

# **SOFTBALL LOCAL RULES – 2021 SEASON HOLLAND-MAPLEWOOD LITTLE LEAGUE**

## **SINGLE A LEVEL**

1. Each player must play equally – approx. ½ of all innings played in each game. The goal is comparable and equitable playing time over the course of the season.
2. Managers should rotate players equally between infield and outfield positions. Managers should set their rotation before each game.
3. Entire roster bats each half inning.
4. Six Inning games (no new inning to start after 80 minutes)
5. Keep games moving by having catcher's gear on the catcher at the completion of batting so the next half inning can start quickly.
6. Ten fielders (includes pitcher, catcher, 4 infielders, 4 outfielders).
7. Four pitching machine strikes, then a batting tee will be used (If Machine Malfunction, Offensive coach pitches to their team).
8. Runner may leave bag when ball is hit by batter, not before. (Rule 7.13)
9. Runners may not advance when batted ball is under control of any infielder.
10. Up to 4 coaches allowed on the field when batting (pitch, helping batter, coaching 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> base). 2 coaches allowed in the field to help defense.
11. There will be no score book and no official score will be recorded.
12. Umpires will not be used at this level.
13. All batters must wear batting helmets with face-guards.
14. Infield Fly rule will not be in effect.
15. Players may not wear watches, rings, jewelry, or any metal objects (unless for medical purposes).
16. All National Rules apply. When in conflict, Holland Local Rules prevail.

### **Pitching Machine Specific Rules:**

1. Home team will use the best available machine they have.
2. The machine will be set between approximately ⅔ of the way to the plate to a maximum of 35 feet.
3. Umpires will work the machines. If an umpire is unavailable, the coaches will need to use the machines.
4. Each batter will receive a maximum of four pitches in the strike zone at the discretion of the machine operator.
5. Stealing of bases is allowed as listed above.
6. Batted balls that strike the machine are ruled “dead” balls. The batter is awarded 1st base. All runners are only allowed to advance if they are forced to advance by another runner.

## **TRIPLE A LEVEL**

# SOFTBALL LOCAL RULES – 2021 SEASON

## HOLLAND-MAPLEWOOD LITTLE LEAGUE

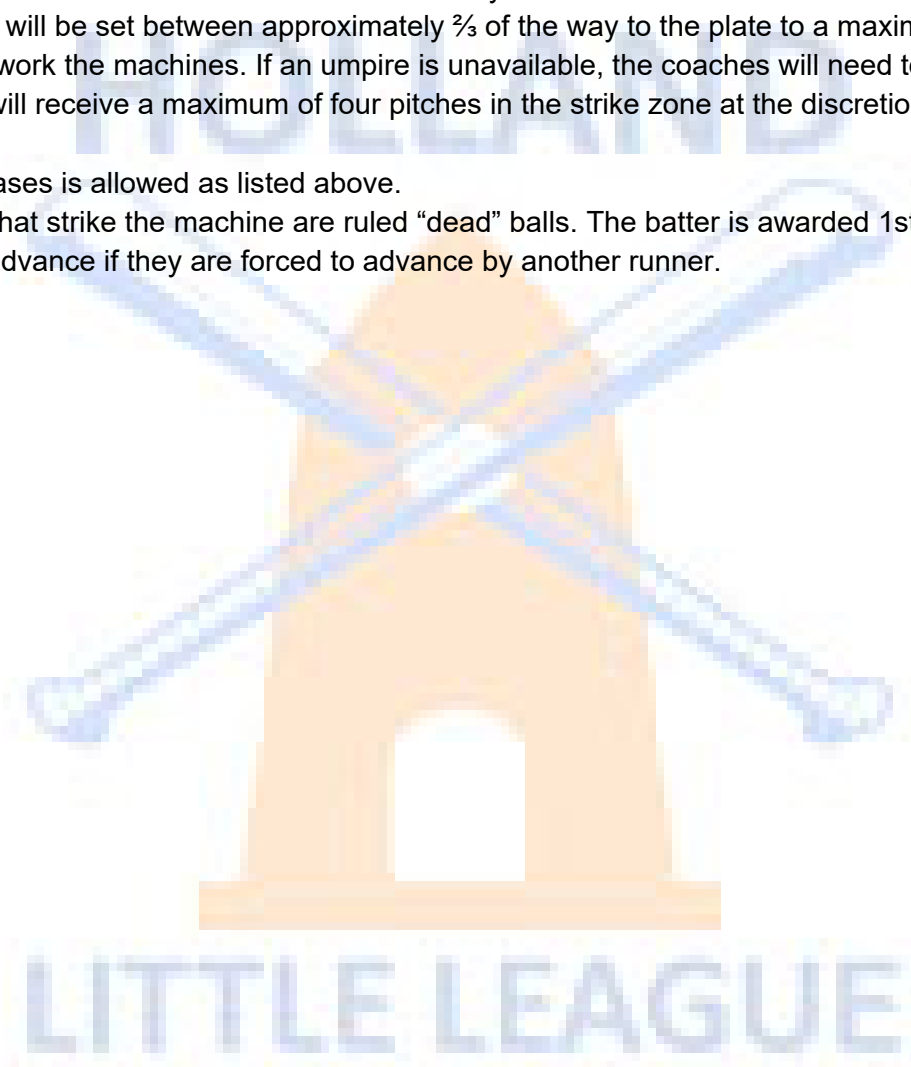
1. Each player shall play at least 6 consecutive outs. The goal is comparable and equitable playing time over the course of the season. Managers should give each player opportunities to play infield and outfield positions.
2. Line-up shall be submitted to scorekeeper before each game. Substitutions must be reported. Home team keeps official score book (see note 14).
3. Roster batting with 3 outs per inning; 4 balls, 3 strikes in an expanded strike zone (shoulders to mid-shin). Managers should attempt to equalize the number of at-bats for each player over the course of the season.
4. Six inning game. No new inning may start after 80 minutes. Umpire announces starting time. Inning starts after 3<sup>rd</sup> out.
5. 10 defensive fielders are allowed. Outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass.
6. Five run limit completes the half-inning. Run Rule: 10 runs advantage after 4 complete innings. 15 runs advantage after 3 complete innings
7. 3 innings per pitcher per game. Innings do not have to be consecutive. Six innings per pitcher per week. One pitch in an inning constitutes an inning pitched. All other National pitching rules apply.
8. If pitcher throws 4 balls to the batter, an offensive coach will come to the rubber and throw 3 pitches to the batter. If the batter puts the ball in play, she must run as on any batted ball. If she is not able to put the ball in play, she is called out.
  - a. Offensive coach may pitch the ball anywhere from the mound to half the distance to home plate
  - b. The defensive pitcher remains next to the offensive coach while the coach pitches. The pitcher may stand to the right or left of the coach, adjacent to the rubber and may field a batted ball.
  - c. Any batted ball that hits the offensive coach that is pitching, is a dead ball and the batter is awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base. The coach must attempt to stay out of the way of the defensive team after releasing the pitch.
  - d. Stealing of bases is suspended while the offensive coach is pitching.
9. Pitching rubber is 35 feet from the back corner of home plate. An 11 inch diameter softball is used for AAA Level.
10. Play is complete when the pitcher has the ball inside the pitching circle and is not making a play on the runner. Runner must either attempt to advance or retreat to previous base (see National Rule).
11. Base stealing is permitted after ball crosses home plate. Stealing home is permitted after Memorial Day.
12. Runners' foot must be in contact with the base they occupy until ball crosses home plate. Runner is called out if not in compliance.
13. Plays at home plate – avoiding contact supersedes a 'mandatory' slide.
14. Home team keeps official score book & pitch count for Home Team and Visiting Team. Scorekeeper will sit in score booth for games and must arrive 10 minutes early to verify line-ups.
15. Pitching logs must be signed by Umpire or Field Director at the completion of the game. Pitching log will be checked by the opposing Manager before each game.
16. All batters must wear batting helmets with face guards.
17. Infield Fly Rule will not be in effect.
18. Visiting team provides the base umpire.
19. 2 coaches allowed on the field when batting (in coach's box), 1 when fielding.

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20. Coach may warm-up pitchers (while catcher puts on gear).
21. A courtesy runner is allowed for the catcher to allow them to put on their gear so they are prepared for the start of the next half inning.
22. Players may not wear watches, rings, jewelry, or any metal objects (unless for medical purposes).
23. All National Little league Rules apply. When in conflict, Local Rules prevail.

### **Pitching Machine Specific Rules:**

1. Home team will use the best available machine they have.
2. The machine will be set between approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the way to the plate to a maximum of 35 feet.
3. Umpires will work the machines. If an umpire is unavailable, the coaches will need to use the machines.
4. Each batter will receive a maximum of four pitches in the strike zone at the discretion of the machine operator.
5. Stealing of bases is allowed as listed above.
6. Batted balls that strike the machine are ruled “dead” balls. The batter is awarded 1st base. All runners are only allowed to advance if they are forced to advance by another runner.



### **MAJORS LEVEL**

1. Each player shall play at least 6 consecutive outs. The goal is comparable and equitable playing time over the course of the season. Managers should give each player opportunities to play infield and outfield positions.
2. Line-up shall be submitted to scorekeeper before each game. Substitutions must be reported. Home team keeps official score book (see note 17).

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# SOFTBALL LOCAL RULES – 2021 SEASON

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3. Roster batting with 3 outs per inning; 4 balls, 3 strikes in an expanded strike zone (shoulders to mid-shin). Managers should attempt to equalize the number of at-bats for each player over the course of the season.
4. Six inning game. No new inning may start after 80 minutes. Umpire announces starting time. Inning starts after 3<sup>rd</sup> out.
5. Nine players in the field.
6. Five run limit completes the half-inning until May 18th. Mercy Rule: 10 runs advantage after 4 complete innings.
7. Play is complete when the pitcher has the ball inside the pitching circle and is not making a play on the runner. Runner must either attempt to advance or retreat to previous base (see National Rule).
8. Pitching rubber is 40 feet from the back corner of home plate. A 12 inch diameter softball is used for Majors Level.
9. All National pitching rules apply. This includes maximum innings and rest requirements for pitchers. One pitch in an inning constitutes an inning pitched.
10. A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once in the same inning as she was removed.
11. Coach may warm-up pitchers (while catcher puts on gear).
12. All batters must wear batting helmets with face guards.
13. Base stealing (including home) is permitted after the pitcher releases the ball.
14. Runner's foot must be in contact with the base they occupy until the ball is released. Runner is called out if not in compliance.
15. Plays at home plate – avoiding contact supersedes a 'mandatory' slide.
16. 2 coaches allowed on the field when batting (in coaches' box).
17. *Home team keeps official score book & pitch count for Home Team and Visiting Team. Scorekeeper will sit in score booth for games and must arrive 10 minutes early to verify line-ups.*
18. *Pitching logs must be signed by Umpire or Field Director at the completion of the game. Pitching log will be checked by the opposing Manager before each game.*
19. Infield Fly Rule is in effect.
20. A courtesy runner is allowed for the catcher to allow them to put on their gear so they are prepared for the start of the next half inning.
21. Players may not wear watches, rings, jewelry, or any metal objects (unless for medical purposes).
22. All National Little league Rules apply. When in conflict, Local Rules prevail.

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