

2019 Rocky Hill Major League Softball Rules

1.00 - The League

1.01 The league will be governed by the 2019 Official Little League Regulations and Playing Rules.

1.02 Local rule exceptions are listed below.

2.00 - Game Preliminaries

2.01 All weekday and weekend games will begin sharply as scheduled.

2.02 A 15-minute grace period will be granted if a team cannot field the required number of players at game time (See Rule 2.05).

2.03 An inning may not begin later than 2 hours after the start time. An inning may begin just prior to the 2-hour end time and finish to completion. Unless the umpire decides due to weather or darkness that the player's safety is at risk and the inning cannot be completed. (See Rule 2.13). The home team is responsible to record the start of the game, but both teams should agree on the actual starting time. This will be the time used as the start time when calculating for rule 2.03.

2.04 Games will last 6 innings, but may be called official after 3 ½ innings (home team is ahead), 4 innings (visiting team is ahead) due to unsuitable weather or darkness. If a later inning cannot be completed, due to weather or darkness and the game has gone more than 4 innings, we will revert back to the last complete inning for the final score.

2.05 Games may begin with 7 players per team and continue with as few as 6 players per team after the start of the game.

2.06 All players must be in the batting lineup, regardless if they are playing the field or not (continuous line-up).

2.07 Ten players (max) will play in the field on defense. (Four outfielders: LF, LCF, RCF, RF). No short fielders are allowed.

2.08 All outfielders must be on the outfield grass at the start of every pitch.

2.09 Free substitutions are allowed for all players.

2.10. Each player must play at least 4 innings in a 6-inning game. Managers are to make every effort to ensure that each player on the roster who regularly attends practices and games, has essentially equivalent playing and bench time over the course of the season.

2.11 A maximum of 5 runs can be scored per half inning or 3 outs recorded (whichever come first). Players are to complete the entire play (until ball back in circle as dead ball) even if the 5th run has already scored. Additional runs (6th & more) can score during the play but will not be counted in the game score. Exception in the final inning and all extra innings (if necessary), the defensive team must record 3 outs to end the inning.

2.12 Ten Run Mercy Rule - If after 4 innings (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead) one team has a lead of 10 runs, the manager of the team with the least amount of runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. The two teams have the option to finish the game, if both teams agree, but the official recorded score will be the score when the game was conceded. This option is available to allow more playing time for the players, if possible, during shortened games.

2.13 Home team will supply the umpire with 2 new game balls prior to the game.

2.14 Players must be in full uniforms with their jerseys tucked in. The player is representing Rocky Hill Little League and should look neat and appropriate.

2.15 No more than 4 coaches are allowed in the dugout during the game. Only the Manager (or designee if manager not present) may discuss game calls with the umpires.

2.16 Two base coaches shall be adults.

2.17 One coach (adult) must remain in the dugout with the players at all times.

2.18 Home team will be in the first base side dugout; visiting team will be in the third base side dugout.

2.19 Both teams may start taking batting practice in the batting cages ~1 hour before the scheduled game time. Each team will use one batting cage. The pitchers may use the cages to warm up starting ~30 minutes before the scheduled game time. Additional pitchers may warm up in the cages prior to entering the game.

2.20 Visiting team will take 15 minutes of pre-game infield practice first, starting approximately 35 minutes before the scheduled game time. The home team will then take 15 minutes of pre-game infield practice, starting approximately 20 minutes before the scheduled game time; and then the game will begin (per 2.01).

2.21 Game results must be called into, or e-mailed to, the Major League Director, the night of the game. Both Teams are responsible for providing the results, including rain outs, to the Major League Director.

2.22 No defensive player will be allowed to play more than 3 innings (except the Catcher at 4 innings max) at any one defensive position in a 6-inning game. (Example - no player can play shortstop the entire game). The other exception shall be the pitcher. In an extra inning game - this rule is suspended during the extra innings.

2.23 All players must play at least 2 innings in the infield in a six inning game except per 2.26. Valid infield positions (Pitcher, Catcher, 1B, 2B, 3B, and SS).

2.24 The official scorer for each team will confirm, with each other and the umpire, the game score at the end of each inning.

2.25 It is required by RHLL Softball that any softball player in an infield position MUST wear either a face mask or a mouth guard. Failure to have one of these protective devices available will mean that the player can only play an outfield position during the game. It is also recommended the pitchers and corner infielders (1B & 3B) also wear sliders or shin guards as additional protection during the game.

3.00 - The Runner

3.01 All base runners must wear helmets.

3.02 Head first sliding is prohibited except for sliding back to a base (not encouraged).

3.03 On a play at home, the runner must slide, avoid a collision or give herself up. If there is a collision at home plate, the umpire will determine if the runner is out or safe.

4.00 - The Batter

4.01 No on-deck batters are allowed. No player may swing a bat unless they are in the batter's box.

4.02 All Batting Helmets are to have facial cages for batter protection.

4.03 Any player throwing a bat will receive a warning the first time, will be declared out the second time and will be declared out and removed from the game the third time. This does not include a suspension for the next game. (In tournament play it does include next game suspension)

4.04 Any player that is not at the game at the first pitch may be placed in their designated line-up batting order position provided said position has not already been passed in the line-up during the game prior to the player's arrival. If the player arrives at the game after their designated batting order position has been passed during the game, they then will be placed at the bottom of your

hitting lineup. When they arrive, they will continue to hit in that batting order spot (their original, or last) for the balance of the game. Example: If you have 12 players and the late player arrives when position 4 is hitting, and the late player is scheduled for position 5, they would hit next. However, if they arrive and you have already passed position 5 they would bat in position 12. If you are going through the order for a second time when they arrive and you are at the second batting spot, they must now wait until their hitting spot at 12. If you have less than 12 players, they must hit in whatever spot is your last hitting spot in the line-up.

5.00 - The Pitcher

5.01 A player may pitch in a maximum of 6 innings in a game

5.02 Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched an inning.

5.03 We allow free substitution for pitchers

5.04 If a pitcher hits 3 batters in an inning, she may be removed at the end of the inning that she hit the 3rd batter or at the time in which she hits a fourth in that same inning. This is only if the opposing manager feels, in their judgment, that it is a safety issue for the players, and that the pitcher should be removed from the mound.

5.05 A pitcher must wear a Face mask or a mouth guard Leg Protection (i.e. sliders or shin guards) is optional but preferred.