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2021 Major League Softball Rules

Rosters: Official rosters of each team will be filed with the Little League Softball Assistant District Administrator before the first game. A maximum of 15 and a minimum of 12 players will be carried on each team. Roster changes will be submitted to the Little League Softball Assistant District Administrator within three calendar days.

Number of Players: Teams may begin and continue games with only eight players. The ninth spot in the batting order will be skipped over and no out recorded for it.

Home Team: The team listed second on the scheduled playing date is the home team and shall have the playing field for ten minutes at twenty minutes before game time (when available) for their warm ups.

Visiting Team: The team listed first on the scheduled playing date is the visiting team and shall have the playing field for ten minutes at ten minutes before game time (when available) for their warm ups.

Playing Field: Prior to the start of the Major League Softball season, each participating league will prepare ground rules that are unique to their fields. A copy of these ground rules will be supplied to the Little League Softball Assistant District Administrator. These ground rules shall be covered at the pregame conference with the umpires. Each league is responsible for the preparation of the fields.

Softball: Softballs will be 12", white or optic yellow, leather or synthetic leather and normal flight.

Pitching: A pitcher who pitches in 5 or more innings in a game may only pitch in 4 innings or less in the next played game.

Any questions – See Pitching Rules for Interleague Play

Batting Order: The batting order will consist of 9 batters.

Batting: Batters will keep one foot in the batter's box during their at-bat.

Special Pinch Runner: A team will be allowed one special pinch runner per inning.

Courtesy Runner: A team is allowed the option to use a player not currently in the batting order to become a base runner for the pitcher and/or catcher of record provided there are two (2) outs in the half inning. The same courtesy runner may not run for both the pitcher and the catcher at any time during the game.

Uncaught Third Strike: This rule is in effect.

Umpires: The home team shall provide a minimum of two umpires, preferably 16-years or older and ideally adults. Whether adult or youth, non-vaccinated plate umpires will be stationed behind the pitcher. Vaccinated plate umpires may be positioned behind the catcher or pitcher, depending on their preference or the host league's Covid protocols.

Rule 9.00 (d) will not be in force. (stealing signs and automatic ejection).

Starting Time: Weekday games will start at 6:00PM. (When two teams from different Leagues are participating or prior arrangements are made.) Weekend games will start at the scheduled time. Every effort should be made to reschedule games not played due to weather. This is the responsibility of the participating leagues.

Time Limits: There will be a 1 hour and 45 minute time limit on all games. Any inning begun prior to 1 hour and 45 minutes will be completed, and no new inning may begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes. All games called for the time limit will be regarded as regulation, no matter the number of innings played, and even if they end in a tie score time-limit games will not be resumed at a later date.

Ending the Game: 10- and 15-run rule will be used. Any team trailing by 15 runs or more after 3 innings or 10 or more runs after four or more innings and the game will be called. (Rule 4.10e)

Regulation Game: A regulation game shall consist of a minimum of four innings. If less than 4 innings, game will be resumed from the point it stopped. All games called for the run rule or time limits are regulation games.

Darkness: Calling the game due to darkness is the sole judgment of the umpires and not any local league rule.

Protest: Protests will first be submitted on the field of play in accordance with playing rule 4.19. Protests are only considered when they involve interpretation of a playing rule or the use of an ineligible player. The written protest must be e-mailed within one calendar day of the day of the game (2 days if it is a Saturday game) and sent to the Little League Softball Assistant District Administrator. His decision is final. **(Phil Raines at praines22@yahoo.com)**

District Tournament of Champions: The champion from each league will represent their league in the District 4 Tournament of Champions.

**ALL GAMES ARE PLAYED BY THE 2021 LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL RULES,
EXCEPT FOR PITCHING !!!**