

2026 INTERLEAGUE SOFTBALL RULES
MAJOR SOFTBALL GENERAL GUIDELINES

Any deviations from these guidelines must fall within the Little League rule book for 10-12 Softball and be agreed upon in the coaches and umpire meeting before the start of play.

NO TIME LIMIT FOR WEEK NIGHTS Games will consist of six innings unless mercy rule is enforced or loss of daylight has created unsafe playing conditions.

Saturday Games ONLY - Time Limits of 1 Hour and 30 minutes No inning may start after one hour and thirty minutes has passed. Coaches are to record the start time on their scorebook and have the umpire record on his time sheet. The start of an inning is defined as **“the instant the 3rd defensive out occurs or the 5th run crosses the plate.”**

BATTING IS ROUND ROBIN. All batters are in the lineup at all times. Players arriving late must be added to the bottom of the lineup.

LIMIT OF 4 RUNS PER INNING. This will be the rule for the entire season. The only exception to this rule is in the **LAST** inning (as determined by the Head Umpire and BOTH Coaches **prior** to the start of that inning). In the **LAST** inning, both teams may score unlimited runs. If the game results in a tie, no extra innings will be played

Mercy Rule - A 12-run lead by the home team after 3 1/2 innings of play or a 10-run lead by the visiting team after 4 innings of play. If game is determined by mercy rule game is over but per coach's agreement can to continue to play remaining time limit/innings as scrimmage.

FREE SUBSTITUTION: All players may move to different positions on/in the field. However, they must remain in the same batting order as when the lineup is submitted to the opposing coach.

PLAYING TIME: All players must play **6 defensive outs**. They do not have to be consecutive. Players that have not fulfilled this obligation **MUST** play any remaining outs as well as her next 6 outs in the next scheduled game. Coaches that abuse this rule are subject to the disciplinary actions listed in the Little League Rule Book. The only exception is if the game is shortened to 3 ½ innings due to a mercy.

Teams will be permitted to play with **8** players. Please do not call other coaches to re-schedule if you will have 8 players to begin a game. We will not have time to re-schedule. If you are going to be short players you may call the player agent to request Pool Play Players.

Teams will play with **9 fielders** when a full line-up permits. Putting 10 fielders in a game may result in forfeit.

Two adult base coaches will be permitted if there is (1) one adult coach in the dugout at all times. If you allow a player to be first/third base coach, they must have on a helmet.

Pitchers will receive 10 warm up pitches for the first inning pitched. There after they will receive 7 warmups per inning. **Coaches MAY warm up Pitchers.**

PLAYER PITCH: Pitching distance 40ft with the use of 12” balls. Pitchers may not pitch more than 4 innings a game during the interleague season. This rule shall stay in effect for the entire regular season. During the interleague tournament pitching shall be governed by the Little League Rule book.
Pitchers are allowed to leave the game and return to pitch.

Sliding: A runner is out when (a) the runner does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag or (b) when the runner slides headfirst while advancing. Likewise, a catcher/fielder, without the ball in his/her possession has no right to block the pathway of the runner. Catcher/Fielder interference shall be called, and the runner will be given the base they were attempting to gain.

A **BUNT** is a batted ball not swung at but intentionally met with the bat and tapped slowly. *Holding the bat in the strike zone is considered an attempted bunt. In order to take a pitch, the batter must withdraw the bat backwards away from the ball.*

Dropped 3rd Strike and Stealing:

1. The batter becomes a runner when – the third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied or (2) first base is occupied with two out. NOTE: A batter forfeits the opportunity to advance to first base when he/she enters the dugout or any other dead ball area.

2. Base Runners - runners may leave the base when the pitcher releases the ball.

3. Pitchers will be allowed to leave the game and return to the game and pitch.

All other rules are in accordance with the Little League Softball Rule Book.

Please download the Little League Rule Book App.

The home team listed on the schedule will be the home team and must occupy the third base dugout unless playing on a neutral field and agreed upon by both coaches. Each Home team will supply two game balls.

Each league will supply umpires for games scheduled at their location. Umpires should be of age 13 or older. Umpires will be given a copy of these inter-league rules. Please make sure to have a copy available at your field for reference.

President's or his /her designees are the only person who can cancel or call games in the event of inclement weather. In the event of a Tornado Watch or Warning that is in effect at game time those games will be cancelled. Games will be called one hour before game time based on the warning status at that time. Example: If there is a weekday game scheduled for 6:30 PM and there is a tornado watch in effect at 5:15 until 7:00, the game is cancelled. If at 5:15 the change the expiration time to 6:00 PM the game is on. The same rule applies to Thunderstorm Warnings (not watches).

In the event of Thunder and/or Lightning

ALL players must be removed from the playing field. Play must not be resumed until 30 minutes have passed from the last strike or clasp of thunder.

A coach's failure to follow this rule will be subject to disciplinary action, which may result in suspension of one game.

Coaches are responsible to make sure that the fields are cleaned up after their game. Please arrive early and make sure the fields have been chalked and are ready for play.

Coaches are responsible for the actions of their players and fans. Abusive language towards another team, its members, fans or the umpires must not be tolerated.

Coaches should approach umpires only between innings. If there is a questionable call, ask the umpires to consult with each other before making a final judgment. If you still do not agree, you may either protest the game or ask to have the field director become involved. Please remember that only the umpire in chief may overrule an umpire's decision.

The league presidents along with player agents and division VP's from the non-involved teams will comprise the disciplinary committee.