

# 2024 Softball Interleague Rules

Kingsford - Iron Mountain - Norway - Iron County  
Revised (2/19/2024)

## 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 except for the modifications set forth in the Interleague Rules.

## Scores

- Both teams are responsible to submit the score of the game, within 24 hours upon completion. If delayed, please contact your local league president, or vice president and make them aware.
- Submit the score to [www.upbaseballsoftball.org](http://www.upbaseballsoftball.org)

## Make-Up Games

- Games are recommended to be made up within 10 days of the originally scheduled game.
- The home team sets the make-up date, preferably Friday if feasible. The visiting team confirms the date.
- Field priorities for make-up games are Jrs, Majors, Minors, and then starters.
- All make-up games must be completed 5 days before the division playoffs are scheduled to start.
- A game called due to weather before 4 innings are complete ( 3.5 innings if the home team is winning ) must be finished at the next available date. Game will resume where it was left off.

## 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 on 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 for the first 3 innings.
  - After a Batter receives 4 Balls:
    - A Coach will then pitch 2 additional strikes to that Batter. (If that batter has 0 strikes when the coach comes in to pitch then she would get a 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.
    - The pitches may be called a strike, a swinging strike, or a foul ball.
    - There is no walking unless hit by a pitch.
      - Player must have made an attempt at not getting hit.
    - A hit ball is live, and all runners may advance.
  - **Coach Pitch** – after the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning it will be strictly coach pitch.
    - There will be 3 strikes giving and no walking.
    - There will be strikes, swinging strikes, or a foul ball.
    - A batter hit by a coach can't advance to first.
    - Coaches must stand at 30 feet as well.
- No umpires are needed at this level, **until the playoffs start**. 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.
- 1 coach from the team not batting is permitted in the outfield to help position players.
- 6 innings per game. No new inning can be started after 1 hour and 45 minutes. 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. Infielders may be no closer to the batter than the baseline at the time the pitch is thrown.
- 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 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.
- League age 9-year-olds may play at this level. They are not eligible to pitch or be in the pitching circle during a pitch.

## 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. No new inning can be started after 1 hour and 45 mins. These games can end in a tie when the time limit is reached.
- The 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.
  - There will be a maximum of a double off the coach pitch at this age group. The runners on base can advance until the play is dead.
  - No bunting while the coach is pitching.
- **June 1<sup>st</sup> there will no longer be coach pitch for the season. It will be player pitch only.**
- 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.
- Bunting is allowed during kid pitch. Bunting is not allowed during coach pitch.
- Stealing:
  - Base runner must maintain contact with the base until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter.
  - Only 1 base allowed per stolen base. No penalty on an overthrow from the catcher to the base.

- Stealing is allowed on every kid pitch, even ball four. No stealing on coach pitch.
  - 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.
- Maximum of 5 runs allowed per inning.
- League age 11-year-olds may play in this division, but they are not eligible to pitch or be in the pitching circle during a 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.

## Softball 13-15 Junior Division Rules

- Pitcher's mound is 43 feet from home plate.
- A player who is 15 playing Jr softball is not eligible to pitch. Players can only be 15 and play Jr softball if she did not enroll or play high school softball.
- 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.

## **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 umpers, balls, getting the field ready and the cost of awards for the tournaments they host. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophies are required.
- Locations of the Semi Final and the Championship for 2024 are as followed:
  - 7/8 - Crystal Falls
  - 9/10 - North Dickinson
  - 11/12 – Norway
  - Juniors – Kingsford

## **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.