

Little League Softball Rules

INSTRUCTIONAL SOFTBALL 8U

2016

Volunteer Managers and Coaches:

All Managers and Coaches will be required to fill out and sign the Little League volunteer application. Applications are to be sent to League President.

Sportsmanship and conduct:

Sportsmanship and conduct are the primary concern of the Managers and coaches. This includes the conduct of coaches, players and fans of your team. Proper youth sportsmanship attitudes must be instilled and maintained on every team. Encourage positive cheering by everyone.

This is an instructional league with coaches encouraged to be on the field behind the players as instructors. Players should run on and off the field and be attentive.

Schedules:

Weekday games will begin at 6:00 with play to end at 7:30 p.m (no new inning after 1 hour and forty five minutes of play. The home team will have the field from 5:30 to 5:45 p.m. (if needed) and the visitors from 5:45 to 6:00 p.m. (if needed) for pre-game infield practice. Saturday games will begin at 10:00 a.m or 12:00 pm. The home team will place and at the end of play secure bases. Coaches, will double as umpires. No league umpires will be scheduled for this league.

Rain delays and canceled games:

Lightning or thunder will result in stoppage of play. When a game is suspended a decision will be made immediately or within 20 minutes to continue play or cancel the game. When a game is canceled, 4 innings constitutes a complete game and is not to be continued or rescheduled. When teams have had one hour of playing time the game will be considered complete and is not to be rescheduled. The League coordinator or Team Managers can reschedule canceled games. Schedule make-up games and practices with the Field Scheduler to avoid conflicts.

General rules:

1. An 11" safety softball (RIF) will be used. Only league approved balls are allowed.
2. Games will be maximum 5 innings in length with time restrictions above. Base paths are 50 feet.
3. A tie game at the end of 5 innings or the time limit will be stopped as tie games.
4. A game may be started or continued with a minimum of 9 players. If there are less than 9 players at any time the game reverts to a practice.
5. The infield fly rule will not be called.
6. Base coaches may be used. No players are to be used as base coach.
7. Normal infield positions will be filled and all remaining players will be used in the outfield. Outfield being on the grass or at least 10 feet behind the base lines or infield players. Moving one outfielder to provide 7 infielders is allowed (usually second base bag).
8. Players must be rotated and every player must play at least 3 innings. Remember this is an instructional league!
9. Catchers must wear protective gear.

Batting:

1. The offensive inning ends when 4 runs are scored or three players are put out.
2. No bunting is allowed, batters must take a full swing.
3. Hit batters will be awarded first base.

4. Coaches will call balls and strikes on batter.
5. Pitchers must wear face mask. Pitchers will pitch from 35 feet. If Managers feel pitchers are not capable of throwing strikes, coaches may pitch (facemask not required).
6. There is no on deck batter allowed in Little League Softball. (The girls hit each other with the bat, so do not allow this).

Base running:

1. There is no stealing. Runners may leave the base when the ball is hit and cannot advance unless there is a hit ball.
2. Once the ball is hit runners can advance as long as the ball remains in the fair play territory. On overthrows the ball is dead and runners may advance only to the base they are going to. On balls hit to the outfield runners may advance as many bases as possible. Once the ball is returned to the infield (the ball contacts the infield or any infield player regardless of whether the ball is caught or not) runners can advance at their own risk no farther than the base they are going to. Hits not passing the infielders will allow each runner to advance a maximum of one base, at their own risk.
3. A missed base or leaving a base early is to be called to the runner's attention by coaches. Only if the infraction is repeated, intentional and disruptive will a warning or out call be made, and then by both coaches agreement.
4. The base running rules are intended to foster conservative base running keeping force plays available for the defense.
5. Runners legally put out return to their respective bench.

The rules for this league will be the Official regulations and playing rules of Little League Softball. Any rules not specifically stated or modified above, will be governed by the Little League softball rules of play. Managers may edit rules if desired to promote fun play.

Reviewed: 3/26/16

DWS