

District 9

2026 Interlock Softball Seniors Division Rules

Rules & Regulations:

1. **Rules (Rule 1.01):** All games will be played according to the Seniors Softball rules in the 2026 Little League Rulebook with the following adoptions, applications, and adjustments
2. **Eight Players (Rules 1.01, 4.04, 4.16, 4.17, 6.05):** A game may not be started with fewer than eight (8) players on each team. A game may not be continued with fewer than eight (8) players on each team. When playing with eight (8) players, a team may skip over the ninth (9th) position in the batting line-up without penalty.
3. **Courtesy Runners (Rules 2.0, 3.04, 7.14):** A Courtesy runner is permitted for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs. The courtesy runner(s) must be the player(s) in the batting order who made the last out(s). A courtesy runner must be reported to the plate umpire.
4. **Batting Order (Rule 4.04):** As allowed by Rule 4.04 all games shall be played using a continuous batting order that will include all players on the team roster present for the game. Each player is required to bat in his/her respective spot in the batting order. However, a player may be entered and/or re-entered defensively into the game anytime provided he/she meets the requirements of Minimum Play.
5. **Mercy Rule (Rule 4.10(e)):** If after (4) innings, three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If after five (5), four and one-half, if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If after six (6) innings, five and one-half innings, if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of eight (8) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent.
6. **Time Limits:** Games are played without time limits unless the field is in use following the game. If field availability dictates a time limit on a game, the Home Team Manager MUST discuss this at the plate meeting with the Plate Umpire AND the Opposing Manager BEFORE lineups are exchanged. The time limit will be administered by the Plate Umpire.

Any game with a time limit will follow this procedure:

- a) No New Inning may begin at or after 30 minutes prior to the time limit stated at the Plate Meeting. A new inning begins the moment the 3rd out is made in the previous inning.
Example: if a game has a stated time limit of 2:30, no new inning will begin at or after 2 hours, the Plate Umpire will Call the Game at such time.)
- b) No New at-bat may start at or after 15 minutes prior to the time limit stated at the Plate Meeting.
 - i) Example 1: if a game has a stated time limit of 2:30, and batter 'Abel' has a 1 strike count when the clock changes to 2:15, Abel will complete his at-bat and when play ends, the Plate Umpire will Call the Game.
 - ii) Example 2: 2:30 time limit, Abel hits a double at 2:14. Before Baker enters the batter's box, the clock changes to 2:15, the Plate umpire will Call the Game.

As allowed in Rule 4.10 (c) (2), any game called for any reason after 2 hours will be a regulation game.

7. **One foot in the box (Rules 6.02(c)):** That batter shall keep on foot in the batters box as prescribed in this rule.
8. **Stealing Signs (Rule 9.01(d)):** The stealing and relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior. If, in the judgment of the umpire, this behavior is occurring, those responsible including any player(s), coach(es), and/or manager shall be ejected from the game following a warning.
9. **Umpires position (Rule 9.04(a)):** The plate umpire must stand behind the catcher-

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Interlock League Policies and Procedures:

1. **Scheduling:** All games must be played. If games are cancelled due to weather/school the game should be rescheduled at the next available field slot. Please notify the opposing team of any cancellation at least 2 hours prior to the scheduled game start time. Send all schedule changes to the following distribution:
 - a. assigner@d9ump.org
 - b. scheduler@washdist9.org
 - c. softballjan@comcast.net
2. **Game Preparation:**
 - a. The home team will provide (2) umpires – one umpire must be behind the catcher
 - b. The home team will keep the official scorekeeper for the purposes of game management, both teams may keep score for their records if desired
 - c. The home team is responsible for preparing the field and providing (2) 12" game balls
 - d. The home team is responsible for ensuring the proper markings are on the field
3. **Line-Ups:** Prior to the game, each manager shall provide a lineup to the official scorekeeper, the opposing manager and the home plate umpire. This lineup shall include players' jersey numbers, names and starting position.
4. **Managers/Coaches:** A maximum of 1 manager and 2 coaches shall be in the dugout or on the field during games. Each team's manager or a designated coach must attend the pregame meeting planned for no later than 5 minutes prior to the schedule game start time.

NOTE: Base coaches may be adults and/or players provided at least one board approved adult manager or coach remains in the dugout.
5. **Equipment Inspections:** There is no mandatory pre-game equipment inspection. Managers are responsible for the players and coaches being properly, safely, and legally equipped. However, teams may request an equipment check from the umpires before the game.