

2025 District 8 Softball Juniors Interleague – Local Rules, Policies and Procedures

Softball – Juniors Division

1. All regular season rules will apply as per the “Little League 2025 Softball Official Rulebook”, except as amended below.
2. All players league age 13, 14, 15 yr olds are eligible for the Summer Ball Juniors division.
3. The Summer Ball Juniors Division is a non-competitive division and there are no protests. Summer Ball is designed to be recreational, instructional, and above all, fun! Please ensure that you, as Managers and Coaches, as well as your team’s parents, set the best possible examples of sportsmanship and courtesy. Scores and overall standings will not be tracked throughout the season
4. The home team will occupy the third base dugout, and the visiting team will occupy the first base dugout.
5. At all times (On offense or on defense), there must be at least one adult present in the dugout. All adult volunteers must have cleared a Little League approved background check
6. The entire player game roster shall be used as the batting order, regardless of defensive position. Players arriving after the game has started shall be placed in the batting order after the last player named in such batting order. “Free” substitution is allowed.
7. If playing on a non-fenced field, the home run line will be marked by cones (if available) a distance of 200 feet from home plate. A batted ball that passes over the coned home run line on the fly shall be a home run.
8. A batted ball that touches a fielder’s glove, or any other part of said fielder, and passes over the coned home run line on the fly, without ever touching the ground prior to passing the cones, shall be a home run. A batted ball that passes the coned home run line after first touching the ground shall be a ground-rule double, regardless of whether a fielder touched it or not.
9. A safety base is recommended (If available AND it can be secured to the ground) next to first base to reduce collisions and to give batters a better chance of running through first base on a ground ball to the infield. In general, the defense is entitled to the inside base, while the batter / runner is entitled to the outside flat, rubber base. Coaches should instruct their players to make plays to the inside base while playing defense, and to run through the outside base while running to first.
10. Each team may provide a scorekeeper who is not a manager or coach. The home team is considered the official scorekeeper. If the home team is unable to provide a scorekeeper who is not a manager or coach, then the visiting team can provide the official scorekeeper.
11. The home team is responsible for supplying the home plate umpire for the game. The visiting team is responsible for providing the field umpire for the game.
12. The game will be played using a 12” softball. The home team is responsible for providing two softballs to the umpire at the plate meeting.
13. All SUMMER BALL Major Division Games have a hard-stop of 2 hours, the batter may finish their at bat.
14. The modified mandatory play rule of nine defensive outs is required for each player. Managers are encouraged to give all players their minimum playing time as soon as possible to ensure compliance in the event the game cannot be completed (Darkness, weather, time limit, etc). **It is expected that managers will offer fair playing time to everyone.**
15. Managers and coaches should make every attempt to keep the game moving along at a good pace.

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- a. Catchers should be identified in advance of their assigned inning, get geared up and be ready to play when their team takes the field. Note that any player wearing a catcher's mask can warm-up a pitcher.
 - b. Per LL Rule 7.14(b): A Courtesy Runner may be permitted for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs. Neither the pitcher or the catcher is subject to removal from the line-up. Due to the Continuous Batting Order being used, the Courtesy Runner may be in the team's existing batting order and must be the player in the batting order who made the last out.
16. For safety reasons, players are not allowed to hold a bat in the dugout / bench area. Practice swings are allowed in the on-deck circle and in the batter's box only under the coach's direction. Again, for safety reasons, it is recommended that the on-deck batter take position in the on-deck circle located on the same side as the batter that is at home plate.
17. After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat. Exceptions are as follows:
 - On a swing, slap, or check swing
 - When forced out of the box by a pitch
 - When the batter attempts a drag bunt
 - When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball
 - When a play has been attempted
 - When time has been called
 - When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound, or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball, or the catcher leaves the catcher's box
 - On a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball
- Penalty:** If the batter leaves the batter's box or delays play and none of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter. After one warning on a batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter. No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.
18. The entire game will be player pitch from a distance of 43 feet between the front of the pitching rubber and the back corner of home plate.
19. Any violation of the rules or inappropriate behavior by Coaches, Managers, or Volunteers will be addressed under the league's Disciplinary Policy and the North Bothell Little League Code of Conduct.