

2023 Softball Interleague Rules

Kingsford - Iron Mountain - Norway - Iron County
Revised (4/10/2023)

All Division Rules

Our area games involve 4 different Leagues. It is important to follow these Interleague Rules. If a question does arise, consult the Little League Rule Book and then these Interleague Rules.

Coaches/Parents - Remember this league all about having fun and developing players.

Scores

- Both teams are responsible to submit the score of the game.
- Scores need to be submitted to www.upbaseballsoftball.org

Make-Up Games

- Games are recommended to be made up within 10 days of the originally scheduled game.
- Home team sets the make-up date, preferably Friday if feasible. Visiting team confirms the date
- Field priorities for make-up games are 13-16, 11-12, 9-10, and then 7-8.
- All make-up games must be in 5 days before the division playoffs are scheduled to start.

Umpires, Managers and Coaches

- Coaches will be responsible for the conduct of themselves, their team, and their fans. A verbal warning may be given by either team's coach for any disorderly conduct; any further confrontations will result in immediate ejection and/or forfeiture of the game.
- Any league participant found to be continuously unable to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner will be brought before their respective board. Penalties can range from a verbal warning, suspension for one or more games, expulsion from participating in the league, up to being unable to be at the fields while games are being played.

Softball 7&8 Beginner Division Rules

- Pitching
 - Pitcher's mound is 30 feet from home plate
 - **Player Pitch** - Players pitch innings 1 and 2. The coaches can agree if they would like to kid pitch the 3rd inning. Coach pitch is mandatory innings 4th-6th.
 - Maximum 3 kid pitches (pitches must be a full windup) per batter, regardless of balls or strikes
 - If the girl puts the ball in play on any of the 3 kid pitches the play is live
 - Strikeout counts, we want to encourage kids swinging and getting used to hitting off kid pitch when possible
 - Coach pitch after the third kid pitch. Count resets
 - 4 Coach pitches allowed
 - If the girl doesn't swing on pitch 4 she is out (unless the pitch is bad - coaches discretion. Remember we want to make this fun and encourage the girls)
 - If the girl fouls pitch 4 off she gets another attempt
 - **Coach Pitch** - Innings (3rd) or 4th-6th will be strictly coach pitch. Each batter will receive a maximum of 4 pitches from their own coach in an underhand motion, unless a normal 3 swing strikeout has occurred first. Again, foul balls continue the at bat. Coaches must pitch from the 30 foot rubber.
- No umpires are needed at this level. The coach who will pitch shall stand behind the pitcher and call balls and strikes as well as plays at home.
- Base coaches at first and third will make calls at the bases.
- A fourth coach is permitted at this level since one coach is pitching much of the game.
- A coach is permitted in the outfield to help position players.
- 6 innings per game. No new inning can be started after 1:45. These games can end in a tie when the time limit is reached.
- Minimum number of defensive players on the field is 6, maximum is 10. No more than 6 defensive players may be in the infield at the time the ball is hit. Any violation of this rule resulting in an out will result in the batter being awarded first base and all runners advance. Infielders may be no closer to the batter than the baseline at the time the pitch is thrown.
- If a batter is hit by a pitch below the knees it is considered a ball. The batter must be hit above the knees to be awarded first base (Coaches discretion). No bases are awarded when a player is hit by a coach-pitched ball.
- The player in the pitcher position must have one foot inside the pitcher's circle while the coach is pitching.
- The ball will be declared dead when the pitcher has control of the ball inside the pitcher's circle. Runner's more than halfway between bases at this time can continue to the next base.

- Roster batting is required and no player may sit out defensively for two consecutive innings.
- **The maximum number of batters per inning is 10.** The batting team manager must announce the 10th batter as they come up to the plate. The inning is over once the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle.
 - In the instance where the 10th batter's batted ball is hit into the pitcher's circle a play must be attempted at a base before the ball can be returned to the pitcher's circle to end the inning.
- No bunting at any time.
- No stealing allowed. Base runners may only advance on a fair hit ball. The runner's foot must remain on base until the ball is hit. If not, the play will be called back and replayed.
- Maximum of one base on an overthrow or error.
- A dropped third strike is an out, runners may not advance.
- There will be no walks.
- To keep the pace of the game going, it's recommended that with 2 outs, if the catcher for the next inning is on base they be substituted with a courtesy runner to allow them time to get their gear on and move the game along.
- A game in progress that is called due to weather will be official if 3 innings have been played (2.5 if the home team is ahead).
- League age 9 year olds may play in this level. They are not eligible to pitch. League age means 9 before 12/31/22. If a player turn 9 in 2023 they are considered 8 years old for the league.

Softball 9&10 Minor League Division Rules

- Pitcher's mound is 35 feet from home plate.
- A fourth coach is permitted at this level because the coach may be coming out to pitch frequently.
- 6 innings per game or 2 hour maximum from the time of first pitch. No new inning can be started after 1:45. These games can end in a tie when the time limit is reached.
- Minimum number of defensive players on the field is 8, maximum is 10. No more than 6 defensive players may be in the infield at the time the ball is hit. Any violation of this rule resulting in an out will result in the batter being awarded first base and all runners advance.
- Pitching - After a Batter receives 4 balls:
 - A coach will then pitch 2 additional strikes to that Batter.
 - The 2 strikes may be called strikes or swinging strikes.
 - A foul ball keeps the at bat going.
 - A hit ball is live, and all runners may advance.
 - No bunting while a coach is pitching.
- Maximum of four innings per pitcher unless the game goes to extra innings, then your starter can re-enter the game.
- Teams may choose to roster bat or lineup bat.
 - Teams choosing to roster bat will have free substitutions on defense with a minimum of 6 outs per player.
 - Teams choosing to lineup bat must adhere to the Little League minimum play (6 consecutive outs and 1 at bat) and substitution rules.
- The maximum number of batters per inning is 10. The batting team manager must announce the 10th batter as they come up to the plate. The inning is over once the pitcher has control of the ball in the pitching circle.
 - In the instance where the 10th batter's batted ball is hit into the pitcher's circle a play must be attempted at a base before the ball can be returned to the pitcher's circle to end the inning.
- Bunting is allowed during kid pitch. Bunting is not allowed during coach pitch.
- Stealing:

- o Base runner must maintain contact with the base until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter.
 - o Only 1 base allowed per stolen base. No penalty on an overthrow from the catcher to the base.
 - o Stealing is allowed on every kid pitch, even ball four. No stealing on coach pitch.
 - o Note: starting this year players are allowed to steal home.
- A dropped third strike is an out, runners may not advance.
- A runner is only allowed one base on an overthrow.
- With 2 outs, if the catcher for the next inning is on base they must be substituted with a courtesy runner to allow them time to get their gear on and move the game along.
- A game in progress that is called due to weather will be official if 3 innings have been played (2.5 if the home team is ahead).
- League age 11 year olds may play in this division, but they are not eligible to pitch.

Softball 11&12 Major League Division Rules

- Pitcher's mound is 40 feet from home plate.
- Maximum of 3 coaches in the Dugout.
- 6 innings per game; no time limit. (if tied after 6 innings, go into extra innings)
- Must have 9 players to start the game, once started can play with less due to an injury. Maximum of 9 players on the field defensively.
- A player may pitch in a maximum of twelve (12) innings in a day. If a player pitches in seven (7) or more innings in a day, one calendar day of rest is mandatory. Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched in an inning
- Teams may choose to roster bat or lineup bat.
 - Teams choosing to roster bat will have free substitutions on defense with a minimum of 6 outs per player.
 - Teams choosing to lineup bat must adhere to the Little League minimum play (6 consecutive outs and 1 at bat) and substitution rules.
- Bunting is allowed at all times.
- Stealing is allowed at all times.
- Dropped third strike rule is in effect.
- A game in progress that is called due to weather will be official if 4 innings have been played (3.5 if the home team is ahead).

Softball 13-16 Junior/Senior Division Rules

- Pitcher's mound is 43 feet from home plate.
- Maximum of 3 coaches in the Dugout.
- **7 innings per game**; no time limit. Double-headers will be two 5 inning games.
- Must have 9 players to start the game, once started can play with less due to an injury. Maximum of 9 players on the field defensively.
- No pitching restrictions apply.
- Teams may choose to roster bat or lineup bat.
 - Teams choosing to roster bat will have free substitutions on defense with a minimum of 6 outs per player.
 - Teams choosing to lineup bat must adhere to the Little League minimum play (6 consecutive outs and 1 at bat) and substitution rules.
- Bunting is allowed at all times.
- Stealing is allowed at all times.
- Dropped third strike rule is in effect.
- A game in progress that is called due to weather will be official if 4 innings have been played (3.5 if the home team is ahead).

End of Season Tournament

- At the conclusion of the regular season schedule the area Presidents will convene a meeting to determine the seeding for playoff brackets for each age division.
- Teams will be seeded according to their regular season records, with tie breakers applied according to the procedure outlined below.
- Brackets will be created with the #1 seed playing the lowest seed and so forth.
- Location of tournament games will be on a rotating basis and announced with the league schedule.
- The hosting league is responsible for the cost of awards for the tournaments they host. First and Second place trophies are required.

Team Standings Tiebreaker Procedure

At the conclusion of the season if 2 or more teams have identical records the following tie-breaker procedure shall be used to determine the higher seeded team:

- Head to head record
- Runs allowed
- Runs scored