

CHAIN-O-LAKES SOFTBALL LEAGUE
8U SOFTBALL RULES 2016
7-8 year olds

IHSA Softball Rules will apply with the following exceptions and clarifications:

THE PLAYERS

1. Each manager should try to make playing time “equal” for all players. Each player should play every position at least once during the season (except pitcher).
2. Ten players will play in the field. The four outfielders need to be in the outfield—behind the bases. The infielders should be taking the throws to first and third. The shortcenter, 2nd baseman, and shortstop should be taking the throws at second.
3. Every player shall bat in a continuous batting order, whether she is playing in the field or not.
4. If for any reason a player can’t continue, the batting order shall continue from that point. The player will be skipped and not counted as an out.
5. There must be a minimum of 6 players to begin a game.
6. If a team is short players, it can use any other registered instructional softball player from any team.
7. A team may also use any league registered softball player of any age in the outfield. This player’s responsibility is to just retrieve any ball that may go into the outfield. This player can only play defense; she cannot bat.
8. Issued uniforms should be tucked in. Hats are optional. Short are legal.
9. Travel players are not allowed. If a team is discovered to have an “active” travel player(s), then the team would forfeit games played and could be disqualified from the end of season tournament. An “active” travel player is one who is currently playing for (with) a travel team. It is acceptable for a player that played travel ball last season to come back to our league.

PITCHING

1. The pitching rubber shall measure 30’ from the back tip of home plate.
2. Substitutions can be made at any time during a game. Once a pitcher has been removed, that player can return to pitching later in that game. They may also remain in the game and play another position.
3. All pitchers must wear protective face shield when pitching to batters.
4. Pitchers are restricted to 3 innings per game. One pitch constitutes an inning pitched. It is recommended that pitchers at this level pitch a maximum of 2 innings per game.
5. A coach, parent or paid umpire will need to umpire the U8 games. Balls and strikes will be called. Chin to shins and one ball inside and outside the plate will be considered strikes. The intent is to encourage batters to swing at hittable pitches.
6. There will be no walks.
7. For each batter, the pitcher will pitch until four balls are called, ball hit in play or batter strikes out. After the 4th ball, batter’s coach will pitch until the batter either hits the ball or strikes out. Any strikes from the pitcher, will carry over to the coach pitching.

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THE GAME

1. Weekday games should start at 6:00 or 8:00. Weekend games will have differing start times. Warm-ups should begin with the visiting team taking the field thirty minutes before the game start time. The home team should take the field fifteen minutes before game start time. Managers should make every effort to start the game on time. Warm-ups should be cut short in order to accomplish this goal.
2. The official game will consist of 5 innings.
3. No inning will start after one hour 30 minutes of game time has elapsed. The inning begins when the last out is made in the preceding inning. The home manager will have the official time. Managers may agree at this level to play shorter games especially early in the season or when it is especially hot. Games should not be any longer even if there is no game scheduled after the one being played.
4. The home manager must provide the home plate umpire. The visiting team can provide the field umpire if they believe a second one is needed. Parents or older siblings are OK.
5. The home manager will inspect the field for safety, will set up the field for the game, and will determine the playability of the field.
6. Bases are to be set at 60 feet.
7. No game shall be played if lightning or driving rain is in the area, or when there is standing water in the field. If a lightning detector is available, league rules will determine playability.
8. Games stopped due to weather or darkness before the 3rd inning will be resumed at the point where the game stopped. Games where the 3rd inning has been completed need not be rescheduled.
9. Make-up or suspended games MUST be rescheduled within 72 hours. It is the responsibility of the home manager to reschedule the game with the league field scheduler. If the game is not rescheduled, the home team will forfeit the game. If the teams cannot agree on the rescheduling, they should talk to their league director/president.
10. The pitchers will be allowed 5 warm-up pitchers at the start of the game and between innings.
11. No score will be kept.
12. A team will continue to bat until the team has batted through their line-up or until three outs are made whichever come first. There is no limit on the number of runs scored. It does not matter if one team has more players since score is not being kept.
13. A soft 11' softball will be used.
14. There is no bunting.

BASERUNNING

1. Stealing of bases is not allowed.
2. There is no advancing on overthrows.
3. Runners will advance one base on any infield hit or error. If the batter hits the ball into the outfield, she and the runners on base may be allowed to advance more than one base.

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This must be a legitimate hit--not include a ball that goes into the outfield due to fielder error.

4. First base will not be awarded due to a hit batter.
5. There is no dropped third strike.
6. There is no infield fly rule.
7. On a caught fly ball with less than 2 outs, the runner must return to the base. They cannot tag up and run.
8. Players are not required to slide, but every effort should be made to teach this skill.

SAFETY

1. No game shall be played with threatening weather in the area.
2. Players on deck, players at the plate, and base runners must wear batting helmets. Players should leave their helmet on their head after batting or running until they have entered the dugout. Any player intentionally taking off her helmet will be warned once about taking it off. After a second time, the player will not be allowed to bat for the remainder of the game.
3. Catchers must wear full gear during a game and while warming up the pitcher. The gear must include a throat guard.
4. Batting teams are to remain in the dugout area, except players on deck.
5. Players on deck should not be swinging the bat to warm up. They should be paying attention to the game.
6. Players not in the field must remain in the dugout while the game is in progress.
7. Only the players, coaches, and "team mom" are to be in the dugout or on the field. Family members or friends are not allowed to sit with the players.
8. No jewelry shall be worn during the games. This includes watches.
9. Throwing the bat may result in an out. The batter shall be warned once. A second occurrence will result in the batter being called out. A third occurrence by a player will result in the player not being allowed to bat.
10. Pitchers and all infielders are required to wear facemasks.

SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Chanting or sing-song cheers are allowed for your team only. Once the pitcher is set, chanting and/or sing-song cheers must stop. Infraction will be a called dead ball strike.
2. All comments by the players and coaches should be positive in nature.
3. All comments made by spectators should be positive in nature.
4. Umpires have the right to ask spectators to not stand behind the backstop.
5. Respect must be shown to the umpires, the coaches, and the players involved in the game. Remember no two people see the game exactly the same way.
6. Winning should not be the main focus of the game. Teaching the skills of softball and having fun should be the primary goals.
7. Any objections to umpires or managers should be made after the game to the proper league authorities. Go first to your league director.

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8. This is an instructional league and the manager may stop play at any time to give instructions or clarify a rule to a player.