

**DOLLS League Rules**  
**Majors - 7th & 8th Grade**  
**Revised 2.23.2009**

1. Emphasis on this league is on mastering basic softball skills and improving advanced softball skills - bunting, bunt coverage, proper base coverage, drop third strike, infield fly, double plays, stealing, and sliding.
2. ASA rules apply for this age group for all aspects of the game not addressed by the below rules.
3. The home team will be responsible to set up the field and provide the game balls (game field should be ready 30 minutes prior to scheduled game time)
4. Maximum of 9 defensive players per inning
  - If a player leaves a game or is injured before the completion of the game, her vacancy in the batting order does not count as an out
  - If the departure of a player results in less than 8 players, a forfeit shall be declared
5. A continuous batting order is mandatory, along with free substitution of defensive players.
  - A player that is injured while at bat or base running, the player that made the last out will replace the injured batter (assuming the ball/strike count)
6. At every game, all players are required to play:
  - One complete inning in the infield
  - One complete inning in the outfield
  - No player may play outfield a 2<sup>nd</sup> inning until all players on the roster have played outfield 1 inning.
  - No player may sit out a 2<sup>nd</sup> inning until all players on the roster have sat out 1 inning
7. If necessary, a maximum of 2 players may be called up from the level directly below. Each coach is responsible for obtaining a substitute player.
  - A substitute player shall not be called upon if her attendance would knowingly create a roster of 10 or more players. A substitute player is allowed to play if she is the 10<sup>th</sup> player, but not the 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - A substitute player may not pitch or catch
  - A substitute player shall bat last in the line-up
  - At no time shall a girl who is not a registered member of the DOLLS organization be allowed to participate as a player.
  - Demons and/or Rebels players cannot be called up to play.
  - If a team puts someone in its lineup that is contrary to these guidelines, they shall forfeit the game regardless if the infraction is discovered during or after the game.

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8. A team must field at least 8 players in the field to avoid forfeit. During the end of the year tournament, a fifteen (15) minute grace period will be in effect for each team to field the required number of players before a forfeit is declared.
9. Teams may score a maximum of 6 runs per ½ inning.
10. A pitcher is allowed to pitch any part of 4 innings per 7 inning game.
  - A pitcher must be removed from that inning if she hits 3 batters in the same inning
  - One pitch shall constitute an inning for a pitcher
11. Rotation and Pitching Rule Violations:
  - It is the responsibility of each team to monitor that the opposing team is following the rotation/pitching rules. A violation of these rules should be brought to the umpire and opposing team's attention immediately so that it can be corrected. If a team has violated the rotation/pitching rule, the situation will be immediately corrected and that team will forfeit 2 runs (regardless of how many girls are out of rotation). If a team has no runs, then it will incur a score of -2.
  - If the rotation /pitching violation is not discovered until after that half inning is over, there will be no penalty or repercussions.
  - A team will forfeit the game on its third violation of the rotation/pitching rules.
  - The rotation and pitching rules begin anew starting in the 8<sup>th</sup> inning of an extra inning game.
12. A game consists of 7 complete innings, or a time limit as defined below.
  - No new inning shall begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes of play. Any inning that has begun must be completed (there is not a "drop dead" time limit)
  - During the end of the season level tournament, games cannot end in ties so the time limit is eliminated if extra innings are required.
13. The league shall provide patched umpires.
  - Rule clarifications between both coaches and the umpire shall be conducted prior to the start of the game. Only head coaches may speak to the umpire regarding rule issues during the game and only in the presence of the opposing coach.
  - Questioning the umpire's call is considered unsportsmanlike conduct and will not be tolerated by the league
  - Coaches or fans questioning an umpire's call will be at risk of forfeiting the game or removal from coaching responsibilities.
  - Coaches need to remind parents this is a game and will be at risk of being ejected from the playing field if unsportsmanlike conduct is presented.

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14. Win/loss records/ standing shall be kept at this level. The season shall be completed with a level tournament. Teams shall participate in pool play (pools determined by standings), and feed into a single elimination tournament. There shall be awards for teams that place in the top 4 positions in the final tournament.