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2026 Minor (AAA) League Softball Rules

A Softball Division for 9 - 12 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 has the playing field for ten minutes at twenty-five minutes before game time for warm ups.

Visiting Team: The team listed first on the scheduled playing date is the visiting team and has the playing field for ten minutes at fifteen minutes before game time for warm ups.

Playing Field: Prior to the start of the Minor League Softball season, each participating league will prepare ground rules that are unique to its 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.

Umpires: The home team shall provide a minimum of two umpires, preferably 16-years or older. If only youth umpires are used, the game must have a game coordinator or the game will not be played (Rule 9.03d).

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

Batting: Batters are NOT required to keep one foot in the batter's box during their at-bat per rule 6.02(c).

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. If when the time limit expires a trailing team cannot possibly score enough runs in its half inning to win the game, the game will end immediately. If when the time limit expires and the home team is leading and up to bat, the game will end immediately. 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 at another date.

Ending the Game: The 15-, 10-, and 8-run rules 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: During the first half of the season through April 10, a half inning shall end when the defensive team has recorded three outs, or when the offensive team has scored 3 runs. If more than 3 runs are possible due to a hit ball put into play, only the third run will count and all subsequent runs are not counted. During the second half of the season beginning April 11, 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 5 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 without the 3- or 5-run restriction.

Regulation Game: A regulation game shall consist of two innings.

Darkness: Calling the game due to darkness is the sole judgment of the umpires and not managers or any local league rule. If youth umpires are used, only the game coordinator may call the game.

Outfielders: All outfielders shall remain in the outfield until the ball is hit. Only up to 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, can be added to the bottom of the batting order.

Mandatory Play: Each player is required to meet mandatory play of six defensive outs and one at-bat.

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

Pitching: A pitcher can only pitch a maximum of three (3) innings in any game and 21 innings in a week. 12-year-olds may not pitch.

District Tournament of Champions: Only the team from each league with the best record will represent its league in the District 4 Tournament of Champions. The roster and coaching staff will only be made up of players and coaches who appear on the regular season roster.

Protests: There are no protests in Minor (AAA) Softball. The decision of the umpires are final.

Any rule not specifically mentioned here is covered by the rules of Little League Softball 2026. No manager agreements or local rules are allowed.