

2019 Little League Softball Rule Summary

Updated February 5, 2019

	Instructional 6 / 7 / 8	Minor 9 / 10	Little / Major 11 / 12	Junior 13 / 14	Senior 15 / 16	
Pitching Distance	35 feet		40 feet	43 feet		
V.c.4	11-inch softball		12-inch softball			
Mandatory Play <i>IV.i V.c.4</i>	Minimum of six (6) defensive outs, bat at least 1 (one) time, substitutes must complete 6 consecutive defensive outs and one at bat, prior to leaving the game. Borrowed players must play at least nine (9) consecutive defensive outs, and bat at least 1 (one) time.					
Continuous Batting <i>4.04</i>	All players bat. Inning ends if entire lineup bats in that inning, or when 3 outs are reached.		Does not apply			
Innings / Time Limits <i>4.10, X a/c</i>	6 innings. 1½ hours. Regulation game: 4 innings	6 innings. No new innings may start after 1½ hours before June 1, 1¾ hours after June 1. Regulation game: 4 innings		7 innings. No time limit. Regulation game: 5 innings		
Mercy Rule / Max Runs per Inning <i>definitions - inning, 4.10 e</i>	Maximum of 5 runs per inning. (<i>definitions-inning</i>) 10 run rule – after 4 innings 15 run rule - after 3 innings		10 run rule – after 4 innings 15 run rule - after 3 innings		10 run rule – after 5 innings 15 run rule - after 4 innings	
Pitchers	Coach Warm Up <i>3.09</i>	Adult coaches are not permitted to warm up pitchers. Pitchers may ONLY be warmed up by a PLAYER in uniform wearing a catch's mask with a dangling throat guard.				
	Coach Pitch Rules	INSTRUCTIONAL ONLY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A coach from the team at bat will take over for the pitcher after a 4-ball count. Strike count remains. The coach will be allowed to throw 3 pitches or until a swinging strike 3 count. A bat cannot end with a foul ball. A fouled off 3rd pitch will result in an additional pitch. Coach must start pitching with at least one foot on the rubber from 35 feet. When a coach pitches, the pitcher must stand even with or behind the pitching rubber with 1 foot in the circle. 				
	Innings / Rest <i>VI b</i>	Maximum of twelve (12) innings per day. If a player pitches in seven (7) or more innings in a day, one calendar day of rest is mandatory.		No restrictions. No rest required.		
	Number of Pitchers <i>VI d</i>	No limit.		No more than 5 pitchers may be used in one game		
	Pitching Motion <i>8.00</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both feet must be on the ground and within the 24 inch pitching mound. When taking pitching position, hands must be separated, ball must be in either glove or pitching hand, pivot foot must be in contact with top surface of pitcher's plate. Non pivot foot must be on or behind pitcher's plate. Hands must come together in front of body for 1-10 seconds prior to delivering pitch. If hands are together, a backward step may not be taken. 				
	Visits to Mound <i>8.06 a, b</i>	2 visits per inning, third visit pitcher must be removed 3 visits per game, fourth visit pitcher must be removed		1 visits per inning, second visit pitcher must be removed 2 visits per game, third visit pitcher must be removed		
	Returning to Mound <i>VI c, 3.03</i>	Does not apply	a pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once in the same inning as they were removed		A pitcher may be withdrawn from the game, offensively or defensively, and return as pitcher once per inning, provided the return does not violet the substitution, visits per pitcher of mandatory play rules. The returning pitcher will retain their number of visits from their previous appearance as pitcher	

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Substitutions 3.03	Does not apply	any player in the starting line-up who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game in the SAME position in the batting order, provided the substitute has met their mandatory play.			
Dropped 3rd Strike 6.09b	Does not apply		Applies when there is no runner on first base or 2 outs with a runner on first base		
Stealing / Sliding 7.13, 7.08 a3	No stealing. One base on 1st overthrow. No more than two bases on a hit. Unless hit over the fence.	Base runners may leave the base once the ball has been batted or reaches the batter.	Base runners at the little and junior league levels may leave the base once the ball has been released by the pitcher. Any runner is out when the runner does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag.		
On Deck Batters 1.08 note 1	Not Allowed			Allowed	
	Players are not permitted to have bats in their hands in the dugout area.				
Batter's Box 6.02c	After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat.				
Pinch Runner 7.14	Does not apply when using continuous batting order.		Once each inning. Player not in batting order may be used as a special pinch-runner for any offensive player. A player may only be removed for a special pinch runner one time during a game.		
Dugout Coaches 3.17, 4.05b	No one except the players, manager and 2 coaches shall occupy the dugout during play; Base coaches shall not leave the dugout until the pitcher has completed their warm up pitches; An adult must remain in the dugout with the players at all times. Instructional: Coaches or other individuals may stand quietly behind the catcher to aid in ball retrieval.				
Equipment	Bats 1.10	No more than 33 inches in length. No more than 2¼ inches in diameter. 1.20 BPF (1.10).		No more than 34 inches in length. No more than 2¼ inches in diameter. 1.20 BPF (1.10).	
	Pitcher's Glove 1.15a, 1.15c, 8.02a2, 1.11j	Must not match color of game ball or be determined to be distracting. Pitcher shall not wear anything on their hands, wrists or arms which the umpire may judge distracting. Pitcher may wear compression sleeve on pitching arm. Anything worn on either arm must be of a solid, single color: black, white, grey or uniform color.			
	Catcher Throat Guard 1.17	Dangling Throat guards must be worn on all catchers' masks at all levels including the new style one-piece masks. Catchers helmets and masks must be worn at all times when taking infield practice and warming up pitchers.			
	Batting Helmets 1.16	Batting helmets must bear the NOCSAE certification and may not be altered in any way (including decoration of any kind) Batting helmets should remain on until the batter re-enters the dugout after her at-bat.			
	Jewelry 1.11j	no jewelry of any type, watches, rings, pins, necklaces, or other metallic object can be worn during a game.			
In Field Fly Rule definition of terms	Does not apply	fair fly ball, which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort less than 2 outs; first and second or first, second, and third are occupied if umpire, calls "Infield Fly", batter is out, runners may advance at their own risk			
Unsportsmanlike Conduct 4.07	When the manager, coach, or a player is ejected from a game, they shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game. They may not sit in the stands and may not be recalled. A manager or coach ejected from a game must not be present at the game site for the remainder of that game. Any manager, coach, or player ejected from a game is suspended for his or her team's next physically played game and may not be in attendance at the game site. This includes pregame and postgame activities.				