

ARTICLE 7 - MINOR FASTPITCH RULES U9, U11, U13C (BOYS AND GIRLS) DOES NOT APPLY TO U13A OR U13B

Softball Canada has a plan to systematically develop players once they enter the sport up until they reach their full potential. This process is called Long-Term Player Development (LTPD). The LTPD guidelines are an important step in aligning player development and program development across the country and our province, at all levels and for all ages. Softball BC's minor softball rules follow the guidelines of the LTPD model and the Athlete Development Matrix set out by Softball Canada. These rules are guidelines for U9, U11 and U13C.

In addition to any other rules in the handbook, the following rules also apply to U9 to U13C.

RULE	U9	U11	U13
Rule 2 – The Playing Field			
Base Path Distance			
45' (Softball Canada Standard)	✓	✓	
55' (Softball Canada Standard)			✓
Pitching Distance			
30' (Softball Canada Standard)	✓		
35' (Softball Canada Standard)		✓	
38' (Softball Canada Standard)			✓
Note: If coach pitcher, the defensive pitcher should stand at the minimum pitching distance listed above and no closer.			
Rule 3 – Equipment			
Ball			
11" indoor ball	✓	✓	
11" ball (COR .47)			✓
Helmet			
All batters will wear a batting helmet with cage with strap done up while at bat and on base.	✓	✓	
All batters will wear a batting helmet with cage while at bat and on base.			✓

RULE	U9	U11	U13
Defensive Face Mask			
Mandatory for all pitchers.	✓	✓	✓
Rule 4 – Coaches, Players and Substitutes			
Coaches			
Offensive and defensive coaches are permitted to coach on the field in fair territory.	✓		
Players - Number of Players			
Recommended maximum of 8-9 players on a team.	✓		
Recommended 6-7 players on the field.	✓		
Must start the game with 9 players but may go down to 8 players due to injury.		✓	✓
When playing with less than the maximum number of players, there are no automatic outs.		✓	✓
If a player arrives late, they may be added to the bottom of the lineup.	✓	✓	✓
Substitutes			
Unlimited defensive substitutions.			

RULE	U9	U11	U13
Temporary Runner			
A coach may use a courtesy runner for the catcher to allow that catcher to suit up for the next half inning.	✓	✓	
A player who may run for the catcher of record from the previous defensive inning and who is now on base with two out. The temporary runner must be:			✓
1. Currently in the batting order.			
2. The person in the batting order who is furthest from coming to bat and who is not on base.			
Playing Time			
No player is to sit more than one consecutive inning ² (pitchers warming up to enter the game are not considered to be sitting).	✓	✓	✓
A player cannot play the same position for more than 1 inning a game.	✓		
A player cannot play the same position for more than 2 innings a game.		✓	
A player cannot play the same position for more than 2 consecutive innings (except pitchers).			✓
A player cannot play in the same position more than 3 innings per game (except pitchers).			✓
Each player must play an infield and outfield position in a game.		✓	
Each player must play multiple positions in a game.			✓
Coaches are encouraged to play all players as equally as possible over the course of the season.	✓	✓	✓

RULE	U9	U11	U13
Rule 5 – The Game			
Regulation Game			
A new inning will not start after 1 hour 15 minutes after the scheduled start time.	✓		
A new inning will not start after 1 hour 30 minutes after the scheduled start time.		✓	✓
In case of weather or cancellation of a game by an official and when two innings have been completed, the score of the game will revert to the last fully completed inning.		✓	✓
Run Ahead Rule			
If any team is ahead by fifteen runs or more after three innings, or any inning thereafter, the game will be called. If any team is ahead by ten runs or more after five innings (4 ½ if Home Team), or any inning thereafter, the game will be called.		✓	
A Run Ahead Rule shall result in the conclusion of the game when after 2 ½, 3, 3 ½, or 4 complete innings of play a 10 run mercy rule will be in effect.			✓
Run Limit Per Inning			
Maximum of 3 runs per half inning for all innings of the game.	✓		
Maximum of 4 runs per half inning for all innings of the game.		✓	
Maximum of 5 runs per half inning for all games.			✓

RULE	U9	U11	U13
Charged Conferences			
A team is permitted three offensive conferences per inning.		✓	
A team is permitted two offensive conferences per inning.			✓
A team is permitted two defensive conferences per inning. With the third conference, the pitcher must be removed from the pitcher position for the balance of the inning.		✓	✓
Rule 6 – Pitching Regulations			
Pitching			
Coach pitcher – 5 pitches. If they haven't hit after 5 pitches, they are given first base.	✓		
First half of the season: Player pitching to opposing team until the batter receives a 4th ball, which would normally result in a walk. This is where the game changes. After the 4th ball, the batter will have a count against them. It will either be 4 balls (0 strikes 4-0), 4-1 or 4-2. The hitter's coach or designate from offensive team, will now come in and pitch to their own batter and carry out the count. Now a 5th ball will be a walk and 3rd strike is still an out.		✓	
Last half of season: Player pitch – normal count. After 3 strikes, batter out. After 4 balls, batter walks.		✓	
Player pitch – normal count. After 3 strikes, batter out. After 4 balls, batter walks.			✓
Pitching Limitations			
A pitcher is allowed to pitch a maximum of two innings. One pitch equals one inning.		✓	
A pitcher is allowed to pitch a maximum of four innings. One pitch equals one inning.			✓
Pitching limitation rule is suspended in extra innings or international rule.			✓

RULE	U9	U11	U13
Hit Batters		✓	
If the same pitcher hits two batters in an inning, the coach should consider removing the pitcher for the remainder of that inning.		✓	
Walks			
Walks are allowed.	✓	✓	✓
Intentional Walks			
There are no intentional walks.	✓	✓	✓
Rule 7 – Batting			
Number of Batters			
All players bat. All eligible players will appear on the batting order (whether they are in the field defensively or not).	✓	✓	✓
Late Players			
Players who arrive after the start of the game will be placed last in the batting order and bat their turn.	✓	✓	✓
Bunting			
Bunting is permitted.		✓	✓
Slapping is not permitted.	✓	✓	

RULE	U9	U11	U13
Rule 8 – Batter-Runner & Runner			
Third Strike Rule			
Third strike rule is not in effect.	✓	✓	✓
Infield Fly Rule			
Infield fly rule is not in effect.	✓	✓	✓
Stealing			
Base runner cannot steal bases; runner can only run when the batter makes contact (no stealing).	✓		
Base runners may steal on any legally pitched ball when it has left the pitchers hand.		✓	✓
A player can only advance one base on a steal attempt.		✓	
A player can advance two bases on a steal attempt.			✓
A player cannot advance to home on a steal, passed ball, or wild pitch. The player must be batted in or forced home by a walk or is part of a continuation of a play (i.e. overthrow).		✓	
Lead Offs			
Runners may leave the base when the ball has left the pitchers hand. Runner will be called out for leaving early.		✓	✓
Sliding			
Sliding is allowed.	✓	✓	✓

RULE	U9	U11	U13
Base Runner Advancement			
Following a fair hit ball, runners may only advance a maximum of two bases.	✓		
Following a fair hit ball, the advancing of runners is considered 'over' when the ball is returned to a player in the infield (inside the base paths or on a base). Runners may continue to the base they are heading to but the fielders may attempt to throw/tag the runner out.		✓	
Overthrows			
Runners do not advance on an overthrow.	✓		
Runners may advance one base on an overthrow and do so at the risk of being thrown/tagged out. Runner cannot advance an additional base if two consecutive overthrows are made in the same play.		✓	
Runner may advance one base on an overthrow and do so at the risk of being thrown/tagged out. Runner may try to advance one base per overthrow if consecutive overthrows are made in the same play to a maximum of two throws ³			✓
Rule 9 – Dead Ball-Play in Play			
First base will not be awarded for being hit by a pitch from a coach-pitcher.	✓		
First base is awarded for being hit by a pitch from a player-pitcher.		✓	✓
Rule 11 – Protests			
There are no protests or appeals.	✓		
There are no protests but appeals are allowed.		✓	✓
Protests are permitted at Districts and Provincials only.			✓

RULE	U9	U11	U13
Rule 12 – Scoring			
Scores & Standings			
Score and standing will not be kept as emphasis is on player and team skill development.	>	>	>
Score and standings can be kept.			

BEST PRACTICES:

¹ Number of players on the field could depend on several factors. Teams may choose not to have a player in the catching position or in the outfield. Instead, extra players can be on the side lines participating in one or two skill stations while their team is on defense. Teams may also choose to have extra players on the side lines practicing pitching with a parent or coach while their team is on defense. Coaches with larger teams are encouraged to find creative ways to engage their players in additional skill practice instead of placing additional players in the outfield at this level.

² Coaches should try to ensure that every player sits out one inning before any player sits out two innings.

CLARIFICATIONS:

³ For example: A player cannot get a homerun on a bunt. If a batter bunts a ball and an overthrow occurs at first, the batter may try to advance to second at their own risk. If there is then an overthrow at second base, the batter-runner may try to advance to third base at their own risk. If there is a subsequent overthrow at third base, the batter-runner will hold at third base.

RESOURCES:

U7 Timbits Softball

- refer to the Timbits Softball program manual which can be ordered from Softball BC
- more information about Timbits softball can be found at softball.bc.ca/content/timbits-softball and softball.ca/programs/timbitssoftball

Long-Term Player Development (LTPD)

- more information about the LTPD can be found at softball.bc.ca/content/long-term-player-development and softball.ca/ltpd

Athlete Development Matrix (ADM)

- more information about the ADM can be found at softball.bc.ca/content/long-term-player-development and softball.ca/ltpd/adm