

2021 New Albany Little League Softball
Rookie League (6-8 Year Olds) Rules

ALL PLAY IN THIS DIVISION WILL BE BY THE LITTLE LEAGUE RULEBOOK WITH THESE EXCEPTIONS

Division Basics

- Time limit is one hour and fifteen minutes from the first pitch. No new inning can start after one hour and ten minutes but you will finish the inning that you are in.
- A Little League approved 11" softball will be used for all games.
- A team must have nine players at game time for the game to be official. Pool players can be used if needed and arranged through the division vice-president or player agent in advance.
- The home team will be asked to provide a coach or a parent to help officiate the game.
- A game will last for (6) innings if time allows. An inning will end if a team has scored 5 runs.
- Five Run Rule: A team can score a maximum of five (5) runs per innings for the first **FOUR** (4) innings. After the fourth inning, there is no 5-run rule, however a team can bat their entire line up but no more. (If one team has more players than the other, the smaller team may have extra batters to equal the other team).
- **No run limit in the 5th or 6th inning.**
- A game will be considered official if is called due to weather conditions after 3 ½ or 4 innings or after the time limit has passed. If the game is called prior to being official then the game will be completed at a later date. If threatening weather is approaching in the top or bottom of the fourth inning, it will be the responsibility of the umpire to keep the game moving along in attempt to make the game official that day or evening.
- Two ADULT base coaches are permitted in this division. Each team must have one ADULT in the dugout to assist players (i.e., keeping the girls in the dugout, keeping the batting order straight). A team will be allowed to have two (2) defensive coaches (who must remain in the grassy area of the outfield behind the players) and three (3) offensive coaches when batting on the field.
- Game is called after four innings if there is a ten (10) run lead.
- The home team will be asked to provide a bookkeeper and the away team will be asked to provide someone to keep the scoreboard.

Batting

- All players will be placed in the batting order (bat the bench).
- **NO bunting is allowed in this division.**
- Pool players, if used, must bat last in the lineup.
- If a player throws the bat, that player will receive a warning. The next time that player throws the bat she will be removed from the bases and the other runners may not advance.

Fielding

- Maximum ten (10) players on defense. Six (6) players in the infield and four (4) players in the grassy section of the outfield. Players may not obstruct the runners.
- Blocking the baseline is obstruction. The runner will be awarded any base that the coaches agree upon that they would have reached had there not been obstruction.
- This is an instructional league. We are here to train the girls the game of softball. Therefore, you must teach the girls to make plays on runners instead of having one fast girl run-down the batter/runners and get them out.
- Coaches in the field on defense must not assist a fielder making a play other than giving verbal instructions.
- No player sits the bench more than two consecutive innings unless they are injured/sick.
- Pool players, if used, must play in the outfield.

Base Running

- Catcher may have a substitute runner in order to speed up the game. The runner will be the last recorded out.
- If an overthrow happens at any base, runners may advance one base only during a time at bat. This is not awarded and the runner may possibly be put out and removed from the bases.
- Base runners may advance until the defense stops the lead runner then request "TIME" and it is acknowledged by either umpire. **Runners who have rounded a base are not considered stopped unless, in the umpire's judgment, that runner is making no attempt to advance.** If the player attempts to call time before the lead runner is stopped, the umpire will not acknowledge it and play may continue. If the umpire inadvertently calls time (it may happen), the play will be stopped as the umpire has the final call. **TWO THINGS MUST HAPPEN FOR**

THE UMPIRE TO CALL TIME OUT: 1. THE LEAD RUNNER HAS GIVEN UP ANY ATTEMPT TO ADVANCE. 2. ANY INFIELDER WITH THE BALL STANDING ANYWHERE IN THE INFIELDER REQUESTS TIME OUT.

- A runner is out when – the runner fails to keep contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter.

Pitching

- The pitching circle will be 8 feet in diameter with the center of the circle 35 feet from home plate.
- Machine Pitch:
 - 5 Pitches per batter unless the last pitch is fouled off.
 - No walks allowed. The batter must hit the ball or strike out.
 - If the ball hits any part of the machine the ball is dead. The batter gets awarded first base and all runners advance.
 - Machine to be fed by a coach with a speed of 37 mph. At the beginning of the season if all coaches agree the speed may be set at 35 mph until the girls are accustomed to the ball coming out of the machine. By the third week the machine will be set at 37 mph.
 - Any pitch determined by the umpire that goes “WILD” will be declared a no pitch and not count against the batters 5 pitches. This is determined by the **UMPIRE** not the manager/coach. **This is a judgment call and not questionable.**
- The machine may not be adjusted while a team is batting. The machine may be adjusted at the start of a new inning.

**IT IS EXPECTED THAT PLAY AND CONDUCT WILL BE SPORTSMANLIKE. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!
NO FOOD OR CANDY IN THE DUGOUT!!!! GATORADE AND WATER ONLY ARE ALLOWED!!!!**

Players, managers, coaches and appointed adults **ONLY** allowed in the dugouts. Players, managers and coaches are not allowed to leave the dugout during the game unless an injury occurs or excused by the umpire.

NO VERBAL ABUSE OR HARASSMENT TO AN UMPIRE, COACH, MANAGER, OPPOSING PLAYER OR PARENT WILL BE TOLERATED. REFER TO THE LEAGUES' CODE OF CONDUCT!!!!