



2026 Layton City
3rd & 4th Grade - GIRLS FAST PITCH SOFTBALL

This league will follow USA Softball rules except as noted below.

*****3rd/4th Grade Softball will focus on fundamentals and player development. *****

1. A playing schedule must be kept. There will be no grace period for the start of the game. If a team has less than 8 players at game time, the game is a forfeit. And they will take an out for the 9th batter.
2. All line-ups (with names and numbers) must be turned into the official scorekeeper ten minutes before game time.
3. All games are 5 innings or No new inning will start after **65** minutes, whichever occurs first. Game times are scheduled 75 minutes apart. The home team, if behind will be allowed to bat regardless of time limit. (EXCEPTION; they are behind greater than 6 runs). A game can end in a tie. No extra innings will be played.
4. **Runs per inning Rule:** *Five run rule per inning.* After the fifth run is scored, the teams will switch offense/defense. 5 run hard count.
No "Open Inning."
5. Every player will be in the batting order. If a player is late, they will be added to the bottom of the batting roster. Players must play at least every other inning.
6. 10 players will play on the field for defense with the 10th player being an outfielder. Outfielders will play at least 15 feet behind the baseline.
7. Pitching distance is 35ft and bases are set at 60ft. 11" softball will be used.
8. USA Softball Pitching Rules will govern. If a coach has an issue with how the pitcher is pitching, they must address the umpire and the opposing coach only. The umpire's judgment will prevail as to compliance. The opposing coach will not say anything directly to the pitcher.
9. There are NO walks. If a batter receives four called balls, a coach will enter the game to pitch to his/her own team's batter. The coach gets to pitch FOUR minus the number of strikes pitches, or until the batter hits the ball, or strikes out.
Scenario:
 - >Batter receives a count of four balls and one strike. Coach enters game and pitches maximum of three pitches. The first two pitches are called strikes—the batter is out, even though the third pitch has not been thrown.
 - >Batter receives a count of four balls and zero strikes. Coach enters game and pitches maximum of four pitches. The coach throws four poor pitches that the girl cannot hit—the batter is out.
 - >Batter receives a count of four balls and two strikes. Coach enters game and pitches maximum of two pitches. The first pitch is hit for a single—the batter is on base!
 - >Batter receives a count of four balls and one strike. Coach enters game and pitches maximum of three pitches. The first two pitches are balls, and the girl hits the third pitch foul. The batter receives another pitch until she either: hits the ball, strikes out, or receives another ball.... i.e. a foul ball on the "last" pitch (no matter how many "last" pitches) results in another pitch to her.
10. There will be no dropped third strike rule.
11. Bunting is allowed.
12. No infield fly rule.
13. Base runners may lead off upon release of the pitch. However, no stealing bases. Which means you can only advance on a fair hit ball, or a legal tag-up of a caught foul ball.
14. 3 full innings or 35 minutes will constitute a full game in case of inclement weather. If inclement weather prevents the play of

the game, the game will be rescheduled.

15. Home team will occupy the third base dugout.

16. **Batter-Runner:**

- The batter-runner can advance one base on an infield hit with liability of being put out.
- If the ball is misplayed, the batter-runner may advance one (1) base with liability to be put out.
- If the batter-runner tries to advance further, they do so at their own risk.
- However, at the end of play, if the batter-runner has not been put out by the defensive team, she will be returned to the base legally allowed by the Umpire.
- If bases are loaded, the batter-runner cannot advance past first base on an infield hit.

17. **Base running:**

- Base runners are allowed (1) one base with liability to be put out on an infield hit.
- If the ball is miss-played, the runner may advance at their own risk one more base.
- No more than one extra base may be gained on an overthrow PER BATTED BALL.
- If the runner advances further than allowed, they do so at the risk of being put out. However, at the end of the play, if the defensive team has not put out the runner legally, she will be returned to the base legally allowed by the umpire.
- Base runners may advance as far as they can on a hit to the outfield. Once the ball comes into the infield, the runner may advance to the base she is going to with liability to be put out but will not be allowed to attain an additional base on a miss-played ball.
- The infield is considered to be from the backside of the bases forward.

18. **RUNNERS MUST BE HIT IN TO SCORE.** No run shall be scored on an over thrown ball unless the ball goes out of play. I.E. a runner at second base may advance ONE base on an infield hit but cannot score on a subsequent overthrow.

3rd & 4th grade recreation rules are established to give the defense the maximum opportunity to make plays and develop their defensive skills while prohibiting the offense from exploiting their inability to make skilled plays. The rules keep the coaches from manipulating the game and direct them back to coaching their players.

Sportsmanship of the highest degree is expected and demanded. Criticism of players, coaches and umpires will not be tolerated. Those engaging in negative behavior toward these individuals will be asked to leave the game site.

Sportsmanship:

1. Coaches are to be of good character and lead their team by example (See Layton City Coaches Code of Conduct). Coaches have the responsibility of teaching the correct skills and rules of softball, sportsmanship, and fair play. The coach is responsible for his/her players, asst. coaches, and team supporters. Proper conduct is expected of language, dress, and attitude.
2. **Coaches, players, or spectators ejected from a game will be suspended for 1 game at minimum.** Layton City Recreation may extend the suspension to include additional games OR the remainder of season based on severity. Any decision may be appealed to a Layton City appeal's board, if desired.
3. Language – The use of profane, derogatory, or abusive language towards city staff, umpires, players, coaches or spectators will not be tolerated.
4. Fighting – Any player, coach, or spectator in a fight with other players, spectators, game officials, or any Layton Recreation staff may be suspended from the league for the remainder of the season. Fighting includes but is not limited to: punching, kicking, slapping, hitting, hand gestures, etc. (contact is not required). Individuals involved in any physical altercation may also be prosecuted.

Best of luck to all players and coaches!

