



NEW JERSEY DISTRICT 12 2026 SOFTBALL INTER-LEAGUE PLAY RULES

The rules and regulations for NJ District 12 Little League Softball are those contained in the Minor League, Little League, Junior League and Senior League Softball Official Regulations and Playing Rules as published annually by Little League Baseball, Inc. with the following supplements:

	Junior Minors/ Rookies 7, 8, 9	Minors 8, 9, 10	Majors 10, 11, 12	Juniors/Seniors 13, 14 & 15, 16
Ball:	11"	11"	12"	12"
Pitching Circle:	35 ft. Circle - 8 ft. Radius	35 ft. Circle - 8 ft. Radius	40 ft. Circle - 8 ft. Radius	43 ft. Circle - 8 ft. Radius
Time:	No new inning after 2 hours or darkness or where local rules apply			
Innings:	6 innings. As defined in the book, the last declared inning is the 6 th			
Players on Field:	9; 6 minimum	9; minimum 8 - If a game be played with only 8 players an out will <i>not</i> be called for what would have been the 9 th player		
More than 9 players on the field is a violation of your insurance policy at all levels of play.				
Pitching Rules:	Coach pitch ONLY. Innings pitched by book. Chart pitchers innings in book.	Innings pitched by book. Chart pitchers innings in book. Rest by book. The rules below will apply through May 4, 2026. Beginning May 5, 2026 interleague games will be all Player Pitch. <u>Rules through May 5, 2026</u> If a batter is hit by a <u>player</u> pitched ball, the batter <u>MUST</u> go to 1 st base. Upon ball 4, the hitting team's coach will pitch assuming the number of strikes in the count (continuous count). The coach will pitch to the batter and the umpire will continue to call strikes. Upon strike 3, the batter is out. Example: If the batter has a count of 1 strike upon coach-pitcher entering, the batter will be given 2 more strikes to put the ball in play or strike out. A coach-pitcher is limited to 6 pitches thrown until the ball is put in play or the batter strikes out. A ball accidentally fielded by the coach pitcher shall be considered a "do-over". No coaching from the mound. This rule specifically refers to coaching base runners from the mound. This does not include the coach-pitcher telling the batter how many pitches remain and that they must swing at the 6 th and final pitch.	Player Pitch. Innings pitched by book. Chart pitchers innings in book. Rest by book.	Player Pitch. Innings pitched by book. Chart pitchers innings in book. Rest by book.



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Runs & Mercy 4.10(e):	Max. 5 runs per inning 10 runs after 4 innings (3 ½ if the Home team is ahead)	Max. 5 runs per inning until May 4, 2026 Max. 3 runs per inning after May 5, 2026 (any runs scored on an over the fence home run would be counted irrespective of the run limit – up to 8 runs can be recorded through May 4 and 6 runs beginning May 5) 10 runs after 4 innings (3 ½ if the Home team is ahead).	No new batter after 6 th run scores; a play must be made. Up to 9 runs recorded in an inning. 10 runs after 4 innings (3 ½ if the Home team is ahead).	No new batter after 6 th run scores; a play must be made. Up to 9 runs recorded in an inning. 10 runs after 4 innings (3 ½ if the Home team is ahead).
Batting Order:	At all levels of play, a continuous batting order including all players present at the start of the game. Any players arriving after the start of the game will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.			
Mandatory Play:	Mandatory play is 1 at bat and 6 consecutive defensive outs. Six defensive outs is defined as “A player enters the field in one of the nine defensive positions when her team is on defense and occupies that position while six outs are made.” Bat at least one time is defined as “is when a player assumes the position of a batter with no count and one of the following occurs: i) she is retired as a batter ii) she is retired as a batter-runner, iii) she reaches base and scores; or iii) after she reaches base, the inning or game ends.			Beginning with the 2025 season, the Mandatory Play requirement does not apply.
Stealing:	No stealing	No stealing while Coach is pitching. Until May 4, 2026 - no stealing of home After May 5, 2026 - stealing of home is permitted Only 2 Attempts to steal 2 nd base per inning Runner must leave when pitch reaches the batter A continuous walk is considered a stolen base	Unlimited Stealing Leave on Release	Unlimited Stealing Leave on Release
Bunting:	No Bunting	Bunting is permitted. Fake bunting is permitted. Slap bunting is not permitted and will result in an out. Slap bunting is when the hitter “shows” bunt by taking a bunting stance and then pulls the bat back and hits away, usually “slapping” at the ball Slap hitting IS allowed. Slap hitting is where the batter takes a half swing at the ball trying to hit it while starting to run towards first base.	Bunting is permitted. Slap bunting is not permitted and will result in an out. Slap hitting IS allowed. Fake bunting is permitted.	All types of bunting permitted
Defensive Subs:	Free defensive substitution provided mandatory play has been met			
Infield Fly:	None	None	Applies	Applies
Dropped 3rd Strike:	None	None	Applies	Applies

Reminder: There is no On Deck in any Little League game. Only the player at bat may have a bat in their hands at any time.