

AYLL-Antioch Baseball and Softball
14U Softball League Rules
2018

IHSA Softball Rules will apply with the following exceptions and clarifications:

GENERAL RULES

1. No time limit shall be enforced unless the field is needed for a game following AND coaches have been informed before the game starts. No new inning shall start after two hours if the field is needed for another game. A new inning begins at the exact same moment the third out occurs. Please inform your umpires that there is no time limit.
2. The following field dimensions will be used:
3. Pitching Distance 43 feet from the back tip of home plate
4. Base Distances 60 feet
5. There is no limit to runs per inning. However, the game is considered over with a 10-run lead after 5 innings or 4-1/2 if home team is ahead.
6. If needed number of girls has not arrived by 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the game, the team causing the infraction will forfeit.
7. A regulation game is 7 innings (considered a complete game at 4-1/2 or 5 if called due to weather, darkness, etc.)
8. If at the end of regulation play, (or called due to darkness, weather, etc.) a game is tied, the coaches/managers of the teams shall determine if they wish to play another inning(s), leave the game as a tie, or pick-up the game at the point left off at another time (with 80% of batting order intact). This shall be noted in the scorebook(s) and signed by both coaches/managers and the umpire.
9. No game/practice can start or continue to be played if the air temperature or “feels like” temperature is less than 40 degrees Fahrenheit.
10. Nine (9) players will play in the field.
11. There must be a minimum of 7 players to begin a game.
12. If a team will have seven (7) or six (6) players, the Manager must contact the V.P. of Softball or the 14U Director to utilize the In-House Call-Up Rule.
13. Call-Up players cannot pitch or catch and must be placed at the end of the batting order.
14. Players who arrive late will be allowed to join the game providing that the manager notifies the other team of the situation. The player will be put at the end of the batting lineup and will be skipped without penalty until she arrives.
15. A 12” softball will be used in games. Softballs for games will be supplied to each manager prior to the commencement of the season. The home team is responsible for providing two (2) new game balls for each game and it will be returned to them after the game is completed.
16. All players must wear their Division issued uniform for games. The uniform includes:
 - Softball Shirt
 - Softball Pants
 - Softball Socks
17. All issued uniforms must be tucked in.
18. The official bat, made up of the knob, handle, grip, taper, barrel and end cap shall be free of burrs, dents, cracks, sharp edges, rattles and show no signs of excessive wear. The official bat may be marked OFFICIAL SOFTBALL by the manufacturer and shall be no more than 34 inches long nor exceed 38 ounces in weight. The official bat shall not be more than 2.250 inches in diameter at its largest part, including any tolerance for expansion. The Official bat must bear either the ASA 2000 Certification Mark, ASA 2004 Certification Mark, or and must not be listed on the ASA Non-Approved Bat list with 2000 or 2004 Certification Mark. For a complete listing of ASA certified softball bats, click on the following link:

<https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/Play-ASA/Certified-ASA-Equipment.aspx>

19. Each player must play at least 2 defensive innings per game. Except for championship/playoff games, then playing time is left to coach's discretion.
20. Every player shall bat in a continuous batting order, whether she is playing in the field or not.
21. Home team is responsible for field setup and field takedown.
22. ALL players must wear a facemasks, infield and outfield.
23. ALL games require a patched umpire.
24. Influencing the umpires, for example, yelling "safe" or "out" before the umpire makes a call or openly questioning or complaining about the umpire's call, will not be tolerated.
25. Protest must be made announced to the umpire at the time of the disagreement. The disagreement cannot be based on umpire judgment, but only upon rule interpretation. The umpire must sign the scorebook of the team making the protest. The manager must then notify the V.P. of Softball immediately and must also have complaint written out and postmarked within 24 hours of the game. The V.P. of Softball will handle complaint with the grievance board.
26. Travel players are not allowed. If a team is discovered to have an "active" travel player(s), then the team would forfeit games played and could be disqualified from the end of season tournament. An "active" travel player is one who is currently playing for (with) a travel team. It is acceptable for a player that played travel ball last season to come back to our league.

PITCHING

1. The pitching rubber shall measure 43 feet from the back tip of home plate.
2. Pitchers can be switched at any time. **ONLY** the starting pitcher may return as a pitcher. This may occur only once per game.
3. There is **NO LIMIT** to number of innings pitched per week, nor innings per game.
4. After hitting 2 batters in an inning, the pitcher will be removed for the remainder of the inning. After 3 hit batters, the pitcher will be removed from pitching for the remainder of the game.
5. Batters must make an attempt to move out of the way. If they don't, then it will not count against the pitcher.
6. Pitchers must start with 2 feet on the pitching rubber & no more than 1 step towards home plate.
7. The pitchers will be allowed 5 warm-up pitches at the start of the game and between innings.

THE GAME

1. A regulation game is 7 innings (considered a complete game at 4-1/2 or 5 if called due to weather, darkness, etc.)
2. If for any reason a player can't continue, the batting order shall continue from that point the player will be skipped and not counted as an out.
3. AYLL will provide umpires.
4. Warm-ups should begin with the visiting team taking the field thirty minutes before the game start time. The home team should take the field fifteen minutes before game start time. Managers should make every effort to start the game on time. Warm-ups should be cut short to accomplish this goal.
5. No game shall be played if lightning or driving rain is in the area, or when there is standing water in the field. If a lightning detector is available, league rules will determine playability.

6. Games stopped due to weather or darkness before the 5th inning will be resumed at the point where the game stopped. Games where the 5th inning has been finished (4 1/2 if the home team is ahead) will be considered a completed game.
7. If an inning commences, but the results of the game are still undecided and cannot be completed before sunset, the game will be suspended. The Managers should note the exact situations in play including pitchers, base runners, batting order, etc. and report it to the V.P. of Softball and the 14U Director immediately. The suspended game will be completed at the earliest open date on the schedule.
8. Home managers must also notify the umpires (or assignor of umpires) of any canceled games.
9. Substitutions can be made at any time during a game.
10. The pitchers will be allowed 5 warm-up pitches at the start of the game and between innings.
11. No steel cleats.
12. Score will be kept.
13. Stealing is allowed after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
14. A 12" softball will be used.
15. The dropped third strike is in effect. Anytime first base is unoccupied, or there are two outs, and the third strike is not caught, the batter-runner is entitled to advance. All other runners advance at their own risk. If the batter-runner is called out because first base is occupied, any other runners can advance at their own risk.
16. The infield fly rule will be enforced. An infield fly is a fair fly (not including a line drive or an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort (rule does not preclude outfielders from being allowed to make the catch); and provided the hit is made before two are out and at a time when first and second bases or all bases are occupied. (Reminder the umpire must yell while the ball is in the air for the rule to be in effect.)
17. First base will be awarded due to a hit batter. The batter must make an attempt to get out of the way.
18. Courtesy runners may be used for the pitchers or catchers when there are two outs. This runner must be the player who made the last out.
19. If the ball and the runner are approaching the base at the same time, the runner must avoid contact with the fielder (sliding is recommended not required). If the runner does make contact, the runner will be called out. Managers should talk to the umpire during the pre-game conference, so everyone understands how the call will be made.
20. Runners are never required to slide. If the runner elects to slide, the slide shall be legal. A legal slide can be either head or feet first. If runner slides feet first, one foot and buttock shall be on the ground. If a runner slides, the runner shall be within the reach of the base with a hand or a foot when the slide is completed.
21. The catcher or defensive player shall not block the base or plate without the ball. Close plays will be at the discretion of the umpire and will include the possibility of ejection for malicious plays.
22. Protest must be made announced to the umpire at the time of the disagreement. The disagreement cannot be based on umpire judgment, but only upon rule interpretation. The umpire must sign the scorebook of the team making the protest. The manager must then notify the V.P. of Softball immediately and must also have complaint written out and postmarked within 24 hours of the game. The V.P. of Softball will handle complaint with the grievance board.
23. Once the pitcher with the ball has entered the pitching circle (actual or imagined) a runner not touching the base must immediately commit to either advancing to the next base or returning to the previous base. Failure to react immediately will result in that runner being called out.
24. Players will not throw bats, helmets or any other equipment to display anger, frustration or displeasure. Violators may be removed from the game.

25. Throwing the bat will result in an out. -No warning- A second occurrence will result in the player not being allowed to bat.
26. **Umpires Judgement is Final.**

SAFETY

1. No game shall be played with threatening weather in the area.
2. Players on deck, players at the plate, and base runners must wear batting helmets. Players should leave their helmet on their head after batting or running until they have entered the dugout. Any player intentionally taking off her helmet will be called out. After a second time, the player will not be allowed to bat for the remainder of the game.
3. Catchers must wear full gear during a game.
4. Batting teams are to remain in the dugout area, except players on deck.
5. Players not in the field must remain in the dugout while the game is in progress.
6. Only the players, managers, coaches, and “bench coach” are to be in the dugout or on the field. Family members or friends are not allowed to sit with the players.
7. Players must remain in dugout and not sit with family outside of dugout.
8. No jewelry shall be worn during the games. This includes watches. Except for medical alert identification.

SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Chanting or sing-song cheers are allowed for your team only. Once the pitcher is set, chanting and/or sing-song cheers must stop. Infraction will be a called dead ball strike.
2. All comments by the players and coaches should be positive in nature.
3. All comments made by spectators should be positive in nature.
4. Umpires have the right to ask spectators to not stand behind the backstop.
5. Respect must be shown to the umpires, the coaches, and the players involved in the game.
6. Remember no two people see the game exactly the same way.
7. Winning should not be the main focus of the game. Teaching the skills of softball and having fun should be the primary goals.
8. Any objections to umpires or managers should be made after the game to the V.P. of Softball.
9. This is an instructional league and the manager may stop play at any time to give instructions or clarify a rule to a player.

RAINOUTS AND LIGHTNING

1. The 14U Director, after consulting with both managers, will determine if the field is playable; and for all subsequent games scheduled later that day, or in calling of a game that has already started. If Director is not available manager can cancel game. V.P. of Softball must be notified and will reschedule game.
2. When lightning is sighted or when lightning detection siren goes off, the game will be immediately suspended. Players and Coaches will immediately retreat to safety (car, building, etc.). After 30 minutes of no detected lightning or when the lightning detection all-clear siren goes off, play can resume. If lightning is sighted again (after the 30-minute period), the game shall be called.

IN-HOUSE CALL-UP RULES:

1. V.P. of Softball and 14U Director will maintain a list of eligible call-up players.
2. Parent/guardian approval is required for a player to be put on the eligible call-up list.
3. The team Manager must contact the V.P. of Softball or Division Director when a call-up player(s) is required to play a game.
4. The Division Director will contact the parent/guardian of the eligible call-up player(s) and notify the team Manager which call-up player(s) will be playing in the game.
5. Players must be available - they cannot miss any part of their own team's scheduled practices or games that day.
6. Players will wear their team uniform.
7. Call up players must play the field a minimum of four innings.
8. Players must bat last in the line-up.
9. Players must play outfield only.
10. If more players are called up than can play the outfield (example, the outfield gets filled with call-ups first), then they can play any infield position except pitcher or catcher.
11. If the regular player(s) show up, they will be added to the batting order after the call-up player(s).
12. If the regular player(s) show up, the call-up player(s) must be left in the rotation for the duration of the game (batting and fielding).

MAKE SURE TO ALTERNATE CALL-UPS. In other words, you cannot use the same player each time. All eligible call-up players must be given an equal chance to play.

NOTE: Please remember this is still instructional level Softball; we are developing the younger players.

Any questions in regard to the interpretation of the rules or anything not addressed in the rules will be resolved by the Division Director; if an issue is unable to be resolved by the Division Director, then the Executive Board will make a final ruling. The rules shall not be changed in any way without the approval of the Executive Board.