

## *2023 District 8 Softball Interleague – Local Rules, Policies and Procedures*

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### **Softball – A Division**

1. All regular season rules will apply as per the “Little League 2023 Softball Official Rulebook”, except as amended below.
2. All players league age 6, 7 and 8 are eligible for the A division.
3. The home team will occupy the third base dugout, and the visiting team will occupy the first base dugout.
4. At all times (On offense or on defense), there must be at least one adult present in the dugout. That adult must have cleared a Little League approved background check.
5. The entire player game roster shall be used as the batting order, regardless of defensive position. Players arriving after the game has started shall be placed in the batting order after the last player named in such batting order.
6. If playing on a non-fenced field, the home run line will be marked by cones (If available) 120 feet from home plate. A batted ball that passes over the coned home run line on the fly shall be a home run. A batted ball that touches a fielder’s glove, or any other part of said fielder, and passes over the coned home run line on the fly, without ever touching the ground prior to passing the cones, shall be a home run. A batted ball that passes the coned home run line after first touching the ground shall be a ground-rule double, regardless of whether a fielder touched it or not.
7. A safety base (**the use of a Safety base is recommended if available and can be secured to the ground**) will be placed next to first base to reduce collisions and to give batters a better chance of running through first base on a ground ball to the infield. In general, the defense is entitled to the inside base, while the batter / runner is entitled to the outside flat, rubber base. Coaches should instruct their players to make plays to the inside base while playing defense, and to run through the outside base while running to first.
8. Each team must provide a scorekeeper who is not a manager or coach. The home team is considered the official scorekeeper. If the home team is unable to provide a scorekeeper who is not a manager or coach, then the visiting team can provide the official scorekeeper.
9. If agreed to by the managers during the plate meeting, the defensive team may place a coach behind the first and second baseline and the second and third baseline to coach the defensive players. Defensive coaches cannot touch the ball or interfere with play. Otherwise, only the coach pitcher and two (2) base coaches are allowed on the field. Players are not allowed to act as a coach in any manner on the field.

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10. The home team is responsible for supplying the home plate umpire for the game. The visiting team is responsible for providing the field umpire for the game.
11. The game will be played using a 10” Level 1 safety ball. Both teams should supply an equal number of balls to start and finish the game.
12. No new inning can be started after 1 hour and 30 minutes. No new batter after 1 hour and 45 minutes. Games not completed after the 1 hour and 45 minute time limit will revert to the last completed inning (Ties are allowed).
13. A curfew shall apply to all games played Sunday through Thursday while school is in session. No new inning may begin after 8:15 pm, and no new batter after 8:30 pm. School is not considered to be “In session” during vacations and holidays.
14. Managers and coaches should make every attempt to keep the game moving along at a good pace. Catchers should be identified in advance of their assigned inning, get geared up and be ready to play when their team takes the field. The umpire will remind managers of this requirement as needed. With two outs, a courtesy runner will be allowed to run the bases for a player assigned to **pitch** or catch in their next defensive inning. This courtesy runner shall be the last player put out by the opposing team.
15. For safety reasons, players are not allowed to hold a bat in the dugout / bench area, or swing a bat outside of the batter’s box. Practice swings will be allowed in the batter’s box only under the coach’s direction.
16. Gloves may be worn by the coach pitcher during pitching as a safety measure; however, all defensive handling of the ball is to be done by the players. A live ball that contacts a coach pitcher is considered incidental contact, and the ball is in play.
17. Each team will be allowed to use ten (10) defensive players, four (4) of which will be in the outfield. If a team has less than ten (10) players, the game may be played with all infield positions being used before the outfield. Outfielders should start play at least 25 ft behind the infield base lines to encourage proper defensive positioning. Outfielders are permitted to cover bases once the ball is put into play.

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18. Managers are required to follow a defensive player rotation provided by the District. This rotation encourages equal playing time for all players in all positions:

TWELVE Player Roster	ELEVEN Player Roster	TEN Player Roster	NINE Player Roster	EIGHT Player Roster	SEVEN Player Roster
P	P	P	P	P	P
C	C	C	C	C	C
1B	1B	1B	1B	1B	1B
RF	RF	RF	RF	OF	OF
2B	2B	2B	2B	2B	2B
Bench	RC	RC	CF	OF	SS
RC	SS	SS	SS	SS	3B
SS	LC	LC	LF	3B	
LC	3B	3B	3B		
3B	LF	LF			
LF	Bench				
Bench					

Once a manager has determined their playing roster (12 players, 11 players, etc) for any given game, players are assigned a starting position per the table above. Each player then rotates one position down for each subsequent inning played throughout the game. All managers are required to provide the opposing manager a copy of their defensive rotation **Point of emphasis – All players shall rotate through all positions as defined above over the course of the season.**

19. Pitching shall be by a coach within one foot of the pitcher's circle. The pitching rubber is located 35ft between the front of the pitching rubber and the back corner of home plate. The player assuming the defensive position of pitcher shall remain completely within the pitching circle during pitches, even with or behind the line of the pitching rubber until the ball is put in play. The player may choose which side to stand on.
20. Each batter is allowed seven (7) live pitches. If not successful after seven (7) live pitches, they are out. A player fouling off the seventh pitch, or any subsequent pitch, is allowed another pitch, unless the foul ball is caught on the fly, at which point the batter is out. **Point of emphasis - Use of a hitting tee after seven pitches IS NOT allowed, as the batter is out and must return to the dugout.**
21. A batter hit by a "Coach pitch" does not take first base.
22. Bunting IS NOT allowed.

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23. The “Infield fly” rule is not enforced.
24. A batter or runner will be allowed to advance a maximum of one base on a batted ball hit in the infield, and a maximum of two bases on a batted ball hit to the outfield. For dirt or turf fields (No grass outfield), a ball must travel at least 15 feet beyond the baselines to be considered in the outfield. Defensive players are encouraged to make the correct play by throwing to the appropriate base. For that reason, runners will not be allowed to advance on an overthrow.
25. Stealing IS NOT allowed. Runners must remain in contact with their bases until a pitched ball crosses home plate. Once a pitched ball crosses home plate, runners are encouraged to lead off.
26. The side retires when there are three (3) outs, when five (5) runs score (**EXCEPTION: If a batter hits a home run over the fence or outfield boundary line, or a ground rule double, all runs driven in by that play will score**), or when the entire batting order has batted, whichever comes first. During the sixth inning, and every inning thereafter, there is no five run limit, but the number of runs is limited to one rotation through the batting order. For purposes of this rule, the batting order for BOTH teams is defined to be the number represented by the team with the most players participating in the game (For example, Team A has 12 players, Team B has 9 players. The batting order for both teams is defined to be 12 players).
27. Play in this division emphasizes a fun-filled experience, while also developing player skill level. For that reason, no score or standings will be kept, as both teams are considered winners if fun was had by all.