup>nd</sup> base for experience sake.

60.29 Slap hitting is allowed in the minor division only.

60.30 If the catcher overthrows the pitcher the runners may advance a base but must stop at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. The runner may not steal home.

60.31 Switch hitting during an individual at bat is legal. A player may hit from both sides of the plate within any at bat.

60.32 During the tournament games, pitchers are allowed to pitch 12 outs per tournament game.

### **61.0 Minor (13U) softball league pitching rules**

61.01 Twelve (12) outs maximum per pitcher, per day with a maximum of twelve innings per week. One (1) pitch per inning constitutes one (1) inning pitched.

61.02 No intentional walks.

61.03 The balk rule does not apply.

61.04 If the starting pitcher is removed from that position before the maximum number of outs allowed, she may return to pitch until the maximum is achieved. This pitcher may return to the pitching position one (1) time per game.

61.05 The manager will be warned if the pitcher hits two (2) batters in a game. Should the pitcher hit a third batter, as a result of being wild, the umpire will have the pitcher removed from that position for the remainder of the game. This is a judgment call and applies only if the umpire determines that the batter(s) has made a sufficient effort to avoid being hit.

61.06 Pitchers will warm-up within the confines of the playing field. The home team bullpen will be down the third base line, the visiting team bullpen will be down the first base line.

61.07 A pitcher will be limited to 5 warm up pitches thrown between innings.

### **62.0 Minor (13U) softball league playing field**

62.01 Sixty (60) feet distance between bases.

62.02 Forty (40) feet from the point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.

62.03 There will be a pitching circle around the pitcher's mound. (16 ft dia.)

62.04 Minor (13U) games will use a 12 inch softball

## **70.0 HAJBA Major (17U) softball league rules**

70.01 All current MHSAA and National Federation High School (NFHS) rules apply with the following exceptions and provisions.

70.02 Managers or coaches will not participate in or allow any arguing with umpires, or harassment of the opposing team by players or any other person(s). This includes clapping, talking or communicating in any fashion to any opposing pitcher, fielders, batters or runners in an attempt to distract during time of play. Please see the HAJBA code of conduct, which is located at [www.howellbaseball.org](http://www.howellbaseball.org) for additional information. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach affiliated with the offending individual to bring this rule to the offender's attention. We must promote a standard of fair play and good sportsmanship for the youth to follow.

70.03 An official Major (17U) league game shall consist of six (6) innings. No new inning may begin after two (2) hours. In the event of a tie, see rule 7.07. If at, or beyond, the two (2) hour time limit, in third (3rd) inning or beyond, and the home team is ahead, and is at bat, the game shall be stopped and declared a complete game, regardless of the number of outs achieved.

70.03a In a six (6) inning game, if necessary to be stopped, for weather or curfew, a game is considered a complete (regulation game) after four (4) complete innings, regardless of which team is winning, or after three and one half (3 1/2) innings if the home team is winning.

70.03b Any game called because of weather or curfew, which is not a regulation game, will be considered a suspended game and will be completed at a later date when possible based on scheduling. (See general rule 6.04)

70.03c In the event of a tie after six (6) innings or time limit, the game will continue under rule 7.07 until no longer able to play under rule 7.01.

70.04 Players arriving more than 30 minutes after the first pitch are not required to meet the minimum play requirements.

70.05 Teams will bat the full roster of players.

70.06 The DH/Flex position will not apply, since all players will bat.

70.07 Every player on the team, who is present for the game, will play at least three (3) innings defensively of an official six (6) inning game.

70.08 Players are not allowed to play in games while wearing a cast.

70.09 Courtesy runners are only allowed for the Catcher of record, with 2 outs remaining in the inning. Courtesy runner must be the last batted out.

70.10 Any player, regardless of reason, removed from the lineup is not considered an automatic out.

70.11 Each player on the team, who is present for the game, will be included in the batting order and take

her turn at bat for the entire game, even though they are not playing defensively.

70.12 Players must bat in the same order throughout the game whether or not they are playing defensively. No changes will be made to the line-up after it is turned in. Tardy players must be added to the end of the line-up.

70.13 Inning termination: Five run rule – an inning is over when five (5) runs have been scored or three outs have been made, except in the final inning where each team can bat through the order once. The final inning will be the seventh (7) inning. Each team will have an equal number of roster batters in the last inning. (Example: if three (3) outs are not achieved and team #1 has fourteen (14) players and team #2 has thirteen (13) players, the number one batter in that inning on team #2 may bat again to equal the number of batters in team #1's line-up). The ball is dead and the half inning ends when the batter's progress ceases.

70.14 Head coaches are responsible for the safety of their players and the fans. Swinging a bat outside the confines of the playing field is absolutely prohibited. The only players swinging bats, during games, will be the batter and the player in the on-deck circle. On-deck hitters should be on the baseline behind the hitter (3rd baseline for a right-handed hitter, 1st baseline for a left-handed hitter) In the event a player illegally swings a bat, inside or outside the confines of the playing field, the umpire will warn the Head coach once. Subsequent penalty may result in the Head coach being ejected for breaking this rule.