



Little League Softball® and ASA Rules & Regulations Comparison

	ASA	Little League Softball
Age Determination Date	December 31/January 1	December 31/January 1
Age Structure	8U	Tee Ball: 4-7
	10U	Minor: 7-8 (5 and 6-year-olds with one year of Tee Ball may play up); 9-11 (Minors may include Coach Pitch* and Player Pitch)
	12U	Major Division: 9-12
	14U	Junior: 12-14
	16U	Senior: 13-16
	18U	Big League: 14-18
Playing Field		
Base Lines	60 feet	60 feet (Tee Ball: may be 50 feet)
Pitching Distance	10U: 35 feet 12U: 40 feet 14U and above: 43 feet	Tee Ball/Minor: 35 feet Major: 40 feet Junior/Senior/Big: 43 feet
Fence Distance	10U: 175-225 feet 12U-18U: 200-225 feet	Min: 200 feet
On-Deck Position	Permitted	Minor/Major: Not Permitted Junior/Senior/Big: Permitted
Equipment		
Cleats	12U and below: Metal cleats are not permitted 14U and above: Metal permitted	Minor/Major: Metal cleats are not permitted Junior/Senior/Big: Metal Permitted
Ball	10U: 11" 12U-18U: 12"	Minor: 11" Major/Junior/Senior/Big: 12"
Bats	ASA certification (2000 or 2004)	1.20 BPF
Length	No more than 34 inches	Majors and below: No more than 33 inches Junior/Senior/Big: No more than 34 inches
Weight	No more than 38 oz.	No maximum weight
Catcher's Mask	Mask must have throat protector (extended wire frame or dangling throat protector)	Mask must have a dangling throat protector
Double First Base	Must be used	Allowed

The Game

Innings	10U and above: 7 innings	Minor/Major: 6 innings Junior/Senior/Big: 7 innings
Run Rule	15 after 3; 12 after 4; 8 after 5	Minor/Major: 10 after 4 Junior/Senior/Big: 10 after 5
Time Limit	May impose 1 hour 40 min	None; unless imposed by local league during regular season
Players to Start/End Game	May start/end game with 8; take an out	Must have 9 players
Substitutions	Starters & substitutes may re-enter	Minor/Major/Junior/Senior/Big Regular Season: Only a player in the starting lineup may re-enter the game Minor/Major/Junior Tournament: Starters and substitutes may re-enter the game after Mandatory Play has been met Senior/Big League Tournament: Starters may re-enter game once; A substitute may not re-enter the game once removed
Mandatory Play	None	Minor/Major/Junior/Senior Regular Season: 6 outs; 1 at bat Minor/Major/Junior Tournament: Depends on Roster size

Hitting

Bunt	Allowed	Minors/Majors/Junior/Senior/Big: Allowed
Bunt Attempt	Must move bat towards ball for strike call	Holding bat in strike zone; Must be pulled back for a ball (NFHS)
Extra Positions	DP/Flex	Senior/Big: DH
Drop 3rd Strike	10U and above: Allowed	Minors: Not Allowed; batter is out Major/Junior/Senior/Big: Allowed

Base Running

Sliding	Head first slide allowed	Minor/Major: No head first slide when advancing Junior/Senior/Big: Head first slide allowed
Stealing	10U: May leave at pitcher's release unless local league rule 12U: May leave at release	Minor: May leave when ball crosses the plate Major/Junior/Senior/Big: May leave at pitcher's release
Penalty for leaving early	Baserunner called out	Baserunner called out
Courtesy/Pinch Runner	Yes, but not same player for pitcher and catcher	Special Pinch Runner: Once each inning a team may utilize a player who is not in the batting order as a special pinch runner for any offensive player.

Pitching

Intentional Walk	Must throw 4 balls	Must throw 4 balls
Illegal Pitch	Both feet must start on pitcher's plate No crow hop No leaping	Only pivot foot must start on pitcher's plate (aligns with NFHS) No crow hop No leaping
Penalty for IP	Ball is called on the batter; base runners advance one base	Minor/Major: A ball on the batter Junior/Senior/Big: Ball on the batter; base runners advance one base
Pitching Restrictions	None	Minor/Major: 6 innings or less, no rest required; Max of 12 innings in a day Junior/Senior/Big: No restrictions

*Coach Pitch is a Division of the Minor Division that allows the Manager or Coach to pitch to their players while on defense to help teach the game of softball and keeps the game moving. A Coach Pitch division would NOT be considered a competitive Minor Division.