
Majors

Softball Rules

Falmouth, ME Little League

Age Eligibility

- **Majors (12U):**
 - Players must be no older than 12 years of age on December 31st of the previous year to be eligible to play Falmouth's Majors Softball.

General

- No half-inning shall start later than 1hr 45 minutes after the scheduled start time.
- The score should be kept by the coaches. Scorebooks and lineup cards are not required.
- Batting helmets must be worn and must have a face cage.
- Face masks/fielder's masks must be worn by all infielders.
- Hair must be secured out of the face, and there may be NO jewelry. No earrings, bracelets, or necklaces. If a player has recently pierced their ears, they must tape over their earrings with sturdy athletic tape - bandaids are not enough.
- No player may sit out more than 1 inning in a 3 inning game, or 2 innings in a 5+ inning game unless injured.
- Coaches must make reasonable efforts to allow equitable time at positions as to

Offense

- Batters will play by the normal 3 strikes and 4 balls rule.
- Strike zone is shoulder to knees, and 1" on either side of the plate.
- 3 outs and the inning is over.
 - Alternatively, LL mercy rules apply.

- A continuous batting order will be used regardless of whether a player has sat out the inning.
- Runners observe normal rules with regards to running bases including tag outs at first if the runner turns towards second indicating.
- No sliding into first base. If so, the runner is out.
- Stealing is permitted at all times the ball is in play, including home.
- The dropped-third-strike rule applies, so players may steal first base if the catcher drops the third strike.
- On deck batting is permitted, but the on-deck batter is responsible for retrieving the bat ahead of them.
- Players may lead off the base, but only after the ball has left the pitcher's hand.
- The Look Back Rule applies to base runners. [See here.](#)

Defense

- A maximum of 9 players play the field.
- There is no coach pitch assistance. All walks and hit batters are walks.
- The dropped-third-strike rule applies, so players may steal first base if the catcher drops the third strike.
- The In-Field Fly rule applies. [See here.](#)

Miscellaneous

- **CONFLICT RESOLUTION:** There should be no conflicts between coaches, parents, spectators etc. If you witness an unruly or aggressive person or potentially volatile situation (coach, parent, spectator, etc.) the head coach of the team with the unruly person should take charge and ask that person to stop or leave. If the unruly person is a head coach, then the umpire should ask the coach to stop and calm down. If that fails, end the game and report it to the Little League Board immediately. NO ONE should get into any type of conflict in front of the players. **STOP THE GAME.**
- **FIELD AND DUGOUT SAFETY:** While in the dugout, no climbing on the benches or fences. *No one is allowed outside the dugout during the inning other than the defensive team, the base coaches, the hitter and baserunners, and a coach pitcher*

if necessary. Additionally, parents, siblings, and friends are not permitted in the dugouts.

- **CLOSED FIELDS:** When the fields are closed, the fields are closed. This decision will be made by the Town of Falmouth or Little League Board and must be adhered to by the coaches. The decision to close the fields will be posted on the town website and communicated via email whenever possible.
- **UMPRIES:** Umpires are generally coaches or parents. The league does attempt to get certified umpires because they are in high demand and there aren't enough. There should be NO complaining to umpires, although you may challenge a call and talk over any issues. Sometimes things come up that we haven't covered and that's ok. We are all volunteering their time and we need to respect that. Umpires can stand behind the plate or behind the pitcher (wherever they feel most comfortable). If coaches are umpiring, they will umpire for their pitcher and the other team's batters. This allows the offensive team coaches to focus on base-coaching and coach-pitching.

All other rules follow Little League Softball rules, found in the Rulebook App. See tournament and [regular season rule changes here](#).



