

## **2026 Minor League Girls Rules**

1- A maximum of 10 players may be on the field defensively. Teams must have a minimum of eight players to play. If a team only has eight players, the 9th batting position will be an out in the line-up.

2- Pitchers can only throw up to 4 innings per 6 inning game. Extra innings not included. Innings do not have to be consecutive. An inning is determined to be a counted inning once a pitcher throws one pitch in live ball play during an inning. Pitchers are required to wear a facemask when pitching.

3- No walks during regular season play only (WILL be walks for tournament play and no coach pitch) once ball 4 is thrown hitting team's coach comes into pitch. Pitch count will stay and will get to pitch a max of 3 pitches. Example batter currently has 2 strikes if they swing and miss the first pitch thrown by the coach they are out. If a foul is hit on the third pitch, batter will continue to bat until a hit or the next pitch that is not a foul ball. If batter does not hit the ball within 3 pitches from the coach they are OUT. The coach must pitch from the rubber. The defensive pitcher must play their position inside the circle when the coach is pitching. They cannot play outside the circle.

4- Regular season play: Players may be rotated in the field, no substitution limit. Every player is in the batting order. All players must play at least 2 innings defensively.

Tournament play: Teams are allowed to choose to bat all players or only 10 players. Batting only 10 players means, starting players are allowed to re-enter one time as per OHSAA rules. Players must play two innings defensively and bat once each game of tournament.

5- If a player gets injured and misses her place in the batting order, there will NOT be an out called. However, the player MAY NOT re-enter the game. If the injured player causes the team to fall below the required minimum of eight players, there WILL BE an out called in that player's batting slot.

6- Stealing- runner cannot leave the base until the pitched ball reaches the plate. NO leading off. The player has 1 second after the pitcher gets the ball under control standing in the circle to determine which direction they will go.

A. Runners may only steal one base per pitch, unless the ball is batted. This encourages catchers to throw down to a base.

B. On a base on balls, batter may not advance beyond first base.

C. Stealing home is not permitted and runner may only score on a legally batted ball, bases loaded walk, hit by pitch, passed ball, or if a defensive play is made on a runner attempting to steal second.

7- Sliding- There is no requirement that players must slide on close plays at any location on the field. However, base runners must avoid contact with fielders at all times when fielders are attempting to make a play. Sliding is recommended in these situations but is not required. In addition, there are no head first slides. Base runners may dive back into bases which they just left or passed but may never slide head first. First offense, team warning.

Second offense, runner is called out.

8- At no time may a defensive player block the base path (including the base) while the runner is advancing.

9- Pitching distance is 35 feet. The pitching circle is 16' in diameter. Bases are 60 feet from back of home plate.

10- Helmets cannot be removed until the runner or batter is in the dugout. Face masks on helmets must be worn! Fielders are allowed to wear face protection during play.

11- Pitchers get ONE pitch plus a throw down between inning, unless new pitcher, they get 5 warm up pitches plus a throw down.

12- Games are to last 6 innings or the game time limit is 1½ hours, whichever comes first. This means that no new innings may be started after 90 minutes have elapsed from the time the game started. Time Limit IS in effect for Tournament Play.

Example: if the game started at 6:25, no innings may start after 7:55

13- 10-run rule is in effect any time after 4 innings (or 3½ if the home team is ahead by ten runs). Teams may score 7 runs per inning (during regular season play and tournament). In the sixth inning or last inning of a time-shortened game, visiting team may tie the game and score an additional seven runs. There is no limit on the runs scored by the home team in the last inning.

14- The decision of the umpires is final and WILL NOT be changed due to arguments. Umpires are normally kids who will try to do their best. Support their effort.

15- Play stops when a player in the infield has control of the ball and calls time out or the pitcher has control in the pitching circle and runners have advanced.

16- No drop 3rd strike rule.

17- An 11 inch ball will be used.

18- Home teams are to supply two balls per game with at least one ball being a new ball.

19- Offensive team is allowed only 2 base coaches outside of the dugout during live ball play.

20- Defensive team is allowed only 1 coach outside of the dugout during live ball play.

21- NO infield fly rule.

22- NO jewelry will be allowed to be worn by any players.

23- All players must be 10 (for Minors) years of age or younger as of August 31, 2025.

24- Bringing players from a lower league is allowed. Replacement players however, cannot start or play in place of regular players that are present. Replacement players can only play outfield and must be last batter. Playing for the upper league cannot interfere with players' regular scheduled games. Replacement player playing in the upper league game must be approved by their coach as well. Once a player has been called up she can only play for that team for the season. This includes tournaments.

25- Any rules not covered here will be administered by the OHSAA 2026 rule book.

26- Coaches- Also, please be sure any bats are approved. Illegal bats will result in an automatic, dead ball out at time of at bat.

27- Umpires must be at least 14 years old.

Tournament Play recommends a sanctioned Plate Umpire and an Adult Base Umpire

**Note: Will be a single elimination tournament. Seeding will be determined on coaches' collective decision.**