

Lake Shore Athletic Association (LSAA)
GIRLS T-Ball SOFTBALL RULES
Revised **3/3/2022**

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, it will be the discretion of the League Director of Softball 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) League age groups are as follows: T-ball (4 to 6)
- 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) Shoes- At no time can metal cleats be worn.
 - 3) 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.
 - 4) **NO JEWELRY OR ANY TYPE MAY BE WORN DURING THE GAME.**
 - 5) Face Masks, permanently attached to the helmet, are **Mandatory** for all Fast Pitch Softball Games/Practices.

- 6) Helmet Chin Straps are recommended to be worn
- 7) 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 or coach 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.
- 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 coaches will immediately stop the game and call a coach or other authorized person to administer aid to the injured person.

PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

- A) All players must play in the field.
- B) Games: There are no forfeits in T-Ball. Play with the team count you have and/or use players from the opposing team to compliment your roster (A minimum of 6 players on a team is preferred).
- C) Every Player will be in the Batting Order throughout the game.
Exception:
 - If any player is injured, or for other circumstances must leave the game, the batting order becomes less that player and no penalty is applied. The player may re-enter the game and resume their place in the batting order.

- 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.

- In the event a player has to use the restroom and misses their turn at bat - No penalty, i.e. an “out”, shall be applied. The player will be permitted to re-enter the game in their original place in the lineup.

D) Uniforms must be worn during all games, and hats and headwear are optional.

E) A player can enter a game at any time.

F) Runner Substitution: Runner substitution is NOT permitted, except for an injured player, or other circumstances require the player to come off the field.

THE GAME

A) Home team will occupy the third base side and bat in the bottom of the last inning.

B) Game Duration: 5 innings (Expectation is to keep the game moving. Cycle Players on/off the field quickly to maintain player focus)

C) Innings- Teams will bat their entire roster before switching to defense, regardless of the number of outs.

D) Scores: The emphasis in T-Ball is learning the game versus focus on scores.

- No slaughter rule in T-Ball
- Games ending in a tie: Tie will stand and no extra innings will be played.

E) At one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes after the start of the game the next inning played will be considered the last inning (If not already the fifth inning).

- It is the responsibility of the Head Coaches to record the official start time

F) After play has started it will be the decision of the Coach(es) and/or Softball Director to either suspend or call play due to inclement weather, or call a complete game due to darkness.

- 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.

G) The Softball Director will determine whether to postpone games due to Inclement Weather.

H) The home team will be responsible for setting up the bases and lining/setting up the field prior to the game.

I) All teams will be responsible for emptying the trash can(s) on their side of the field their playing. This will be done at the conclusion of the game. A new trash can liner must be placed inside the trash cans after they are emptied.

J) All Teams are responsible to clean the dug-out area after each game, i.e. Trash, sweep-off dug out pad, and fill in any holes/low spots on the field.

K) If any game has started and is suspended due to weather, the game can be made-up starting from the first inning.

BATTING

A) Strike Zone: Neither balls, nor strikes are called.

B) Throwing Bats: All coaches will stress the danger of throwing bats to a batter when it occurs.

C) All batters must wear Batting Helmets with Facemasks at all times. This applies either while at bat, on base, or in the warm up circle.

D) 10 FOOT RULE: When a ball is hit and goes beyond ten (10) feet past the outfield, the ball becomes a dead ball. The runner gets the base in control plus one.

E) Each girl is allowed five (5) swings at the ball during a turn at bat. When the coach starts to pitch to the girls they will be allowed only three (3) swings, then the batter will get two (2) additional tries off the tee.

F) All defensive players must stay behind the thirty (30) foot safety arc that runs from 1st to 3rd base until the ball is hit past the eight (8) foot arc, at which time the defensive players can advance past the arc to get to the ball and make a play.

G) Beginning with game number four (4), the players will have the option to hit from the tee or having their coach pitch to them.

BASERUNNING

A) On an overthrow and the ball remains in play, the runner gets the base in control plus one.

B) No infield fly rule in effect for Tee Ball.

C) There is NO base stealing in T-Ball

BASE DISTANCE

A) 35 FEET

PITCHING

A) Coach Pitch

- Coach Pitcher can pitch from any distance as long as they deem it to be safe.

B) The pitching coach is permitted to give direction to the batter/runner at any time

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, coaches, and parents are expected to set a good example through proper language and respect for all other players and coaches. There is no smoking or consumption of any alcoholic beverages allowed of any kind on Anne Arundel County property.

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 Softball Director. A player must attend the game in uniform, but cannot play.

UMPIRES

A) No Officiating is required.

COACH

A) There is no limit to the number of coaches allowed in the field.

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

PROTESTS

A) There will be no protests in T-Ball

BATTERS BOXES ARE TO BE USED

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
- Page 2, Players and Substitutions, Added only 6 players allowed in infield for 10U and outfielder 30 feet away from 2nd 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