



Lou Gehrig Softball Minor A - Level Rules

Updated January 2014

General

1. Games are 6 innings with a five-run limit in innings 1 - 5. No run limit in inning 6 **ONLY**.
2. A 10-foot arc will be marked from home plate: all batted balls must pass this line to be "fair"; otherwise, it is called "foul."
3. Pitching rubber and pitching machine is 35 feet from home plate.

Hitting / Running

4. Players will hit off the pitching machine the entire season.
5. Teams will use a continuous batting order – everyone bats.
6. No base on balls, 4 strikes, no bunting. The batter is allowed a maximum of 7 pitches, but if the 7th pitch is a foul ball, dead ball or un-hittable as declared by the umpires, the batter will get another pitch.
7. When the ball is hit, the batter may advance (at own risk) a maximum as follows:
 - Infield hit: 1 base
 - Beyond infielder, unlimited
8. A base runner may advance at own risk a maximum of one additional base per overthrow. "Overthrow" is defined as thrown past the base (a ball dropped in the vicinity of the base is not an overthrow). A runner may not score on an overthrow. Only one "overthrow" allowed per batted ball.
9. A batted ball hitting the pitching machine is a dead-ball single, with the batter being awarded 1st base. Only base runners with runners behind them will advance. (i.e. runners at 1st and 3rd, batter hits the machine, batter is awarded 1st base, runner from 1st base moves to 2nd. The runner on 3rd base would stay)
10. Stealing is not allowed. No base leadoff; runners must remain on the base until the ball is hit.
11. Runners may advance at their own risk on a base hit; however they must stop at their current base once an infielder has possession of the ball on the dirt infield. If the runner is not at least halfway to the next base when possession is obtained, the runner must return to the previous base.



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Defense

12. Defense will play ten players (four outfielders).
13. Defensive set up
 - a. Outfielders must start no closer than 10 feet from edge of outfield grass and may not be used to play a base. A fielded ball by the outfielder must be thrown, not run back to the infield. If a ground ball gets **past** the infielder, the outfielder can make a play on the ball. The outfielder can make a play on fly ball hit in front of them if the ball travels beyond the infielders.
 - b. For a “skinned” field, infielders must start within 3 – 5 feet of the baseline.
 - c. The girl playing the pitcher's position must wear a helmet. She must remain even or behind the pitching rubber until the ball is hit. She must **not** enter the pitching circle. When fielding a batted ball, the pitcher should throw to the base. She is not allowed to run and tag the base for the out.
 - d. All fielders are encouraged to wear a fielder’s mask.

NOTE: THE GIRL’S SAFETY COMES FIRST!

15. Team may put one defensive coach/ parent in the outfield until May 31st.
16. Infield fly rule is waived.
17. **Only for Minor A - Catcher is considered an outfield position and may not be played for more than one inning.**
18. For both regular season and playoffs, every player must play at least four defensive innings. Players must be rotated every 2 innings to a new defensive position. They must play at least 2 innings in the infield and 2 innings in the outfield. Players may only play a maximum of 2 innings at a specific defensive position. This rule also applies to call-ups.