

# Downtown Little League Softball Game Rule Summary

Updated March 4, 2025

**All PLAYERS & COACHES must be in uniform.**

**Players not in full uniform (team uniform + softball pants + socks) receive 1 automatic strike. Coaches not in 2025 coaches shirts cannot be on the field. Limited to 4 combined adult coaches & scorekeepers per team on the field and in the dugout.**

**Umpires can pause the game to ensure rule is enforced.**

|                                      | Junior Minors                                                                            | Int Minors                                                          | Minors                                                                          | Majors                |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                      | 5-6 year old                                                                             | 7-8 year old                                                        | 9-10 year old                                                                   | 11-12 year old        |
| Softball                             | 10 inch Softie                                                                           | 10 inch Softie                                                      | 11 inch hard softball                                                           | 12 inch hard softball |
| Innings                              | 6                                                                                        |                                                                     |                                                                                 |                       |
| Time Limit                           | Until time runs out                                                                      | 90 minutes                                                          | 120 minutes                                                                     | 120 minutes           |
| No New Innings                       | Until time runs out                                                                      | 15 minutes                                                          | 15 minutes                                                                      | 15 minutes            |
| Scoring                              | No standings are kept                                                                    |                                                                     | Hard stop at time limit; score reverts to last completed inning                 |                       |
| Mercy Rule                           | No Game Mercies                                                                          |                                                                     |                                                                                 |                       |
| Inning Run Limit                     | 5 batters per inning                                                                     | 5                                                                   | 5 with continuation                                                             |                       |
| Run Limit for 6 <sup>th</sup> inning |                                                                                          | 5                                                                   | Unlimited                                                                       |                       |
| Lineups                              | Everyone bats; Late players added after inning is complete                               |                                                                     |                                                                                 |                       |
| Minimum Players                      | None. Teams should always play.                                                          |                                                                     | 8 players – 9 <sup>th</sup> spot is out, 7 players – forfeit but play scrimmage |                       |
| Mandatory Play                       | No player can sit more than 1 defensive inning in a row                                  |                                                                     |                                                                                 |                       |
| Minimum Play                         | Everyone is in lineup                                                                    |                                                                     |                                                                                 |                       |
| Catchers                             | Coach catcher for coach pitch or if short on players                                     | Normal rules, with full gear                                        |                                                                                 |                       |
| Defensive Players                    | Max of 7 - C, P, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, and “CF” behind 2nd base, rotate positions every inning | 9 total<br>Players cannot sit more than 1 defensive inning in a row |                                                                                 |                       |
| Outfielders                          | “CF” plays behind 2nd base                                                               | 3 outfielders                                                       |                                                                                 |                       |
| On-Deck Batters                      | Not Permitted                                                                            |                                                                     |                                                                                 |                       |
|                                      |                                                                                          |                                                                     |                                                                                 |                       |
| Type of Pitching                     | Tee or Coach Pitch                                                                       | Player or Coach Pitch                                               |                                                                                 | Player Pitch          |
| Pitching Distance                    |                                                                                          | 32 feet                                                             | 35 feet                                                                         | 40 feet               |

|                                 |                      |                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Coach Pitch                     |                      | If not using Tee                                                                                      | In effect after ball 4 during player pitch<br><br>OPTIONAL:<br>April/May – each team can do coach pitch only for 1st 4 innings<br>June - 1st 3 innings | After 3 walks in a row, inclusive of hit by pitch; pitcher becomes helper                                                                    |                                                                                 |
| Coach Pitch Rules               |                      | 3 strikes or 7 pitches                                                                                | 3 strikes (includes strikes from player pitch) or 7 pitches, whichever comes first; fouls can extend at bat                                            | 3 strikes or 7 pitches, whichever comes first; fouls can extend at bat                                                                       |                                                                                 |
| Walks                           |                      | No walks                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                        | On Player Pitch                                                                                                                              |                                                                                 |
| Hit By Pitch                    |                      | No Hit By Pitch                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                        | On Player Pitch                                                                                                                              |                                                                                 |
| Illegal Pitch                   |                      |                                                                                                       | Warning                                                                                                                                                | Ball awarded & all runners advance 1 base or take result of play; nullified if batter reaches first & all runners advanced at least one base |                                                                                 |
| Pitching                        | Innings              |                                                                                                       | Max 12 innings per Day                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                 |
|                                 | Rest                 |                                                                                                       | 6 Innings or less, none; 7 innings or more, 1 calendar day                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                 |
|                                 | Consecutive Games    |                                                                                                       | Allowed, subject to rest requirements                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                 |
|                                 | Consecutive Days     |                                                                                                       | If six or fewer innings pitched previous day                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                 |
|                                 | Returning to Pitcher |                                                                                                       | May move to a different position and return once per inning. If withdrawn from the game for a substitute, may not return as pitcher                    |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                 |
|                                 | Maximum Pitchers     |                                                                                                       | None                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                              | No more than 5, except injury                                                   |
|                                 |                      |                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                 |
| Field Modification              |                      | 50 feet bases                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                 |
| Runner Modification             |                      | Runners start on 1st & 2nd                                                                            | Runners start on 1st                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                 |
| Taking Leads                    |                      | Pitch reaches batter                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                              | Pitch leaves the pitcher's hand                                                 |
| Leaving Early                   |                      | Warning                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                        | Warning by umpire or out                                                                                                                     | Runner is out                                                                   |
| Steals                          |                      | Unlimited; can't steal home                                                                           | Unlimited; can't steal home on during coach pitch                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                              | Unlimited                                                                       |
| Uncaught 3 <sup>rd</sup> Strike |                      | Batter is out                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                              | Batter is out if first is occupied <2 outs; otherwise, defense must put her out |
| Slide Rule                      |                      | No must slide rule; runners to give themselves up and avoid contact on close plays; encourage sliding |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                 |

|                      |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lookback Rule        |                                                                                                                              | If pitcher has ball within circle and is not making a play (fake throw is a play), runners not in contact with base must IMMEDIATELY attempt to advance or return to a base; penalty is dead ball, no pitch, runner is out |
| Infield Fly          |                                                                                                                              | In effect per rulebook                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Thrown Bat           |                                                                                                                              | Warn players – no outs or ejections                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                      |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Weather              | League makes decision before start of game; Umpire’s discretion after game starts                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Coaches              | Stay out of the infield                                                                                                      | Only 3 Coaches and 1 Scorekeeper in the dugout and on the field                                                                                                                                                            |
| Coaches on the Field | Cones set for outfield boundary; coaches can stand behind it to coach defense; batted ball that crosses untouched is homerun | Only 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> base coach allowed on the field during offense; all coaches must be in dugout on defense                                                                                          |