

Legion of Leagues Softball Rules Spring 2023

U-10 Softball Division

GAME: The game shall consist of 6 innings. No new innings shall start after 1 hour and 45 minutes. Make every attempt to play ALL 6 innings. **All game scores must be reported to your Commissioner at the end of game, no exceptions.**

- a. Playing out the 6th inning when the home team is winning is based upon coaches consent to continue.
- b. All batters, runners, and catchers must wear a helmet with a facemask, to be provided by the parent/guardian. Helmets should remain on runners until they are out of play. Catchers' equipment will be provided by the league.
- c. Pitchers must wear face mask and heart guard while in play.
- d. Infield must wear face mask. Positions are 1st Base, 2nd Base, Short Stop, Pitcher, and 3rd Base.
- e. Outfield positions are not required to wear face mask. Positions are Left Field, Left Center, Right Field, Right Center
- f. There is a 3-minute time limit between half innings and full innings – have pitchers and catchers ready for play, use of a courtesy runner for catcher is permitted.
- g. If a team has 8 or more players, they must field a team. The position a team goes without is at their discretion. If 8 registered players of players are not present, teams **CAN** play with 8 players, also see subbing players/lower-level participation
- h. If a team only has 8 players, the batting position 9th player **WILL NOT** be taken as an out.
- i. **If a team is unable to make a scheduled game that will result in a forfeit unless arrangements are made with the League commissioners ONLY by 4pm of set game day/or 2hrs before set game time. 3 no shows to games or reschedules will result in a forfeiture of tournament eligibility, with prior notification to commissioners.**
- j. ~~A Player cannot sit out two (2) consecutive innings. Each player must play at least one (1) inning in the infield by the end of the 4th inning. No player should sit out for a 2nd inning until all players have sat out for 1 inning. The use of dedicated player positions is not permitted.~~
- k. ~~A player shall play at minimum 1 inning in the infield and 1 inning in the outfield, a player may play the same infield position only two innings per game.~~
- l. **Run Rule:** A game shall end at the end of inning 5 (at the discretion of the losing coach) when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed turn at bat. A game shall end at the end of 4 (at the discretion of the losing coach) when a team is 15 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.

**J & K
removed
for season**

COACHING

Offensive coaching shall consist of a first base coach and a third base coach.

- a. The "Coach" Pitcher must not catch the ball from the opposing team players; to the 1st baseman and/or pitcher. The exchange shall take place from the 1st baseman and/or pitcher.

- b. The “Coach” Pitcher may only utilize the pitching mound as a source of delivering the pitch, they **may not** step outside the circle for it to be considered a legal pitch.

BASE RUNNING

- a. Base stealing is permitted.
- b. The ball must leave the pitcher’s hand before the runner can attempt to steal or leave the base.
NO LEAD OFF.
- c. Stealing of home is not permitted.
- d. Players may attempt to take additional bases on overthrows in the field of play at their own risk.
In the event of an overthrow, runners can only advance on ONE base.
- e. If the runner leaves the base early (before the ball leaves the pitcher’s hand) in judgement of the umpire, the runner can be called out.
- f. Once the pitcher has the ball and is in the circle, time is called.
- g. Base runner has 1 second to decide to return to base or attempt to advance, any hesitation can result in umpire calling base runner out. The attempt to advance be challenged by the defense by attempting to tag out the runner.
- h. **Sliding:** As per Ohio High School rules sliding is encouraged but not required. It is however, required to avoid collisions at bases to the best of a player’s ability. Umpire discretion is used to make the call as to whether player has violated this rule. – **NO HEAD 1ST SLIDING INTO HOME.**
- i. Runners CAN advance to home on an overthrow to 3rd base.

BATTING

U10– The player will have 7 attempts at hitting the ball. If the batter has 4 balls, the “Coach” Pitcher will resume the pitch to the batter; for example, if they batter has 1 strike and 4 balls, the “Coach” pitcher will resume the pitch count with only 2 pitches to the batter. If the batter gets 2 more strikes this is an out. Coaches can NOT walk players. This rule is for every inning. The “Coach” pitcher may only enter the playing field once the count is reached for them to deliver pitches.

- Three strikes and the batter are out. Foul tips are strikes; however, no batter can foul out. This rule is in effect for the “Coach Pitcher” as well.
- Walks and bases will NOT be awarded for being hit by the pitch by “Coach pitcher”
- Bunting is permitted WITH PLAYER PITCHER ONLY.

LAST BATTER

- Each half inning ends when 3 outs are recorded, **or**
- **(a)6 runs are scored – HARD CAP**
 - (a) does not apply to the last half inning of the game for either team. Teams can play out the inning until 3 outs are complete.
- Equal number of batters will not apply in U10 **until** the last inning.
- Bunting is permitted off player pitchers only.

PITCHING – U10

- a. The pitch should have as minimal arc as possible. Any pitch above 6ft is called a ball. The pitch is to simulate a fast pitch softball pitch. Any portion of the “Windmill” is acceptable High school and ASA rules are acceptable.
- b. A pitcher is permitted a maximum of 5 innings per game. No more than 3 of those can be consecutive. One pitch thrown in an inning constitutes an inning pitched.
- c. The pitcher’s glove shall be of one solid color other than optic yellow, or if multi-colored, yellow is not permitted.
- d. **Pitchers who pitch for a travel ball team may not pitch in the recreation league Legion of Leagues.** They are permitted to play as rostered members of the team if they are not pitching. Any violation of this rule will result in removal from the league without refund, as well as a forfeit for any games in which the pitcher has pitched at least a partial inning. (Immediately contact your League Commissioner if you have reasonable doubt with the player’s first and last name)

PITCHER: must wear a facemask and heart guard

PITCHING COACH: The pitcher (coach) should be at least 35’ away from the plate. The coach from the batting team will pitch to their team. The pitch should have minimal arc.

The pitch is to simulate a fastpitch softball pitch.

DEFENSE

- 10 Players shall begin play: Pitcher, Catcher, 1st 2nd and 3rd basemen, Short Stop, Right Field Right Center, Left Field, Left Center.
- A catcher is permitted a maximum of 4 innings per game.
 - a. A catcher is required when a team is forced to field 8 players, the team may utilize an outfield position for the catcher or Additional players may be played from the same division (U8) that are registered with said League only and not due to participate with another team at the same time frame. (cannot switch players with any of Legion of Leagues registered players) (ex. Circleville cannot utilize a player from Groveport, etc..)
- The outfielders must play no closer than the edge of the grass, or 15’ behind the base before the play begins, **they can assist with an infield plays**

IN FIELD FLY RULE IS NOT IN EFFECT.

****Infield fly rule meaning:** There must be less than 2 outs; There must be runners on first and second OR first, second, and third; The fly ball cannot be a bunt or a line drive; An infielder must be able to catch the ball with ordinary effort

MISCELLANEOUS

- a. Exceptions: End of Season Tournaments – Pitchers and Catchers are permitted to pitch and catch the entire game.
- b. Any rules not mentioned here in the rules should follow OHSAA guidelines.

SUBBING PLAYERS

- a. Additional players may be played from the same division (U10) or U8 division that are registered with said League only and not due to participate with another team at the same time frame. (cannot switch players with any of Legion of Leagues registered players) (**ex.** Circleville cannot utilize a player from Groveport, etc..)
- b. Substitution players must be placed at the end of the batting order and the opposing team must be notified before the start of the game.
- c. Additional players may not play in the place of players on the original roster who are present at the game at the time of play starts without prior authorization from commissioners. (If a player arrives late to a game is why this may be affected)
- d. Travel players looking to play are encouraged and recommended to sign up for U14 or U12 Elite.
- e. To play up in division not originally registered, a play up form must be filled out and authorized by the Softball Commissioner for placement. This is for HTYA League registered players only.

CHATTER

Chatter is permitted with **STRICT** enforcement to the following, openly communicate!

1. NO chanting “swing” at the batter
2. NO taunting of the pitcher is allowed (in statement or song)

All chanting must be clean, and sportsmanlike. If it is deemed unsportsmanlike there will be no further chanting for the remainder of that game. If it persists beyond one game, a review will be held to remove chanting from all future games.

Music is permitted with a low noise level at the beginning of a game and in an inning switch out, however, it must not delay the game in any matter. Music must also be clean and sportsmanlike or have the same review as chanting.

FIELD SET UP

- 1) 60': Each base line shall have a 60' mark from home plate, draw the line 4' into fair territory; this line is used for 1st and 3rd basemen as they are to start play behind this line.
- 2) 30': Between 1st & 2nd; 2nd & 3rd; 3rd and Home – mark a 4' line that is halfway between each base. When a runner has passed the halfway prior to a defensive player holding up the ball, they will be awarded the base they were going to – if they did not reach half way – they will return to the previous base.
- 3) Pitching Circle: The pitching circle shall be 16'. The front of the circle will be at 28' from the apex of home plate. The pitching rubber will be at 35'.

4)The pitching rubber is 35ft away from the home plate. Front edge to apex of home plate.

NOTES:
