



Chain O' Lakes Softball League

12U Division (11 to 12 years old)

All rules and regulations for this league shall follow the IHSA,
except for the following additions:

THE PLAYERS

- 1) No player may sit more than 2 innings per game. Coaches are encouraged to give equal playing time to all players.
- 2) A courtesy runner will be allowed for the catcher after two outs. The courtesy runner will be the last batted out.
- 3) A continuous batting order will be used. Everyone bats.
 - a. If a player arrives late, she will be added to the bottom of the batting line up.
 - b. If a player has to leave before the game ends due to injury, illness or family matters that player is not an out every time her spot comes up in the batting line up. She will just be skipped.
 - c. If a player is injured during her at bat and cannot continue, this is not an out. The last batted out may complete the at bat.
 - d. If a player is ejected during the game, her spot in the batting line up becomes an automatic out. The player is not suspended for any subsequent games.
 - e. If a coach is ejected during the game, he/she will be suspended for the next game. If coach attempts to be in the dugout coaching at the next game, his/her team forfeits.
- 4) Teams can play with a minimum of 7 players. If the minimum is not met, the team must forfeit the game.

THE GAME

- 1) The game ball should be one brand new 12" softball. A very good condition ball (the new game ball from the previous home game) may be used as a secondary game ball.
- 2) A game shall consist of 6 innings or 1 hour 45 minutes. If the game is suspended due to weather, an official game is 4 innings (3 ½ if home team is ahead).
 - Fall Ball Exception: No minimum number of innings required for official game as there are no standings.
- 3) No new inning is to be started after 1 hour 45 minutes. An inning that is in progress when 1 hour 45 minutes is reached will be played to completion.
 - If the umpire deems the game must be called due to weather or unsafe playing conditions after the 1 hour 45 minute mark but before the inning is completed, revert back to the score of the previous inning. Ties are acceptable.
 - If the top half of an inning is completed after the 1 hour 45 minute mark has been reached and the home team is winning, the bottom half of the inning is not played.
 - If the bottom half of the inning is in progress when the 1 hour 45 minute mark is reached and the home team is winning, let the current batter complete their at bat and then the rest of the inning is not played.
 - If the home team is winning after the top half of the 6th inning, the bottom of the 6th inning is not played.
- 4) If 6 innings are completed, the score is tied, and the time limit has not been reached, a 7th inning may be played.
- 5) There is a 6 run limit per inning. From the 5th inning on, unlimited runs can be scored until the third out is made. There is a 15 run slaughter rule after 3 innings.
- 6) Team chanting and comments may only be directed to players on your own team and must be of a positive manner. NO chanting during the opposing team pitcher's windup.
- 7) Each team will play with a maximum of 10 players on the field: 4 outfielders, 4 infielders, pitcher, catcher. Teams

- are allowed to play with the standard 9 players (3 outfielders) if they prefer.
- 8) All outfielders must be positioned on the grass prior to the pitch.
 - 9) The infield fly rule is in effect. An Infield Fly is a fair fly ball (not a line drive or bunt) that, in the judgment of the umpire, can be caught by an infielder, pitcher, or catcher with ordinary effort and when there are runners on first and second or first, second, and third and less than two outs.
 - 10) Bunting is allowed. The batter cannot take a bunt stance and then pull back and take a full swing at the pitch. If the batter attempts this, she is out. This is for the infielders' safety.
 - 11) Bases are 60 feet apart.
 - 12) If a game is cancelled, any and all attempts should be made between the coaches to reschedule. A reschedule date for a cancelled game must be reported via email (chainolakessoftball@gmail.com) within 72 hours of cancellation.
 - Fall Ball Exception: Rain outs or cancelled games can be made up, but it is not required.
 - 13) If you are short players, you may only recruit from the 10U division. A player recruited from a lower level may pitch 3 innings maximum. Any recruit bats last in the order and must play in the outfield if they are not pitching.
 - Fall Ball Exception: If you are short players, you may recruit from within your own division and from the 10U division. A recruited player may pitch 3 innings maximum. Any recruit bats last in the order and must play in the outfield if they are not pitching.
 - 14) Umpires must be patched.
 - 15) Warm up music and walk up music are welcome at all games. We need to be courteous with the volume of the music. All coaches and players should be able to hear each other and communicate at all times with the volume of the music.

PITCHING

- 1) The front of the pitcher's rubber shall be 40 feet from the back tip of home plate.
- 2) Each pitcher is allowed a maximum of 4 innings per game. One pitch constitutes an inning. (Exception THE GAME Rule 12)
- 3) Pitchers will be allowed 5 warm up pitches before their first inning. Returning pitchers will be allowed 3 warm up pitches before any inning after their first. (Warm up practice by infield and outfield is only allowed before 1st inning.)
- 4) Pitcher must be removed from pitching after 3 hit batters in any one inning with significant force. If the ball hits the ground first before hitting the batter it is not considered significant force. If the batter is hit with a pitch that the umpire determines was not significant force, the batter will be awarded 1st base. However, the pitcher shall not be charged with a hit batter that would count towards her removal from the inning or game. The pitcher may return in subsequent innings as long as PITCHING Rule 2 is adhered to. If the pitcher hits 4 batters in the game, she is removed from pitching for the remainder of the game.
- 5) Pitching will adhere to IHSA rules. Pitchers must start with either both feet on the pitching rubber or front foot on the rubber and back foot behind the rubber.
- 6) An illegal pitch is ruled a ball. Runners do not advance.
- 7) Only the starting pitcher may be reinserted back into the pitching position one time in a game. If the starting pitcher is removed before a full inning pitched, it is still considered one full inning pitched.
- 8) Coaches are encouraged to teach the girls the following rules. (One warning will be issued and then illegal pitches will be in play.)
 - a. Hands apart when the pitcher steps on the mound (ball can be either in hand or in glove).
 - b. Pitcher brings hand to glove. This is the start of the wind up. (Pitcher is not allowed to separate her hands and bring them together in the glove again.)
- 9) Per game, a pitcher must be removed from pitching for the remainder of the game on the fourth trip of the coach to the mound.
- 10) Per inning, a pitcher must be removed from pitching for the remainder of the inning on the second trip of the coach to the mound.

BASE RUNNING

- 1) Players should be instructed by their coaches to slide to AVOID CONTACT with another player. This is for the safety of all involved.

- 2) Slide Rule: (IHSA) NFHS rule 8-6 "The runner is out" if:
 - a. Article 13; the runner does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or illegally alters the actions of the fielder in the immediate act of making a play on her.
 - b. Article 14; she remains on her feet and maliciously crashes into a defensive player. Malicious contact supersedes obstruction.
- 3) When the ball is thrown out of play 2 bases are allowed at the time of the throw. (The base they are going to plus one base.)
- 4) Stealing is allowed (all bases) once the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- 5) Dropped third strike is in effect. The batter becomes the runner on the third strike if the pitch is not caught before touching the ground as long as (A) 1st base is unoccupied before the pitch or (B) 1st base is occupied with two outs. One warning will be issued per team and then the Look Back Rule is in play: (IHSA) NFHS rule 8-7
 - a. Article 1; the look back rule will be in effect when the ball is live, the batter-runner has touched first base or has been declared out, and the pitcher has possession of the ball within the pitcher's circle.
 - b. Article 2; the runner(s) may stop once, but then must immediately return to the base or attempt to advance to the next base.
 - c. Article 3; once the runner stops at a base for any reason, she will be declared out if she leaves the base.
- 6) Continuous Walk Rule is in effect. On a walk the runner can make the turn at first and advance to second on their own risk. If a play is made on the runner they have the option to continue to advance or retreat back to first.

SAFETY

- 1) Defensive players at Pitcher, 1st base and 3rd base are required to wear a facemask.
- 2) Batting helmets are required to have a full facemask.
- 3) Proper catcher's equipment is required.
- 4) **Bats must have USSSA 1.20 thumb print stamp for 10U – 20U.**
- 5) No metal cleats or jewelry are to be worn. Players will be given an opportunity to remove and or replace any improper equipment.
- 6) On deck hitter must be at the batter's back

COACHES

- 1) Being ejected from a game by an umpire will result in a 1 game suspension for each coach removed from the game.
- 2) Any coach ejected from 2 games by an umpire, even across multiple seasons, will be removed from coaching for the remainder of the season and all future seasons across all towns participating in the COLSL.
- 3) Coaches are responsible for addressing any code of conduct violations by the coaching staff, players, and spectators associated with their team. The COLSL Code of Conduct is available on the league website.

PLAYOFFS

Regular season rules apply with the following exceptions:

- Seedings will be based off of regular season standings.
- Higher seeded teams with host games and supply umpires and game balls up until Championship Games.
- Championship Games will be played at a joint location on the last day of playoffs.
- Each division will have a consolation game for 3rd place will be played between the losing teams from the semi-final round. The higher seed team from the regular season will host the lower seeded team at 10:00 AM the day of the championship games, as well as provide umpire and game balls.
- Location for Championship Games will rotate locations each year. If your town is capable of hosting 4 games at the same time at one location and would like to be put on the rotation please, email Cassie Wilkinson at casjwilkinson@gmail.com with your wish to participate.
- Umpires will be supplied but game balls should still be supplied by the home team.
- Weekday Playoff games- the No New Inning Time Limit will still be in effect
- Championship Games – 8U will play 4 innings with no new inning started after 90 minutes, 10U will play 6 innings and 12U-14U will play 7 innings
- Games can not end in a tie. See below for tie breaker rules.
- **Tied Scores (Playoffs Only)**

- If the game is tied after the No New Inning time limit (during the week) or after full game in Championship Games, proceed with International Tie Breaker rules until there is a winner.
- ITB: each half inning starts with the last batted out from the previous inning as a base runner on second base.
- Pitching rules still apply in extra innings.