

Natick Little League	
Softball - SENIOR LEAGUE	
2019	RULES AND REGULATIONS:
1	The WINNING coach will e-mail naticklittleleague@gmail.com the game results.
2	The home team will sit on the 3 rd base side and will take the field first. The visitor team will sit on the 1 st base side and will bat first.
3	A continuous batting order (CBO) of all players shall be used. A player arriving late will be inserted at the bottom of the CBO. For example, if you have 11 players to start the game then the late player is inserted after the 11th player on the CBO. Opposing coaches will exchange CBO's prior to the start of the game.
4	Forfeits: Our interest is in playing softball. We will do everything possible to avoid forfeits. The rules regarding forfeits are as follows: * Weather is the only reason for postponement of a game without prior approval from the Sr League Coordinator. * If a coach knows beforehand that she/he cannot field an 8 player team, then the Sr. League Coordinator must be notified 48 hours prior to the game. At that time the Sr League Coordinator will try to "Call-Up" a Jr League Player(s) for that team. If unsuccessful, the Jr League Coordinator shall try to re-schedule the game at a later date. If the game cannot be re-scheduled then the team that originally notified the Sr League Coordinator shall forfeit that game. Only the Softball Director will determine if a playoff game should be re-scheduled only under extenuating circumstances, as the playoff schedule is determined at the beginning of the season. * If after a 15 minute wait, there are less than 8 players, a forfeit game shall be declared. However, the team with the most players shall allow as many players as necessary to play for the other team and a practice game will be played. Another option would be to divide the players on both teams and have a practice game. * If both teams have less than 8 players, the game will result in a tie, unless the game can be re-scheduled. If for any reason the re-scheduled game cannot be played then the original game will still result in a tie. * There must be at least 8 players on each team throughout the game. If a team is without 8 players at any time during the game and suspended by the umpire; then that team shall forfeit that game.
5	Each team will consist of 10 players: 4 outfielders, 4 infielders, 1 pitcher, and 1 catcher. Short fielder is an eligible option for the outfield. The outfielders must be stationed on the outfield grass and cannot move forward to the infield until the ball is released by the pitcher.
6	NO PLAYER may sit more than 2 consecutive innings.
7	EVERY PLAYER should have at least 1 inning of infield play per game.
8	A game will consist of 6 innings or 2 hours, whichever occurs first. A tie game may go into extra innings, if within the 2 hour limit. No extra inning may begin within 15 minutes of the 2 hour limit. The ASA tiebreaker rule shall be used in extra innings. The batter who made the last out in the previous inning shall be stationed at 2 nd base, with no outs to begin the inning.
9	A game will be considered official if at least 3 complete innings are played. All time considerations may be waived if the game must be called off due to darkness or hazardous weather conditions, as determined by the umpire. Playoff games will be considered official if at least 5 complete innings are played.
10	Each offensive inning will be 3 outs or 4 runs to cross the plate, whichever occurs first, with the exception of the last inning, declared by the umpire, which will be played out.
11	No other Run Limit Mercy Rule is in effect.
12	When a team is leading by 10 or more runs, that team will no longer be allowed to steal bases.
13	Pitchers must start their motion with BOTH FEET TOUCHING THE RUBBER . Only one step will be allowed during the pitching motion. Hands can only come together ONCE . The pitcher's step forward must be within the 24" plate distance. After the ball is released, the pitcher may take additional steps as needed for proper fielding positioning.
14	Windmill pitching is recommended by the league.
15	There will be no balks.
16	Pitchers will be limited to NO MORE THAN 3 INNINGS PER GAME . In the event of extra innings, pitchers may pitch a 4th inning. One pitch constitutes one inning.
17	Only the starting pitcher can be inserted back into the game as the pitcher, and only once. Free Substitution for all other players
18	A pitcher hitting 3 batters in any game shall be removed from pitching for the duration of that game.
19	The Drop 3 rd Strike Rule is in effect. If the catcher fails to catch the 3 rd strike and 1 st base is unoccupied, with less than 2 outs, or anytime with 2 outs, the batter is allowed to run to 1 st base and the catcher must either tag the batter or throw the ball to 1 st base to get her out.
20	Stealing any base, including home, is permitted. Base runners may not leave the base until the ball has left the pitcher's hand. Base runners must avoid contact at all times and are instructed to slide.
21	Base runners shall advance only 1 base if the ball is overthrown into out-of-bounds territory. A base runner may advance as many bases as she can when the ball is overthrown in fair or foul territory.
22	The ball shall be declared dead after any play on the field once the ball is delivered back to the pitcher and she has control of the ball and is in the 8' pitching circle. Runners may not advance beyond the base they are advancing to when the pitcher gets control of the ball.
23	In the case of a batter throwing a bat, as part of her swing, the batter will be issued a warning after the play is completed. After this warning, any such incidents committed by the same player, will be penalized as follows: ball is dead, batter is out, all base runners must return to the base held at the time of the pitch.
24	Regulation playing field: 60' base paths and 40' pitching distance.
25	Official ASA 12 inch optical yellow softball will be used.

26	The strike zone will be the space between the batter's armpits and the knees, when the batter assumes her natural batting stance at the plate.
27	Only a coach or player is permitted in the coaching boxes at 1 st and 3 rd bases: players MUST wear a helmet when base coaching.
28	For instructional purposes only, a coach may not stop the game more than 2 times per inning.
29	Game attire shall consist of a uniform shirt, undershirt, pants, or black shorts, colored stirrups/socks and an optional visor.
30	All batters, base runners and player base coaches MUST wear protective helmets and face masks.
31	Catchers MUST wear helmets at ALL times under ALL circumstances including warming up a pitcher.
32	All players on defense must wear a glove.
33	NO metal spikes or cleats are permitted.
	OTHER:
-	<p>Sr League Draft: Draft Order - Playoff results first; then regular season record (not snake draft, after #6 then #1 picks)</p> <p>'Exception' rules:</p> <p>Rule 01 11 YrOld may tryout for Sr League (Coaches draft or place in Jr League) - Director's discretion</p> <p>Rule 02 Head Coach / Daughter Rule - Selection of player made in round based upon merit of player</p> <p>Rule 03 Sister w Sister Already On Team Rule - Selection made in round based upon merit of player</p> <p>Rule 04 Sisters in Same Draft - Selection of players made in consecutive rounds</p> <p>Rule 05 All 'unforeseen' scenario's ultimately decided by Director</p>
-	Cancellations due to weather or field conditions are the responsibility of the Sr. League Coordinator. She/He will e-mail no later than 2 hours before if a game is to be canceled. If less than 2 hours before the game, he will call the head coach's cell phone to cancel.
-	The date for playing a postponed game will be determined by the Sr. League Coordinator. Make-Up Games take precedent over Practice times. All teams shall be prepared to play a make-up game on the Sunday following the cancellation.
-	Standings will be kept. There will be a single elimination playoffs at the end of the regular season. All teams make the play offs. Seedings for the playoffs will be determined at the end of the regular season based on points per team (2pts for win 1pts for tie) and then by winning %.
-	A Senior League ALL Star Game will be held on a Friday night during the middle of the season. Each team will select (either by coach, or by girls (however the coach of the team decides to select them) a number of girls depending on the number of teams in the league from their team to represent their team in the game. Qualified invitees must have attended a minimum of half the games played.