

2025 Northend District 8 Softball Interleague – Local Rules, Policies and Procedures

Softball – AA Division

1. All regular season rules will apply as per the “Little League 2025 Softball Official Rulebook”, except as amended below.
2. Players league age 7, 8, 9 10 may be eligible for the AA division, see your local little league for final determination if your child is eligible for AA.
3. Play in this division emphasizes a fun-filled experience, while also developing player skill level.
4. The home team will occupy the third base dugout, and the visiting team will occupy the first base dugout.
5. All people helping on the field need to have an approved background checked. 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 and taken the Little League Abuse Awareness Training
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. A safety base, 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.
10. Scorekeeper - 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.
11. Umpires - 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.
12. 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, (**Note:** Coach pitchers are not to act as base coaches)
13. 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.
14. 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).

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15. 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.
16. Outfielders are recommended to start play at least 15ft 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.
17. The modified mandatory play rule:
 - For a completed game of six innings or longer, every player must play at least four (4) defensive innings, with at least two (2) of the four (4) defensive innings being played at an infield position (Positions 1-6).
 - For a completed game of less than six innings (rain-out, darkness, etc...), every player must play at least two (2) defensive innings, with at least one (1) of the two (2) defensive innings being played at an infield position (Positions 1-6).
 - A player may not be on the bench for two consecutive innings.
 - **It is expected that managers will offer fair playing time and defensive positions to everyone.**
 - "Free" substitution is allowed.
18. Managers and coaches should make every attempt to keep the game moving along at a good pace.
 - a. Catchers should be identified in advance of their assigned inning, get geared up and be ready to play when their team takes the field. Note that any player wearing a catcher's mask can warm-up a pitcher.
 - b. Per LL Rule 7.14(b): A Courtesy Runner may be permitted for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs. Neither the pitcher or the catcher is subject to removal from the line-up. Due to the Continuous Batting Order being used, the Courtesy Runner may be in the team's existing batting order and must be the player in the batting order who made the last out. See LL Rule 7.14(b) for the ruling.
19. 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.
20. After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat.

Exceptions are as follows:

- On a swing, slap, or check swing
- When forced out of the box by a pitch
- When the batter attempts a drag bunt
- When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball
- When a play has been attempted
- When time has been called
- When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound, or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball, or the catcher leaves the catcher's box
- On a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball

Penalty: If the batter leaves the batter's box or delays play and none of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter. After one warning on a batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter. No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

21. 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.
22. Each game will be played 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. There are no walks in this division. The player-pitcher will pitch to the batter until four (4) "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. The player assuming the defensive position of pitcher during this time shall remain

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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.

23. Pitchers are limited to three innings pitched per game to encourage managers to develop multiple players at this position. For clarification purposes, one pitch equals one inning pitched.
24. A batter hit by a “Coach pitch” does not take first base.
25. 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.
26. Bunting IS NOT allowed.
27. The “Infield fly” rule is not enforced.
28. 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).
29. 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
30. 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).
31. At the conclusion of the regular season, the AA division teams will participate in a blind draw double elimination tournament. The entire tournament will be Kid Pitch only, including walks (no coach pitchers). All other playing rules listed above will be enforced during tournament play.