

## 2008 Girls Minors League Rules Change

**Rule 8, 9, 11 and 12.** Have been modified for this season on a trial basis.

**8. A runner may not leave a base until after the pitch has reached home plate or is hit by the batter.** Leading off is allowed only after the ball has reached home plate, **base stealing is NOT allowed.** In the absence of a defensive play (in which case the ball is “live”) a runner may not leave a base until after the pitch has reached home plate or is hit by the batter, and must return to the last base legally occupied when the play has ended and before the next pitch.

***Penalty for leaving the base too soon: the runner is out!*** All runners must return to their bases when the pitcher assumes her legal pitching position near the pitching rubber.

The ball is “live” until it is returned to the pitcher and the pitcher is in the vicinity of the pitching rubber, which is her legal pitching position. If ball four is a Hit Batter (by Pitch) the ball is “dead” and runners may not advance unless forced.

9. *(Not changed)* A batter is automatically out in the event a catcher drops the third strike. The batter may not advance to first on a dropped third strike, regardless of how many outs there are at the time.

***In the event of a dropped third strike, base runners may advance at their own risk, as the ball is considered “live”.*** However a player on third may not advance to home unless a defensive play is initiated by the defense.

11. After the fourth called ball has been delivered by the pitcher, the umpire will call “time”, and a batting tee will be used for the next play rather than awarding the batter a base on balls (*reminder: stealing is not allowed even though ball four is a live ball until time out is called*).

a. The batting tee will be placed on the home plate, with at least half of the base of the tee covering the plate. The umpire will instruct the batter to assume a normal batting position beside home plate. When the batter is in a normal batting position, the umpire will call time-in, at which time the batter will take her swing at the ball. Only one swing will be allowed. Bunting while allowed in normal play, is not permitted when the ball is on the tee and the batter will be called out if a bunt is attempted from the tee. See Foot Fault rule below.

Foot Fault: The batter must be in a normal batting position beside the plate, and may not step into the strike zone for the swing. The batter will be called out if she is not in a normal batting position when batting from the tee.

b. The batter or manager may request the umpire to adjust the batting tee depending on the height of the batter. Only one adjustment per time at bat will be allowed.

c. If the batter swings and misses the ball, or hits the ball foul, or if the batter hits the tee and not the ball, the ball is considered dead and the batter is automatically out. *The bat must make direct contact with at least part of the ball.* It is the umpire's discretion whether the hit is a clean hit or not.

Since the ball is "dead", each runner must return, without liability to be put out, to the base legally occupied at the time of the swing.

d. If the batter hits a fair ball, normal play will continue just as if the batting tee was not used.

**e. When the batting tee is being used, base runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit and may only advance on a ball hit in fair territory.**

f. The umpire will stand in a position where he or she can quickly remove the batting tee from the plate area, immediately after the batter hits the ball, without interfering with the play, batter or catcher.

g. The catcher must wear all required catcher's equipment when the batting tee is being used.

h. The umpire shall designate a spot at a safe distance to the rear and side of the batter for the catcher to stand so she does not interfere with the batter or the removal of the batting tee.

**i. When the batting tee is being used and until the ball is hit, the pitcher must assume a position with at least one foot on the farthest pitching rubber from home plate (40 foot rubber).** The pitcher delivering ball four to the batter must remain as the pitcher when the batting tee is being used. If, in the opinion of the umpire only after an appeal has been made by the manager of the team at bat, the pitcher left the pitching rubber before the ball is hit, the offensive manager shall have his choice of one of the following:

1). The batter shall be awarded first base even if he was out on the play. All base runners shall advance one base if forced by the batter being awarded first base or,

2). The play may stand as completed.

**12. No stealing is allowed** regardless of the number of runs, however leading off is always allowed as described above, regardless of the score. *(10 run limit rule for stealing has been removed)*