

HADDAM/KILLINGWORTH MINOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL RULES

EFFECTIVE 4/08

These rules will apply to ALL Minor League games played in the Towns of Haddam or Killingworth. It is expected that each coach will conduct him/herself in a manner appropriate in dealing with children. There should be courtesy shown between coaches. The development of technical skills and good sportsmanship shall be first and foremost for our players. Coaches should consider ways to reduce embarrassment to another team in the event the score is widely disproportionate, such as removing your top pitcher or refraining from taking extra bases. There is no point in demoralizing the players when a game is out of hand. Good luck and have fun!

1. Unless otherwise specified, the rules in the official Little League rulebook will apply.
2. Minor League players shall be 8 to 11 years old prior to January 1st of the current year (i.e. "Little League Age")
3. Players will pitch the entire game. Through May 14th a coach or manager will enter the game and pitch if the count reaches four balls. The coach cannot walk a batter; if a coach hits a batter she does not advance to first. The girl who is pitching will still play the position defensively and make all defensive plays when the coach or manager is pitching.

Beginning on May 15th, the players will pitch the entire game with no coach pitching. If count reaches 4 balls the batter will be awarded a walk. There is no limit on the number of walks allowed per inning or game. See Rule #12

4. Any one player may pitch only 6 innings per week. When a player has pitched 4 or more innings, 3 days rest is required; for 3 innings or less, 1 day of rest is required. One pitch constitutes an inning pitched.
5. Players on base will be able to steal second or third base after the third pitch has been thrown. No steals of home will be allowed. In the course of play, if fielders overthrow their targets or balls are not fielded cleanly, runners may advance at their own risk for one additional base per overthrow. There is no leading; the runner must not leave the base until the pitched ball has passed the batter.
7. Other than first base, base runners must avoid contact or slide if a play is going to be made at that base. No head first slides into a base.
8. Each team may field 4 outfielders, 10 players in total

9. All roster players on a team will bat in the batting order, including players not in the field.
10. Each player must play nine outs in the field.
11. Only one bunt allowed per game. Any bunts after the first one allowed shall be considered strikes.
12. **A five (5) run limit is to be imposed, which would complete the half-inning. If during a play the number of runs scored for the half-inning exceeds five (5), the half –inning is over at the completion of the play and only five runs are counted for that half-inning.**
13. Adults may coach at one or both bases, but at all times an adult should be in the dugout/bench.
14. The home team will supply 2 new and 1 good used ball for each game.
15. In the absence of a previously assigned umpire, the home team will supply at least one adult umpire and the umpire's equipment for each game.
16. Scheduled weekday games will start at 5:30 PM. The home team will warm up at 5:00 PM and the visitors will warm up at 5:15 PM. Weekend games will start at the scheduled time, with preference being given to 9:30 AM starting times on Saturdays, and 4:00 PM starting times on Sundays.
17. Rained out games will be rescheduled, as fields are available. The home team will contact the league director who will coordinate all make-up games with the field scheduler for all leagues. There will be a 2-hour time limit if there is a second game waiting to be played. All games must be made up within two weeks unless permission for an extension is obtained from the local league president (permission from both league presidents is required in the case of an interleague game).
18. Rain out decisions are in the hands of the home team coach until the start of the game; then, any decision on stopping the game will be up to the umpire. If the game is to be canceled before it starts, the home team coach must notify the visiting team coach and umpire (or umpire-in-chief) by 4:00 PM when possible.
19. Most home games are played at the HK JV field. It is the responsibility of the home team to rake out the infield. The batter's box, foul lines, first base running lane and 8 foot pitching circle must be lined by the home team prior to the game. On the High School Varsity field **DO NOT** change the pitching circle for the 40-foot pitching rubber. Just install the temporary rubber at 35 feet.

20. All players must be off the field and in the dugouts/benches when not playing or coaching in the game. Dugouts/benches should be kept clean at all times. Only 3 adults are allowed in the dugout during a game, the Manager and his/her 2 coaches.
21. There are no on deck batters, only the batter at the plate should be holding a bat. The offending player shall miss her turn at bat and the team shall be charged with an out.
22. Through May 31, a new inning (that is, the top of an inning) cannot be started past 7:30 PM. From June 1 on, a new inning cannot be started after 8:00 PM. The umpire's watch is the official watch and he/she makes the call.
23. If a game is terminated due to darkness or rain, it shall be considered a complete game if 3 ½ innings have been played and the home team is winning or 4 innings have been played and the home team is losing.
24. Pitchers will be allowed 8 warm-up pitches for the start of the game or when they are first brought in as a relief pitcher. Five pitches will be allowed between innings.
25. The infield fly rule applies only when there are fewer than 2 outs and there are runners on first and second base or the bases loaded (not when there is only a runner on first).
26. Play will stop for each play when the pitcher has control of the ball in the 8-foot radius-pitching circle. Runners who are more than halfway to the next base will be awarded that base.
27. If in the opinion of the umpire, a player throws a bat, that player and her manager will be issued a warning on the first offense; any subsequent offense by any player can result in ejection at the discretion of the umpire. Play must be allowed to continue when a bat is thrown.
28. Coaches will communicate with the opposing team's coaches about using the game as a time for instruction in the game of baseball and in sportsmanship.
29. Minor League pitching distance is 35 feet measured from the front of the pitching plate to the point of home plate.
30. A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher any time in the remainder of the game, but only once in the same inning as she was removed.