

Section 1: General Rules

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICIES ARE IN AFFECT AT EVERY COMPLEX. Any player, manager, coach, or fan ejected from a game must leave the facility immediately and will serve a minimum 1 additional game suspension. During the suspension, the ejected person may not be at the ballpark.

1. There are no formal protests allowed; any rules issues must be addressed on the field before play continues.
 - a. **FOR TOURNAMENTS ONLY:**
 - i. A \$100 protest fee will be deposited to the Vice President of LHYL Softball (VP) or President of LHYL immediately after the protest occurs not to exceed 24hours after the protested event occurs.
2. Home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook. Teams should confirm runs scored each inning to avoid any controversy. However, each team is expected to keep a scorebook for all games.
3. Home team is responsible for marking/lining the field and turning on/off lights.
4. All games will be played as scheduled unless postponed by inclement weather or unplayable field conditions. Such postponed games will be rescheduled. Within one week following the originally scheduled game, the commissioner will identify potential make up dates, time, and location and mutually agreed upon by both head coaches. The commissioner will discuss with the umpire scheduler of the time and location of the makeup game. Once umpire scheduler and head coaches schedule is confirmed commissioner will notify coaches of the confirmed date. Failure by either team to play the makeup game as rescheduled will constitute a forfeit, unless postponed by inclement weather or unplayable field conditions, in which process will be repeated.
5. The LHYL Division Champion will be based on LHYL Division games played against each LHYL Division team.
 - a. In the event of a tie, the LHYL Division Champion will be determined as follows:
 - 1) Head to Head; win versus loss
 - a. Regular Season scheduled games
 - b. Tournament Bracket games
 - 2) Runs Allowed in Head to Head games
 - 3) Runs Scored in Head to Head games
 - 4) Least amount of runs allowed overall in regular season against each LHYL Division team
 - 5) Coin Flip
6. Teams are responsible for cleaning up their dugouts after games, raking around plates/bases, and turning on/off lights, locking bathrooms, locking gates, and emptying trash.
7. No infield warmup after 1st inning. 5 Warm up pitches 1st Inning. 3 pitches each inning after.
8. No Time Outs Last 5 minutes of game.
9. Teams must be ready 20-minutes before scheduled game time.
10. One box of game balls will be provided to each team for the season. It is the head coach's responsibility to manage the game balls for the season. Each team should provide one new and one slightly used ball for their game.

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11. Teams must bat the entire roster (Rec Season).
12. There are open defensive substitutions except for pitching. Players arriving late can be added to the bottom of the order (notify the other team and umpire).
13. There are technically no substitute players if a batter is injured and cannot finish their at-bat. Rather than the player being called out, the next batter can assume the injured player's at-bat; however, the injured player cannot return to the game at a later time.
14. Metal cleats are not allowed.
15. Runners should avoid contact; intentional contact or malicious contact in the umpire's opinion can lead to player being called out and/or removed or ejected from the game.
16. Throwing the bat will result in 1 warning per player, 2nd occurrence will result in the batter being called out.
17. Scores do not revert back to previous innings if time expires; the inning is completed; home team only bats if it is behind. All runs scored when umpire calls the ball game are recorded even if the game ends in the middle of an inning.
18. Regulation Pony Leather Fastpitch Softballs will be used. 6U, 8U, 10U will use 11" Softballs. 12U and 14U will use 12" Softballs.
19. 6U and 8U are required to wear a protective fielder's mask regardless of position on field.
20. 10U, 12U, and 14U infielders are required to wear a protective fielder's mask.

Section 2: Time Limit, Pitching Distance, Base Distance, Runs Per Inning, Age Group

2.1: Games Time Limits

1. LHYL Softball 6U Division: Not to Exceed 50 Minutes
2. LHYL Softball 8U Division: 60 Minutes
3. LHYL Softball 10U Division: 75 Minutes
4. LHYL Softball 12U Division: 75 Minutes
5. LHYL Softball 14U Division: 75 Minutes

Note: *A game consists of either 50, 60, or 75 minutes of play or Seven Innings, (six Innings in 6U, 8U, 10U). A full seven (six in 6U, 8U, 10U), innings need not be played if the team second at bat scores more runs in six (five in 6U, 8U, 10U) innings or before the third out in the last of the seventh (sixth in 6U, 8U, 10U) inning.*

Note: Tournament: (bracket or championship game). *A game that is tied at the end of the seventh (six in 6U, 8U, 10U) inning shall be continued by playing additional innings; or until one side has scored more runs than the other at the end of a complete inning; or until the team second at bat has scored more runs in their half of the inning before the third out is made.*

Note: League Play: If conditions allow and agreed to by coaches/umpire and the VP of Softball and/or President of LHYL, and/or Division Commissioner a game MAY be permitted to continue to break the tie. *A game that is tied at the end of the seventh (six in 6U, 8U, 10U) inning shall be continued by playing additional innings; or until one side has scored more runs than the other at the end of a complete inning; or until the team second at bat has scored more runs in their half of the inning before the third out is made.*

Note: A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if five or more (four or more in 6U, 8U, 10U) complete innings have been played or if the team second at bat has scored more runs in four or more innings than the other team has scored in five or more (four or more in 6U, 8U, 10U) innings. The umpire is empowered to call a game at any time because of darkness, rain, fire, panic, or other causes which places patrons or players in peril. For games called prior to five (four in 6U, 8U, 10U) complete innings the ahead team is awarded the win and score will be recorded.

Note: A forfeited game shall be decided by the umpire in favor of the team not at fault and the score will be recorded 7-0 if game did not start, if game started and/or runs scored the not at fault team will be awarded 1 more run than at fault team and will be awarded the win.

2.2: Pitching Distance.

1. LHYL Softball 6U Division: (T-Ball)-Player position adjacent to Pitching Rubber 40'
2. LHYL Softball 8U Division: (Coach Pitch)-Player position adjacent to Pitching Rubber 40'
3. LHYL Softball 10U Division: 35'
4. LHYL Softball 12U Division: 40'
5. LHYL Softball 14U Division: 43'

2.3: Base Distance.

1. LHYL Softball 6U Division: 55'
2. LHYL Softball 8U Division: 55'
3. LHYL Softball 10U Division: 60'
4. LHYL Softball 12U Division: 60'
5. LHYL Softball 14U Division: 60'

2.4: Runs Per Inning:

1. LHYL Softball 6U Division: 5 runs per half inning
2. LHYL Softball 8U Division: 5 runs per half inning
3. LHYL Softball 10U Division: 5 runs per half inning
4. LHYL Softball 12U Division: 6 runs per half inning
5. LHYL Softball 14U Division: 6 runs per half inning

Note: Tournament Run Rule: If a team is leading its opponent by at least 12 runs after three innings, or 10 runs after four innings, or 8 runs after five or more equal innings have been played or after four-and one-half innings the game will end and the team with the most runs will be awarded the win.

2.5: Age Group.

1. LHYL Softball 6U Division (T-Ball) 6 years and younger Age as of December 31
2. LHYL Softball 8U Division (Coach Pitch) 8 years and younger Age as of December 31
3. LHYL Softball 10U Division 10 years and younger Age as of December 31
4. LHYL Softball 12U Division 12 years and younger Age as of December 31
5. LHYL Softball 14U Division 14 years and younger Age as of December 31

Note: If player is 9 years old on December 31, 2020 player will be in 10U age group for the 2021 Spring, All-Stars (when applicable), and Fall 2021 season. If player is 8 years old on December 30, 2020 player

will be eligible to play in the 8U age group for the 2021 Spring, All-Stars (when applicable), and Fall 2021 season.

Note: Age 4 is the minimum age as of December 31 for players in LHYL 6U Division.

Note: Players are allowed to advance in age groups based on VP of Softball and/or President of LHYL, and/or Division Commissioner **APPROVAL** and the players Parent/Guardian agreement.

Section 3: Pool Player

1. A pool player may be used to prevent a team from forfeiting a game. This uniformed player must be registered with the LHYL as an active player. The pool player is to be placed in the outfield and listed as the final batter in a line-up. At no time will the pool player be placed in the infield or on the pitcher's mound. At no time are pool players used to bolster a team for unfair advantage. No more than 2 pool players shall be used in any game. The spirit of this rule is to allow for games to be played when a team is short-handed. If a team uses more than 2 pool players, the game may be played, but the final score shall appear as a forfeit. A team may only use pool players to field a team of nine players.
2. **At 6U and 8U where 10 players are permitted, pool players may not be added to get a team to a maximum of 10 players. The opposing coach must approve the pool player(s).**

Section 4: LHYL Age Group Rules (Pony League Rules)

4.1: 6U T-Ball.

1. Game ends at 50 minutes from the start of game.
2. Teams must have a minimum of 8 players to play at the scheduled game time. Up to two pool players may be used (see Pool Player rules). Players arriving late will be added to the bottom of the line-up. No outs will be recorded due to lack of players in the 9th spot. If a team has only 8 players, they may be positioned in the field without a catcher. If a team cannot field 8 players, the game will be recorded as a forfeit. However, every effort should be made to play the game, including teams sharing players and/or additional pool players being added.
3. If a team starts with more than 10 batters and loses a player, no out will be recorded. Also, no outs will be recorded due to lack of players in the 9th spot.
4. Batted ball must pass the 10-foot arch in front of home plate; called foul if it does not pass the marked line.
5. Batter must have both feet in the box when hitting the ball.
6. Time should be called by the umpire when the ball is in the possession of an infielder and/or the lead runner hesitates; this is an umpire's judgment call.
7. Regulation Pony softballs will be used.
8. Four outfielders may be used on defense and must be at least 16 feet behind the bases.
9. A pinch runner (last recorded out) may be used for a player that is injured while running the bases.
10. Any player who is unable to take their official at-bat will be out for the remainder of the game. No out will be recorded unless the team falls below 9 players, or the player was ejected.
11. It is the umpire's discretion to allow coaches to stand outside the dugout.

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12. 2 defensive coaches are allowed on the field of play (between the foul lines). They should be in the outfield (no coaches in the infield).
13. Catchers must wear a helmet (a batter's helmet is acceptable). Full catcher's equipment is preferred if available, but not necessary. Catchers should be positioned to minimize the risk of being hit by a thrown bat.
14. A coach may be at home plate to assist the batter in getting set up at the tee, but the coach may not physically position the batter in such a manner as to direct the hit in a particular direction. The coach cannot physically set the batter to "pull" the ball, etc. The coach may tell the batter where he wants the ball to go and if the batter can position herself to hit it there, that is acceptable. The coach may not draw lines or make marks in the batter's box to indicate to the batter where to place her feet in order to hit the ball in a particular direction. The batters' feet must be completely within the batters' box at the time the ball is contacted. If a batter is outside the batter's box at the time of contact, the hit will be recorded as a foul ball and the at-bat will continue.
15. A legal tee is currently defined as one that can be purchased at Sporting Goods stores. Hand-made or altered tees are not legal. The tee must be placed in a position that would naturally align the ball directly over home plate.
16. Players hit off a tee – no pitching to players during a game.
17. No player can sit 2 consecutive innings unless due to injury, disability, mutual agreement with player and coach, or a discipline issue. Managers should notify the other team and parent if this is in effect.
18. All players must play at least 1 inning in the infield in each game. If a player does not get an opportunity to play the infield due to lack of time, then that player must play 2 innings in the infield at the next game, unless there are safety concerns with that player taking an infield position. If there is a safety concern, the parent and opposing team manager must be notified. Catcher is considered infield.
19. Managers are to use a constant batting order through the season to ensure equitable batting opportunities for all players. This means that when a game concludes, the next player who would have batted will be the first batter in the lineup for the next game. The official scorebook (or team scorebook) can aid coaches in following this rule. Again, this is in effect to develop all players equally.

4.2: 8U Softball (Coach-Pitch)

1. No new inning to start after 60 minutes.
2. Teams must have a minimum of 8 players to play at the scheduled game time. Up to two pool players may be used (see Pool Player rules). Players arriving late will be added to the bottom of the line-up (notify umpire). An out will be recorded for the 9th position in the batting order if it is not filled. If a team has only 8 players, they may be positioned in the field without a catcher. If a team cannot field 8 players, the game will be recorded as a forfeit. However, every effort should be made to play the game, including teams sharing players and/or additional pool players being added.
3. If a team starts with more than 10 batters and loses a player, no out will be recorded unless the team falls below 9 players, or the player was ejected.

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4. Batters receive 4 pitches or three strikes per at bat. If a foul ball occurs on the 4th pitch, the batter will continue to hit until the ball is put in play, or the batter strikes out. No limits on foul balls.
5. Any batted ball hitting the coach-pitcher will be ruled a foul ball.
6. A pitched ball is dead when it hits the ground. Batter cannot hit the ball that first touches the ground. Each batter is allowed four pitches. The fourth pitch unless hit fair or foul will be an out.
7. The coach-pitcher is a "pitching machine" and cannot speak to anyone nor coach in any way from the field. Coaching from the field will result in a warning from the umpire; a second occurrence will result in the removal of that coach-pitcher.
8. A coach-pitcher cannot be voluntarily changed in the middle of an inning.
9. Time should be called by the umpire when the ball is in the possession of an infielder and/or the lead runner hesitates; this is an umpire's judgment call.
10. A pinch runner (last recorded out) may be used for a player who is injured while running the bases.
11. Any player who is unable to take their official at-bat will be out for the remainder of the game. No out will be recorded unless the team falls below 9 players, or the player was ejected.
12. Four outfielders may be used on defense; players cannot be stacked (no Rover) and must be at least 16 feet behind the bases.
13. Intentional walks are not allowed.
14. It is the umpire's discretion to allow coaches to stand outside the dugout.
15. For the first 4 weeks of the season, 2 defensive coaches are allowed on the field of play (between the foul lines). They should be in the outfield (no coaches in the infield). After the first 4 weeks of the season, there are no defensive coaches allowed on the field of play. (Spring season only)
16. Catchers must be in full gear (mask, chest protector, shin guards). Catcher's mitt is optional; players may use a regulation glove.
17. No player can sit 2 consecutive innings unless due to injury, disability, mutual agreement with player and coach, or a discipline issue. Managers should notify the other team and parent if this is in effect.
18. All players must play at least 1 inning in the infield in each game. If a player does not get an opportunity to play the infield due to lack of time, then that player must play 2 innings in the infield at the next game, unless there are safety concerns with that player taking an infield position. If there is a safety concern, the parent and opposing team manager must be notified. Catcher is considered infield.

4.3: 10U Softball.

1. No new inning to start after 1 hour & 15 minutes.
2. Teams must have a minimum of 8 players to play at the scheduled game time. An out will be recorded for the 9th position in the batting order if it is not filled. Players arriving late can be added to the bottom of the line-up (notify umpire). Up to two pool players may be used (see Pool Player rules). If a team cannot field 8 players, the game will be recorded as a forfeit. However, every effort should be made to play the game, including teams sharing players and/or additional pool players being added.

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3. If a team starts with more than 10 batters and loses a player, no out will be recorded unless the team falls below 9 players, or the player was ejected.
4. Catchers must be in full gear (mask, chest protector, shin guards). Catcher's mitt is recommended; players may use a regulation glove if no catcher's mitt is available.
5. A pitcher must be removed from the mound after hitting 3 batters in one inning or 5 batters in a single game.
6. Coaches may call 'timeout' to visit the pitcher's mound one time per 1/2 inning without making a pitching change. Upon the 2nd coach's visit to the mound in the same inning, the pitcher must be changed. The catcher, or any other infield position player, may visit the pitcher's mound without limit. The only exception to this rule is in case of injury and the umpire has called time.
7. Any player who is unable to take their official at-bat will be out for the remainder of the game. No out will be recorded unless the team falls below 9 players, or the player was ejected.
8. It is the umpire's discretion to allow coaches to stand outside the dugout. No defensive coaches on the field of play.
9. No player can sit 2 consecutive innings unless due to injury, disability, mutual agreement with player and coach, or a discipline issue. Managers should notify the other team and parent if this is in effect.
10. Will play OPEN bases.
11. No-Pitch, ball slips from pitcher's hand: when a player initiates her motion and loses the ball in the declaration part of the pitch, falling out of the hand going backwards. One Warning will be given in a game, the runners are not allowed to leave the base; each additional no-pitch will count as a ball, and the runners may advance at their own risk.
12. Dropped 3rd strike rule is in effect.
13. Advancing to home between pitches and during other situations is ALLOWED.
14. Once the pitcher possesses the ball in the pitcher's circle, base runners must immediately advance to the next base or return to the previous base. Failure to immediately advance or return to a base will result in the runner being called out; changing direction after starting advance/return will result in an out unless the pitcher makes a "Softball" motion with the ball.
15. Legal Delivery Points of Emphasis:
 - a. The pitcher shall take a position with both feet firmly on the ground and with one or both feet in contact with, but not off the side of, the pitchers plate.
 - b. Pitcher may use any windup desired, providing:
 - i. Player does not make any motion to pitch without immediately delivering the ball to the batter.
 - ii. Player does not use a rocker action in which, after having the ball in both hands in the pitching position, she removes one hand from the ball, takes a backward and forward swing, and returns the ball to both hands in front of the body.
 - iii. Player does not use a windup in which there is a stop or reversal of the forward motion.
 - iv. Player does not make two revolutions of the arm in the windmill pitch. A pitcher may drop her arm to the side and to the rear before starting the windmill motion.
 - v. Player does not continue the wind up after taking the forward step, which is simultaneous with the release of the ball.

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16. Illegal pitches. A pitcher stopping their pitching motion is an illegal pitch. Types of illegal pitches; preliminaries (appearing to take signal, hands separated, on plate) and illegal delivery (no crow hops or leaps).
 - a. An illegal pitch results in:
 - i. A delayed dead ball
 - ii. If runner hits and all runners advance 1 base, the illegal pitch is nullified.
 - iii. If not, the offensive coach has the option of taking the result of the play or the penalty, ball on the batter and all runners advance 1 base.

4.3: 12U/14U Softball. (10U rules plus the following)

1. If players are used as base coaches, they must wear batting helmets.
2. Catcher's mitt is required.

Note: Teams may travel to other community ballparks for games. Local rules will supersede LHYL rules unless negotiated and agreed to by the team coaches and umpires prior to the start of the game.