

2026 Major League Softball Local Rules

Below are commonly requested rule clarifications and local rules. Reader is advised to consult the Little League Rule Book for a complete description of the rules. The Rule Book is available in the App/Google Play Store under "Little League Rule Book".

General Rules

1. **No new innings after:**

| | |
|------|---------|
| May | 8:15 PM |
| June | 8:30 PM |

Max 6 innings per game, minimum of 4 per game

2. **Mandatory Playing Requirements (Reg IV.i):**

Mandatory Play: Every rostered player present at the start of a game will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time. For purposes of this rule:

"Six (6) defensive outs" is defined as: A player enters the field in one of the nine defensive positions when his/her team is on defense and occupies such position while six outs are made;

"Bat at least one (1) time" is defined as: A player enters the batter's box with no count and completes that time at bat by being retired, retired as a batter-runner or runner, scores, reaches base safely, or, after reaching base safely, the inning or game ends

Local Rule: Batting order consists of all eligible present players. (aka bat through the order)

Offensive Rules

1. **No on deck position/batter.** All on deck players must remain inside the dugout, **behind the fence**, during each inning
2. **Leading Off & Stealing (Regulation 7.13):** Runner may leave the base at the release of the pitch. Stealing home is legal.
3. **Runs per Inning (Local Rule):**
 - a. Max run limit per half inning or three outs. Whichever comes first
 - i. First 5 Innings: Max 5 runs per half inning; mercy rule is 10 runs after 4 innings
 - ii. 6th Inning: Max run total for 6th is the run differential plus one at completion of 5 innings
 1. For example. Completion of 5 innings; score is Visitors 1, Home 7. The most runs the visiting team can score in the top of the 6th is 7 runs (7-1=6; 6+1=7; Potential Score: Visitors 8; Home 7)

2. **Bat Rules**

Bats – The bat shall be no more than 33 inches in length, not more than two and one-quarter (2¼) inches in diameter. Bats shall be printed with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.20. Bats may be taped or fitted with a sleeve for a distance not exceeding 16 inches from the small end. Colored bats are acceptable. A non-wood bat must have a grip of cork, tape or composition material, and must extend a minimum of 10 inches from the small end. Slippery tape or similar material is prohibited.

Defensive Rules

3. **Pitching Rules**

a. **Pitching Distances**

- i. League Age 11+: 40ft Distance, 12 inch ball
- ii. League Age 9-10: 35ft Distance, 11 inch ball. Players are **required** to wear a safety mask
- iii. Home team supplies the mound

A. Pitchers must wear a helmet during warm-ups in between innings