

2026 Majors Division Softball Rules

These rules will govern the Majors Division for the 2026 season. They reflect mainstream practices used by successful Little League programs and align with official Little League regulations while keeping our league's developmental philosophy at the forefront.

Game Operations & Equipment

- **Game Balls:** Both teams supply one (1) new Little League-approved softball at the plate meeting. The umpire will select the game ball; backups should be available.
- **Umpires:** If no district or assigned umpire is present, the Home team must provide an umpire.
- **Catcher Safety:** All catchers must wear a mask with a throat guard for all warmups, innings, and bullpen activities. This includes hockey-style masks.
- **No Forfeits:** Borrow players when needed/able to ensure every game is played.
- **Weeknight / Lighting Adjustments:** Games shall not be scheduled for non-lighted fields after sunset.

Division and Game Format

- **Ages:** 10–12 (league age). Advanced 9-year-olds may play up with board approval.
- **Field dimensions:** 60-foot bases; 40-foot pitching distance.
- **Games** will be a maximum of 6 innings, and no new inning may begin once 1 hour and 45 minutes have elapsed from the first pitch.
- **Continuous batting order** is required for all games.
- **Each half-inning** ends after three (3) outs. There is no per-inning run limit at this level.
- **A team** must field a minimum of eight (8) players to begin play. Borrow players from the opposing team if necessary to avoid cancellation.

Pitching Rules

- **Players** pitch from a distance of 40 feet using standard Little League Softball mechanics.
- **Pitchers** must adhere to Little League Softball pitching regulations for delivery and re-entry.
- **If a pitcher** hits three (3) batters in a game, regardless of the same or different innings, they must be removed from the mound for the remainder of the game.

- Intentional walks are permitted by coach declaration without requiring pitches to be thrown.
- Coaches may visit the pitcher once per inning; on the second visit, the pitcher must be replaced.

Batting Rules

- Bunting is permitted.
- Dropped third strike is in effect. The batter becomes a runner if the third strike is not caught with first base unoccupied or with two outs.
- Each player must wear an approved helmet while batting or on base, equipped with a facemask per league safety policy.
- All bats must display the USA Softball certification stamp.
- Continuous batting order is used for all games.
- No on-deck batters are allowed; only the batter at the plate may handle a bat.

Base Running Rules

- Runners may leave the base once the pitch is released by the pitcher.
- Stealing of all bases, including home, is permitted once the pitch is released.
- Play stops when the pitcher has control of the ball inside the 8-foot circle and is not making a play on a runner (Circle Rule applies).
- Sliding feet-first is required when advancing; head-first slides are permitted only when returning to a base.
- Obstruction and interference rules are enforced per Little League regulations.

Fielding and Defense

- Standard 9-player defensive alignment is used. Coaches are encouraged to rotate players through both infield and outfield positions regularly for development.
- Infield Fly Rule is in effect at this level.
- Defensive coaches may not be on the field during live play.
- Outfielders must remain on the grass until the ball is put in play.

Scoring and Conduct

- Each half-inning ends after three (3) outs. There is no per-inning run limit in Majors.

- A 10-run rule is in effect after four (4) complete innings. An 8-run rule is in effect after five (5) complete innings.
- Scores and standings are recorded for regular-season play to determine playoff seeding.
- Games should emphasize competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship alongside player development.
- Unsportsmanlike behavior toward umpires, players, or coaches will not be tolerated.

Rule Authority and Precedence

These local rules serve as operational guidance for the Parsippany Troy East Little League and are intended to complement the Official Little League Rules and Regulations. All games are governed first and foremost by the Official Little League Rulebook. If any discrepancy or conflict exists between these local rules and the Official Rulebook, the Official Little League Rules shall take precedence.