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2023 AA League Softball Rules

*A Softball Division for 7- 9 year old girls**

Rosters: Official rosters of each team will be filed with the Little League Softball Assistant District Administrator before the first game. Rosters may be of any size. 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.

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 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 for their warm ups.

Playing Field: Prior to the start of the AA 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 11", white or optic yellow, leather or synthetic leather and normal flight.

Umpires: The home team shall provide a minimum of two umpires, preferably 16-years or older.

Stealing Signs: Rule 9.00 (d), warning and automatic ejection for stealing signs, will not be enforced.

Starting Time: Weekday games will start at 5:30pm. (Unless, prior arrangements have been made.) Weekend games will start at the scheduled time. Every effort should be made to reschedule games not played due to weather.

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. If a time limit game ends in a tie, the game will not be continued.

Ending the Game: The 15-, 10-, and 8-run rule will be used. Any team trailing by 15 runs or more after 3 innings (2.5 innings if home team is leading), or 10 or more runs after 4 innings (3.5 innings if home team is leading), or 8 or more runs after 5 innings (4.5 innings if home team is leading) will concede and the game will end. (Rule 4.10e).

Half Inning: A half inning shall end when the defensive team has recorded three outs or when the offensive team has scored 5 runs. (If more than five runs are possible due to a hit ball put into play, only the fifth run will count and all subsequent runs are not counted.) The 6th inning, and any subsequent inning, shall be played with no restrictions.

Regulation Game: A regulation game shall consist of two innings, unless ended by time limit. All games ended due to time limits are regulation games, no matter how many innings played.

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

District Tournament of Champions: No TOC will be played in AA.

Outfielders: All outfielders shall remain in the outfield until the ball is hit. Only 9 players may be used on defense.

Batting: All members of the offensive team will make up the batting order. Late arrivals, at the discretion of the manager, may be added to the bottom of the batting order.

Bunting: No bunting first half of the season.

Runners: No stealing of bases is allowed.

Courtesy Runner: The new courtesy runner rule will NOT be used.

Pitching: Only adult pitchers will be used in the first half of the season. The adult will pitch from a distance of 35'. The defensive pitcher will be no closer than 35'. In the second half of the season, which begins April 22, the pitcher shall be a player. The pitcher will be allowed to pitch until the batter A) hits the ball into fair territory, B) strikes the batter out, C) throws four balls to any batter. After 4 balls to a hitter, the adult pitcher (one of the offensive team's base coaches) shall pitch, with the existing count on the batter, until the batter either hits the ball into fair territory, strikes out, or the adult has thrown 5 pitches. If the adult has thrown 5 pitches and the player has not hit the ball fair, the batter will be out unless the final pitch is a foul ball. There are no walks. If the bases are loaded when a pitcher hits a batter, the adult pitcher (from the offensive team – either the 1st or 3rd base coach) shall pitch, with the existing strike count on the batter, so as not to walk in a run. Whenever an adult pitches, bunts are not allowed.

It is recommended that if a pitcher hits 3 batters in one inning or 5 batters in a game, the pitcher will be replaced for the remainder of the game. Batters must make an honest effort to avoid the pitches. An "honest" effort is at the discretion of the umpire.

In the 2nd half of the season, only a player will be allowed to pitch. Pitchers are limited to 3 innings per game, 21 per week.

**Protest: There are no protests in AA Softball. The decision of the umpires will be final.
Any rule not specifically mentioned here is covered by the rules of Little League Softball 2023.**