

# 2021 Official League Rules

*South Dayton*



*Softball  
League*

# South Dayton Softball League

This handbook contains the rules for the 2021 season of the South Dayton Community Fast Pitch Softball League. Every attempt has been made to align the rules with that of USA Softball rules with exceptions deemed appropriate based on the skill level of each league. We urge everyone to take the time to read this handbook so that there is a clear understanding of the rules and regulations of league play.

**Any rule not covered by this rule book will be governed by the USA Softball Official Rules of Softball Rule Book ([www.usasoftball.com](http://www.usasoftball.com)).**

# South Dayton Softball League

## Playing Rules 2021

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST FOR SOUTH DAYTON COMMUNITY FAST PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE PLAY

### I. Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the South Dayton Community Fast Pitch Softball League (SDSL) play are:

To provide girls softball for as many children as possible in our respective communities.

To teach basic knowledge of the game of softball and to develop character in the children by teaching them to play together fairly, abide by the rules, and to win and lose like sportsmen.

### II. General Rules

The rules outlined in the following paragraphs are the common set of rules for SDSL play. All league play shall be governed by the Official USA Softball Rules except as noted herein and in the ensuing individual league rules that follow.

### III. Responsibilities of Managers and Coaches

As a condition of managing and/or coaching a team competing in the SDSL, each manager shall be required to read and sign the League's Manager / Coach Code of Ethics Pledge.

Some specific responsibilities of Managers and Coaches are the following:

#### General

The manager has three (3) primary responsibilities:

To do everything possible to encourage the participation and enjoyment of each player.

To teach and develop the proper softball skills.

To protect the girls from permanent injury frequently caused by improper playing and throwing techniques.

#### Discipline

A player may be disciplined by being benched for any scheduled games. The opposing manager must be notified before the game begins or the player must play in the game.

#### Conduct of Managers

The manager must be in complete charge of his coaches, players, and parents/spectators at all times and is responsible for the instruction and enforcement of all League rules.

#### Treatment of Umpires

Managers, coaches and players must not argue with or be abusive toward umpires before, during or after games. They may question interpretation of the rules but not a judgment call. The manager must also ensure that abusive language and unsportsmanlike conduct directed at umpires and other teams is completely eliminated on the part of his or her players and coaches. An umpire may remove from the game and park any manager, coach or player for use of abusive language or unsportsmanlike conduct.

Any manager, coach or player ejected from a game by an umpire shall also be suspended for one (1) additional game. It shall be the

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responsibility of the League's Coordinator and Community League Liaison to ensure enforcement of this rule.

## Profanity

Profanity will not be tolerated and will be cause for immediate ejection from the game.

Managers are responsible for the action and behavior of their parents/spectators. Any parent or spectator who is abusive toward umpires can cause their team to forfeit the game if not controlled by the manager. At the request of the umpire, a manager/coach is required to provide the name and contact information of a parent/spectator ejected from the park for inappropriate behavior.

If the manager/coach does not know the parent/spectator ejected, he/she should so state to the umpire. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the manager does not cooperate, the manager/coach shall be ejected from the game.

## Use of Tobacco or Alcohol Products

The use of tobacco (including E-cigarettes, vaping), alcohol, or other controlled substances is prohibited by anyone on the playing field and in the dugouts.

## Emergency Procedures

If a player is injured and requires professional assistance, teams are to follow the procedures of their community organization

## IV. Team / Player / Manager / Coach / Parent / Spectator Conduct Rules

The following actions will not be condoned or permitted under any circumstances:

Abusive actions, language, profanity, or unsportsmanlike behavior on the field, in the dugout, or in the stands.

Abuse of equipment.

Use of any tobacco products (including E-cigarettes, vaping) inside fences, dugouts, on the field, or in the stands.

Consumption of alcohol or illegal narcotics on any community park property.

Managers, coaches, players, and parents/spectators shall abide by each participating community park rules relative to the use of tobacco (including E-cigarettes), alcohol, or other controlled substances on park and/or school grounds.

When playing in a league game, the umpire is the final authority. He or she can eject a player, coach, or parent/spectator from the field and/or stands for any acts identified above.

A parent/spectator ejected from an SDSL Park for a second time will



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be contacted by the League Community Liaison to discuss behavior issues, expectations, and possible consequences if such behavior occurs at future SDSL games.

Consequences to a parent/spectator who does not abide by an umpire's order may involve any one or more of the following: Ejection from the ball field and surrounding area. Ejection from the Park.

Notification of Law Enforcement.

Banishment from attendance at future SDSL games.

All of these instances shall be judgment calls by the umpire(s).

The throwing (slinging) of a bat shall not be tolerated. On the first occasion during any game, the team shall be given a warning. On the second occasion by any player, regardless if that player was the player who threw the bat on the first occasion, the player shall be called out and the team shall be given a second warning. On the third occasion during the same game, the player who throws the bat, regardless if that player had thrown the bat the previously during that game, shall be called out and is subject to ejection from the game in the discretion of the umpire.

Players are not permitted to taunt the opposing team's players.

Chants may not include a player's name or nickname.

The penalty for a player being ejected from a game shall be that she shall sit out the team's next game. The umpire shall document the offending player and the manager shall be responsible to make the player sit out the next game. If the player does not sit out, the team will incur a forfeit.

The penalty for a manager, coach, or scorekeeper being ejected from a game shall be that he or she sits out the team's next game. The umpire shall document the offending person and report it to the Community's League Liaison who will report it to the SDSL League Coordinator for that particular league and notify the affected team manager. If the offending person fails to comply, the team will incur a forfeit.

## **V. Player Equipment Rules**

Catchers must wear a chest protector, shin guards, protective mask, and skull helmet including while warming up pitchers.

All batters, base runners, and bat persons must wear protective helmets. Any player judged to have intentionally discarded their protective helmet while running the bases will be called out by the umpire.

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All players are required to wear caged helmets pursuant to USA Softball rules. Chin straps are optional but not required.

All players must keep their helmets on until they are safely inside the dugout fence even if the play is dead. This includes going back to the dugout from any base or from home plate after making an out. The only time a player can remove their helmet while in the field of play is due to an injury.

The SDSL adheres to USA Softball guidelines relative to shoes worn by players. USA Softball rules prohibit the use of metal cleats worn by all players participating in the 12U and younger leagues.

Violation of these rules is punishable by the ejection of the player from the game and suspension from the next succeeding game.

All equipment must be kept inside the dugout fences at all times.

Exposed jewelry judged dangerous by the umpire must be removed and may not be worn during the game. Religious and medical alert bracelets may be worn but must be taped to the body.

## **VI. Field Maintenance**

The players of both teams are to clean up the area around the ball diamond after each game.

## **VII. General Playing Rules**

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## Playing Field Dimensions and Requirements

The foul lines shall be lined and extended ten (10) feet beyond first (1st) and third (3rd) base.

Distance between bases shall be sixty (60) feet for all leagues. If the bases are found to be at a different length and play has started the teams will complete the inning and adjust the bases to the proper distances. The time necessary to fix the bases will not be counted toward the game time limit.

The pitching distance and pitcher's circle radius is different for each league.

The pitching rubber must be on a horizontal plane with home plate.

## Rosters, Eligibility and Participation

A team must field at least eight (8) players if a particular league normally plays with nine (9) or ten (10) players at game time. A team in the 12U Minor league and 10U Rookie league must field at least seven (7) players, a team in the 8U Coach Pitch league must field at least six (6) players, and a team in the 6U T- Ball league must field at least five (5) players at game time. A manager shall have up to fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled time of his game to field a team of eligible players after which a forfeit will be declared.

Each player must play three (3) innings in each six (6) or seven (7) inning game. Two (2) of those innings must be in the infield with one inning of participation in the infield occurring within the first three (3) innings. In addition, no player will sit the bench for two consecutive innings and no player may sit twice before all players have sat one inning. The only exception to the above rule is upon written request of a player's parents / guardian that their daughter play only the outfield positions during the season. Managers should maintain a copy of such request if challenged during a game.

18U High School League and the 14U Major League, the two (2) inning infield rule above shall not apply.

A violation of this rule will not be subject to protest; however, a warning shall be given to the manager for the first rule violation and the removal of the manager for the rest of the year for a third violation of this rule. A violation of this rule in a tournament game will be protested to the League Coordinator and be subject to the Coordinator's decision to remove the manager for the remainder of the tournament or forfeit of the game, if so warranted.

The above rule does not apply in the event of player disciplinary action. In the event of player disciplinary action, the League and opposing manager must be informed of such action before the start of the game.

All team players present at the start of a game will be in the offensive line up and bat continuously. The only exception to this rule is if a player is injured, sick, ejected or disciplined by her coach.

Any team player arriving after the start of the game but before the top of the third (3rd) inning will be added to the end of the batting order but shall only be required to play half (1 / 2) of the remaining innings.

If an umpire ejects a team player from the game, her position in the batting order is an out.

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- In all recreation leagues, if a player leaves a game due to injury or any other reason, her inability to bat or absence from the lineup will not result in an out.
- In all leagues, when a player is injured or unable to continue playing and is removed from the game, another player can come in off the bench and take the injured player's defensive position in the field. If a player is injured or unable to continue during her at bat and is removed from the game, the player who made the last out comes to the plate and assumes the injured batter's count. The injured batter from that point on is skipped in the batting order unless she is later able to participate, when she shall assume her prior batting order position.
- Only team players, manager, two coaches, one scorekeeper, and a bat person for each participating team will be allowed in their respective dugout. The offensive team will be permitted base runners, on deck batter, batter, and only two members of the coaching staff (limited to coaching boxes) on the field while the ball is in play. The coaches must not interfere with any player or their attempt to make a play on the ball.
- All players must remain in the dugout and behind the fences until moving into the on-deck spot. Players may not stand or sit in the doorway to await their turn to bat or while sitting out of the defensive lineup.
- Only one (1) player is permitted in the on-deckspot.
- The base coaches cannot touch a player until the play is dead.

## Hazardous Conditions

- The stated inclement weather and field condition protocol of the home team community park shall govern the guidelines to be used in determining whether it is safe for a game to start or resume.
- When hazardous weather conditions threaten the safety and health of the players, the game shall be suspended until the conditions have subsided. At that time, the umpire may resume the game.
  - At a minimum, if lightening is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters.
  - Thirty-Minute Rule – Upon the first indication that thunderstorm development is within fifteen miles of the contest, the umpire shall suspend the competition until thirty (30) minutes after the storm has left this fifteen (15) mile zone. Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the thirty (30) minute count shall reset the clock and another count should begin.
  - The umpire shall wait a minimum of thirty (30) minutes before calling a game unless the managers agree in consultation with the umpire to terminate earlier.

## Time Limits

- The time limit for all league games shall be as follows:
  - 6U T-Ball League--one(1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes finish the inning or six (6) innings

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- 8U Coach Pitch League – one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes finish the inning or six (6) innings
  - 10U Rookie League – one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes finish the inning or six (6) innings
  - 12U Minors League – one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes finish the inning or six (6) innings
  - 14U Majors League – one (1) hour and forty-five (45) minutes finish the inning or seven (7) innings
  - 18U High School League – one (1) hour and forty-five (45) minutes finish the inning or seven (7) innings
- The umpire shall announce the official start time and keep the official time. The umpire's watch will be the official time.
  - Determining the time limit, a new inning begins immediately after the final out of the previous inning, or the fifth run scored (for divisions playing with the five-run inning rule). Example – 10u game, bottom of the 3rd inning, and the 5th run scored to tie the game at 1 hour 27 minutes used. The 4th inning immediately starts after the 5th run is scored and the teams will finish the 4th inning.
  - No new inning may start after the game time limit as defined in Section VII.19 Time Limits above has been reached. However, any new inning started prior to the time limit shall be completed in full (unless, of course, the home team is ahead after the visiting team has finished its offensive half of the inning).
  - Teams will have a two (2) minute time limit between innings. The umpire will have sole discretion on this as it is his/her responsibility to keep the game moving.
  - Fifteen (15) minutes will be allowed after the umpire calls "play ball" before a forfeit is declared due to the inability of either team to field a team.
  - Prior to game time, teams are to warm up in the grass areas only. The exception being that both teams are granted five (5) minutes of infield practice, fifteen (15) minutes before game time. Managers (not umpires) are responsible for seeing that their teams get this pre-game infield practice. Failure to comply will result in forfeit of practice time. Games must be started on time. Pitchers will be granted three (3) to five (5) warm-up pitches or two (2) minutes, whichever comes first, before each half inning.
  - Games will not be started after 7:00 p.m. on school nights and 8:00 p.m. on other nights.

## Legal Game

A complete game shall consist of six (6) or seven (7) innings, depending on the league involved as follows:

- 6U T-Ball League – Six (6) Innings
- 8U Coach Pitch League – Six (6) Innings
- 10U Rookie League – Six (6) Innings
- 12U Minors League – Six (6) Innings
- 14U Majors League – Seven (7) Innings
- 18U High School League – Seven (7) Innings

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In a game called for any reason other than time limit or run-ahead rule (See Rule VII.30 General Playing Rules), four (4) innings shall constitute a legal game and the losing team must have completed four (4) times at bat. In the case of a time limit, the game is legal after the losing team has had its turn at bat.

Games stopped for the four (4) inning requirement due to inclement weather, will not be rescheduled.

Games stopped before the four (4) inning requirement due to inclement weather, will be considered suspended games and will be rescheduled and resumed at the exact point where the game stopped. Players in the original game lineup who are unavailable for the rescheduled game, will have their batting positions skipped with no out registered. New players who were unable to attend the originally scheduled game will be inserted at the end of the lineup.

Following USA Softball run-ahead rules, a complete game will be declared if after three (3) innings a team is ahead by 15 runs or more and if after four (4) innings a team is ahead by 12 runs or more and if after five (5) innings a team is ahead by 8 runs or more.

When a legal game is tied after the time limit has expired, the game shall end in a tie and be recorded as such in the league standings. For tournament games, see Section IX.58 League Tournaments for application of the international tie-breaker rules to determine the outcome of the game.

League standings will be final at the conclusion of the regular season play. Teams that end up tied will be decided by the tie breaker system defined in the SDSL League Bylaw document.

If the scheduled umpire(s) fails to appear, the game will be played with a member of each team's coaching staff umpiring from behind the pitcher's mound while their team is on defense. The only exception to this rule is if both managers agree to have another individual(s) umpire the game. Regardless, the game will be played.

## Forfeits

A manager shall have up to fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled time of his game to field a team of eligible players or forfeit the game (see General Playing Rules).

## Substitutions

Defensive substitutions may be made freely but must be made prior to the start of a new inning. However, pitchers may be substituted from the bench or the field at any time.

If a pitcher is removed during any game, the manager shall be permitted to remove her from the pitching position for a minimum of three (3) recorded outs and then later return her to the pitching position as long as she does not pitch more than the innings (outs) allowed for that league. Only one (1) re-entry at pitcher is allowed.

For games that extend into extra innings, a pitcher is allowed one additional re-entry to the pitching position and may pitch an additional two (2) innings in excess of the maximum innings allowed for that particular league.

If a pitcher hits three (3) batters in one inning, that pitcher shall be removed from the pitching position and is permitted her one (1) re-entry at pitcher pursuant to the guidelines above provided she has not already re-entered at the pitching position.

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The violation for violating Substitutions Rules shall be forfeiting of that game.

## Legal Team

See General Playing Rules.

## Batting Order

See General Playing Rules.

## Contact Rule

Runners are responsible for avoiding collisions with the defensive players.

When the defensive player has the ball and is waiting for the runner, and the runner remains on his feet and crashes into the defensive player, the runner will be declared out. If in the umpire's judgment, contact was made deliberately, the player shall be ejected from the game. The intention of this rule is to encourage baserunners to slide.

If a defensive player without the ball obstructs a runner, it is a call to be made in the judgment of the umpire(s) but collisions must still be avoided.

When a play on a runner is imminent, the runner must either slide, try to "get around" the tag or surrender to the tag without making physical contact with the defensive player in anyway. Failure to comply in the judgment of the umpire shall result in the runner being declared "out".

When a defensive player blocks the runner from the base without the ball and the runner slides, she will be awarded the base due to obstruction. If the ball and the runner arrive simultaneously, the call will be based on the umpire's judgement. If the runner fails to slide and contact is made, other than incidental, the runner will be called out. If there is no slide, but there is no contact, there will be no violation of this rule. This rule does not apply at first base as there is no requirement to slide at first base. However, malicious contact at first base will still be grounds to be called out, ejected, or both.

The intent of this rule is to minimize injuries caused by unnecessary collisions.

No player shall be called out for simply failing to slide.

## Charged Conferences

### Defense:

There shall be only three charged conferences between manager or other team representative from the dugout with any defensive players in a six (6) or seven (7) inning game. For every inning beyond six (6) or seven (7), there shall be one charged conference per inning between manager or other team representative from the dugout with any defensive players. Time granted for an obviously incapacitated player or for the replacement of the pitcher shall not constitute a Defensive Charged Conference.

### Offense:

There shall be no more than one charged conference between team representatives and the batter, another team representative, and/or runners in an inning. The umpire shall not permit any such conferences in excess of one in an inning. Time granted for an obviously incapacitated player shall not constitute an Offensive Charged Conference.

## Player Pick-Up Rule

Teams may pick-up players to fill in for an absent or injured roster players from that community's age level league or the age level league below.

No pick-up players from outside any participating community's organization are allowed.

The Pick-Up players must bat in the last batting position in the lineup and only play the outfield position(s). Since there are no outfielders in the 6U T-Ball league, pick-up players may play any position except the pitcher and 1st base positions.

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Any team using Pick-Up players must field at least six (6) rostered players (five (5) in the 8U Coach Pitch and 6U T-Ball leagues).

For post-season tournament games, teams must abide by the previous rule but are limited in the number of Pick-Up players to the number necessary to field all nine (9) positions on the field (ten (10) positions in those leagues that play ten (10) positions).

Players rostered on a SDSL USA Softball Recreation “All Star” League team are not eligible to play as Pick-Up players for a “Recreation” League team.

## Protests

No protests will be allowed on judgment calls of the umpire.

If a manager desires to protest a rule interpretation by the umpire, the manager shall notify the Home Plate Umpire that they are lodging a protest prior to the next pitch. The Home Plate Umpire will call a conference at home plate with both managers, other members of the umpire team, and both scorekeepers to notify them that the game shall be played under protest. The Home Plate Umpire shall mark in the official score book the current game situation. The manager lodging the protest shall be responsible for completing the League Protest Form during or immediately following the game. If the protesting manager desires to follow-up on the protest at the end of the game, the signed League Protest Form must be presented to the League Coordinator in writing and emailed to the league email address (See Score Keeping) within twenty-four (24) hours following conclusion of the game.

All protests must be accompanied by a one-hundred (\$100) dollar cash protest fee which will be refunded if the protest is ruled in favor of the manager.

The League Coordinator shall review the protest with the assistance of the League Executive Board and strive to return a decision within one (1) week from the date of the protest.

## Score Keeping

The home team will be the official scorekeeper.

The winning team will be responsible for reporting all game score results to the League email address at [southdaytonsoftballleague@gmail.com](mailto:southdaytonsoftballleague@gmail.com) or submit on the website within 24 hours of the completion of each game.

Umpires must sign the official scorebook at the end of each game.

## VIII. League Tournaments



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All league regular seasons will be followed by a single elimination tournament. In the event any league other than 6U T-Ball and 8U Coach Pitch is comprised of four (4) teams or less, the league may play a double elimination tournament. In addition, if a league has a minimum of eight (8) teams, consideration will be given to hosting two league post season tournaments – a “Gold” tournament for the higher finishing teams in the final regular season standings and a “Bronze” tournament for the lower finishing teams in the final regular season standings.

It is expected that each team will participate and play in the year-end post-season league tournament. Failure to do so negatively impacts the opportunity for other teams in the league to play additional games. If for some reason a team is unable to play in the tournament, the coach of a 6U, 8U, 10U, or 12U team, must notify the league Board by June 1st of their decision not to participate. If a 14U or 18U team, the coach must notify the league Board by July 1st . Failure to do so will result in a \$100 fine per team being assessed to the community organization to which such teams are associated.

The SDSL Board will decide each year which communities will host each age-based post season league tournament.

The SDSL tournament host community will be responsible for all aspects of hosting the tournament including field scheduling, game times, umpires, trophy presentation, Manager/Coach communication, and reporting tournament game score results on the website, app or via the league email [southdaytonsoftballleague@gmail.com](mailto:southdaytonsoftballleague@gmail.com) so that tournament brackets can be maintained on the league website.

The SDSL League Coordinator will be responsible for tournament seeding and establishing the initial tournament brackets.

To be eligible to participate in the league tournament, a player must be a player listed on a team roster no later than May 1st (June 15th for the 14U Majors and 18U High School leagues) and have played in at least half (50%) of her team’s regular season games. If, due to injury, a player did not play in at least half (50%) of her team’s regular season games, the player shall be eligible to participate in the year end league tournament but only after notifying the SDSL League Coordinator of the circumstances.

All league tournament games shall abide by the same five (5)-run per inning maximum and game time limits as during the regular season. The only exception is the year end league tournament championship game in which there shall be a two (2) hour time limit.

When a tournament game is tied after the time limit has expired (or, in the case of the tournament championship game the last inning is played), the international tiebreaker rules shall be in effect at the start of the next inning and play shall continue until a winner is determined. The international tie-breaker rules require the team at bat begin the inning with a runner at second base. The player representing the last batted out of the previous inning is the runner that occupies second base to begin the inning.

Team seeding for each league tournament will be based on a team’s position in the final regular season league standings based on team winning record percentages (the team finishing with the best winning percentage shall be awarded the #1 seed, the team with the second-best winning percentage the #2 seed, etc.).

The higher seed (i.e. lower numerical seed) is always the home team for tournament games. The home team for the championship game is determined by coin flip.

In situations where two teams are tied in the league regular season standings with the same winning percentage, the following tie breaker system shall be used in order of priority until the tie is broken:

- Head-to-head competition
- Record against team immediately above them in the standings
- Record against team immediately below them in the standings
- Runs scored in head-to-head competition
- Runs scored against team immediately above them in the standings

## South Dayton Softball League

- Runs scored against team immediately below them in the standings.
- Flip of a coin

### **IX. USA Softball “Recreation” League Softball League Specific Rules**

# South Dayton Softball League

## A. GIRLS 18U HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE RULES (Exceptions to Official USA Softball Rules)

### Legal Team

Nine (9) players shall constitute a team, but teams shall be permitted to play with eight (8) players (see Player Pick-Up Rule for utilizing players from other teams or a lower league).

### Pitching

Pitchers are allowed one re-entry. Pitchers must be removed after hitting three (3) batters in one inning and may re-enter the game at the pitching position subject to the one re-entry rule (see Section VII. 35).

For games that extend into extra innings, a pitcher is allowed one additional re-entry to the pitching position.

USA Softball Rules require pitchers do the following:

The pitcher shall bring their hands together for not less than one second and not more than 10 seconds before releasing the ball. A backward step may be taken before, simultaneous with or after the hands are brought together. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate at all times prior to the forward step.

Managers and Coaches are to teach the girls the proper technique for pitching. Such rules will be fully enforced for all High School League games.

USA Softball rules shall govern in the event a pitch is declared "illegal" by the umpire. An illegal pitch shall be declared immediately by the umpire (delayed dead-ball signal). The batter is awarded a ball.

Exceptions:

If the batter reaches first base safely and each other runner advances at least one base, the illegal pitch is nullified.

If the batter does not reach first base safely or if any base runner fails to advance at least one base, the coach of the team at bat shall have the option of the result of the play or the penalty of the illegal pitch.

If the batter is hit by an illegal pitch out of the strike zone, the batter is awarded first base, therefore any base runners are awarded one base.

If ball four is an illegal pitch, the batter is awarded first base, therefore any base runners are awarded one base.

Intentional walks are permitted but the pitcher must throw four (4) balls. A circle, eight (8) feet in radius and sixteen (16) feet in diameter, shall be lined around the pitching rubber.

Distance from the front edge of the pitching rubber to the base edge of home plate is forty-three (43) feet.

### Stealing

Stealing / Lead offs can occur after the ball leaves the pitchers hand. "Courtesy" runners are allowed for Pitchers and Catchers after two outs have been recorded in an inning. The player who made the last batted out shall be the "courtesy" runner.

### Bunting

Bunting is allowed in this league.

# South Dayton Softball League

## Maximum Runs

Pursuant to USA Softball rules, there is no limit to the number of runs a team can score in any inning. Following USA Softball rules, a complete game will be declared if after three (3) innings a team is ahead by 15 runs or more and if after four (4) innings a team is ahead by 12 runs or more and if after five (5) innings a team is ahead by 8 runs or more.

## Look-Back Rule

The Look-Back Rule pertaining to base runners' actions while the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle will apply. If a runner circles a base while the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle, she is allowed to stop once, but then immediately return to the base or advance to the next base. Once the runner stops at a base for any reason while the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle, the runner will be declared out for leaving the base. There will be one warning per team per game.

Subsequent occurrences will result in the runner being declared out.

## Dropped Third Strike

The dropped third strike rule will be enforced in this league.

## Outfielder Positions

This league shall field three (3) outfielders.

All outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass until the pitch crosses home plate. If playing on a field with a large infield (i.e. a baseball field), outfielders must be positioned twenty (20) feet behind the bases until the ball crosses home plate.

## Hit By Pitch

USA Softball rules apply in the High School League if a batter is hit by a pitched ball. If a batter is hit by a pitched ball, the batter shall be awarded first (1st) base unless, in the judgment of the umpire, the batter made no attempt to avoid being hit.

## B. GIRLS 14U MAJOR LEAGUE RULES (Exceptions to Official USA Softball Rules)

### Legal Team

Nine (9) players shall constitute a team, but teams shall be permitted to play with eight (8) players (see Player Pick-Up Rule for utilizing players from other teams or a lower league).

### Pitching

Pitchers are permitted to pitch no more than four (4) innings per game. If a pitcher throws one (1) pitch in an inning, it shall constitute one (1) inning pitched under this rule. The only exception to this rule is if a game goes into extra innings. Pitchers are allowed one re-entry. Pitchers must be removed after hitting three (3) batters in one inning and may re-enter the game at the pitching position subject to the one re-entry rule.

For games that extend into extra innings, a pitcher is allowed one additional re-entry to the pitching position and may pitch an additional two (2) innings.

# South Dayton Softball League

USA Softball Rules require pitchers do the following:

The pitcher shall bring their hands together for not less than one second and not more than 10 seconds before releasing the ball. A backward step may be taken before, simultaneous with or after the hands are brought together. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate at all times prior to the forward step.

Managers and Coaches are to teach the girls the proper technique for pitching. Such rules will be fully enforced for all Major League games.

USA Softball rules shall govern in the event a pitch is declared "illegal" by the umpire. An illegal pitch shall be declared immediately by the umpire (delayed dead-ball signal). The batter is awarded a ball.

Exceptions:

If the batter reaches first base safely and each other runner advances at least one base, the illegal pitch is nullified.

If the batter does not reach first base safely or if any base runner fails to advance at least one base, the coach of the team at bat shall have the option of the result of the play or the penalty of the illegal pitch.

If the batter is hit by an illegal pitch out of the strike zone, the batter is awarded first base and each base runner is awarded one base.

If ball four is an illegal pitch, the batter is awarded first base and each base runner is awarded one base.

Intentional walks are permitted but the pitcher must throw four (4) balls. A circle, eight (8) feet in radius and sixteen (16) feet in diameter, shall be lined around the pitching rubber.

Distance from the front edge of the pitching rubber to the base edge of home plate is forty (40) feet.

## Stealing

Stealing / Lead offs can occur after the ball leaves the pitchers hand.

"Courtesy" runners are allowed for Pitchers and Catchers after two outs have been recorded in an inning. The player who made the last batted out shall be the "courtesy" runner.

## Bunting

Bunting is allowed in this league.

## Maximum Runs

The batting team may score a maximum of five runs per inning. If more than five runs are scored within the completion of the batters at bat in which the fifth run scores, the play shall be completed but only five runs count. For example, if the offense has four runs scored already in an inning and there are runners at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd bases and the batter hits a triple scoring three (3) runs, only one (1) run is recorded in the scorebook. When the play ceases, all play is stopped, and the fielding team becomes the batting team. Play ceases and the half inning is complete when the runners have stopped running and the umpire calls time.

Unlimited runs may be scored in the 7th inning or any extra innings.

# South Dayton Softball League

Pursuant to USA Softball rules, a complete game will be declared if after three (3) innings a team is ahead by 15 runs or more and if after four (4) innings a team is ahead by 12 runs or more and if after five (5) innings a team is ahead by 8 runs or more.

## Look-Back Rule

The Look-Back Rule pertaining to base runners' actions while the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle will apply. If a runner circles a base while the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle, she is allowed to stop once, but then immediately return to the base or advance to the next base. Once the runner stops at a base for any reason while the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle, the runner will be declared out for leaving the base. There will be one warning per team per game.

Subsequent occurrences will result in the runner being declared out.

## Dropped Third Strike

The dropped third strike rule will be enforced in this league.

## Outfielder Positions

This league shall field three (3) outfielders.

All outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass until the pitch crosses home plate. If playing on a field with a large infield (i.e. a baseball field), outfielders must be positioned twenty (20) feet behind the bases until the ball crosses home plate.

## Hit By Pitch

USA Softball rules apply in the Major League if a batter is hit by a pitched ball. If a batter is hit by a pitched ball, the batter shall be awarded first (1st) base unless, in the judgment of the umpire, the batter made no attempt to avoid being hit.

## C. GIRLS 12U MINOR LEAGUE RULES (Exceptions to Official USA Softball Rules)

### Legal Team

Nine (9) players shall constitute a team (three (3) outfielders), but teams shall be permitted to play with seven (7) players (see Section VII.43 Player Pick-Up Rule for utilizing players from other teams or a lower league).

### Pitching

Pitchers are permitted to pitch no more than three (3) innings per game. If a pitcher throws one (1) pitch in an inning, it shall constitute one (1) inning pitched under this rule. The only exception to this rule is if a game goes into extra innings. Pitchers are allowed one re-entry. Pitchers must be removed after hitting three (3) batters in one inning and may re-enter the game at the pitching position subject to the one re-entry rule (see Section VII. 35.).

Games that extend into extra innings, a pitcher is allowed one additional re-entry to the pitching position and may pitch an additional two (2) innings.

USA Softball Rules require pitchers do the following:

## South Dayton Softball League

The pitcher shall bring their hands together for not less than one second and not more than 10 seconds before releasing the ball. A backward step may be taken before, simultaneous with or after the hands are brought together. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate at all times prior to the forward step. Crow-hopping constitutes an illegal pitch.

Managers and Coaches are to teach the girls the proper technique for pitching. However, in the spirit of focusing the girls' efforts on throwing strikes, the umpires have been asked to relax their interpretation of the above rules for all games in the Minor League. If, in the umpire's judgment, the pitcher is gaining an unfair advantage by not enforcing the above rules, the umpire shall enforce the above rules accordingly.

USA Softball rules shall govern in the event a pitch is declared "illegal" by the umpire. An illegal pitch shall be declared immediately by the umpire (delayed dead-ball signal). The batter is awarded a ball.

Exceptions:

If the batter reaches first base safely and each other runner advances at least one base, the illegal pitch is nullified.

If the batter does not reach first base safely or if any base runner fails to advance at least one base, the coach of the team at bat shall have the option of the result of the play or the penalty of the illegal pitch.

If the batter is hit by an illegal pitch out of the strike zone, the batter is awarded first base and each base runner is awarded one base.

If ball four is an illegal pitch, the batter is awarded first base and each base runner is awarded one base.

Intentional walks are permitted but the pitcher must throw four (4) balls.

Strike Zone: An optional strike zone may be adopted by the plate umpire. This optional zone is defined as follows – The strike zone shall be vertically from the batter's shoulder to the knee, and horizontally to 3" from either side of the plate. This is a recommended zone that the plate umpire may enforce. NOTE: THIS MUST BE DISCUSSED AT THE PRE- GAME MEETING OF THE UMPIRES AND COACHES. At mid-season, the strike zone will be called according to USA Softball rules.

A circle, eight (8) feet in radius and sixteen (16) feet in diameter, shall be lined around the pitching rubber.

Distance from the front edge of the pitching rubber to the base edge of home plate is forty (40) feet.

### Stealing

Stealing / Lead offs can occur only after the ball crosses home plate. "Courtesy" runners are allowed for Pitchers and Catchers after two outs have been recorded in an inning. The player who made the last batted out shall be the "courtesy" runner.

### Bunting

Bunting is allowed in this league.

# South Dayton Softball League

## Maximum Runs

The batting team may score a maximum of five runs per inning. If more than five runs are scored within the completion of the batters at bat in which the fifth run scores, the play shall be completed but only five runs count. For example, if the offense has four runs scored already in an inning and there are runners at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd bases and the batter hits a triple scoring three (3) runs, only one (1) run is recorded in the scorebook.

When the play ceases, all play is stopped, and the fielding team becomes the batting team. Play ceases and the half inning is complete when the runners have stopped running and the umpire calls time.

Unlimited runs may be scored in the 6th inning or any extra innings.

Pursuant to USA Softball rules, a complete game will be declared if after three (3) innings a team is ahead by 15 runs or more and if after four (4) innings a team is ahead by 12 runs or more and if after five (5) innings a team is ahead by 8 runs or more.

## Look-Back Rule

The Look-Back Rule pertaining to base runners' actions while the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle will apply. If a runner circles a base while the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle, she is allowed to stop once, but then immediately return to the base or advance to the next base. Once the runner stops at a base for any reason while the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle, the runner will be declared out for leaving the base.

There will be one warning per team per game. Subsequent occurrences will result in the runner being declared out.

## Dropped Third Strike

The dropped third strike rule will be enforced in this league.

## Outfielder Positions

This league shall field three (3) outfielders as long as the team has nine (9) or more players present.

All outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass until the pitch crosses home plate. If playing on a field with a large infield (i.e. a baseball field), outfielders must be positioned twenty (20) feet behind the bases until the ball crosses home plate.

## Infield Fly Rule

The infield fly rule will be enforced in this league.

## Hit By Pitch

USA Softball rules apply in the Minor League if a batter is hit by a pitched ball. If a batter is hit by a pitched ball, the batter shall be awarded first (1st) base unless, in the judgment of the umpire, the batter made no attempt to avoid being hit.



# South Dayton Softball League

## D. GIRLS 10U ROOKIE LEAGUE RULES (Exceptions to Official USA Softball Rules)

### Legal Team

Ten (10) players shall constitute a team (four (4) outfielders), but teams shall be permitted to play with seven (7) players (see Player Pick-Up Rule for utilizing players from other teams or a lower league).

### Pitching

Pitchers are permitted to pitch no more than two (2) innings per game. If a pitcher throws one (1) pitch in an inning, it shall constitute one (1) inning pitched under this rule. The only exception to this rule is if a game goes into extra innings. Pitchers are allowed one re-entry. Pitchers must be removed after hitting three (3) batters in one inning and may re-enter the game at the pitching position subject to the one re-entry rule.

Games that extend into extra innings, a pitcher is allowed one additional re-entry to the pitching position and may pitch an additional two (2) innings.

USA Softball Rules require pitchers do the following:

The pitcher shall bring their hands together for not less than one second and not more than 10 seconds before releasing the ball. A backward step may be taken before, simultaneous with or after the hands are brought together. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate at all times prior to the forward step.

Managers and Coaches are to teach the girls the proper technique for pitching. However, in the spirit of focusing the girls' efforts on throwing strikes, the umpires have been asked to relax their interpretation of the above rules for all games in the Rookie League. Any style of pitching is acceptable as long as upon release of the ball one foot is in contact with the pitching rubber or the pitcher is properly dragging her back foot. Crow-hopping constitutes an illegal pitch.

USA Softball rules shall govern in the event a pitch is declared "illegal" by the umpire. An illegal pitch shall be declared immediately by the umpire (delayed dead-ball signal). The batter is awarded a ball.

### Exceptions:

If the batter reaches first base safely and each other runner advances at least one base, the illegal pitch is nullified.

If the batter does not reach first base safely or if any base runner fails to advance at least one base, the coach of the team at bat shall have the option of the result of the play or the penalty of the illegal pitch.

If the batter is hit by an illegal pitch out of the strike zone, the batter is awarded first base and each base runner is awarded one base.

If ball four is an illegal pitch, the batter is awarded first base and each base runner is awarded one base.

# South Dayton Softball League

Strike Zone: An optional strike zone may be adopted by the plate umpire. This optional zone is defined as follows – The strike zone shall be vertically from the batter’s shoulder to the knee, and horizontally to 3” from either side of the plate. This is a recommended zone that the plate umpire may enforce. NOTE: THIS MUST BE DISCUSSED AT THE PRE- GAME MEETING OF THE UMPIRES AND COACHES. At mid-season, the strike zone will be called according to USA Softball rules.

A circle, eight (8) feet in radius and sixteen (16) feet in diameter, shall be lined around the pitching rubber.

Distance from the front edge of the pitching rubber to the base edge of home plate is thirty-five (35) feet.

## Base on Balls

There shall be NO WALKS in the Rookie League. If the batter receives a ball four (4) count, the team manager of the hitting team, or his/her designee, shall pitch a maximum of three (3) pitches to the batter. The strike count will continue from its previous point when the ball four (4) count was achieved, and umpires will continue to call swinging strikes.

In the event the batter fouls the coach’s third pitch, the batters at-bat continues until she either puts the ball in play, swings and misses, or takes another subsequent pitch.

For example: if the batter has a count of four (4) balls and two (2) strikes, the coach or his/her designee comes in and pitches a total of 3 pitches; until the player swings and misses one pitch; hits the ball, or watches the third pitched ball go past.

The manager / pitcher must have one foot on the rubber when pitching. If the manager / pitcher interferes with the fielding play, the batter or runner shall be declared out.

## Stealing

Stealing of second (2nd) and third (3rd) base is allowed but the runner may gain only the one (1) base she is attempting to steal (no advancement on overthrow).

There is no stealing allowed while the manager of the hitting team, or his/her designee, is pitching.

There is no stealing of home at any time unless the catcher makes a throw to third base in an attempt to pick-off a runner leading off from third base.

Stealing / Lead-offs can only occur after the ball crosses home plate. “Courtesy” runners are allowed for Pitchers and Catchers after two outs have been recorded in an inning. The player who made the last batted out shall be the “courtesy” runner.

## Bunting

Bunting is not allowed in this league.

## Maximum Runs

# South Dayton Softball League

The batting team may score a maximum of five runs per inning. If more than five runs are scored within the completion of the batters at bat in which the fifth run scores, the play shall be completed but only five runs count. For example, if the offense has four runs scored already in an inning and there are runners at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd bases and the batter hits a triple scoring three (3) runs, only one (1) run is recorded in the scorebook. When the play ceases, all play is stopped, and the fielding team becomes the batting team. Play ceases and the half inning is complete when the runners stop running and the umpire calls time. Unlimited runs may be scored in the 6th inning or any extra innings.

Pursuant to USA Softball rules, a complete game will be declared if after three (3) innings a team is ahead by 15 runs or more and if after four (4) innings a team is ahead by 12 runs or more and if after five (5) innings a team is ahead by 8 runs or more.

## Look-Back Rule

The Look-Back Rule pertaining to base runners' actions while the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle will apply. If a runner circles a base while the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle, she is allowed to stop once, but then immediately return to the base or advance to the next base. Once the runner stops at a base for any reason while the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle, the runner will be declared out for leaving the base. However, this shall be instructional only in the Rookie League and no out shall be assessed.

## Defense Position Overthrows

There will be a maximum of one additional base on an overthrow from any position. If a second overthrow results at the next base the runner may advance another base. For example, an overthrow occurs on runner at 1st base, the runner is allowed one base (i.e. is allowed to go to 2nd base). However, if the runner does not attempt to advance to 2nd base, the runner is not awarded 2nd base. The base must be earned by the runner. If the runner's advancement to 2nd base results in a second overthrow, the runner may attempt to advance one more base. This rule is designed to prevent runners from running around the bases while an overthrown ball is in play.

## Dropped Third Strike

The dropped third strike rule will not be enforced in this league. The batter is considered out after the third strike and cannot advance.

## Outfielder Positions

This league shall field four (4) outfielders as long as the team has ten (10) or more players present.

All outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass until the pitch crosses home plate. If playing on a field with a large infield (i.e. a baseball field), outfielders must be positioned twenty (20) feet behind the bases until the ball crosses home plate.

# South Dayton Softball League

Any batted ball fielded by any outfielder must be thrown to an infielder to produce an out in the infield. The intent of this rule is to teach outfielders to throw the ball to the infield.

## Infield Fly Rule

The infield fly rule will not be enforced in this league.

## Hit By Pitch

While there are no walks in this league, if a batter is hit by a pitched ball from a player, the batter shall be awarded first (1st) base unless, in the judgment of the umpire, the batter made no attempt to avoid being hit.

No such award shall be made if a batter is hit by a pitched ball made by the manager/coach of a hitting team.

## Regulation Ball

An 11" ball will be used in this league.

## E. GIRLS 8U COACH PITCH LEAGUE RULES (Exceptions to Official USA Softball Rules)

### Legal Team

Ten (10) players shall constitute a team, with four (4) outfielders, but teams shall be permitted to play with six (6) players (see Player Pick-Up Rule for utilizing players from a lower league).

### Pitching

This is a coach pitch league. There is no player pitching.

The team manager of the batting team, or his/her designee, shall pitch with both feet within the pitching circle. However, a manager can pitch from a shorter pitching distance to accommodate a batter(s) skill level. The fielding team will have a fielding pitcher standing with both feet in the pitcher's circle to either side of the manager / pitcher. In the event a batted ball strikes the coach/pitcher, the ball shall be considered "live" and will remain in play. If, in the umpire's judgment, the manager / pitcher intentionally interferes with a fielding play, the batter or runner shall be declared out.

The coach/pitcher cannot coach while the ball is in play. The only time a coach/pitcher can talk to a player is if the coach/pitcher is giving instructions to the batter before making the pitch. If the coach/pitcher coaches in any other way, the umpire will issue a warning. Any additional offenses during the same game will result in the umpire calling the player(s) out. A circle, six (6) feet in radius and twelve (12) feet in diameter, shall be lined around the pitching rubber.

Distance from the front edge of the pitching rubber to the base edge of home plate is thirty-five (35) feet.

### Time At Bat

No balls or strikes shall be called. A maximum of seven (7) pitches may be thrown to each batter by the batting team coach. If the batter fouls off the seventh (7th) pitch she is entitled to continue until she either puts the ball in play, swings and misses, or takes another subsequent pitch.

### Base on Balls

There shall be NO WALKS in the Coach Pitch League.

### Stealing

# South Dayton Softball League

Base stealing is not permitted in this league and runners may not advance on a wild pitch or a passed ball by the pitcher / catcher. Runners may only advance upon a batted ball by the batter.

“Courtesy” runners are allowed for Catchers (not Pitchers) after two outs have been recorded in an inning. The player who made the last batted out shall be the “courtesy” runner.

## Bunting

Bunting is not allowed in this league. The batter must take a full swing. A batter bunting or intentionally taking a partial swing will be called out.

## Maximum Runs

The batting team may score a maximum of five runs per inning. If more than five runs are scored within the completion of the batters at bat in which the fifth run scores, the play shall be completed but only five runs count. For example, if the offense has four runs scored already in an inning and there are runners at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd bases and the batter hits a triple scoring three (3) runs, only one (1) run is recorded in the scorebook. When the play ceases (as defined by Play Stoppage below), all play is stopped, and the fielding team becomes the batting team.

Unlimited runs may be scored in the 6th inning or any extra innings.

Pursuant to USA Softball rules, a complete game will be declared if after three (3) innings a team is ahead by 15 runs or more and if after four (4) innings a team is ahead by 12 runs or more and if after five (5) innings a team is ahead by 8 runs or more.

## Play Stoppage

Runners may only advance one base if the batted ball does not reach the outfield. The outfield, for this play stoppage rule, is defined as the grass on small fields with 60-foot base paths or 20-feet behind the base lines on larger fields with 90-foot base paths. A batted ball fielded by a player playing the outfield position shall be deemed to have reached the outfield. If the ball reaches the outfield, the runners may continue to advance until the ball is returned via throw to the possession of an infielder in the infield. The infield, for this play stoppage rule, is defined as within the four base lines. Once the ball is returned to the possession of an infielder in the infield, the umpire shall call time so that no runners can advance or attempt to advance after the call by the umpire. Runners not yet half way to the next base in the judgment of the umpire will be sent back to the previous base.

All outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass until the pitch crosses home plate. If playing on a field with a large infield (i.e. a baseball field), the outfielders must be positioned twenty (20) feet behind the bases until the ball crosses home plate.

No runner advancement is allowed on any overthrow at any base.

## Look-Back Rule

# South Dayton Softball League

The Look-Back Rule does not apply in this league (see Play Stoppage Rule above).

## Dropped Third Strike

The dropped third strike rule will not be enforced in this league.

## Catcher Position

In this league, at the coach's discretion, the catcher will either be positioned behind the plate to catch the balls pitched by the opposing team's coach or stand off to the side of the plate and retrieves the ball off the backstop and returns it to the Coach-Pitcher. If not positioned behind home plate, the catcher will be positioned to the bat side of the hitter, facing the batter, and near the backstop in the designated area.

In an effort to speed up play, coaches may be positioned behind home plate or in the catching position to catch pitches and return the ball to the "Coach Pitcher." A player must still be positioned at the catcher position and must play the position with respect to batted balls and plays on runners at home plate.

## Outfielder Positions

This league shall field four (4) outfielders as long as the team has ten (10) or more players present.

## Infield Fly Rule

The infield fly rule will not be enforced in this league.

## Hit By Pitch

If a batter is hit by a pitched ball by the manager/coach of the hitting team, the batter is not awarded first (1st) base. The pitch is counted as one of the pitches against the seven (7) maximum pitch count.

## Fair Ball Hit in Front of Home Plate

There is no arc in front of home plate. Therefore, any ball hit in front of home plate shall be a fair ball and it should be played as any other fair ball.

## Regulation Ball

An 11" ball will be used in this league.

## Defensive Coach

Teams are allowed one roaming defensive coach to help instruct infielders and outfielders. The coach shall not come in contact with the ball or players nor shall they cross the baseline. If this happens, the play becomes dead, the runners are awarded the base they are running to and the coach will remain in the dugout for the rest of the game. The umpire's decision is final.

## F. GIRLS 6U T-BALL LEAGUE RULES (Exceptions to Official USA Softball Rules)

### Player Participation

The goal of T-Ball is to be instructional as to the proper playing techniques for the future, not win by any means necessary.

### Legal Game

A nine (9) batter rule per inning shall apply.

The time limit for a T-Ball game will be one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes. The time limit will be strictly enforced. Tied games will not be played out except for tournament games.

# South Dayton Softball League

The official scorekeeper must notify the umpire when the last batter of the inning is up at bat.

## Legal Team

Six (6) players shall constitute a team (no outfielders), but teams shall be permitted to play with five (5) players (see General Playing Rules for utilizing players from other teams).

If a team plays with only five (5) players, the team shall play the game without a player at the pitching position.

## Pitching

This is a T-Ball league. There is no player or manager pitching. A circle, six (6) feet in radius and twelve (12) feet in diameter, shall be lined around the pitching rubber.

Distance from the front edge of the pitching rubber to the base edge of home plate is thirty-five (35) feet.

The player positioned in the pitching position shall have at least one foot in contact with the pitching rubber before the batter attempts to swing and put the ball in play.

## Time At Bat

A maximum of seven (7) swings are allowed. A foul ball not inside the arc on the seventh swing entitles the batter to one more swing.

In order for the ball to be in play, it must travel beyond the foul arc. The foul arc distance shall be marked on the field twenty (20) feet from the base edge of home plate.

A ball contained within the arc is a foul ball and counted as one (1) swing. A swing shall be counted if the batter swings over the ball and misses or when the batter hits the tee under the ball. Runners may not advance unless the ball is batted into play.

A coach is permitted to help get the batter set prior to the swing but shall not interfere with the play.

Batters must be positioned in a traditional batting stance, square to home plate (no crooked stances intended to pull the ball one way or another will be permitted). However, batters may move forward or backward within the six (6) foot batters' box (three (3) feet forward and backward from the center of home plate).

## Base on Balls

Since this is a T-Ball league, there are NO WALKS in this League.

## Stealing

Base stealing is not permitted in this league and runners may only advance upon a batted ball beyond the foul arc by the batter. "Courtesy" runners are allowed for Catchers (not Pitchers) after two outs have been recorded in an inning. The player who made the last batted out shall be the "courtesy" runner.

## Bunting

Since this is a T-Ball league, bunting is not allowed. The batter must take a full swing. An attempted bunt shall be considered a swing. The umpire's decision is final.

## Maximum Runs

# South Dayton Softball League

There are no maximum runs per inning rule in this league as there is a nine (9) batter rule per inning. All runs scored on the ninth (9th) batter's at bat on the same play will count. For example, if the offense has five (5) runs scored already in an inning and there are runners at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd bases and the ninth (9th) batter hits a triple, all three (3) runs count. When the play ceases, all play is stopped, and the fielding team becomes the batting team. The play ceases and the half inning is over after the last batter crosses home plate or when any defensive infielder receives the ball and tags home plate or executes the third (3rd) out of the inning. This rule shall apply to all innings in each game, including the last inning.

The tee upright is not considered part of home plate. For purposes of scoring runs, registering outs, and play stoppage above, the home plate secured to the field of play is the official home plate.

## Play Stoppage

Runners may only advance one base if the batted ball does not reach the outfield. The outfield, for this play stoppage rule, is defined as the grass on smaller fields with 60-foot base paths or 20 feet behind the base lines on larger fields (i.e. 90-foot base paths). If the ball reaches the outfield, the runners may continue to advance until the ball is returned via throw to the possession of an infielder in the infield. The infield, for this play stoppage rule, is defined as within the four base lines. Once the ball is returned to the possession of an infielder in the infield, the umpire shall call time so that no runners can advance or attempt to advance after the call by the umpire. Runners not yet half way to the next base in the judgment of the umpire will be sent back to the previous base. However, see Maximum Runs above for the exception to this rule during the ninth (9th) batters at bat to end the half inning.

No runner advancement is allowed on any overthrow at any base.

## Look-Back Rule

The Look-Back Rule does not apply in this league (see Play Stoppage Rule above).

## Dropped Third Strike

The dropped third strike rule will not be enforced in this league.

## Catcher Position

In this league the catcher will be positioned to the bat side of the hitter, facing the batter, and near the backstop in the designated area.

## Outfielder Positions

There will be no outfielders in this league. If a coach would like to move an infielder to the outfield, he is permitted to do so.

## Infielder Positions

Infielders must position themselves at normal playing positions and at a normal depth in relation to the bases (just in front of or just behind the runners' running lanes). Normal depth is defined as follows:



# South Dayton Softball League

First Base – within 5 feet of first base.

Second Base – within 15 feet of second base.

Third Base – within 5 feet of third base.

Shortstop–equidistant (but allowing for positioning within a ten (10) foot radius) between 2nd and 3rd base.

Pitcher –must have one foot on the pitching rubber.

The intent of this rule is to teach the players to position themselves properly in the infield and to prohibit a team from using abnormal positions to take unfair advantage of a batter or runner.

## Infield Fly Rule

The infield fly rule will not be enforced in this league.

## Hit By Pitch

Since this is a T-Ball league, a batter can never be hit by a pitch.

## Ball Hit in Front of Home Plate

There is a twenty-foot (20) arc in front of home plate. Any ball hit in front of home plate that does not pass the arc shall be a foul ball and counted as one swing.

## Regulation Ball

An 11” ball will be used in this league.

## Defensive Coach

Teams are allowed one roaming defensive coach to help instruct infielders and outfielders. The coach shall not come in contact with the ball or players nor shall they cross the baseline. If this happens, the play becomes dead, the runners are awarded the base they are running to and the coach will remain in the dugout for the rest of the game. The umpire’s decision is final. There will be only two coach’s time outs per inning, except for injury.

## **X.** USA “All Star” Recreation League Softball League Specific Rules

# South Dayton Softball League

A. GIRLS 18U HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE RULES (Exceptions to Official USA Softball Rules)

Application of USA Softball Rules

This league shall follow the rules as outlined in the USA Official Rules of Softball.

B. GIRLS 14U MAJOR LEAGUE RULES (Exceptions to Official USA Softball Rules)

Application of USA Softball Rules

This league shall follow the rules as outlined in the USA Official Rules of Softball.

C. GIRLS 12U MINORLEAGUERULES (Exceptions to Official USA Softball Rules)

Application of USA Softball Rules

This league shall follow the rules as outlined in the USA Official Rules of Softball.

D. GIRLS 10U ROOKIE LEAGUE RULES (Exceptions to Official USA Softball Rules)

Application of USA Softball Rules

This league shall follow the rules as outlined in the USA Official Rules of Softball.