

## 12U Softball Abbreviated & Local Rules

*Little League International League Official Regulations and Playing Rules are in effect. Below is a synopsis of rules, including local Bi-County League rules (underlined):  
Reviewed 1/12/17*

**Games are 6 innings long, with the following exceptions:**

1. **1 Hour and 50-minute Rule:** For games that begin at 6 pm, after 1 hour and 50 minutes of play, no new inning may begin. If an inning is in play at 1 hour and 45 minutes after the start of the game that inning will be completed.
2. **Umpire Safety Call:** In the event of darkness or inclement weather an umpire may call the game for safety reasons. **If a game is called due to darkness or inclement weather, the following rules apply:**
  1. If 4-1/2 innings are completed and the home team is ahead, the game is official and the home team is ruled the winner.
  2. If 5 innings have been played, the team that is ahead at the time the game is called will be declared the winner.
  3. If a game is called before it is official, play will be stopped and the game rescheduled.
3. **3. 5-Run Rule:** For the first 5 innings, the batting team's inning ends when a 5<sup>th</sup> run crosses the plate or three outs are made. The run limit is waved for the 6<sup>th</sup> inning or the last inning if called by the umpire. There will be a mercy rule invoked after 4 ½ innings, if the home team is ahead or after 5 innings if the visiting team is ahead. If a team is ahead by 15 runs at this point, the umpire shall call the game.

**Weekday games will start at 6pm; weekend games noon or later.**

**Coaches must give line ups to the opposing team with numbers and names, if requested.**

**A team will consist of 9 players in the field, as follows:**

- Outfielders have to be a minimum of 10 feet in back of any base until the pitcher releases the ball.
- 6 infielders are allowed.

**All players present must play in the field at least 3 innings.**

**All players bat in the same spot in the batting order for the entire game whether or not they take the field in any inning.**

- Any late player will be added to the bottom of the batting order.

**The strike zone is from the shoulders to the knees.**

**Intentional walks not permitted.**

**On deck bat swinging not permitted.**

**Bat throwing not permitted.** The umpire may call out a player who throws the bat.

**Batter hit by a pitch will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base.**

**Pitching:**

- Pitching distance is 40 feet.
- A 12-inch optic yellow Little League approved ball is used (2 are provided by the home team at the start of the game.)
  - A pitcher who hits three batters in an inning or five batters in a game cannot pitch for the remainder of the game. She may play any other position.
  - A pitcher can pitch a maximum of 4 innings per game. Once a pitcher pitches in an inning it counts as an inning pitched regardless of quantity of pitches thrown.

**Stealing:**

- A runner cannot leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
  - A runner who leaves early will be called out.
1. • Once the pitcher is in the 8-foot circle and in control of the ball and not making a play (pump-fake is a "play") the runner must immediately either go back to the previous base or advance.

**Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> Strike:**

- If fewer than 2 outs and 1<sup>st</sup> base is **unoccupied** the batter-runner may attempt to get on base before she is thrown out or tagged out.
- If 2 outs **even if 1<sup>st</sup> base is occupied** the batter-runner may attempt to get on base.

**Dress uniforms must be worn for games.**

**Little League chattering rule is in effect.**

Cheering is allowed, however elevating cheers at the time of the pitch in an attempt to affect pitcher is not allowed.

**No jewelry.**

**Umpire judgment calls are final.**

**Standings will be kept and used for playoff seeding's.**

**Local ground (field) rules will be determined by team manager and umpire before the game.**

**Players:**

To aid leagues that are having a difficult time getting enough players for their teams: A pool of players from existing teams can be created to draw from when a team faces a shortage of players for a game. Players must be age eligible, cannot pitch and must bat last in the lineup.