

District 7 Softball – 2023

District 7 DA: Del Rivero, deljrivero@gmail.com

District 7 ADA Softball: Marnie Sevores, sevores@comcast.net

District 7 UIC: Greg Wren, gregiwren@gmail.com

District 7 Scheduler: Martin Duke, martin.h.duke@gmail.com
www.littleleague.org

Division	T-Ball	A –Coach Pitch	AA – Modified Coach Pitch	AAA – Kid Pitch	Majors	Juniors (Exception: Select Players 08+)	Seniors
Age Range	4-6	7-8	7-9	9-11	9-12	12-14	12-16

Summary:

This document is intended to provide guidance on rules for each of the Softball divisions supported by District 7 for the 2023 season. The age divisions are set to limit the disparity between skill and age of the minors divisions. Players will be allowed to “play up” out of the described age ranges. Players will NOT be allowed to play down unless there is a significant safety concern and it is approved by the League Softball VP. The AAA and Majors divisions have similar age ranges and both will be solely kid pitch. However, there will be a distinct skill difference between the two divisions and League Softball VPs will be responsible for ensuring players are playing in the correct division.

AA – Modified Coach Pitch: This is a developmental division that will introduce kid pitching, with modified coach pitch support to get the ball in play and speed up the game. **AA teams will play by the official Little League Minor rules** (link to purchase a rule book in Appendix B) and regulations for the entire season, with the following modifications:

- **All pitching (from the player OR from the adult) will be delivered from 35ft from the back of home plate** (field specifications can be found at: <https://www.littleleague.org/league-officials/field-specifications/> . When the batter receives 4 **called** balls from the kid pitcher, an adult coach from the offensive team will be used to **pitch the remainder of the strikes**. If the coach hits their batter with a pitch, the batter will get another pitch in replacement. There will be no “mulligans” for poor pitches. Coaches should use their judgement wisely on who is pitching. If the batter fails to put the ball in play after 3 strikes the batter shall be called out. Pitching resources can be found at: <https://www.littleleague.org/s/softball+pitching> **Full pitching rules can be found Appendix E.**
- Kid pitchers are allowed to throw under hand or windmill rotation.
- No new inning to be begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes. If the 1 hour and 45 minutes occurs in the middle of an inning the inning will be completed unless the home team is ahead.
- Innings will end when 3 outs OR 5 runs scored OR when all present players have batted one time in the half-inning.
- If after 3 innings (2 1/2 if home team ahead) one team is ahead by **fifteen (15) runs**, the game will be ended. If after 4 innings (3 1/2 if home team ahead) one team is ahead by **ten (10) runs**, the game will be ended. If after 5 innings (4 1/2 if home team) one team is ahead by **eight (8) runs**, the game will be ended.
- Continuous batting order shall be used.
- Courtesy runner allowed for pitcher and/or catcher when there are two outs. It must be the player who made the last out.
- Bunting is allowed.
- There is no base stealing while a coach is pitching. The base runner will be allowed to steal one base per pitch regardless of throwing errors.
- Tie breakers will only be utilized in end of year tournament.
- It is allowed to play a game with 8 players, there will be no penalty for 9th batter.
- Home team is responsible for providing a plate umpire, visiting team is responsible for providing a field umpire

*Coaches are encouraged to discuss additional modifications to these rules before the game and agree to them at the plate meeting.

AAA – Kid Pitch Minors: This is a developmental division with similar rules to Majors. **AAA Softball will be kid pitch** for the entire season and players will begin to **learn** competitive play to get players ready for the Majors Division. AAA teams will play by the official Little League Minor rules and regulations for the entire season, with the following modifications:

- All pitching will be delivered from 35ft from the back of home plate. Full pitching rules can be found Appendix E.
- Kid pitchers are allowed to throw under hand or windmill rotation
- No new inning will begin after 2 hours. If the 2 hours stop occurs in the middle of an inning the inning will be completed unless the home team is ahead. **Tournament play is 6 innings.**
- Innings will end when 3 outs OR 5 runs scored OR when all present players have batted one time in the half-inning.
- If after 3 innings (2 1/2 if home team ahead) one team is ahead by **fifteen (15) runs**, the game will be ended. If after 4 innings (3 1/2 if home team ahead) one team is ahead by **ten (10) runs**, the game will be ended. If after 5 innings (4 1/2 if home team) one team is ahead by **eight (8) runs**, the game will be ended.
- Continuous batting order shall be used. **This is true for Tournament play.**
- Courtesy runner allowed for pitcher and/or catcher when there are two outs. It must be the player who made the last out.
- The "Dropped Third Strike Rule" will **not** be enforced. More information on dropped third strike rule found in Appendix C.
- It is allowed to play a game with 8 players, there will be no penalty for 9th batter.
- Tie breakers will only be utilized in end of year tournament.
- Home team is responsible for providing a plate umpire, visiting team is responsible for providing a field umpire

Majors: Majors division Softball teams will play by the official Little League Major rules and regulations for the entire season, with the following modifications:

- All pitching will be delivered from 40ft from the back of home plate. (Little League Field specifications found in Appendix D). Full pitching rules can be found Appendix E.
- No new inning will begin after 2 hours. If the 2 hours stop occurs in the middle of an inning the inning will be completed unless the home team is ahead. **Tournament play is 6 innings.**
- If after 3 innings (2 1/2 if home team ahead) one team is ahead by **fifteen (15) runs**, the game will be ended. If after 4 innings (3 1/2 if home team ahead) one team is ahead by **ten (10) runs**, the game will be ended. If after 5 innings (4 1/2 if home team) one team is ahead by **eight (8) runs**, the game will be ended.
- Continuous batting order shall be used. **This is true for Tournament play.**
- Courtesy runner allowed for pitcher and/or catcher when there are two outs. It must be the player who made the last out.
- It is allowed to play a game with 8 players, there will be no penalty for 9th batter.
- In the event of a tie during a regular season game, District 7 will utilize the Little League tournament tie breaker rule (<https://www.littleleague.org/news/new-tournament-tiebreaker-structure-roster-guidelines-highlight-2019-little-league-rule-changes/>) Where the offense will place the last batter from the previous inning on 2nd base to encourage scoring.
- Home team is responsible for providing a plate umpire, visiting team is responsible for providing a field umpire.

Juniors: Juniors division Softball teams will play by the official Little League Juniors rules and regulations.

- If after 4 innings (3 1/2 if home team ahead) one team is ahead by fifteen (15) runs, the game will be ended. If after 5 innings (4 1/2 if home team ahead) one team is ahead by ten (10) runs, the game will be ended. If after 6 innings (5 1/2 if home team ahead) one team is ahead by eight (8) runs, the game will be ended.
- **Tournament play is 7 innings.**
- Continuous batting order shall be used. **This is true for Tournament play.**
- Courtesy runner allowed for pitcher and/or catcher when there are two outs. It must be the player who made the last out.
- It is allowed to play a game with 8 players, there will be no penalty for 9th batter.
- Home team is responsible for providing a plate umpire, visiting team is responsible for providing a field umpire.

2023 Tournaments:

TOC June 16th-June 18th

District 7 All Stars Juniors June 19th-June 22nd

District 7 All Stars Majors June 19th-June 22nd

District 7 All Stars 8/10 July 7th – July 11th

District 7 All Stars 9/11 July 14th – July 17th

State All Stars Juniors July 1st Woodland, WA

State All Stars Majors July 1st District 4

State All Stars 8/10 July 15th Vancouver, WA

State All Stars 9/11 July 22nd District 3

Regionals Juniors July 22nd Tucson, AZ

Regionals Majors July 22nd San Bernadino, CA

World Series Juniors July 30th Kirkland, WA

World Series Majors August 6th Greenville, NC

[2023 Little League® Rulebook Significant Updates](#)

Appendices:

➤ Appendix A – Age Chart

2023 Little League® Age Chart



Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	4
2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	5
2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	6
2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	7
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	8
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	9
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	10
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	11
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	12
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	13
2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	14
2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	15
2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	16

NOTE: This age chart is for SOFTBALL DIVISIONS ONLY, and only for 2023.

➤ Appendix B – How to purchase a Rule Book

[2023 Softball Rule Book - Little League Official Store \(shoplittleleague.org\)](#) cost \$4.99

Little League Rule Books are now available as an app on your phone. Search Little League Rule Book; cost \$1.99.

[Resources for parent frequently asked questions](#)

➤ Appendix C – Dropped third strike:

What does an uncaught third strike mean?

Mistakenly called a “Dropped Third Strike,” this is when a batter becomes a runner after the third strike called by an umpire, or a pitch is swung on and missed by a batter, is not caught by the catcher. For the hitter to be eligible as a runner, however, first base must be unoccupied or first base is occupied with two outs. To put the batter-runner out, the defense must tag the batter or first base before the batter touches first base. An uncaught third strike does not apply to play below the Little League (Major) Division.

➤ [Appendix D – Field Specifications](#)

➤ Appendix E – Softball Pitching Rules

Regular Season Pitching Rules – Softball

Regulation VI – PITCHERS

(a) Any player on the team roster may pitch. **EXCEPTION:** A player who has attained a league age of twelve (12) is not eligible to pitch in the Minor League (AAA)

(b) Minors/Little League (Majors): A player may pitch in a maximum of twelve (12) innings in a day. If a player pitches in seven (7) or more innings in a day, one calendar day of rest is mandatory. Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched in an inning.

LITTLE LEAGUE (MAJORS) AND MINOR LEAGUE EXAMPLE

If a player pitched in seven (7) or more innings on (Column A), that player can pitch again on (Column B):

Column A	Column B
Sunday	Tuesday
Monday	Wednesday
Tuesday	Thursday
Wednesday	Friday
Thursday	Saturday
Friday	Sunday
Saturday	Monday

Junior/Senior League: No pitching restrictions apply.

NOTE: The local league Board of Directors or District may impose additional pitching limitations during the Regular Season and interleague.

Pitching Restrictions for 12-year old's participating in Majors and Junior League

For a 12-year-old participating in the Major and Junior League Divisions as permitted under Regulation IV(a), the pitching rules and regulations regarding days of rest that are pertinent to the division in which the pitcher is used will apply to that game. Innings pitched previously in both divisions are considered when determining the eligibility of the pitcher for a particular game, with respect to days of rest and number of innings available.

Example 1 – A player pitches seven innings in a Junior Division game on Sunday. On Monday, she has a scheduled game in the Major Division. She would not be eligible to pitch in that game because the Major Division regulations require her to have one calendar day of rest, because of pitching in more than six innings on the previous day.

Example 2 – A player pitches nine innings in a Major Division game on Sunday. On Monday, she has a scheduled game in the Junior Division, and she would be eligible to pitch in that game because the Junior Division has no pitching restrictions.

Example 3 – A player pitches in seven innings in a Junior Division game played on Sunday and has a Major Division game later that same day. The player would be limited to five more innings for the Major Division game (for a total of 12 innings in a day in the Major Division).

(c) Minor/Major: A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game but only once in the same inning as he/she was removed. A pitcher, withdrawn from the game offensively or defensively for a substitute, may not re-enter the game as a pitcher. Exception: See Rule 3.03(c). **Junior/Senior League:** A pitcher may be withdrawn from the game, offensively or defensively, and return as pitcher only once per inning provided the return does not violate the substitution, visits per pitcher, or mandatory play rule(s).

(d) Little League (Major) Division/Junior/Senior League: Not more than five (5) pitchers per team shall be used in one game.

(e) Violation of any section of this regulation can result in protest of the game in which it occurs. Protest shall be made in accordance with Playing Rule 4.19.

NOTES:

1. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a warm-up pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation. Little League officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offender should be notified immediately.
2. Innings pitched in games declared "Regulation Tie Games" or "Suspended Games" shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility. **NOTE 1:** In suspended games resumed on a subsequent day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their remaining eligibility for that day.
3. **Minors/Little League (Majors):** If doubleheaders are played, the limitation of twelve (12) innings in a calendar day would apply to each pitcher. A pitcher who pitches in the first game may pitch in the second game if pitcher has eligibility remaining.
4. There is no limit to the number of pitchers of a particular league age group on a team that can be used. **EXCEPTION:** A player who has attained a league age of twelve (12) is not eligible to pitch in Minor League.