

2026 Softball Interleague Rules

Kingsford - Iron Mountain - Norway - Iron County
Revised (5/1/2026)

All Division Rules

- Our area's 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 for submitting 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.

Game Play

- Mercy rule is in effect for regular season play. 15 Runs after 3 Innings, 10 Runs after 4 Innings, and 8 Runs after 5 Innings. (Jr's 15 Runs after 4, 10 Runs after 5, and 8 after 6)
 - ***We encourage games to be finished out with runs not added to the score. Complete the innings or time whichever comes first.***
- **NO ON DECK CIRCLE** for all divisions but the Junior Division.
 - ***1st warning is a verbal warning***
 - ***2nd warning the player will automatically be out when the batter goes to bat.***
- A complete game is considered after 4 innings or 3 ½ innings if the home team is in the lead when the game is called. (5 innings or 4 ½ innings for the home team in the Junior Division.)
- Lightning Delays will happen when lightning has been observed. Play can continue 30 minutes after the last lightning strike or after the storm has passed. Coaches & Ump will decide when the game is safe for play.
- Starters and Minors can end in a tie, except for tournament games.
- ALL Infielders must wear a protective mask in all age groups. The outfielders can wear them at their discretion.
- Teams may play with 8 players. If a team has 8 players, the 9th batting position will be considered an out.
 - If a team starts with 9 and someone gets sick or injured there is no penalty in the batting order.

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 games are required to be made up 5 days before the Division playoffs are scheduled to start.

Umpires, Managers and Coaches

- Umps will be required at ALL age levels.
- Maximum of 3 Coaches in the Dugout (Starters Division 4 are allowed)
 - All coaches must have passed a background check, the Diamond Leader Training, and the Little League Abuse Awareness Training.
- Verbally assaulting an Umpire is grounds for being removed as a manager or coach.
- Young Adults will be Umpiring our games, so be supportive of their efforts.

End of Season Tournament

- The season will be 12 games long. **THE TOP 8 TEAMS** will make the Interleague Playoffs.
- The tournament play will follow the regular season Little League Rule Book. Any exceptions laid out in the Interleague Rules will no longer apply with the exception of the Starters 7-8.
- At the conclusion of the regular season schedule the Area Presidents will convene a meeting to determine the seating for playoff brackets for each age division.
 - Games not recorded will be considered a loss.
- Teams will be seated according to their regular season record. Tiebreaker rules apply.
- Brackets will be created with the #1 playing the lowest seat and so forth.
- The location of the games will be determined before the start of the season and will not change regardless of who is playing in the championship; the following locations are for 2026.

Softball 7 - 8 – Norway
 Softball 9 -10 – Norway
 Softball 11-12 – Kingsford
 Jr. Softball – Norway

Each host must provide the umps for the playoffs that are 18 or older.

The Hosting League is responsible for the cost of awards for the winning team. 1st and 2nd 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:
 1. Head-to-Head record
 2. Runs Allowed
 3. Runs Scored

Softball Starter 7-8 League Division Rules

• Game Play

- 4 coaches are allowed in the dugout for this level as 1 coach is pitching and 2 base coaches.
- 6 innings per game. No new inning started after 1 hour and 45 minutes. (Playoffs no time limit)
- Maximum of 10 players on the field during defense, 10th player must be in the outfield grass in an outfield position. Only 6 players will be in the infield.
 - Teams may play with 8 players.
- 1 Coach may be allowed out in the outfield to help the defense positioning. A coach will be allowed behind home plate to help speed up the play of the game.
- Teams must roster bat.
 - 10 is the maximum batters allowed per inning.
 - Minimum play rule is 6 outs in the field per game with roster batting.
- There will be no bases awarded on an overthrow error.
 - An overthrow is considered making an attempt to get a runner out while running to a base and it goes by the player on that base. A throw to anyone else in the field missed is not considered an overthrow. (We are encouraging the defense to try and make plays not just throws back to the pitcher)
- The play is dead when the pitcher has control of the ball inside the pitcher's circle. Runners more than halfway between bases at this time can continue to advance.
 - Half-way lines will be marked out between 1st and 2nd, 2nd and 3rd, 3rd and home.
- With 2 outs, if the catcher gets on base she must be substituted with a courtesy runner. This gives the catcher time to get gear on and moves the game along.
- There is NO Bunting or Stealing at any time in this division. The runner must keep at least 1 foot on the base during the pitch.
- League age 6 can play in this division with 1 year of Tee Ball and the local area's board approval.

• Pitching

- **Player Pitch**

- Players will pitch the first 3 innings with the coach's assistance after ball 4.
 - The pitcher's mound is 30 feet from home plate at this division.
 - A hit ball is live, and all runners may advance.
 - After a batter receives 4 balls from the pitcher during kid pitch:
 - A coach will then pitch to the batter from 30 feet. The batters count will carry into the pitch. No extra strikes are given to the batter.
 - Hit by a Pitch: If the batter is hit by a pitch being thrown by a player, the batter is awarded and must take first base. If the batter is hit by a pitch being thrown by a coach, the batter is not awarded first base and must continue the batting process.
 - No Dropped 3rd strike rule in this division.
- League age 9-year-olds must be approved by the Interleague presidents and can play anywhere on the field.
- **Coach Pitch** – after the 3rd inning it will be strictly coach pitch.
 - There will be 3 strikes given 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 throw from 30 feet as well.
 - If the batter gets a hit, she is not limited on bases.
 - While the coach is pitching, the player pitcher must have one foot inside the pitcher's circle and be ready to field the ball, for example off to the side but not in front.

Softball Minor 9-10 League Division Rules

• **Game Play**

- Bats – Rule 1.10 in the Little League Rule Book. Bats shall be no more than 33” in length, not more than (2-1/4) inches in diameter. If wood not less than (15/16) in diameter (7/8-inch wood bat less than 30”) Non-wood shall be printed with a BPF of 1.2.
- 6 innings per game. No new inning started after 2 hours. (Until the playoffs start)
 - *Games can end in a tie when the time limit is met.*
- Maximum of 9 players on the field during defense.
- Teams may choose to roster bat or line up bat.
 - If a team chooses to roster bat, they will have free substitution of players. Minimum Play Rule, 6 outs in the field.
 - If a team chooses to line up bat, they must adhere to the Little League minimum play rule and substitution rules. Minimum Play Rule, 6 outs and 1 at bat.
- Maximum of 5 runs / inning until the playoffs start. (Max runs removed)
- Bunting and Stealing is legal in this division. The runner must keep 1 foot on the bag until the ball has crossed the home plate. No leading off.
 - Players are allowed to steal home.
- League age 8 can play in this division with the local area’s board approval.

• **Pitching**

- The season will start off with Player Pitch only. (No Coach Assist)
- Pitching will be from 35’ at this age group.
- There is no dropped 3rd strike rule in this age group. A dropped 3rd strike is still an out.
- League age 11-year-olds must be approved by the Interleague presidents and can play anywhere on the field.

Softball 11-12 Major League Division Rules

- **Game Play**

- Maximum of 3 coaches in the dugout for this division.
- 6 innings per game. No time limit. If tied after 6 innings the game must go into extra innings.
- Maximum of 9 players on the field during defense.
- The team may choose to roster bat or line up bat.
 - If a team chooses to roster bat, they will have free substitution of players. Minimum play rule is 6 outs.
 - If a team chooses to line up bat, they must adhere to the Little League minimum play and substitution rules. Minimum play rule, 6 outs and 1 at bat.

- Bunting and Stealing is legal in this division.
 - There is no limit on how many bases you can steal.
- League age 10 can play in this division with the local area's board approval.
- No league age 13 can play down in this division.

- **Pitching**

- Pitching will be from 40 feet at this age group.
- A Player may pitch in a maximum of twelve (12) innings in a day. If a player pitches in seven (7) innings in a day, one calendar day of rest is mandatory. Delivering a single pitch constitutes having pitched in an inning.
- *Dropped third strike rule is in effect.*
 - If 1st base is unoccupied or there are 2 outs is when this takes place. Otherwise, the batter will be called out even on a dropped uncaught 3rd strike.
 - It is still considered dropped if the ball hits the ground and the catcher catches it cleanly. Must be caught "in flight".

Softball 13-15 Junior Division Rules

• **Game Play**

- Maximum of 3 coaches in the dugout.
- 7 innings per game; no time limit. If tied after 7 innings the game must go into extra innings. (5 innings or 4 ½ if you are the home team is considered a complete game).
 - Double-headers will be two 5 inning games.
- Must have 9 players to start the game, once started the game can be played with less due to an injury.
- Maximum 9 players on defense.
- The team may choose to roster bat or line up bat.
 - If a team chooses to roster bat, they will have free substitution of players. Minimum play rule is 6 outs.
 - If a team chooses to line up bat, they must adhere to the Little League minimum play and substitution rules. Minimum play rule, 6 outs and 1 at bat.
- Bats may be 34” in length for the Junior division.
- Please refer to the Little League rule book for further provisions in this age group.

• **Pitching**

- Pitching will be done from 43 feet at this age group.
- There are no pitching restrictions.
- *Dropped third strike rule is in effect.*
 - If 1st base is unoccupied or there are 2 outs is when this takes place. Otherwise, the batter will be called out even on a dropped uncaught 3rd strike.
 - It is still considered dropped if the ball hits the ground and the catcher catches it cleanly. Must be caught “in flight”.
- A player can only be league age 15 and play Jr. Softball if she did not enroll or play high school softball.