

8U SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

*All cities participating in LCGSA (Lincoln County Girls Softball Association) will follow the County League Rules set forth below:

1. CONDUCT: Most importantly, the Coach should try and remember that their job is to teach the players softball skills and promote enjoyment of the game. Coaches should be good examples of sportsmanship. A Coach should have knowledge of the game of softball. They should set good examples for the players. Coaches must demonstrate respect towards players, opponents, coaches, umpires and parents. A Coach is required to provide a safe environment in which to play and practice. When in the presence of players a coach should never use foul language, tobacco or use/ be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

2. OFFICIAL RULEBOOK: NFHS (National Federation of High Schools) are in effect except as follows:

a) Rules will apply. Listed below are any exceptions to and/ or reminders regarding these rules.

3. HOME TEAM: The home team shall be denoted on the schedule provided at the beginning of the season. The home team shall provide the game balls, umpires and official scorebook.

4. GAMES: Games shall start on time according to the released schedule, with warm-ups to take place prior.

a) No new innings are to start after 1 hour and 40 minutes. If the time limit has expired it will be considered a complete game regardless of the number of innings.

b) If any team is behind by ten or more runs at the end of the 4th inning the game is over.

c) A half inning is complete when there are 3 outs, or at the time 5 runs are scored. No more than 5 runs can be scored per team per inning.

d) Games will be no more than 5 innings in length. If it is a tie game at the end of the 5th inning, the game will be declared a tie, and neither team will be awarded a win.

e) Teams will bat their entire line up and each player must play a minimum of 1 inning in infield and outfield within the first three innings. All players should have equal playing time.

f) For LCGSA purposes, we will play with a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 10 players on the field for defense (6 infielders- 1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base, Short Stop, Pitcher, Catcher 4 Outfielders- Right field, Right Center, Left Center, Left Field)

g) Half way rule in effect. If the base runner has not crossed the halfway point to the next base when the play is dead the runner must go back to the last base he/she occupied. If the runner is past halfway and the play is declared dead, the runner is awarded the base (halfway points should be marked with chalk prior to start of the game).

h) It is the coaches responsibility to within 3 minutes of the end of the inning or half inning, have defensive or offensive players in position and ready to play.

i) Games are canceled only for reasons beyond control or due to weather. Cancellations for non-emergency reasons may be deemed a forfeit by the voting board. When it is necessary to justifiably cancel a game, it is the responsibility of the home team to notify the visiting team as soon as it is known the game needs to be re-scheduled. The NBASA Director of Softball must also be notified. Make-ups must be initiated by the home team within two weeks. Failing to reschedule will result in forfeiture of the game by the home team.

j) Play with your existing roster whenever possible. If you need extra players, contact the opposing coach at least 24 hours in advance to offer a reschedule. If you add players, your roster may not exceed 9 total. Added players may only play outfield and must bat last in the lineup.

k) **UMPIRING:** The 1st base coach and 3rd base coach will help make fair/foul calls on/at their respective area. The pitching coach and the defensive field coach will make safe and out calls.

5. PITCHING: Coach for the batting team will pitch to their team(non-electric pitching machines are allowed).

a) Batters will receive five hittable pitches per at bat. Hittable pitches are considered pitches in the strike zone.

- b) The coach that is pitching will call strikes or no pitch. (A pitch in the strike zone is the area over home plate, the space from the batters' armpits, and the top of the knees when the batter assumes a natural stance). A ball outside of the strike zone is considered a no pitch unless the batter swings.
- c) If a batter swings and misses three times, the batter is out.
- d) If a batter fouls off the 5th pitch (or 3rd strike), they continue to bat. If they swing and miss the next pitch they are out. **(Exception: For the first 3 weeks of games, they will get 1 swing off the tee. If they miss at that point, they are out).** • No Tee starting the week of 5/4/2026.
- e) There are no walks in this division.
- f) There is no hit-by-pitch in this division. If a player is hit and needs some time, they may enter the dugout to feel better and reenter the batting lineup whenever ready.
- g) The pitching rubber will be placed 25-30 feet from the apex of home plate. Bases will be 60 feet.

6. BASE RUNNING:

- a) **NO STEALING WILL BE ALLOWED.** Base advancement is only allowed as a result of a **batted ball** that is in the field of play. RUNNERS ON THIRD BASE ARE ONLY TO ADVANCE TO HOME AS A RESULT OF A BATTED BALL IN THE FIELD OF PLAY.
- b) **OVER THROW:** When a Ball is Thrown Out of Play- Runners are awarded (2) bases from the start of the play when a thrown ball towards first base or third base and hits the fence or crosses the out of play line. Out of play lines should be defined in the coaches meeting. When a ball hits the fence or the out of play line-
 - *Example: Runners on first and second, batted ball to pitcher who throws ball towards first base and ball hits fence or crosses out of play line. Batter is awarded second, runner on first is awarded third, and runner on second is awarded home (a ball thrown out of play is a two-base award from the start of the play for the batter and all runners already on base.) ((When the ball is hit.))
- c) If a runner is in the act of advancing to the next base they may continue (at their own risk) even if the ball enters the pitching circle. They must have been in the act of advancing before the ball enters the pitching circle. There is no base awarded if the pitcher fails to catch the ball. Once the ball enters the confines of the pitching circle no other action can take place (the play is over).
 - *Example: Runner at second base, ball hit to the second baseman. Second baseman throws directly to the pitcher. Ball is in the confines of the pitching circle; the runner is already in the act of advancing to third base. The runner may advance to third. They may not advance to any other bases.
- d) On a ball hit to the outfield a base runner may advance to any base (at their own risk) until the ball enters the pitching circle. Regardless of whether the is caught by the pitcher. There is no base awarded if the pitcher fails to catch the ball. However, if a runner is in the act of advancing to the next base they may continue (at their own risk) even if the ball enters the pitching circle. They must have been in the act of advancing before the ball enters the pitching circle. **Once the ball enters the confines of the pitching circle no other action can take place (the play is over). The play does not stop while the ball is being thrown back to the pitcher. a) The act of throwing/returning the ball to the pitcher does not stop the play.**
 - *Example: Runner on first base, ball is hit to left center. The left center fielder throws the ball to the pitcher. The ball enters the pitching circle while the runner on first base is attempting to advance to third base. Ruling: The runner may advance to third (but no other bases) as long as they were already in the act of advancing before the ball enters the pitching circle. Regardless of whether the pitcher catches the ball.

7. EQUIPMENT

- a) All games will be played with an 11" softball
- b) Batting Helmets shall include a full faceguard. NBASA RULE- Must be provided by the player.
- c) No metal cleats will be allowed. Players may use rubber, soccer style, sneakers etc
- d) Bats must be labeled "Softball", no baseball bats are allowed.

New rules must be approved at a regular meeting of the LCGSA.

Rules adapted 2/10/2023.

Rules Updated 4/15/2025

Rules updated 04/13/2026