

2026 INTERLEAGUE SOFTBALL RULES MINOR 2 SOFTBALL GENERAL GUIDELINES

Any deviations from these guidelines must fall within the Little League rule book for 8-10 Softball and be agreed upon in the coaches and umpire meeting before the start of play.

TIME LIMIT OF 1 HOUR AND 50 MINUTES (1 Hour and 30min on Sat.) No inning may start after one hour and forty-five 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.**”

LIMIT OF RUNS PER INNING / NO MERCY RULE. **4 run limit per inning.** 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.

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.

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 Rule Book.

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.

Teams will play with **10 fielders** when a full line-up permits. Normal infield with balance in **outfield grass.**

Two adult base coaches will be permitted provided that 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.

BUNTING: **Bunting will be allowed for the whole season. No bunting while coach is pitching.** 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.*

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

PLAYER PITCH: **Pitching distance 35ft with the use of 11” balls.** Pitchers may not pitch more than **2 consecutive inning with a Max of 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.

WALK RULE: **After a pitcher walks 2 batters in one inning the coach will come in and pitch after another batter gets 4 balls pitched to her (does not get walked) and will pitch up to 3 balls.** Coach will stay in game behind pitcher in relief of another batter getting 4 balls thrown by pitcher. Batters can still strike out while coach is pitching, no walks. 1)
(Spring) **Starting on the 3rd Saturday in May the whole game will be player pitch.**
(Fall) **Starting on the 3rd Wednesday in September the whole game will be player pitch.**

BASE STEALING: Will begin with the first game. Stealing is **not** permitted while a COACH is pitching. Stealing is allowed once the pitched ball reaches the batter. Once the ball has reached the in-field (pitching circle) the runner must either commit to the base they are currently at or they must try to advance to the next base at their own risk. **On all overthrows the entire season the runner may advance 1 additional base. The runner may steal one base per batter and may advance at their own risk on an over throw. On ALL WALKS for entire season, player can only take first base.**

(Spring) **Starting on the 3rd Saturday in May** Unlimited stealing permitted.
(Fall) **Starting on the 3rd Wednesday in September** Unlimited stealing permitted.

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 or returning to a base. 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.

NO drop 3rd strike rule

**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 neutral field and agreed upon by coaches. The home team will provide 2 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 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 6:15 PM and there is a tornado watch in effect at 5:15 until 6:30, 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 to become involved. Please remember that no one but 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.

Games are to begin at 6:15 pm Monday through Friday. A buffer will be allowed, but all games must begin by 6:30pm unless weather does not permit. On Saturdays, games will begin at their designated time.