

District 6 Inter-League Softball
2019 Playing Rules

Minor League Division

COACHES ARE REQUIRED TO BRING A COPY OF THESE RULES WITH THEM TO EVERY GAME.

The **Minor League division** shall be open to girls ages 7-11 years old based on the 2019 Little League age chart.

8, 9 and 10 year old girls who play in the Minor Division will be eligible for selection to the 8-9-10 Year Old District Tournament team. 10 and 11 year old girls who play in the Minor Division shall be eligible for selection to the 10-11-12 year old District Tournament team. Girls may not be selected to more than one District Tournament team.

Inter-league softball play will follow the 2019 Little League Playing Rules. All coaches are strongly urged to read and be familiar with the Little League rule book. A lack of knowledge of those rules shall not be used as an excuse and the Little League rules must be followed except where modified below.

The district will provide a schedule of regular season games plus a playoff system. Home teams will be responsible for assigning an umpire for each game. Umpires should be made aware of Little League rules and these modifications. Umpires should understand that they work at the discretion of our leagues and shall enforce these rules as written.

PLEASE REPORT GAME RESULTS TO District6DA@NJD6LL.org after every game.

All teams will participate in post-season playoffs provided they have played a minimum 10 regular season games in the District 6 inter-league schedule. Teams will be seeded into two brackets – Championship and Consolation – according to the number of regular season wins. Some teams may receive a first round bye as determined by the total number of teams. The District will assign umpires for all playoff games.

Playoffs will occur on Thursday, June 6 through Sunday, June 9. Once distributed, the playoff schedule will not be deviated from for any reason other than weather, as decided by the District Administrator or his designee.

GAME PRELIMINARIES

To begin a game, teams must have at least 8 players present. Teams are encouraged to do everything they can to play games as scheduled, including calling up a player from the coach pitch division to fill-in.

If one team cannot meet the 8-player minimum, a player(s) may be borrowed from the other team and the umpire should remain to officiate a practice game.

Teams should arrive early for game play and each team will be given equal time for on-field warm-up prior to the game.

Only coaches who have been certified by their leagues Board of Directors shall be permitted in the dugout or on the field before or during the game. No more than four coaches per team will be allowed in the dugout. The team's scorebook should be kept in the dugout by one of the four coaches. Line-ups provided to the opposing team shall include player's names and uniform numbers.

An 11-inch Little League approved softball shall be used.

All players present at the start of the game must play at least two innings in the field.

SCORING AND CONCLUSION OF THE GAME

Games will six innings or two hours. No new inning will be started after two hours from the first pitch. Umpires should communicate the time of the first pitch to the teams as the game begins.

There will be NO TIME LIMIT in the playoffs.

If at the end of four innings (three-and-a-half if the home team is ahead), one team has a lead of 10 or more runs, the team with fewer runs shall concede the game.

Each half inning shall be concluded after three outs or following the completion of the play on which a fifth run of that half inning is scored. All runs that score on the final play of an inning shall be counted. This run limit will NOT be in effect for the final inning of play. **Coaches are urged to communicate with each other and the umpire during the game as the time limit approaches to establish which inning will be the final inning. The umpire will declare, before the start of the final inning, that the run limit will be lifted.**

PLEASE REPORT GAME RESULTS TO District6DA@NJL6LL.org after every game.

OFFENSE

All batters shall use helmets with facemasks.

A continuous batting order consisting of all players present at the game shall be used by both teams. **See LL Rule 4.04**

Batters will NOT be allowed to attempt to advance to first base on a dropped third strike.

A batter who attempts a bunt and then pulls back and swings fully shall be called out.

Teams shall only be allowed three fair bunts per half-inning.

Teams will only be allowed three successful stolen bases per inning. There shall be no stealing of home plate. Runners will be not be permitted to take an additional base following an unsuccessful attempt by the defense to catch them stealing.

Following one warning per game for the team, any runner who leaves the base before a pitch has reached home plate shall be called out. **See LL Rule 7.08(a)(5)(b)**

A batter shall be awarded a base-on-balls after five balls from the pitcher.

A batter-runner shall not be permitted to continue on to 2nd base following a base-on-balls.

Teams will be allowed to use a courtesy runner for the catcher when there are two outs.

DEFENSE

Ten players shall be permitted on the field for the defensive team. Four players shall remain in "natural outfield positions." The fourth outfielder should not be used to cover 2nd base.

Players may be substituted freely on defense as long as all players meet the mandatory minimum play of two innings (six outs) in the field.

The umpire shall suspend play when the ball has been returned to the 8-foot pitchers circle by the defense if the ball is either caught by the pitcher or deflects off her glove into a dead ball territory. Any runners who are less than half way to a base shall be returned to the previous base.

NOTE: Home teams are strongly urged to make sure that the 8-foot circle is delineated for each game. In the absence of a marked circle, the umpire's judgment will determine if the ball and pitcher are within 8 feet of the pitcher's rubber.

The catcher will be permitted to attempt to pick off a baserunner without liability of the runner advancing to the next base. Only three unsuccessful pick-off attempts will be permitted each half-inning.

A defensive coach may be positioned behind the catcher and umpire, along the backstop fence, to retrieve passed balls when there are no runners on base.

PITCHING

Pitchers will pitch from 35 feet.

Players will be permitted to pitch only four innings per game. One pitch in an inning shall constitute an inning pitched.

Intentional walks will NOT be permitted.

If a pitcher walks three consecutive batters, a coach from the team at bat shall pitch the remainder of that inning. Coaches will be permitted to pitch from a distance of 30 feet. For the purposes of this rule, an HBP will **not** be counted as a walk.

If a pitcher hits three batters in the same inning, the opposing manager may request that the pitcher be removed from the mound for the remainder of the inning. If a pitcher hits five batters in one game, the opposing manager may request her removal for the remainder of the game. Once a request is made, the pitcher shall be removed.