

Legion of Leagues Softball Rules Spring 2023

U-8 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 4-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 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 Coach Pitcher, first base coach and a third base coach

1. The pitching coach may NOT coach base runners during the play. Once a batter hits the ball he becomes a base runner – the pitcher can no longer ‘coach’ that player
2. The ‘Coach’ Pitcher may begin play at the front of pitcher circle and may step outside the circle at delivery. The ‘Coach’ Pitcher may choose to start farther back inside the circle.

Defensive Coaching –

1. Two defensive coaches are permitted to “roam” the outfield during the game to provide instruction of the game. The coach shall make no physical attempt to assist his/her players or slow the natural flow of the game.
2. The “Coach” Pitcher must not catch the ball from the opposing team players; the throws to the 1st baseman and/or pitcher. The exchange shall take place from the 1st baseman and/or pitcher. In the event that the “Coach” pitcher is “hit” by the ball, it becomes a dead ball. The Coach must attempt to move out of the way of the oncoming hit.

BASE RUNNING

- a. Base stealing is NOT permitted. A base runner must have one foot on the base until the ball is hit or passes home plate. **No lead off.** Any runner leaving the base before the ball is hit or passes the plate, the team will be warned and an out called the next time it occurs.
- b. If a batter has an infield hit, they must stop at first base.
- c. If the ball is hit in the outfield, the runner may continue until the ball is thrown into the infielders. Any base runners may advance to the base they were approaching if they were more than halfway to that base. **In the event of an overthrow, runners can only advance on ONE base.**
- d. Runners CAN advance to home on an overthrow to 3rd base.
- e. **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.**

BATTING

The batter will have six (6) attempts at hitting the ball. Three strikes and the batter is out. Foul tips are strikes; however, no batter can foul out. If the 6th pitch is fouled a seventh pitch is granted as the 6th pitch until a fair ball or strike. Not swinging at the sixth (6th) pitch is considered a strike, batter will be declared out.

There are NO walks and no bases awarded for being hit by the pitch, this becomes a dead ball.

- **LAST BATTER**
- Each half inning ends when 3 outs are recorded, **or**
- **(a) 6 runs are scored – HARD CAP**
- 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 U8 until the last inning.
- Bunting is **NOT** permitted

PITCHING – U8

PLAYER PITCHER: must wear facemask and must have both feet in the pitchers circle until the ball has been hit.

DEFENSE

- 10 Players shall begin play: Pitcher, Catcher, 1st 2nd and 3rd basemen, Short Stop, Right Field, Left Field, Right Center & Left Center
- A catcher is not required when a team is forced to field 8 players.
- FIELDING: No infield player may play closer to the batter than the 45-foot line, until the ball has been hit.
- The pitcher must stay inside the pitching circle until the ball is hit. Player pitchers may not stand in front of pitching rubber until the pitch is released.
- 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.

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.

SUBBING PLAYERS/LOWER LEVEL PLAY

- a. 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..)
- 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)

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'.

NOTES:
