

**Lake Shore Athletic Association (LSAA)**  
**GIRLS 10U SOFTBALL RULES**  
**Revised 2/3/2020**

LSAA will not discriminate based on Race, Color, Religion, Sex, Handicap, Family Status or National Origin or any intention to make any such preference or limitation.

**STATEMENT:** LSAA promotes fair play and good sportsmanship. All play will be governed by USSSA Rules with the exception to the rules listed below. In case of a rule interpretation, resulting in a formal protest before the end of the game, it will be the discretion of the League Director of Softball, or Assistant and the Umpire in charge to rule the incident, and the ruling will be **FINAL**.

**LEAGUE AGE**

- A) League age is decided by player's age as of January 1 of the current year.
- B) 10 & Under
- C) No player can "play down" into a lower age group.

**EMPHASIS ON RULES**

- A) Equipment
  - 1) All bats must be marked "OFFICIAL SOFTBALL" and meet performance standards as regulated by USSSA, or be certified through ASA or NSA.
  - 2) Catchers must wear shin guards, chest protector and face mask when warming up a pitcher or catching during a game.
  - 3) Shoes- At no time can metal cleats be worn.
  - 4) All players must wear team jerseys, and be of the same Color and Type as the remainder of the team. Shorts cannot be cutoffs or designer type.
  - 5) **NO JEWELRY OR ANY TYPE MAY BE WORN DURING THE GAME.**

- 6) Face Masks, permanently attached to the helmet, are **Mandatory** for all Fast Pitch Softball Games/Practices.
- 7) Helmet Chin Straps are recommended to be worn
- 8) All Players are required to sit in the dug-out with their team

## **BLOOD RULE**

Coaches are responsible for adhering to the following guidelines:

- A) A player, coach or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his or her uniform will be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time considered reasonable is left up to the umpire.
- B) All cuts, abrasions, wounds or broken areas of skin must be covered with a secure dressing before and during participation.
- C) Uniform rules will not be enforced if a uniform change is required. All safety equipment must be worn.
- D) When bleeding occurs, the umpire will immediately stop the game and call a coach or other authorized person to administer aid to the injured person.
- E) If a pitcher is injured and must leave the game for treatment and returns in the same inning, the pitching records will be treated as if she never left the game. The relief pitcher will not be charged with an inning and she will be allowed to enter as pitcher in a later inning.

## **PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

- A) Players permitted on the Field:
- *Ten* players are permitted to play in the field
    - a) Only *six* players, including pitcher and catcher are allowed in the infield.
    - b) All other players must be outside the natural infield area.
- B) Games cannot start with less than eight (8) players from the official team roster.
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Note: This applies regardless of the reason why there are less than nine (9) players. This can be, but not limited to, a game starts with eight (8) players, a player is ejected, or a player leaves the game for family/emergency reasons, etc.

- C) Every Player will be in the **Batting Lineup** throughout the game.

### **Exception:**

- If any player is **injured** and is unable to play because of that injury, the batting order becomes less that player and **no penalty** is applied as long as the player does not re-enter the game.

Note: If the injured player re-enters the game and misses their at-bat the batter will be called out. The player's ability to re-enter the game will need to be determined prior to the at-bat.

- If the official during a game **ejects a player**, the ejected player's team will take an automatic **out** for that player's place in the batting lineup.
- If any player has to **leave the game** due to School function, Family emergency, Transportation issues, etc., other than ejection, the player shall be removed from the lineup. **No penalty**, i.e. an "out", shall be applied, unless it causes the team to play with less than nine (9) players.

- In the event a player has to use the restroom and **misses their turn** at bat an **out** would be recorded for that player. The player will be permitted to re-enter the game in their original place in the lineup.
- D) All players **must** play three (3) innings before the fifth (5) inning.
- E) Uniforms must be worn during all games, and hats and headwear are optional.
- F) A player must be present by the start of the fourth inning to play in that game.
- G) **Runner Substitution:** Runner substitution is **NOT** permitted, except for Catcher when there are two outs and the last batter to make an out must be used as the pinch runner. The other exception for a pinch runner is due to injury. **NO** exceptions made for Pitcher.

## **THE GAME**

- A) Home team will occupy the third base side and only bat in the bottom of the last inning if needed.
- B) Game Duration: 6 innings
- C) Innings:
- Will consist of three (3) outs or five (5) runs.
  - The last inning will be the **open inning** requiring three (3) outs to end the inning.
  - No new inning starts after **one (1) hour and forty five (45) minutes** regardless if opening inning has been played
    - It is the **responsibility of the Head Coaches** to obtain the official start time from the Umpire and to coordinate with the Umpire when the opening inning will start, i.e. 1 hour and 45 minutes into the game.

- The start of a new inning is as follows: “When the third out is called on the previous inning the new inning is started immediately following”.
- D) After play has started it will be the decision of the Umpire, or Softball Director to either suspend or call play due to inclement weather, or call a complete game due to darkness. If you are playing on a lighted field the game will be finished under normal time constraints.
- All players must get off of the playing field to get into their parent’s vehicles if thunder is heard and/or lightning is seen. Must wait 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard and/or lightning is seen before resuming play
- E) The umpire will serve as the official timekeeper and the head coaches will be responsible for getting the official start time. All games will start promptly at the official start time determined by the official schedule.
- A **forfeit** will be imposed 15 minutes after the official start time.
  - If **weather interferes** with the game at any time the game will be **considered complete** if 4 innings have been completed and/or 1.5 hours.
- F) The Softball Director will determine whether to postpone games due to **Inclement Weather**. A decision will be made by the field maintenance director and communicated to the head coach’s.
- G) The home team will be responsible for setting up the bases and lining/setting up the field prior to the game.
- H) **Home teams** will be responsible for emptying the trash can(s) on their side of the field. This will be done at the conclusion of the game. **In the event any team does NOT remove trash, a forfeit will be imposed on the game just played (assuming they won the game just played). If they lost that game, then a forfeit will be imposed on the next game played.**
- I) **All teams are required to level the batter’s box, pitching rubber and the fielder position, and sweep off the concrete dug out pad after each game.**
- J) There is no Slaughter rule in 10 & under.

- K) If any game that has started and is suspended due to weather, the game will continue from the point where it was suspended. The lineup will remain the same. Any player who was not at the original game may be entered into the end of the lineup. Any player who cannot attend the game, the team will not be penalized with an out - the player shall be removed from the lineup without penalty.
- L) At the conclusion of a game the **WINNER** has **48 Hours** to e-mail in the game score. Please identify association, age group, team name, coach and dates of games played. ([Isaasoftball@aol.com](mailto:Isaasoftball@aol.com)). Failure to do so within the time specified **will result in a forfeit** for that team.
- M) **Games ending in a Tie:**  
International Tie Breaker (ITB) will be used. ITB applies to all games ending in a tie and shall be applied as follows: Starting with the top of the extra inning and each half inning thereafter, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who was the last batter in the previous half inning being placed on second base (e.g., if the number five batter is the leadoff batter, then the number four batter in the batting order will be placed on second base.).
- Regular Season: One inning of ITB shall be played if time permitted. If at that point a winner is not determined, then the game shall stand as a tie. If a game is called due to darkness and there is a tie, then no extra inning shall be played and the tie shall stand.
  - Playoffs: A winner is required, so extra innings will continue, applying ITB to each inning, until a winner is determined.  
If darkness prevents completion of a game (i.e., playing on an unlighted field), then the game shall be moved to a lighted field and played to conclusion.

## **BATTING**

- A) **THE STRIKE ZONE:** From the knees to the chest.
- B) **THROWING BATS:** All league coaches will stress the dangers of throwing bats.

**PENALTY:** First offense- Batter receives a warning

Second offense- Batter will be called out

Third offense- Batter will be ejected from the game. At Umpires discretion

- C) No dropped third strike 10 & under.
- D) Bunting and Infield Fly Rule: **No Infield Fly rule in 10U play. Bunting is permitted.**
- E) All batters **must** wear batting helmets with face masks while at bat, on base, in the warm up circle, or coaching first or third base.

### **PLAY**

- A) Balls hit in the outfield (grass) result in **NO** base limitations for the runner or runners. Runners may advance until the play is stopped by a throw to the infield that is controlled by either glove or hand at umpire's discretion. Coaches should encourage players to make a play to the base or cut off position, (i.e. catch or overthrow in close proximity), and or to a pitcher (i.e. touch their glove or an overthrow in close proximity)

### **BASERUNNING:**

- A) Runners must remain on the base until the pitched ball has reached home plate.
- B) Stealing is permitted once the pitched ball crosses the plate. Baserunners can only steal 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> and are only permitted one base per pitch. (i.e. if catcher over throws the base when runner is stealing second, runner is not permitted to advance to third. This is to encourage the development of catchers to make throws.)
- C) If, in judgment of the umpire, the defensive team's coach interferes with a runner, that runner will be awarded one base.

### **FIELD:**

- A) Base Distance is 60 Feet  
Batters boxes are to be used at all times

## **PITCHING DISTANCE**

- A) Distance between Home Plate and the Pitching Rubber: 35 Feet

## **PITCHING**

- A) Player/Coach pitch the entire season.
- All innings are player pitch with coach relief.
- B) **Player/Coach pitch:**
- The batter will either strike out or hit the ball – there are no walks.
  - The Player Pitcher will begin pitching to each batter. The batter will either:
    1. Hit the ball
    2. Strike out
    3. Receive four balls.
  - If three (3) strikes are thrown then the batter is out.
  - If the pitcher pitches four balls before the batter strikes out, then the opposing coach steps in to pitch.
  - No stealing or bunting during coach pitch.
- C) Pitchers will be limited to three (3) innings of pitching per game. Inning limits apply regardless of game duration
- Pitcher is charged with an inning pitched as soon as they step on the mound, regardless of pitches thrown
- D) Batters **hit by a player pitch** are entitled to 1<sup>st</sup> base. **If the batter is injured they will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base and can be pinch-ran for by batter that made the last out.**
- E) Pitcher/Batters hit by the Player Pitch:
- If a pitcher **hits two batters** in one inning she must be removed from pitching the remainder of that inning.



- If a Pitcher **hits three batters** in the same game, then she must be **immediately** removed as the pitcher and **cannot** pitch for the remainder of the game.

If the game is suspended, the pitcher that was removed may not pitch the rest of the game when it is made up.

F) **Coach Pitch:**

- Strikes are still in effect. The strike count for the batter remains the same at the start of coach pitch
  - If the batter had two strikes, then the coach may have to pitch only one pitch if that pitch is a strike. In that case the batter is out
- The Batter will either hit the Ball or Strike out.
  - There are NO walks
- The coach is limited to **three pitches**.
  - If the coach throws three strikes and the batter does not swing, they will be called out.
  - Unless the last pitch is hit foul. In that case the coach/batter may continue beyond 3 pitches if the ball was hit foul on the last pitch.
  - Coach Pitcher must have both feet in **contact with the pitching rubber** at the start of their pitch.
  - One step forward is permitted during their delivery of the pitch.
  - All Pitch Deliveries are Underhand
  - After the pitch has been delivered in an underhand motion, the coach must exit the pitching circle and is **NOT** to verbally instruct the runners and must avoid contact with the ball and the fielders.
  - The pitching coach shall **not** give direction to the batter as to whether or not to swing the bat after the pitch has been released from the pitcher's hand. They will receive one warning per inning. If they are warned once and continue to provide direction to the batter then the batter will be called out. This does not mean that you cannot talk to your batter prior to the pitch. Any instruction prior to the pitch will be allowed.

- G) Interference by the coach pitcher, i.e. either with the ball, pitcher, or fielder is considered a dead ball and batter is awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base and all other runners are awarded one base.

- H) **LIVE BALL:** The ball shall remain live until the ump signals time.

## **COACHING**

- A) The offensive team is allowed one coach at first base and one coach at third base.

## **BALL**

- A) 11” Yellow in color, Leather Cover (Only use balls provided by LSAA)

## **CONDUCT**

- A) It is considered unsportsmanlike conduct to chant against an opposing player or team.

Penalty: EJECTION OR FORFEIT. Managers and coaches are expected to set a good example through proper language and respect for all other players, coaches, and umpires. There is no smoking or consumption of any alcoholic beverages allowed of any kind on Anne Arundel County property. Head Coach's are responsible for their parent's behavior and conduct.

## **EJECTION**

- A) Any player manager or coach ejected from a game will automatically be required to sit out the next scheduled game or as directed by League Softball Director. A player must attend the game in uniform but cannot play.

## **POSTSEASON (PLAYOFFS)**

- A) Team seed is based on win/loss record .  
B) Tiebreakers would be head to head, total runs scored against team tied with.  
C) Home team will be determined by seeding.

## **OFFICIATION IS REQUIRED**

- A) LSAA will provide umpires. If the umpire does not show the coach's will either umpire or appoint an umpire. Remember that anyone stepping on the field must have had a background check done by Anne Arundel County.

## **PROTESTS**

- A) There will be no protests in 10 and Under

## **UMPIRES ARE REQUIRED**

### **Revision History:**

- May 1, 2009 - Page 1, In "Statement" para. – was: "Pony", Now "USSSA"
- Page 6, "Pitching" section – Added bullet "10U The Coach must pitch from the pitching rubber."
  - Page 7, "Pitching" section – Added bullet "Only the starting Pitcher may re-enter as pitcher in the game."
- March 2011 - Page 6,(g) revised to clarify intent if ball hit directly back to pitcher
- 2011 - Page 2, Players and Substitutions, Added only 6 players allowed in infield for 10U and outfielder 30 feet away from 2<sup>nd</sup> base
- March 2012 - Separated 8U Rules from Overall LSAA rules, i.e. created 8U standalone rules
- March 2014 - Restructures format to make rules simpler to understand.
- Revised Coach pitch rule – Coach must now pitch from the rubber.
- Integrated 8U rule addendum from 2013 playing season