

2019

GIRLS RULE BOOK



Southwood

2019 Southwood League Officers

President ---- Brian Strickland

Vice President ---- Justin Spencer

Treasure/Secretary ---- Patty Strickland

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Chief Umpire ---- Justin Spencer 419.619.9532

Rule Committee Members: Miranda Williams (Portage)

Tiffany Bowling (North Baltimore)

Patty Strickland (Cygnet)

Organization

The Southwood Baseball and Softball League (hereby known as “The League”) is an organization of interested parents and individuals intending to provide an organized RECREATIONAL summer program for children of all skills and abilities to learn, play ball and to most importantly HAVE FUN. The League currently includes ages from 5yo to 15yo in both boys and girls teams.

Its officers are elected each year by representatives from each town (hereby known as Members). Officer positions include a President, Vice -President and Treasurer (hereby known as “the Officers”). The President appoints a Chief Umpire and a Secretary. Participating Members appoint one Commissioner for each age group for which they hold a tournament.

The League receives its finances from entry fees. These fees are set by The Officers and are used for purchasing league supplies and to cover all other expenses incurred by The League. The Officers are all volunteers and receive no compensation apart from the Secretary.

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The League rules go as followed:

- T-Ball through 12U – all players within the referenced age brackets will follow the following governing bodies in the order of:
 1. Southwood League

2. USSA
 3. Overhead governing body
 - a. USA Softball – girls
 - b. MLB – boys
- 15U Ages – all players within the referenced age brackets will follow the following governing bodies in the order of:
1. Southwood League
 2. NFHS (High School Rules)
 3. Overhead governing body
 - A. USA Softball – girls
 - B. MLB - boys

President - The President of The League is responsible for the organization of The League each year and the scheduling of the monthly meetings. He or she is responsible for see that the schedules are completed and distributed and that the tournaments are awarded to host towns. He or she must meet with the commissioners to settle any problems that occur during the year.

Vice-President - Is to assist the President and take over the duties President if needed.

Secretary - Attends all meetings and takes minutes of the meetings. He or she will be responsible for completing the League schedules. He or she will be responsible for updating the rule book each year. He or she will be responsible for communicating via email information to the Members.

Treasurer - Receives all League fees, pays all League bills at the direction of the President, balances the League checkbook, maintain detailed records of all the Leagues financial activities and reports at the regular League meetings.

Division Commissioner (Not considered a Southwood League Officer)

He or she must settle any problems that may arise in his or her age division during the season. Comm. is required to attend the schedule and rules meeting (usually mid-May). They will set up and run the Tournament and attend all tournament games or appoint a

representative. He/she will appoint a protest committee for each tournament game. Southwood President/Vice President are NOT eligible to be a commissioner for any age level or town hosted tournament. A TOWN officer can be appointed to hold this position.

1. Must reside in the tournament host town
2. Cannot be an umpire, coach or asst. coach in the age division.
3. Cannot be a Southwood League officer, (President or Vice President)
4. Commissioners MAY NOT make rule changes either during the year or during tournaments. Rule clarifications should be directed to the League Umpire in Chief of the Division Commissioner.

Our Purpose – The League is dedicated to helping children become good and decent citizens. It strives to inspire them with a goal and to enrich their lives toward a day when they must take their places in the world. It establishes for them a regiment of team and fair play.

The League Philosophy – The League is organized to continue the tradition of being a great place for kids of all skills and abilities to learn, play ball and to most importantly HAVE FUN.

Over the years The League has evolved to include boys and girls thru the age of 15yo. These rules present a policy that all children wanting to play baseball or softball can sign up and play. If the area in which they live does not have enough players to field a team in their age group, the players may play in a neighboring area thru the use of the waiver system. Players are NOT to be recruited, handpicked, cut, dropped or any other method of player selection that would give one regular season team an unfair advantage over any other team.

This document implements a comprehensive set of rules, a code of ethics and a reporting system for Members, coaches and umpires to follow to ensure that we earn the trust that parents give us when they allow us to teach and work with their children. In addition, the rules, code of ethics and coaches reporting system are designed to ensure that all players on a team will, over the course of the season have equal playing time (member of starts, innings played and turns at bat) based on the number of games that each player attends.

Business Meetings - Unless rescheduled by The Officers, meetings will be held in September, January, February, March, April and May & June. Additional meets may be held at the discretion of The Officers. Also meetings can be combined at the discretion of The Officers. Meetings will start at the set times scheduled by the Southwood Officers.

1. The meeting shall be called to order by the President or Vice-President.
2. **No Quorum** is needed to conduct business.
3. Motions are to be made and acted upon by The Members. Each Member (town) has one vote.
4. There shall be no smoking or consumption of alcoholic beverages during any meeting.
5. Suggested meeting agendas – can be changed or combined at the discretion of Officers.
 - a. **Sept.** – Officer Elections, formation of committees, submission of rule change suggestions.
 - b. **Jan.** – Rule change suggestions from Committee.
 - c. **March** – Team Rosters, league fees and ball fees/orders are due. Rule changes voted on.

- d. **April** – Scheduling, tournament draw, ball orders due. (Commissioners names due by April 1st so that they may be entered in the rule book.)
- e. **May** – Commissioners meeting, 8U & 10U tournament draws, delivery of rule books and balls.
- f. **June** – Tournament seeding

Member Rules & Fees - Towns or Areas wishing to join The League must be voted on by the Members.

1. Towns or Areas wishing to join The League must be voted on by the Members.
2. No Town shall become a voting Member until a minimum of four (4) teams are brought in for one season and one year of probation is completed.
3. Members are only eligible for tournaments in the ages/teams levels that they field teams for.
4. Only full Members are eligible to hold tournaments.
5. Team entry fees are due at the March meeting, team fees not paid by April 1st will result in all games being forfeited until fees are paid.
6. Entry fees are \$200 per team for 8U thru 15U and \$175 for co-ed T-ball.
7. Sexual and Child Abuse.
 - a. ALL League Officers, Member Officers, Coaches, Asst. Coaches, and Umpires SHALL be subject to a background check through each town.
 - b. Anyone that has had a sexually orientated conviction shall not be allowed to participate in ANY League activities.
8. Southwood League cut off / sign up date to add new player to rosters is May 31st of current year.

Disciplinary Action - The League Officers shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any player, coach, umpire or member officer or any other person whose conduct is in violation of the Southwood Rules and Regulations, USSSA Softball Rules and NFHS Baseball Rules or is detrimental to the best interests of The League

1. Persons subject to such discipline shall have the right to appeal to The Officers before such discipline is imposed.
2. If these procedures involve a player or other person under the age of 18yo, that persons Coach and or parent shall be responsible for initiating any appeal in a timely manner.

Disciplinary Penalties - Recognizing the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for a variety of violations of unacceptable conduct, the following are some of the penalties available for The Officers to impose based upon their opinion of the severity of the offense.

1. Warning: the offending person is to be advised, in writing, of the offense and further advised that repetition of the offense will result in a more severe penalty.
2. Suspension; the offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from all league activity for the specified number of games or days.

3. Dismissal: the offending person shall be advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed from The League for the remainder of the current year.

Insurance – Southwood provides a secondary insurance for all Players and Coaches. Insurance is a general medical, liability, sexual abuse and molestation insurance. The medical and liability portion has a deductible which is the responsibility of the injured party.

All accidents and possible claims shall be reported to the Member President who will forward the details to The League by phone call AND email within 24 hours of the accident. Failure to report accidents and possible claims within 24 hours will result in nullification of insurance for that incident.

Schedules

1. The Secretary makes out the League schedules. Any changes to the original schedule must be done between members. It is suggested that make up game scheduling be handled by the affected coaches. It is also suggested that rescheduled or make up games be scheduled on Saturdays for multiple reasons.
2. Sunday play is discouraged by the League during the regular season and tournament play on Sunday SHALL NOT start before 1 pm.
3. 8U, 10U and 12U boys and girl's games shall not begin later than 6pm prior to June 5th.
4. Preferred Days scheduled for play are
 - a. Mondays – 15U Girls & 10U Boys, 12U Boys
 - b. Tuesday – 10U Girls, 12U Girls & 15U Boys
 - c. Wednesday – 8U Girls & 8U Boys
 - d. Thursday – 15U Girls & 10U Boys, 12U Boys
 - e. Friday – 10U Girls, 12U girls & 15U Boys
 - f. Saturday – 8U Girls & 8U Boys
5. In age divisions in which there is a post season tournament, tournaments are awarded/ selected on a published rotating basis
6. In divisions that have more than 14 teams the division will be divided into a North and South or an East and West Division at the discretion of the League.

Tournaments

Awarding & Hosting of Tournaments

1. Tournaments are awarded on a rotating basis
2. Towns that do not have voting rights are not eligible to host tournaments.
3. To be eligible to host a Tournament the Member must have attended at least three (3) meetings since the September Meeting.

4. Before a second tournament is awarded to a Member all other divisions will be gone thru one time to allow every Member a chance for a tournament.
5. If tournament is offered to all towns within that age level and rejected by all, it will then be opened to towns that do not have a team within that division and/or bracket.
6. Members hosting Tournaments shall appoint a Division Commissioner.
7. The host Member will Supply two (2) Umpires for each game
8. The Host Member will supply two (2) new balls for each game.
9. The League will Supply Trophies and participation medals as determined by The League for up to fifteen (15) players, teams needing more than this will need to purchase the extra trophies or medals as needed.

Tournament Rules

1. Tournaments will start at the discretion of The League Officers upon completion of the regular season in each division.
2. 8U, 10U, 12U & 15U will be a seeded tournament, (seeding will be done in June) 8U & 10U must be DONE with tournaments before July 4th weekend. 12U & 15U must be held the week AFTER July 4th of the current season.
3. Postponing a tournament start date more than one week past regular season game is not permitted. If your commissioner is unavailable than Town President needs to find a replacement.
4. Each team MUST have a representative at the draw and the seeding meetings. **Not attending will result in your team being disqualified from the tournament.**
5. Teams involved in tournaments outside of the League MUST NOTIFY THE COMMISSIONER. If the outside tournament conflicts with the League tournament a vote will be held on your team's participation in the League tournament. Failure to notify the commissioner will result in the forfeiture of 1st thru 4th in the League tournament and all awards.
6. All score books will be turned in to the Division Commissioner before their first tournament game. NO EXCEPTIONS.
7. Score books MUST contain, at a minimum, each player's first initial and last name, shirt number for each player. Penalty may be team ineligibility for the League Tournament.
8. In the event of a game called due to weather, darkness etc. the game shall be continued at a date and time to be determined by the Tournament Director or the Division Commissioner.
9. All players MUST play in one half (1/2) the regular season games played by his or her team to be eligible to play during tournaments. This applies to new players being added to a roster. This rule MAY BE waived by the Division Commissioner if the missed games were due to an illness or injury and are substantiated by a Doctors letter. Players coming UP to play for tournaments will have a season played on their regular team roster from the team/age level below in which they were pulled up from.
10. A MAXIMUM of two (2) games per day per team may be played during tournaments. The League will determine any exceptions to this rule.

11. Commission may at any time request to see the teams original season score books to confirm rosters/players listed from regular season, at any time throughout the tournament.

Tournament Pre-game

1. The Commissioner will choose a three (3) person protest committee.
2. Home team shall be determined by a coin flip
3. Any players “playing down” MUST be reported to both the Plate Umpire and the Opposing Coach.

Teams

1. The League maintains a map of separate boundaries for each participating organization (Member) within The League.
2. Players MUST sign up within their residential home address town. If there is not a team, those players are then placed on teams within the league to ensure to play for that season.
3. The League shall, with the cooperation of the Members determine the actual boundaries from which each Member shall draw its players.
4. The deadline for entering a team in a division will be the March meeting. If a team is dropped after the 3rd Wednesday in April the League fees must still be paid, and no refund will be given.
5. Each team reserves the right to continue as a player any player whose residence changes after becoming a member of that team for the remainder of the current season.
6. The recommended number of players per team is a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 15. However, this recommendation must be balanced against the ability of each member to accept every child that wishes to participate.

Team rosters must be turned into the League Secretary by the March meeting.

Player Eligibility

1. Age eligibility is determined by the player’s age on or before April 30th for boys and on or before Dec. 31st for girls
2. All players should sign up in the member area in which they live.
3. Players may be added to the team roster through May 31st of current playing season.
4. Any player may “play up” ONE (1) age division for the season. However, in tournaments its only allowed if they DO NOT displace any player in that division. If a player “playing up” displaces a player in that division the player “playing up” must remain in that division for the remainder of the year. Coaches must notify the commissioners of BOTH age groups in writing within 48 hours or before the next game.

5. Once a player “plays up” during tournaments whether they displace a player or not they must remain in the older division for the remainder of the year.
6. If a player “playing up” is on that teams roster from the start of the season, he/she can play in any fielding position, including pitching.
7. Each Member may allow up to three (3) players to “play down” in all divisions except 15U, NO 17 yo can “play down” (e.g. 9 yo may play 8U, 11yo may play 10U, 13 yo may play 12U). This is designed to allow players to play at their ability level and to allow Members to provide all players who sign up a position on a team. This is NOT intended as a way to stack teams
8. Players “playing down” may NOT pitch or catch.
9. Players “playing down” must not “play up” at any time during the year. These players are also disqualified from “playing up” during tournaments.
10. If a player’s age is protested during a game, the player’s team will have 48 hours to produce a birth certificate or the game shall be forfeited. The game shall continue after notifying both the opposing team and the Plate Umpire that the game is under protest. The team that is protesting MUST send an email on the night of the game to The League and to the Division Commissioner

Waivers

1. Players should sign up in their “home area” regardless if their area has a team or not. A player wishing to sign up in another area must obtain a waiver form from the home area President releasing him or her to play in another area each season.
2. Members receiving signup forms from players outside their boundaries must notify and obtain a signed waiver from the player’s home area President each year.

Coaches –

As a Volunteer Coach you are committing your valuable time to help children improve their athletic skills. With a little extra effort, you can also help them develop and improve critical life skills at the same time. Winning, losing and being part of a TEAM are all important aspects in growing those life skills.

This Rulebook contains some basic rules and regulations pertaining to The Southwood League Baseball and Softball Recreational Program. For further guidance you should refer to the USSSA Rule Book for Softball and T-Ball that you received and to the Official Rules of Baseball, National League, as published by Major League Baseball. ALL Coaches shall make themselves knowledgeable of the details and instructions of their Age Division. Any answers that cannot be found within this book or the USSSA Softball book or the NFHS Rulebook for Baseball should be first referred to the Commissioner of your Age Division

Rules, Roles and Responsibilities of Coaches

1. All Coaches, Assistant Coaches are required to submit to a background check for crimes against a child, as determined by The League

2. Any Coach or Assistant Coach convicted of any crime against a child will be immediately dismissed from participating in ANY League activities. (helping, coaching in any form, umpiring, Member Officer)
3. Remember that you are a YOUTH Coach, and that the game is for the children NOT the adults.
4. Remember that this is a RECREATIONAL League, the players are here to LEARN the sport and to have FUN, NOT win at all costs.
5. Be a positive influence, you are an important role model for your athletes. Be a positive example and let your own actions show what you believe.
6. Treat all Athletes, Opposing Coaches, Umpires and parents fairly and with **RESPECT**.
7. Coaches will NOT use and will NOT allow their team members the use of any tobacco, alcoholic or non-prescription drugs in the vicinity of the playing/practice fields. Coaches WILL NOT consume ANY alcohol during the day preceding any game or practice.
8. Encourage your team members and help them feel good about themselves and their contributions to the team.
9. Whenever possible each player should have an equal number of batting attempts, inning played, and game starts over the course of the year. This should be based on the number of games each player actually attends.
10. Obscene or indecent language, fits of anger, taunting and other inappropriate behavior should NEVER BE ALLOWED. This applies to Coaches, Players, Umpires, spectators, etc., Coaches are generally best able to help control these situations.
11. Coaches have a special responsibility to help young Umpires maintain order and decorum and NOT be an adversary. This includes but is not limited to rule interpretations, and NOT ARGUING close calls.
12. Whenever a Player, Coach or Asst. Coach is ejected from a game, the Head Coaches from BOTH teams (home and visitors) MUST notify the Division Commissioner and The League by email within forty-eight (48) hours or before the next game whichever comes first. This notification MUST include the details of the ejection as known to them. Failure to report an ejection will result in Head Coach being ineligible until this report is filed. Coaches participating in games while ineligible will result in those games being nullified and require those games to be replayed.
13. Obscene language by a player, coach or fan will result in an automatic ejection. Coaches receive first warning at the home plate at the start of the game. Up to coaches to inform their parents/fans.

Umpire Regulations

Basic details and instructions for Umpires are in the NFHS (boys) and USSSA (girls) rule books located under the heading "Umpires". Whenever possible Official League Umpires should be used. These are people that have completed the USSSA and League Training classes. When Non-League Umpires are used they should be aware of The League Rules that over-ride the Official Rulebooks and rules pertaining to our league only.

1. To be an Umpire in The League, the person must be a minimum of 12 years old and be 2 years older (or one age group older) than the age group they are umpiring.

2. The League encourages Members to use Umpires that are 2 age groups older than the game being umpired.
3. All Umpires will report to the Division Commissioner within 48 hours of the end of a game in which there has been, a violation of League Rules, any ejections (with the name and team they were from if possible) or any other incidents worthy of comment.
5. The Home Plate Umpire can suspend any game at any time if they feel they are not able to properly handle any given situation or continue to perform their duties in a fair, unbiased and professional manner. It is recommended but not required that before this drastic action is taken that it be discussed with
6. Coaches from both teams for possible alternative solutions. If this suspension occurs The League Officers will decide, whether the game will be continued from the point of suspension and the time and place the game will be continued.
7. The League will make every effort to hold Umpire classes every year during the off season.
8. Continual bad calls or misconduct by an umpire.
 - a. ALL complaints MUST be emailed to The League and the Member President along with a phone call to the Southwood League president within 24 hours.
 - b. After three different substantiated incidents the umpire in question will be required to meet with The League officers, the Member President and the League Umpire in Chief to determine if disciplinary action is needed. Failure to attend this meeting will result in the suspension of the umpire in question, if the umpire in question continues to umpire, the games he or she umpires will be considered null and void and will be replayed.

Umpire Code of Ethics

1. I understand that the Umpires are the only representative of The League on the Field and that I am authorized and required to enforce all the rules.
2. I understand that I am responsible for the conduct of the game in accordance with the rules and for maintaining discipline and order on the field during games.
3. I will NOT allow criticism, taunting or cheering to keep me from making the correct decisions during the game. I know that it is better to take the time to study the situation and consult the rules and or coaches if necessary than to make an incorrect decision.
4. I will diligently study the rules of the game, observe the work of other umpires and will always work to improve myself as an umpire.
5. I will remember that while my work as an umpire is important I will conduct myself in such a way that spectator attention is directed at the players NOT me.
6. I will dress and maintain my appearance in a manner befitting the dignity and importance of the games of baseball and softball.

7. I will conduct myself to be a worthy example to the players who play under my jurisdiction.
8. I will be fair and unbiased in my decisions, rendering them without regard to the score, who is playing or coach or player influence.
9. I will be cooperative and be professional in my associations with my fellow umpires and will do nothing that will cause them public embarrassment.
10. I will in my actions on the field, be firm but not overbearing, courteous but not ingratiating, positive but never rude, dignified but never “cocky”, friendly but not companionable, calm but always alert.
11. I will be prepared both mentally and physically to administer the game.
12. I will not use tobacco product on or near the field of play nor will I consume ANY alcohol on the day preceding the game.
13. I will not divulge information that might be used by a team’s future opponent.
14. I will keep in mind the game is more important than the wishes of any individual player, coach or the ambitions of any individual umpire.

Co-Ed T-Ball Rules

Age	Innings	Bases	Pitching distance	Time limit	Post season tournament
3-6yo	6	60'	35'	1 hr.	no

- T-ball is a co-ed team thus the rules for ages will follow the BOYS age cut off dates.

Rules

1. Teams shall consist of both boys and girls ages 3 thru 6, there may be up to three 7yo players allowed on a team if their ability warrants them to play in this age division. Each town uses this rule to their own discretion.
2. The batting order is NOT required to be boy girl boy girl however; a continuous batting order shall be used with all players getting a turn at bat before starting the batting order over.
3. There will be no strikeouts, during the first half of the year the t shall be used always. During the second half coaches shall pitch up to three balls to a player if after three pitches the player has not hit the ball the tee shall be used.
4. There will be an 8 run per inning limit. No runs scored after the 8th run shall be credited
5. There may be two coaches in the defensive field to provide for direction of the players.
6. Teams may play up to 10 players on the field, 4 of which must be outfielders, with 4 being infielders plus the pitcher and catcher.

7. Infielders may not be closer to the batter than the pitcher.
8. The pitcher must be on the pitching plate before the batter bats.
9. One coach from the offense shall be the home plate umpire to assist his batters. The home team shall supply the field umpire.
10. Good judgment should be used when a batter hits more of the tee than ball. Hitting more of the t shall be considered a foul ball no matter where the ball goes.
11. The catcher is required to wear a minimum of a catcher's helmet and face mask while catching other equipment is optional.
12. The home plate coach shall assist in positioning the catcher a safe distance from the batter behind the plate.
13. The home team shall supply a tee for the game, but the visiting team may use their own if they so desire.
14. There is NO base stealing.
15. Runners are limited to one additional base after the initial attempt for an out is made. Uncontrolled base running is STRONGLY DISCOURAGED.
16. Teams may play with less than 10 players and a coach may request the opposing team supply defensive players if needed.
17. Thrown bats by a batter will result in ONE warning, further thrown bats will result in that player being removed from the game.

Softball Rules Chart

Age	Stealing	Innings	Base	Pitching	Time	Run
Division	Y/N		length	distance	limit	Rule
8U	N	7	60	35	2 hrs.*	15 after 5
10U	Y**	7	60	35	2 hrs.*	15 after 5
12U	Y	7	60	40	2 hrs.*	15 after 5
15U	Y	7	60	40	2.5 hrs. *	10 after 5

* exception, no time limit on the championship game in tournament.

** One base per un-batted ball no stealing of home is allowed

Rules not covered or found here are governed by USSSA (girls) and NFHS (boys) should be found within its Rulebooks.

Player Coach Ejection

Whenever a Player or Coach is ejected from a game, the acting head coach of BOTH teams must notify the Division Commissioner and the League Umpire in Chief within 48 hours or before the game, whichever comes first. This notification must be in writing (emailed or hand delivered, detailing all that occurred). Failure to report will automatically make the coach and player ineligible in any other League games as a Coach, player or umpire. Participation in games as an ineligible umpire makes those games null and void and the game will be replayed. An ejected Coach or Player shall not participate in any game until the Division commissioner has handed down a ruling. All suspensions must be served before regaining game eligibility.

Suspended players MUST be present in the dugout with their teams during the game suspensions.

(Also see Disciplinary Actions)

1. **1st Offense**
 - a. MANDATORY one (1) game suspension.
 - b. The Division Commissioner MAY impose a two (2) game suspension if in his or her judgment the offense caused or could have caused injury to any player, coach, umpire or spectator.
2. **2nd Offense**
 - a. Mandatory two (2) game suspension.
 - b. The Division Commissioner can recommend dismissal from The League for the remainder of the year. The Division Commissioner shall consider if the offense caused or could have caused injury to any player, coach, umpire or spectator.
3. **3rd Offense**
 - a. MANDATORY DISMISSAL from The League for the remainder of the year. Notification of dismissal shall be in writing.

Equipment

1. Each Member organization should provide conventional uniforms to the best of their financial ability
2. Uniforms shall consist of at a minimum,
 - a. Matching hat or visor and shirt.
 - b. Non-repeating numbers
 - c. Coaches and managers are NOT required to have matching uniforms
3. Catchers in all age divisions must wear appropriate protective gear, shin guards, chest protector, facemask with helmet and throat protector. (Hockey style masks are allowed but must be of design to protect the throat area).
4. Any player warming up a pitcher MUST wear a face mask, refusal will result in ejection.

5. Metal cleats ARE allowed in 15U ONLY age division. Use of metal cleats in any other age division, will result in immediate ejection from the game.
6. ONLY bats designed for fast-pitch softball may be used. All softball bats must bear some type of label stating it is an approved bat for fast-pitch softball. (May be ASA, USSSA, PONY, TRIPLE CROWN, NAFA, AAU, AFA, USFA, or any other recognized sanctioning body).
7. Bats must be on good condition, no missing knobs or end caps. Bats must NOT be altered, it will be the umpires discretion, if he/she feels the bat has been altered his/her decision is FINAL! USSSA altered bat rules will apply.
8. Pitchers may not use or wear any equipment that is the same color as the ball.

General

1. A continuous batting order is optional in all age divisions EXCEPT 8U. Continuous batting order is MANDATORY in 8U.
2. When using a continuous batting order and a player is injured and must be removed from the game. The position will only be counted as an out the first time through the order. This player may not reenter the batting order.
 - a. When using the continuous batting order the EP is not allowed
3. When NOT using the continuous batting order an extra player (EP) is optional. If one is used it must be made known prior to the game and be listed on the score sheet in the regular batting order. If the EP is used it must be used the entire game. The EP must remain in the same position in the batting order the entire game. If an EP is used, all 10 in the starting lineup must bat and any nine (9) of those ten (10) may play defense. Defensive positions may be changed but the batting order must remain the same.
 - a. The EP may be substituted for at any time, however the substitute must be a player that has NOT yet been in the game.
 - b. Any player may be substituted by a player that has not been in the lineup yet. Starting Players may reenter only in batting position that they were substituted out of. This includes the EP.
4. Only players listed on the team roster, coaches, umpires and medical staff in time of injury are allowed in the playing area during warm-ups and games. No person(s) who has not had the league background check is permitted on any fields within the league.
5. Any batter/runner or runner who intentionally removes their helmet while running the bases shall be called out.
6. Any batter may be given an intentional walk without a pitch being thrown. The Pitcher must tell the Home Plate Umpire that she wants to intentionally walk the batter.
7. Sliding is NOT required; however, a runner MUST avoid contact if the defensive player has the ball or is making a play on the ball. This is not to say that if the defensive player does not have

the ball that the offensive player may “plow” into them. If in the umpire’s judgment the collision is flagrant, the player may be called out and or ejected from the game. This is a safety issue and the umpire’s decision will be final!!!!

8. At the discretion of the umpire, throwing of a bat by a batter may be an automatic out.
9. Protests; To be considered by The League, the following procedure must be followed
 - a. Notice that the game is being played under protest must be filed with a league officer by the manager immediately at the time of the disputed decision and before the next pitch is made or a runner is retired.
 - b. A written report stating all the facts of the protest must be filed with the Division Commissioner and league officer within 48 hours of the date of the protest. Must be emailed or hand delivered.
 - c. The protest boards will be chosen by the League President from other coaches in the division and will include the division Commissioner.
10. An umpire’s judgment call may never be protested.
11. After two (2) attempts by emailing copying Southwood to the email to reschedule a game the town not willing to comply will forfeit that game. Emails being sent 3 days apart to allow time for a response. If coach does not have email than you should email the town president.
12. Coaches must respond to all emails from the league, failure to comply by requested date your team will go into the tournaments with one lose.
13. At the end of each tournament game each team should leave their score books in the concession stand.
14. If a player has to be removed from game due to injury or illness. The team shall not take an out as long as the player is not reentered into the game.

Run Lead or Mercy Rules

1. 15U, ten (10) runs after 5 innings.
2. 8U, 10U and 12 U, fifteen (15) runs after 5 innings
3. The eight (8) run per inning limitation in 8U and 10U will over ride this where applicable.

8U Level

Age	Stealing	Innings	Base	Pitching	Time	Run
Division	Y/N		length	distance	limit	Rule
8U	N	7	60	35	2 hrs.*	15 after 5

* exception, no time limit on the championship game in tournament.

1. Pitching machines will be used. The setting to be used throughout the season is “7-3-3”, NO EXCEPTIONS. Foot pedal is at setting 7.
2. The Coach will not act as a fielder and will make a reasonable effort to move off the field and not interfere with the play. The Coach may return when the ball is dead.
3. The batter will be out after three (3) strikes or six (6) pitches. There will be no walks. A foul ball on the sixth (6th) pitch is a foul ball and does not count.
4. The player in the pitcher’s position must be within three (3) feet of the machine but NOT in front of the machine.
5. If the machine is hit by a batted ball the play is dead and the batter is awarded first base, all other runners will be awarded one base from the beginning of the play.
6. NO BUNTING is allowed.
7. There will be ten (10) defensive players allowed on the field however four (4) of these must be a minimum of ten (10) feet behind the base path.
8. Runners shall not leave the base until the ball is hit, a runner leaving early will result in a dead ball and all runners will be returned to the previous base even if the ball is hit.
9. There will be an eight (8) run per inning limit. Runners crossing home after the limit shall not be counted
10. No stealing of bases and no extra bases on an overthrow.
11. The defense may have two (2) advisory coaches on the field, once the ball is hit the MAY NOT audibly coach the defense. Penalty; all runners are awarded bases they would have reached, and the offending coach shall be removed from the field.
12. The field must be lined with the half way marks between all bases.
13. Runners who are attempting to advance must return to the previous base if they are not at the halfway point or beyond when the ball enters the baseline. The play must be finished before they return to the previous base.
14. The defense may have two (2) coaches on the field, once the ball is hit defense coaches may NOT speak/direct/guide/coach the players on defense. Penalty; all runners will be awarded the base they would have reached and the offending coach shall be removed from the field.

10U Level

Age	Stealing	Innings	Base	Pitching	Time	Run
Division	Y/N		length	distance	limit	Rule
10U	Y**	7	60	35	2 hrs.*	15 after 5

** exception, no time limit on the championship game in tournament.

** One base per un-batted ball no stealing of home is allowed

1. No Pitcher can pitch more than four (4) innings in a game. One pitch in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.
2. A courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher can be any player not currently in the game or one that did not play in the last half inning.
3. Teams may play with 10 defensive players, four (4) of which must play at least ten (10) feet behind the base path.
4. There will be no walks. After ball four (4) the offensive coach may throw up to three (3) pitches to the batter from the pitching rubber. The batter will maintain their strike count. The batter may strike out or put the ball in play, a foul ball is not a third strike pitching will continue until the batter strikes out or the ball is put in play or a legal out is made.
5. During coach pitch there shall be no leading off or stealing. If a runner leaves early, it is a dead ball and all runners shall be returned to the original base occupied even if the batter hits the ball. All Coach pitched balls must have a 3ft rise when being delivered to the batter to be considered a fare pitch.
6. Continuous batting order is optional.
7. Each base-runner may steal one base per pitch with liability to be put out.
8. A runner attempting to advance beyond the one base they are entitled to may be put out between bases. A runner may not be put out while in sole contact with a base.
9. After the ball becomes dead, if a runner has advanced beyond the one the runner was entitled to the Umpire shall return the runner to the correct base without liability to be put out.
10. There will be an eight (8) run per inning limit. Runners crossing home after the limit shall not be counted.
11. NO STEALING OF HOME IS ALLOWED

12U Level

Age	Stealing	Innings	Base	Pitching	Time	Run
Division	Y/N		length	distance	limit	Rule
12U	Y	7	60	40	2 hrs.*	15 after 5

* exception, no time limit on the championship game in tournament.

1. No Pitcher can pitch more than four (4) innings in a game. One pitch in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.
2. The “rock back” rule will be allowed as in the OHSAA.

15U Level

Age	Stealing	Innings	Base	Pitching	Time	Run
Division	Y/N		length	distance	limit	Rule
15U	Y	7	60	40	2.5 hrs. *	10 after 5

* exception, no time limit on the championship game in tournament.

1. The “rock back” rule will be allowed as in the OHSAA.

Coaches Listed by Town

BLOOMDALE

President – Matt Ziegler 419.601.0647 mzig96@yahoo.com
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10U Boys Steve Schafer 419-819-8209 stephena.schafer@yahoo.com
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Carter Park Phone - 419.352.4335

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15U Boys 2 Matt Schaaauer 419-494-9865 mattschauer05@gmail.com

BRADNER

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Treasurer- Nicole Leber 419-552-6437
Trustee- Tammy Kreais 567-395-2196

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12u Boys 2

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15U Boys Ralph Rausch 567-213-2338 rprdj88@yahoo.com

HASKINS

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Vice President –

Treasure –

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T-Ball 2 Dominic Krupp 419-392-4418 domkrupp@gmail.com

T-Ball 3 Job Jay

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NORTH BALTIMORE

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Treasure - Ashley Fennell 419.722.7862

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8U Girls 1 Haylee Hopple 419-315-5005
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12U Boys Mike Clark 419-957-9041 moc1976@yahoo.com

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Vice President –

Treasure –

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T-Ball 2 contact town president

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10U Boys contact town president

10U Girls contact town president

12U Boys Nick Gilts 419-619-0512

15U Boys contact town president

RUDOLPH

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Vice President –

Secretary –

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TONTOGANY

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Treasure –

Secretary -

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15U Boys Chad Hartman 419-277-2630 chartman@ebonyco.com

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8U Boys 2 Jake Bryant 419-575-7069
8U Girls Ashley Oestreich 419-575-7497
10U Boys Danny Zeigler 419-308-4162
10U Girls 1 Andy Traut 419-575-5806
10U Girls 2 Ryan Crum 419-306-4906
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15U Boys Steve McCoy 419-202-0956 mccoysteve22@yahoo.com

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8U Grils
Kip McDonell 419-346-3861

15U Boys
Kip McDowell 419-346-3861

12U Boys
Jeremy Schroeder 419-604-3680

League commissioners are the coaches and town officers first mean of contact for rule questions. If the commissioners unable to address or answer it, he/she will then reach out to the Southwood Officers to get the answers needed. This is set in place to make sure all commissioners know their division and to assure everyone is reading the rule books, as instructed to do when you sign up to coach. This has eliminated a LOT of silly questions and makes the season run smoother. Thanks in advance to all those listed below.

Tournaments 2019 Season Hosting Towns

8U Boys East will be in Portage

8U Boys West will be in North Baltimore

8U Girls will be in Haskins

10U Boys will be in Bradner

10U Girls will be in Bloomdale

12U Boys will be in Weston

15U Boys will be in Tontogany