

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

Softball – AA 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 7, 8 and 9 are eligible for the AA division. League age 10 players may play in this division with approval from the District Administrator.
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. “Free” substitution is allowed.
6. If playing on a non-fenced field, the home run line will be marked by cones (If available) a distance of 160 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 groundrule 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. Managers and/or coaches are not permitted to be on the playing field during live play, except for a coach pitcher during the coach pitch portion of the game and two (2) adult base coaches.
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 an 11” softball (Not a safety ball). The home team is responsible for providing two softballs to the umpire at the plate meeting.

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

12. No new inning can be started after 2 hours. No new batter after 2 hours and 15 minutes. Games not completed after the 2 hour and 15 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. Each team will be allowed to use nine (9) defensive players, three (3) of which will be in the outfield. If a team has less than nine (9) players, the game may be played with all of the infield positions being used before the outfield. Outfielders should start play at least 15 ft behind the infield base lines to encourage proper defensive positioning. Outfielders are permitted to cover bases once the ball is put into play by the batter.
15. The modified mandatory play rule is nine defensive outs, with at least three defensive outs being in an infield position is required for each player. Managers are encouraged to give all players their minimum playing time as soon as possible to ensure compliance in the event the game cannot be completed (Darkness, weather, time limit, etc). **It is expected that managers will offer fair playing time to everyone.**
16. 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 (It should be noted that any player wearing a catcher’s mask can warm-up a pitcher). 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.
17. 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.
18. 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 coming into contact with the coach pitcher is considered incidental contact, and the ball is in play.
19. The City leagues (Ballard, Magnolia, North Central, Northeast, Northwest, Queen Anne, RUG and Shoreline), will play each game with a player / coach pitcher combination from a rubber located 35ft between the front of the pitching rubber and the back corner of home plate. The player pitcher will pitch to the batter until three “Balls” are thrown. At this point, a coach pitcher from the hitting team will take over, assuming the number of strikes already called to the batter. The coach pitcher continues to pitch until the batter puts the ball in play, or strikes out (There are no walks in this division). The player assuming the defensive position of pitcher during this time 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 by the batter. The player may choose which side to stand on. When the coaches are pitching, the coach must remain in the pitching circle.

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

20. Through April 30th, the Northend leagues (North Bothell, Northlake, Northshore and Woodinville) will play the first two innings of each game using a coach pitcher, and the last four innings using a player/coach pitcher combination from a rubber located 35ft between the front of the pitching rubber and the back corner of home plate. During the coach pitch portion of the game, each batter is allowed five (5) live pitches, with three (3) called or swinging strikes being an out. If not successful after five (5) live pitches, the batter is out. A batter fouling off the fifth 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. During the player/coach pitch portion of the game, the player pitcher will pitch to the batter until three “Balls” are thrown. At this point, a coach pitcher from the hitting team will take over, assuming the number of strikes already called to the batter. The coach pitcher continues to pitch until the batter puts the ball in play, or strikes out (There are no walks in this division). 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 by the batter. The player may choose which side to stand on. When coaching are pitchers, the coaches must remain in the pitching circle.

From May 1st and on, all games will play with a player/coach pitcher combination for all innings (See Rule #18).

21. A batter hit by a “Coach pitch” does not take first base.
22. During the player pitch portion of the game, a batter hit by a pitch will have the option of taking first base or remaining at home plate to finish the at bat.
23. Bunting IS NOT allowed.
24. The “Infield fly” rule is not enforced.
25. Batters and runners are limited to one base on a ball hit in the infield and two bases on a ball hit to the outfield. At the risk of being put out, players may only advance one extra base on an overthrown (A dropped ball is not considered to be an overthrow).
26. 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.
27. 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).

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

28. Play in this division emphasizes a fun-filled experience, while also developing player skill level. Teams will have the option of participating in an end-of-the-season tournament that utilizes these regular season rules.