

2023 IOWA VALLEY LEAGUE RULES – LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL

1. Rules follow IGSAU softball rules except for league rule exceptions listed below.
2. Games are 5 innings in length with no new inning after **75 minutes**. Umpire start the timer on first warm-up pitch.
3. Pitching distance is 35 feet. Distance between bases is 60 feet. Only allow 3-5 warm-up pitches starting in the 2nd inning.
4. Each half inning will consist of five runs scored or three outs.
5. After 3 innings, if a team is ahead by 10 runs, the game will be considered complete, or 2 ½ innings if the home team is ahead by 10 runs. Teams are encouraged to play the full 75 minutes so all players have an opportunity for additional game time.
6. In case of rain or lightning, three innings completed is considered a complete game.
7. Players are eligible to steal 2nd and 3rd bases only. You **cannot** steal home. Players are only allowed to steal one base per batter. For example, if they steal 2nd, they can't steal 3rd until the next batter is up.
8. Batters cannot advance on a dropped third strike.
9. No infield fly rule. No bunting.
10. Facemasks for infielders required.
11. Helmets **with masks** for batters, catchers, and all base runners are mandatory.
12. Catcher gear needs to include hockey style headgear/throat protector
13. Coaches have the option to have continuous batting order and free substitution. Must follow throughout game.
14. Coach may meet with pitcher once, the second time the pitcher must be pulled.
15. LL is child/coach pitch. Child pitches until 4 balls then coach pitches who must be 11th grade or older and must pitch from the rubber.
16. When the coach is pitching:
 - a. If the coach interferes with the play (hit by the ball or interferes with the defensive player), it is a live ball. Coaches who are pitching are considered part of the field.
 - b. No stealing allowed. The runner can lead off like they normally would, ball out of the pitcher's hand, but no stealing.
 - c. The count stands and the umpire **must call strikes**. If the coach gets strike 3 called, the batter is out.
 - d. The coach will only get 3 pitches for the batter to hit. After the 3rd pitch, if the batter hasn't hit the ball, they are out. If the batter fouls off the 3rd pitch, then they will get another pitch. This will continue until they don't swing, swing and miss, or hit the ball fair.
 - e. Batters do not need to swing at balls pitched by the Coach, However they only get 3 pitches. So if the 3rd pitch is a ball, they must swing
 - f. Example: Count is 3:2 and the coach comes up. The batter gets a total of 3 pitches until they either strike out or hit the ball
 - i. Count is 3:0. Batter gets a total of 3 pitches until they either strike out or hit the ball
17. Runner **MUST** slide at any base (other than 1st) to avoid a collision when there is a play at the base. Runner will be called out if there is no attempt to slide.
18. Hit by pitch: Use the softball rule. **Special Note:** If the ball hits the ground and then the batter, they are awarded 1st base **IF** the batter made an attempt to get out of the way of the ball.
19. May play ten girls (one rover) with no placement rule. (rover can be placed anywhere on the field)
20. When team has two outs and catcher is on base – must replace catcher.
21. No steal spikes are allowed.
22. **Defensive replacements from the opposing team:** All teams must field nine defensive players every inning. If a team has only eight (8) (or seven) players, the opposing team will supply one (or two) defensive substitutes. For the first inning, they will supply the last player (or last two players) in their batting lineup or other players on their bench. After the first inning, they will supply the last batter (or two batters) from the previous inning, or other player(s) on their bench. The defensive substitutes will only bat for their own team. The team receiving the defensive substitute(s) will only bat players from their own team. A team with less than 7 players at the beginning of the game will forfeit the game but are encouraged to still play the game for experience. **Under no circumstance should a team be penalized with an out due to the number of players in their batting lineup.**
23. All non-adult person(s) warming up a pitcher must wear a facemask.
24. **Tiebreaker or Time Limit** – If a game is tied after the last inning or after the time limit, teams will play an extra inning by placing the last batter from the previous inning on second base. The extra inning will begin with one out. If the game is still tied after the first extra inning, there will be a second extra inning with the last two batters from the previous inning placed on 2nd base (the last batter)

and 3rd base (the next to last batter). The extra inning will begin with one out. If after the second extra inning the game is still tied, the game will officially end in a tie. Both teams will be awarded ½ win.

25. NO CHANTING will be allowed in the dugout or field.

2023 IOWA VALLEY LEAGUE RULES – PONY LEAGUE SOFTBALL

1. Rules follow IGHSAU softball rules except for league rule exceptions listed below.
2. Games are 6 innings in length with no new inning after **90 minutes**. Umpire start the timer on first warm-up pitch.
3. Pitching distance is 40 feet. Distance between bases is 60 feet. Only allow 3-5 warm-up pitches starting in the 2nd inning.
4. Mandatory eight-foot radius pitching circle. See “Coaches Notes” for “look-back” rule definition.
5. Each half inning will consist of six runs scored or three outs.
6. After 4 innings, if a team is ahead by 10 runs, the game will be considered complete, or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead by 10 runs. Teams are encouraged to play the full 90 minutes so all players have an opportunity for additional game time.
7. In case of rain or lightning, four innings completed is considered a complete game.
8. Facemasks for infielders required.
9. Helmets with masks for batters, catchers, and all base runners are mandatory.
10. Catcher gear needs to include hockey style headgear/throat protector
11. Coach may meet with pitcher once, the second time the pitcher must be pulled.
12. Runner **MUST** slide at any base (other than 1st) to avoid a collision when there is a play at the base. Runner will be called out if there is no attempt to slide.
13. Hit by pitch: Use the softball rule. **Special Note:** If the ball hits the ground and then the batter, they are awarded 1st base **IF** the batter made an attempt to get out of the way of the ball.
14. Ten players are eligible to be in the batting order at one time. If a team has enough players, an extra hitter **must** be used.
 - a. **Special Note:** If a team wants to bat their entire team which is more than 10, that is acceptable as well. If someone gets hurt or needs to leave, you won't be forced to take an out when their spot in the line-up is reached. **Under no circumstance should a team be penalized with an out due to the number of players in their batting lineup.**
15. When team has two outs and catcher is on base – must replace catcher.
16. Infield Fly rule is in effect. See “Coaches Notes” for infield fly rule definition.
17. No steal spikes are allowed.
26. **Defensive replacements from the opposing team:** All teams must field nine defensive players every inning. If a team has only eight (8) (or seven) players, the opposing team will supply one (or two) defensive substitutes. For the first inning, they will supply the last player (or last two players) in their batting lineup or other players on their bench. After the first inning, they will supply the last batter (or two batters) from the previous inning, or other player(s) on their bench. The defensive substitutes will only bat for their own team. The team receiving the defensive substitute(s) will only bat players from their own team. A team with less than 7 players at the beginning of the game will forfeit the game but are encouraged to still play the game for experience. **Under no circumstance should a team be penalized with an out due to the number of players in their batting lineup.**
18. All non-adult person(s) warming up a pitcher must wear a facemask.
19. **Tiebreaker or Time Limit** – If a game is tied after the last inning or after the time limit, teams will play an extra inning by placing the last batter from the previous inning on second base. The extra inning will begin with one out. If the game is still tied after the first extra inning, there will be a second extra inning with the last two batters from the previous inning placed on 2nd base (the last batter) and 3rd base (the next to last batter). The extra inning will begin with one out. If after the second extra inning the game is still tied, the game will officially end in a tie. Both teams will be awarded ½ win.
20. There is a two-inning pitching limit on a pitcher who is pitching high school varsity level. Any appearance in a varsity inning is considered varsity pitcher.
21. NO CHANTING will be allowed in the dugout or field.

IOWA VALLEY LEAGUE SOFTBALL BY-LAWS

1. Iowa Valley League - Softball Commissioner: Rhonda Bridgewater
2. Who is eligible:
 - a. Those who have just finished 3rd, 4th, or 5th grades will be eligible for Little League. Second graders may be added if needed to fill out a team but must be approved by the IVL Rec board to do so.
 - b. Those who have just finished 6th, 7th, or 8th grades will be eligible for Pony League, except those that have turned at least 16 years of age from January 1 in the year eligible to compete in Pony League. Fifth graders may be added if needed to fill out a team but must be approved by the IVL Rec board to do so.
 - c. Each player must be a **resident**, or a summer resident, of the community they are representing. Players must first sign-up in their home community before appealing to the League to play elsewhere for whatever reason(s). Their Rec Board should initiate the appeal. Appeals will be decided on a case-by-case basis. The deadline for appeals is May 1, 2020.
3. Team rosters must be submitted electronically by May 1st to the League Commissioner on the approved template. Combined rosters of all teams will be redistributed electronically to all LL and PL coaches for their respective leagues. Failure to turn in a roster will result in a forfeit of each game until a roster is turned in. There will be no exceptions. **Special Note:** The games should still be played! The players should not be denied playing time for a coaches' mistake!!!
4. For a new player moving into the community during the season to be eligible:
 - a. Regular season - Rec Board from the town must notify the Softball Commissioner before the player is eligible to play.
 - b. Postseason tournament - To be eligible for the postseason tournament, a player must be on the roster by the 5th game, and must have participated in at least 50.0% of all of the regular season games.
5. There will be an **entry fee of \$80.00 per team payable to post season host town prior to the 1st game.**
6. Regular season and tournament rankings go by win percentage followed by head-to-head competition. If necessary, a coin flip.
7. Post season host town will provide medals for 1st and 2nd place regular season champs and 1st and 2nd post season tournament champs for both LL and PL.
8. Post season host town provides umpires and game balls for post season tournament.
9. For regular season games, home team provides umpires and game balls.
10. All umpires should be familiar with HS softball/baseball rules, as well as IVL rules
11. League Tournaments:
 - a. The Iowa Valley softball postseason tournaments shall be rotated from town to town alphabetically. To keep the league alive, each town is encouraged to take their turn. Early rounds may be played at the home of the highest seed, when possible, with the host town holding the semi-final and championship games on their field(s).
 - b. In lieu of a preseason tournament, teams will be scheduled 2 "spring training" games the week of May 15. These games will be played by league rules but will not count towards regular season standings. If a game is canceled for any reason, it will not be made up. The regular season will start on Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

IOWA VALLEY LEAGUE COACHES GUIDE

1. POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT HOST FOR 2023 is Norway. Before the first game, send your \$80.00 per team League Fee to: Norway Rec, Attn Aric Becker 209 Euclid Ave. Norway, IA 52318
2. In lieu of a preseason tournament, teams will be scheduled 2 "spring training" games the week of May 15. These games will be played by league rules but will not count towards regular season standings. If a game is canceled for any reason it will not be made up. The regular season will start on Tuesday, May 23, 2022.
3. Post Season Tournament will start on Sunday, June 26th.
4. **Weather:** Visiting teams should be notified as soon as possible. Check the coaches listing for phone numbers.
5. **Makeup games:** Please work hard to have your makeup games completed within 2 weeks. The season isn't very long so don't wait until the end to make them all up. If a game does not get made up during the regular season, it is considered a loss for both teams.
6. **Weekly Standings:** Current standings will be sent out weekly. One coach from each team should email the results to the League Commissioner (Rhonda Bridgewater) from that week's games after the Friday game so that league standings can be sent out on Monday. Both teams should report scores just to be sure they are received.
Email results to rbridgewater@mercyhealth.org or text to 319-440-7131
7. **Less Than 7 Players:** If you know you will have less than 7 players for a game, please try to reschedule the game before game start time. Once its game time, you will be required to forfeit the game. Note that if you reschedule the game and it doesn't get played, the team that had the original low numbers issue will take a loss and the other team who had enough players gets the win.
8. If your team shows up to play and come to find out you have less than 7 players (see rule above), you will need to forfeit the game due to low numbers. Coaches are encouraged to still play the game for experience.
9. If a game needs to be rescheduled for any reason other than low player numbers and the game isn't made up by the end of the season, both teams will take a loss for that game.
10. PONY LEAGUE ONLY: The pitcher's circle exists as a basis for the "look-back" rule.
 - a. The look-back rule refers to the requirement that a runner on base not "dance around" while the pitcher is inside the circle, has control of the ball and in no way is attempting to make a play on a runner. For example, when a batter gets a hit or a walk and rounds first base, if the pitcher is in possession of the ball within the circle and is not attempting a throw or faking a throw attempt, the runner must either advance towards second base or immediately return to first. She cannot juke back and forth in order to draw a throw. If the runner continues to change direction towards first, then second, the umpire may call her out. Likewise, if she stops between bases waiting for the pitcher to throw to a fielder, as sometimes happens between pitches, and the pitcher is in possession of the ball within the circle and not attempting a throw, the runner may be called out by the umpire.
11. PONY LEAGUE ONLY: Infield Fly rule definition.
 - a. An Infield Fly is a fair fly ball (not a line drive or bunt) that, in the judgment of the umpire, can be caught by an infielder, pitcher, or catcher with ordinary effort and when there are runners on first and second or first, second, and third and less than two outs. When the umpire calls "infield fly" the batter is out, regardless of whether the ball is subsequently caught or dropped. The ball is live, and runners already on base may advance (at their own risk) if the ball is not caught or tag up and advance if it is caught.
12. 2022 All Star game will be held in Blairstown, Sat, July 9, 2022. More information TBS as it becomes available.
13. The official Iowa Valley League 11" and 12" yellow softballs are the Dudley Balls with the Red raised laces.
 - a. LL ball is Dudley SBC-11 Y FP
 - b. PL ball is Dudley SB 12LY RFP
 - c. Pete Wilson at Decker Sports:
 - i. Email: pwilson@deckersports.biz. Order at iowavalleyyouthbbalandsballleague22.itemorder.com
 - ii. Cell Phone: (319) 400-1240
 - iii. Team Line: (800) 728-7423
14. Where others have bought medals:
 - a. M&H Advertising: Mike Hatcher: 533-3811
 - b. Crown Trophy: (319) 294-0002
 - c. Crown Awards: www.crownawards.com
 - i. To give an idea, with shipping, around \$4.00 each.
 - d. Vinton Trophy & Awards: 319-214-1042 or Ashley@VintonTrophy.com