

## LCSA - 2021 Rules 8U House League

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- 1 Standard USA Softball (formally ASA Softball) rules will be followed with the following exceptions which are described below.
- 2 All players in good standing will be listed in the batting line up and will bat in that order. Good standing shall mean faithful attendance at practices and games unless the manager excuses the absence in advance.
- 3 No player in good standing will sit out more than two (2) innings per game. "Sitting Out" is defined as not participating when your team is in the field.
- 4 All players bat in order whether playing in the field or not. Any player who must leave the game early will NOT be called out each time she would be at bat.
- 5 If a player cannot bat because of injury, she will NOT be called out each time she is up to bat. She can re-enter the game.
- 6 Any player NOT at the field by the conclusion of the pre-game plate meeting – will NOT be included in the line-up. Upon arriving at the field she can immediately be inserted at the end of the lineup and can take a position on the field.
- 7 Ten (10) players may play in the field at one time, but no less than six (6) are required to start and continue play in a game. To avoid a forfeit, one team may lend player(s) to the other team to get them to the minimum of 6 players for the entirety of the game (offense & defense), at which point the game is official (no longer a forfeit situation). Additional players can be given for defense only and rotate.
- 8 A maximum of six (6) players can be positioned in the infield prior to the pitch. A player may play next to the Pitching machine just inside pitching circle, BUT must be even with (or behind) the machine.
- 9 **Mandatory rotation of all positions with equitable assignment to infield and outfield positions. No player shall play more than a cumulative total of two (2) innings at any of the critical position (1B, 3B, Pitcher) per game. All players MUST also play at least one (1) inning in the outfield when their team has at least 8 players within the first four (4) innings (first three (3) innings with 12 or less players).**
- 10 Free substitutions are allowed defensively at any time, subject to rule # 9 above.
- 11 No exposed jewelry is allowed other than medical bracelets. If a player has stud earrings that are needed for new piercing and covered with band aids it will be allowed.
- 12 The courtesy rule can be used for the Catcher. The courtesy runner will be the batter who made the last out.
- 13 Home plate conference is held five (5) minutes before the beginning of every game.
- 14 Unless a game is cancelled due to field closure by the town or county, or is contacted by an alliance League official that a game is canceled coaches will need to have their team show up to their designated field and make a game time decision regarding field conditions. The alliance is in a wide geographical area and a field that is not playable in one area of our alliance may be game playable in another area. If not contacted you will need to show up or forfeit the game.
- 15 **Game times will be the following for BOTH weeknight and weekend games.** No new inning may be started after 1 hour and 30 minutes from the actual game start time. The game will drop dead at 1 hour and 45 minutes with the score reverting to the last inning completed. The Umpire should tell the home team scorekeeper the start time of the game. Time limits supersede inning limit requirements in determining complete games.
- 16 Thunder or lighting rule- This is not optional. If lightning is seen or thunder is heard from the ball field the game will be stopped immediately. You must have you and your players leave the field of play and surrounding area, ideally, into a vehicle or a safe area of the parking lot. You must wait 30 minutes before allowing players back to the field area and for play to resume. If there is another clap of thunder or lightning is seen again, the clock is restarted. All rain, lighting and thunder delay time is considered

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game clock time and will count towards game time limits. For example if on a weeknight game you are 45 minutes into a game and lighting or thunder occurs you would be a game time 75 minutes if there is no other lighting or thunder strike. That would leave you 15 minutes of playing time until no new inning plus 15 minutes of game time to a drop dead point. So as coaches you should try to stay and finish the game. This is about the safety of our children. It's not up for discussion.

- 17** A Complete Game is defined as six (6) innings of play or expiration of the time limit prior to the start of the next inning, whichever occurs first. Unlimited runs in the 6th inning ONLY.
- 18** A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if four (4) or more complete innings have been played or if the home team has scored more runs in three (3) or more innings than the other team has scored in four (4) or more innings.
- 19** Incomplete games are games less than 4 innings as identified in rule 16 due to weather are considered suspended and if rescheduled are picked up where they left off. Incomplete games not made up are then considered non-games.
- 20** Regular season games may end in a tie if time has expired at the end of the inning. Extra innings may be started to break a tie if time has not expired. ITB rules will be used.
- 21** Third base dugout is the home team dugout. First base dugout is the visiting team dugout.
- 22** Home team is responsible for lining the field and putting out bases (and putting bases away, if required, when no other game is following). Exception to this rule is that any team hosting another league team on their field the hosting team is responsible for lining the field even if they are not the home team. Example HRYS is playing on a LLGSL field. Even if HRYS is home team LLGSL team is responsible for prepping and lining the field.
- 23** League approved 11-inch game balls will be provided by the teams. The Home team will provide a new ball, the Visiting team a backup ball. If no new balls are available, the umpire will chose the best available used balls from the teams and proceed with the game.
- 24** Batting helmets will be equipped with a securely fastened face mask and an optional properly fitted chin strap. USA Softball's rule book (formally ASA) states that "All batting helmets "MAY" be equipped with chin straps".
- 25** Base path length will be 60 feet.
- 26** A four (4) run scoring limit per inning for each team will be enforced except for the sixth or any extra innings.
- 27** A 10 (ten) run, Run-Ahead rule is in effect after the team with the lower score bats four (4) times.
- 28** Sliding is optional.
- 29** There is no pitcher at this age bracket
- 30** Infield fly rule will not be in effect. Bunting is not allowed in the division.
- 31** Pitching Machine is set at the 35' mount.
- 32** Base stealing is not allowed
- 33** A base runner can leave the base as soon as contact has been made by the batter with ball or the ball crosses the plate.
- 34** There are no walks at this age group

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- 35 No metal cleats will be allowed to be used in house league games.
- 36 Players from a younger age bracket may play up to support an older team that is short of players for a game without penalty. Teams may also borrow players from the same age group, but this ability is suspended during championship week. The other coach & the umpire must be made aware of this prior to the start of the game. The team in need MUST have less than 10 rostered players available.
- 37 Players may not register to play on more than one team that would go head to head in competition: either intra-league or inter-league. For players who participate in both house league and competitive "travel" softball programs, to be eligible to play in spring inter-league championship series, must be players who maintained their player good standing as defined in above Rule # 2 and have actually participated in at least 60% of practices and 60% of games during the regular season unless absences are due to illness or injury. It is the coach's responsibility to track the attendance of these players during the regular season and have player's attendance documentation (practice attendance sheet and regular season game book) available for inspection throughout the championship series. Prior to the start of each championship series game coaches will exchange attendance information for these players on their team to confirm players eligibility status. If this documentation is not complete or available player(s) will not be allowed to participate in that game. Disputes about documentation and enforcement of this rule will be resolved/performed by each leagues president/commissioner. Coaches who create false attendance documentation will be suspended from their respective leagues from any further coaching duties as directed by their league president/commissioner.
- 38 Any rule or game question should be directed to the umpire in a calm and respectful manor, and at the appropriate time. Not to the opposing coach.
- 39 Both Pitcher and First Baseman must wear protective face mask when playing those positions.
- 40 Coaches will pitch to their own team using the sling shot pitching machine and there will be no walks. Speed for the pitching should be set at 28-30 MPH. The Coach-Pitcher must be 35 feet from the batter while pitching. No non-swinging strikes will be called. The batter cannot be called out on strikes. A maximum of five (5) pitches will be allowed for each batter. A batter taking five (5) pitches without a hit will be called out, but she cannot strike out at the end her at bat on a foul ball. The recommended settings are POWER = 4 / RELEASE = 3 / MICRO = adjust as needed to compensate for height.
- 41 Up to two (2) defensive coaches are authorized to be on the playing field on the outfield grass when their team is in the field playing defense. The coach will not interfere with either a player or a ball that is in play. Interference by a coach in the field will result in all runners/batter being declared safe and advancing at least one base. No coach can physically move a defensive player while the ball is in play. First occurrence will be a warning; second occurrence will result in the coach not being allowed on the defensive field for the remainder of the game. No coach can physically move an offensive player while the ball is in play. First occurrence will be a warning; second occurrence will result in the coach being removed from the game with no advancement allowed by the player in either case.
- 42 All defensive players must be even with the Coach-Pitcher or farther back. No defensive player, except the Catcher, can be closer to the batter than the pitching machine used to deliver the softball.
- 43 Coaches operating the pitching machine MUST refrain from any comments once the ball is put in play by the batter making contact with the ball. If they feel the need to comment – they should be a base coach and not the machine operator.
- 44 Play is stopped with the first attempt from an infielder to return the ball to the Coach-Pitcher or when a defensive play has been made at a base resulting from a ball being put into play. There will be no advancement of bases because of an overthrown ball during an attempted play at a base. When play is stopped, the umpire will determine the placement of the runners to the best of her/his judgment. Any runner beyond halfway to the next base is awarded that base, any player who has not reached halfway must return to the prior base. The play is NOT stopped on balls hit into the outfield grass, until the outfielder's first attempt to throw the ball back to the infield.