

## **Softball Majors Division –2026 Local Rules**

*Preamble: This document comprises Toms River Little League Rules and Regulations and the specific Division rules. In no case do these rules preempt the Official Rules and Regulations of Little League Softball unless by official action of the TRLL Board of Directors as permitted by the Little League Charter. The TRLL Constitution and By-Laws supersede all Local Rules.*

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### **A. Safety—Weather:**

1. Upon hearing thunder, game play or practice is to suspend immediately.
2. Upon seeing lightning, game play or practice is to suspend immediately.
3. All Players, Managers and Coaches must clear the field and seek shelter either at the Little League Building, or in a vehicle.
4. PLAYERS MAY NOT SEEK SHELTER IN THE DUGOUTS.
5. The game, or practice, may resume 30 minutes after the weather has cleared.
6. Managers and Coaches MUST take the initiative to suspend the game. Do not rely on the Umpire.

### **B. Field & Equipment Responsibilities:**

1. Each team must be represented at all work parties. The manager is responsible to arrange for a minimum of (1) one individual (manager, coach, player parent) to represent their team for all work parties that are scheduled.
2. After inclement weather occurs, all teams playing on Saturday and/or Sunday must have representation in order to have fields playable that day and should report by 8:00am. The manager is responsible to arrange for a representative from their team.
3. Managers and Coaches are responsible for cleaning the dugout after each game/practice.
4. Managers and Coaches are responsible for raking the infield after each game/practice.
5. Managers and Coaches are responsible for putting mound and home plate covers on after each game/practice if the field being used has these covers.
6. Failure to comply with the previous five (5) rules may result in a one game suspension for that manager.

- a. Repeated failure to do so may result in a two game suspension and so on.
- b. The TRLL Executive Board will consider any extenuating circumstances.
- c. If a manager is suspended, he/she is not permitted to be at the complex during the play of the next regularly scheduled game.

7. Players are NOT allowed to rake the fields.

8. All Managers and Coaches are responsible to walk the field prior to a game and/or practice to identify any safety issues. If a safety issue is identified it must be corrected immediately.

9. Managers will be required to post a \$TBD bond for league issued equipment.

10. Managers, and/or Coaches, should notify the Equipment Manager immediately when defective or damaged equipment is found so a suitable replacement can be provided.

11. The manager is responsible for returning league issued equipment promptly at season's end on scheduled equipment return dates unless other arrangements are made with equipment manager. Dates and times TBD. Failure to return equipment on scheduled date and time will result in forfeiture of the manager's bond check and the ability to manage or coach the following season. Managers are required to clean their equipment prior to its return, and to cull-out any damaged pieces.

12. Hit-downs into the fences or backstops are PROHIBITED. This eventually warps and damages fences.

13. Managers and Coaches must supervise and prevent Players from digging holes into the field. This is both a safety and field maintenance issue.

### **C. TRLL Complex Rules:**

1. All managers and coaches are required to inform and remind parents and families of the players of the TRLL Complex Rules and may be held responsible for the actions of their players, parents and spectators.

2. All volunteers must complete the criminal background check through the email link from JDP before Managing, Coaching and/or assisting with TRLL players. This link can be obtained by emailing the league President Brian Doyle at [Bdoyle329@gmail.com](mailto:Bdoyle329@gmail.com) with the person's name, email address and team name.

3. Only Safety Certified managers, coaches and/or parents are allowed to assist with practices or games.

4. Only Safety Certified managers, coaches and/or parents are allowed to assist with practices in the Batting Cages.

5. The manager is responsible to enforce All the Batting Cages Rules posted at the complex. In addition:

- Managers and Coaches are the only ones allowed to be in the batting cages. (No exceptions)
- Unless in the pitching or tee area, bats are to remain below the belt and must wear a helmet if holding a bat (Managers and Coaches must enforce this rule).
- All practice softballs, Tees and Batting Helmets must be picked up and returned to their storage area if - used.

- Do not hit or throw hard balls against the walls and/or any light fixture.

#### **D. Game Play—Conduct:**

1. Any Manager, Coach, Player, or Parent ejected by an umpire during a game will be suspended for the remainder of the game and the next physically played game.
2. Any Manager, Coach, Player, or Parent involved in a heated argument with a Plate Umpire, Field Umpire, or another Manager or Coach, may be suspended one game.
3. The use of inappropriate language by Managers, Coaches, Players or parents will not be acceptable under any circumstances. The use of such language may result in a one game suspension. The Zero Tolerance policy will be strictly enforced!
4. Any Players, Managers, or Coaches throwing field equipment may be subject to a one game suspension.
5. Both dugouts must be quiet once the pitcher begins his/her pitching motion and are required to avoid any intentional actions (in the opinion of the umpire meant to distract either the pitcher or the batter). The Manager of a team that consistently allows a violation of this rule will receive a one game suspension.
6. A suspended Manager, Coach, Player, or Parent will NOT be present at the Toms River Little League complex during the next physically played game.
7. At any time, a Manager or Coach may be subject to removal from his position by the Board of Directors of Toms River Little League.

#### **E. Game Play-Safety (All Williamsport Rules Apply):**

1. Outfielders and Infielders warming-up before the start of an inning must throw the softball in on the “dugout side”. That is, throwing the ball across the infield is strictly prohibited.
2. Players (not in the game) warming up the outfielders must wear a batting helmet.
3. No player shall be allowed to wear metal spikes or cleats.
4. All female catchers must wear a protective cup.
5. All batters and base runners must wear approved protective helmets.
6. There is no “on-deck” circle, or an area to be used as such, anytime during the game, or practice.
7. All players must wear team uniforms.
8. Players must not wear jewelry such as, but not limited to rings, watches, earrings bracelets, necklaces, nor any hard cosmetic item or hard decorative item. (Exception: Jewelry that alerts medical personnel to a specific condition is permissible.) No white sleeve or light grey colored sleeve on pitchers throwing arm.
9. All managers and coaches must be safety certified, at least one member of the coaching staff needs to attend a certified safety clinic in the current playing year.

10. A player “warming-up” the pitcher MUST wear a conforming Catcher’s Mask (including throat guard).
11. If a Manager or Coach asks a parent to assist during the course of a game or practice, **THE PARENT MUST BE SAFETY CERTIFIED AND MUST HAVE COMPLETED THE LEAGUE REQUIRED CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK THROUGH THE JDP EMAIL LINK.** Failure to comply may result in a 1-game suspension and/or further action by the Board of Directors.
12. **MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS:** Managers and coaches must have in their possession the medical release forms for each of their players at all games and practices. Very important if a serious injury occurs.
13. **INJURIES:** In the event a player becomes injured in conjunction with League activities and under the supervision of the team manager or coaches, it is the Manager’s responsibility to file the appropriate accident report and any injury which requires an accident form, must be reported immediately to the League Safety Officer Matt Arango (Cell# 732-684-7757 / E-mail: [marango623@gmail.com](mailto:marango623@gmail.com)) or if he is unable to be reached, to the Division Vice President (Contact info at the top of these rules). This will ensure that the incident will be reported to Williamsport within the required time frame.
14. A Softball bat in the Major League Softball Division will comply with the International Little League Bat Rule in the 2026 Official Rule Book under RULE 1.10. Consult those rules for any questions.
15. If any injury results in loss of player availability, the manager must contact the Player Agent and possibly call up a replacement player within a reasonable period of time, defined as prior to the 8th continuous game or upon 3 consecutive weeks from the 1st missed game by the injured player (whichever results in the shorter time period) The replacement player remains with the team for the duration of that player’s eligibility in the League and shall be placed on the team roster within the prescribed period of time. The injured player shall not be released except by action of the Board pursuant to Williamsport Rules. In no event shall a replacement player be required if an injury occurs in the last 2 weeks of the regular season.
16. For 2026, Managers and Coaches will be allowed to warm-up a pitcher between innings in an effort to speed up game play. The last batted out can also be used to run for the catcher when there are two outs.
17. Players are permitted to coach the bases during a game. Players cannot occupy the coaching box until all warm ups are completed and softballs are returned to the defensive teams dugout. It’s the Managers and Coaches responsibility to assure that the player is capable of coaching. Any player who is coaching must wear an approved safety helmet.
18. Players are recommended to wear heart guards and face masks.

#### **F. Game Play—Standings:**

1. It is the Manager’s responsibility to ensure that the standings posted on the Toms River Little League web site or as otherwise posted in an official manner (and maintained by the League V.P.) are accurate.
2. Home team will report games scores in the TRLL online software program. “True” Homeruns will also be reported in this same program. This will insure that the standings on the web site are accurate and up to date.
3. Division standings are determined by a team’s **OVERALL** record, In the event of a tie at the end of the season, the following tiebreaker rules apply, starting with the highest ranking tied situation:

- a. In the event of a tie for the best record, the team with the best head-to-head record breaks the tie.
- b. In the event of a tie in head-to-head competition, the team with the lowest number of “runs against”, calculated from the head-to-head competition, will serve as the tiebreaker.
- c. In the event of a tie in “runs against” competition, the team with the highest number of “runs for,” calculated from the head-to-head competition, will serve as the tiebreaker.
- d. If, after the previous tiebreaker rules a tie remains, a coin toss will serve as the final tiebreaker.

#### **G. Game Play—Rain-Outs:**

11. All canceled games will be determined by the Field Maintenance Director and Executive Vice President of Operations around or before 3:30pm on weekdays and around or before 8:30 am on weekends. This information will be available through the TRLL online system and via this systems email notifications to player and coach emails.

2. All rained-out games (to the extent possible) will be made-up by the next available make-up date, as determined by the Executive VP of Softball Operations with input from the TRLL Scheduling Director. If a game cannot be rescheduled within the same week, the game will be played on the first available date as determined by the Executive VP of Operations with input from the TRLL Scheduling Director.

3. The goal is to limit teams to three games per week or less.

4. If an unusual amount of inclement weather occurs, it may be necessary to schedule a fourth game within a week, mostly likely as a double header.

#### **H. Game Play—Playoff Season:**

1. The Playoff Season will consist of one tournament comprised of all teams in a single game elimination format.

#### **I. Game Play—Playoff Tournament:**

1. The Playoff Tournament will begin after each team plays the little league rules required amount of games and as a general rule, TRLL will try and ensure that every team plays at least 14 regular season games.

2. The schedule for the playoffs and Championship will be determined at a later date, but will be done the week after the regular season is over.

3. The Play-Offs and Championship will be played in accordance with regular season pitching rules, including pitch counts and days of rest as well as regular season batting/fielding rules. There will be no time limit on playoff games.

#### **J. Game Play – Interleague Majors Division**

Ball Size

1. 12 Inch Ball

#### Time Limit

1. No new inning after 2 hours

#### Innings

1. 6 Innings

#### Mandatory Play

1. Continuous batting order including all players present at the start of the game.
2. Free defensive substitution provided mandatory play is met.
3. Mandatory play at least one at bat and nine defensive outs (3 Innings in the field).
4. Any players arriving after the start of the game will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.

#### Players on Field

1. Teams with 10 players should play with 4 outfielders

#### Max Runs per Inning

1. 4 Runs per Inning with the ability to go up 4(except final inning)
2. 4 run max for both teams in 1<sup>st</sup> inning.
3. Team has ability to go up 4 per inning during innings 2 through 5.
4. Final inning is unlimited.

#### Mercy Rule

1. No mercy rule

#### Pitching (Player Pitch)

1. Pitching distance 40 ft.
2. No illegal pitches
3. No pitcher shall pitch more than 3 innings (9 outs) in a game. (With the exception of injury to last available pitcher). A pitcher may use their 9 out allotment in any order.
4. Managers have discretion if an opposing team does not have an option for a second pitcher to agree before game to use 1 pitcher. The other team will be able to do this as well, as long as both sides agree. This is to be used only in circumstances that there is no other available 2<sup>nd</sup> pitcher.

#### Base Running

1. Infield Fly Rule does apply
2. Unlimited Stealing
3. Unlimited steals home per game.
4. Leave on Release.
5. May advance on overthrows of a fielded ball. Limited to two (2) overthrows on same fielded ball.
6. Delayed steals, are allowed and allowed to steal of overthrow to pitchers.
7. May continue to advance until ball is controlled by the pitcher and in the pitcher's circle
8. With two (2) outs, the catcher may be replaced with a pinch runner (last out) in order to put on the equipment.

#### Batting

1. The batting order shall contain the entire roster of players present at the start of the game. Late arrivals and/or pool players will be added to the bottom of the roster.

2. Dropped third strike - The batter becomes a runner when the third strike is not caught. Unlimited dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.
3. Bunting is permitted

#### Misc

1. No coach is permitted behind the catcher.
2. No coach is permitted in the field.
3. A team can play a game with a minimum of 8 players (2 outfielders).
4. No player should sit in consecutive innings
5. Swing sticks can only be used during practice, not during games. No donuts or weighted sleeves.
6. Players shall not wear watches, rings, pins, jewelry, or other metallic items except medical alerts.
7. Batting helmets must have face guard.
8. Face masks are mandatory.
9. Both managers shall exchange line-ups before the game.