

5. Highlights of Official Regulations and Playing Rules

LITTLE LEAGUE REGULATIONS

PITCHING (SOFTBALL)

Regulation VI (a)

- (a) Any player on a regular season team may pitch.
EXETER REVISION: A player who has attained a league age of twelve (12) is not eligible to pitch at the Minors level.
- (b) **MAJORS DIVISION:** If a player pitches in more than one (1) inning, one calendar day of rest is mandatory. A player may pitch in a maximum of nine (9) innings in a game. A player may pitch in a maximum of eighteen (18) innings in a calendar week, Sunday through Saturday. Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched in an inning. **MINORS DIVISION:** If a player pitches more than one (1) inning, one calendar day of rest is mandatory. A player may pitch in a maximum of six (6) innings in a game. A player may pitch in a maximum of six (6) innings in a calendar week, Sunday through Saturday. Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched in an inning. If a player pitched in two (2) or more innings on Column A and is still eligible, that player can pitch again on Column B:
- | COLUMN A | COLUMN B |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Sunday | Tuesday |
| Monday | Wednesday |
| Tuesday | Thursday |
| Wednesday | Friday |
| Thursday | Saturday |
| Friday | Sunday |
| Saturday | Monday |
- (c) A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game but only once in the same inning as she was removed.
- (d) Not more than five (5) pitchers may be used in one game.

PITCHER (SOFTBALL)

Rule 8.01, (a)

- (a) A legal pitching delivery shall be a ball that is delivered to the batter in an underhand motion.
- (b) Both feet must be on the ground within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate
- (c) The shoulders shall be in line with first and third bases.
- (d) The pitcher shall take a position with his or her pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. This contact must be on or partially on the top surface of the pitcher's plate. The non-pivot foot must be on or behind the pitcher's plate.
- (g) A backward step may be taken before or simultaneous with the hands being brought together. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitching plate at all times prior to the forward step.
- (j) The pitcher may not take the pitching position on the pitcher's plate without having the ball in her possession.
- (r) Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate is illegal. This includes a "crow hop" as defined in Little League Rule 2.00.
- (u) The pitcher shall not deliberately drop, roll or bounce the ball in order to prevent the batter from hitting it.

Rule 8.02, (a)-(1-3)

- (a) The pitcher shall not –
- (1) Apply a foreign substance of any kind to the ball, pitching hand or fingers. Under the supervision of the umpire, powder rosin may be used to dry the hands.
 - (2) Wearing a sweatband, bracelet, or similar type items on the wrist or forearm or either arm;
 - (3) Deface the ball in any manner

READ YOUR RULE BOOK!

Berks County Girls Softball League Rules and Regulations 14 & Under Divisions

Home team head coach- please offer a copy of these rules to the plate umpire before the game begins.

1. **Age:** Teams shall consist of girls as defined by the 14 & under ASA classification: A player who is 14 years of age or under on January 1 of the current year.
2. The 12" Dudley yellow raised seam day/night softball is the **official game ball**.
3. A 15 run rule shall apply after 3 ½ innings, 10 run rule after 4 ½ innings, if the home team is ahead.
Clarification: Complete innings must be played unless the home team scores the winning run while at bat.
4. All League games will be 7 innings, with a 2 ½ hour **time limit**. The inning started before the time limit shall be played to completion unless the umpire calls the game, or the run rule applies. (rule 3) Score reverts back to the last full inning (official game applies-see below). Four full innings constitute an official game, should a game be called by the umpire. **Clarification-** A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if 4 or more complete innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored more runs in 3 or more innings than the other team has scored in 4 or more innings. Games that are not considered regulation shall be resumed at the exact point they were stopped. (Including tie games).
5. If a team shows up with only 8 **players**, that team will start with 8 players. The other team can field 9 players ("A" & "B" Divisions) and will continue with 9 players for the duration of the game, except for injuries or illness.
6. Each player should play **6 outs** in the field, except for injury or illness. (BCGSL recommendation)
7. **Pitching distance** shall be 40 feet.
8. A pitcher may pitch only 5 innings ("A" Division) per game. One pitch constitutes an inning for a pitcher.
9. If a **pitcher hits** 4 batters within a game, she must be removed from the pitcher's position, *as long as, in the umpire's opinion, the batter has made every effort to avoid the ball.*
10. Every official team member must bat.
11. **Stealing bases** is allowed only after the pitched ball has been released by the pitcher.
12. The batter will be allowed to run on the dropped 3rd strike. Rule: When the catcher fails to catch the called 3rd strike before the ball touches the ground when there are fewer than 2 outs and 1st base is unoccupied, or anytime there are 2 outs.
13. If a **player leaves a game** before its completion (injury or illness), her spot in the batting order will be eliminated, only if she cannot return by the time of her next at bat and will not constitute an "out" violation. The player may continue in the game if her batting order spot is not eliminated.
14. Any batter that **arrives late** must be placed at the end of the batting order, and the head coach must notify the other team before her turn at bat is taken. May add after passed.
15. The home team is responsible for canceling games and contacting the umpire commissioner **at least 1 hour before the game time**. Home team will pay the umpire's fee. ½ of the fee will be payable to the umpire by the home team (exception- forfeit by visiting team) if the game is not cancelled 1 hour before game time. Pay fee at the end of the game when signing scorebook- BCGSL recommendation.
16. The **home team** is responsible for forwarding game statistics to their league commissioner within 48 hours of the completed game.
17. Any rules not in effect here are found in the ASA rulebook.

League Point System (A & B Divisions)

Win/forfeit = 2 points

- Tie = 1 point

- Loss = 0 points

Softball Majors

EXETER LITTLE LEAGUE – INTERPRETATIONS

PITCHING

Players will pitch from a distance of 40'. Any illegal pitch as defined by the rulebook will result in a warning to each pitcher for the first offense. A ball will be called on each offense thereafter. Pitching rules for players at this level are found in the Little League Rulebook and must be strictly adhered to. Mandatory rest in conjunction with the number of innings pitched must be observed (See Rulebook).

BATTING

A batting order consisting of all players will be used. Players do not have to be playing a defensive position in order to bat. Bunting is allowed.

SUBSTITUTION / PARTICIPATION

Free substitution of players is permitted. Every player on a team roster will participate in each game for a minimum of nine (9) defensive outs and at least one inning in the infield. Continuous batting order will be used.

COACHERS

One (1) adult is allowed in each coach's box with a player. A maximum of 1 manager and 2 coaches are allowed per team. A "scorekeeper" is allowed in the dugout, however they cannot instruct players. ***Only appointed managers and coaches shall coach or instruct players during the game!***

FIFTEEN (15) RUN RULE (*Local*)

If after four (4) innings, three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the home team must bat in its half of the inning.

FIVE RUN RULE

The fifth run scored by a team in their half inning ends the inning. From the sixth inning on, the five (5) run rule does not apply. If the game is running long or getting dark prior to the sixth inning, then both teams and umpires will get together prior to the start of an inning to state which inning will be the last.

INJURIES

Time out will be called immediately if a child is injured.

2 HOUR TIME LIMIT

Games are limited to two (2) hours if there is a subsequent game scheduled. The two hour period begins with the actual start of the game. An inning in progress at the end of the two (2) hours should be completed.

FOOD / DRINK IN THE DUGOUT

Absolutely no food or drink other than water or sports drinks are permitted in the dugout or on the benches. No glass containers of any kind are permitted.

INFIELD FLY

The infield fly rule is in effect. *See Definition in Rule Book.*

RUNNERS

Open stealing is permitted up to third base. Stealing of home at this level of play is allowed only during the second half of the season. Please confer with the other teams coach to ensure this is understood.

EQUIPMENT

Helmets with face guards and protective vests will be available for use by all offensive team players.

Berks County Girls Softball League Rules and Regulations 12 & Under Divisions

Home team head coach- please offer a copy of these rules to the plate umpire before the game begins.

1. **Age:** Teams shall consist of girls as defined by the 12 & under ASA classification: A player who is 12 years of age or under on January 1 of the current year.
2. The 12" Dudley yellow raised seam day/night softball is the **official game ball**.
3. A 15 run rule shall apply after 3 ½ innings, 10 run rule after 4 ½ innings, if the home team is ahead.
Clarification: Complete innings must be played unless the home team scores the winning run while at bat.
4. All League games will be 7 innings, with a 2 ½ hour **time limit**. The inning started before the time limit shall be played to completion unless the umpire calls the game, or the run rule applies. (rule 3) Score reverts back to the last full inning (official game applies-see below). Four full innings constitute an official game, should a game be called by the umpire. **Clarification-** A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if 4 or more complete innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored more runs in 3 or more innings than the other team has scored in 4 or more innings. Games that are not considered regulation shall be resumed at the exact point they were stopped. (including tie games)
5. If a team shows up with only 8 **players**, that team will start with 8 players. The other team can field 9 players ("A" & "B" Divisions) or 10 players ("B" Division only) and will continue with 9 or 10 players for the duration of the game, except for injuries or illness. The tenth player must be used in the outfield. *Position of outfield should be 4 players across the outfield when playing with 10 players.*
6. Each player should play **6 outs** in the field, except for injury or illness. (BCGSL recommendation)
7. **Pitching distance** shall be 40 feet.
8. A pitcher may pitch only 5 innings ("A" Division) per game. One pitch constitutes an inning for a pitcher.
9. If a **pitcher hits** 4 batters within a game, she must be removed from the pitcher's position, *as long as, in the umpire's opinion, the batter has made every effort to avoid the ball.*
10. Every official team member must bat.
11. **Stealing bases** is allowed only after the pitched ball has passes home plate. No stealing of home plate ("B" only).
12. The batter will not be allowed to run on the **dropped third strike** ("B" Division only). The batter will be allowed to run on the dropped 3rd strike ("A" Division only). Rule: When the catcher fails to catch the called 3rd strike before the ball touches the ground when there are fewer than 2 outs and 1st base is unoccupied, or anytime there are 2 outs.
13. If a **player leaves a game** before its completion (injury or illness), her spot in the batting order will be eliminated, only if she cannot return by the time of her next at bat and will not constitute an "out" violation. The player may continue in the game if her batting order spot is not eliminated.
14. Any batter that **arrives late** must be placed at the end of the batting order, and the head coach must notify the other team before her turn at bat is taken. May add after passed.
15. The home team is responsible for canceling games and contacting the umpire commissioner **at least 1 hour before the game time**. Home team will pay the umpire's fee. ½ of the fee will be payable to the umpire by the home team (exception- forfeit by visiting team) if the game is not cancelled 1 hour before game time. Pay fee at the end of the game when signing scorebook- BCGSL recommendation.
16. The **home team** is responsible for forwarding game statistics to their league commissioner within 48 hours of the completed game.
17. Any rules not in effect here are found in the ASA rulebook.

League Point System (A & B Divisions)

- Win/forfeit = 2 points
- Tie = 1 point
- Loss = 0 points

Softball Minors

EXETER LITTLE LEAGUE – INTERPRETATIONS

PITCHING

Players will pitch from a distance of 35'. Pitching rules for players at this level are found in the Little League Rulebook and must be strictly adhered to. Mandatory rest in conjunction with the number of innings pitched must be observed (See Rulebook). There are no walks! After ball 4, a coach from the batting team comes in to continue the at bat. There are strikeouts! The number of strikes on the batter when the coach comes in to pitch stays on the hitter. There is a 2 inning per game max on all pitchers (E.T.L.L.). Note: 1 x pitch constitutes one inning.

BATTING

A batting order consisting of all players will be used. Players do not have to be playing a defensive position in order to bat. An expanded strike zone (shoulders to the bottom of the knees and the black edges of the plate) will be used. Bunting is allowed only during the second half of the season. Please confer with the other teams coach to ensure this is understood.

SUBSTITUTION / PARTICIPATION

Free substitution of players is permitted. Every player on a team roster will participate in each game for a minimum of nine (9) defensive outs and at least one inning in the infield. Continuous batting order will be used.

COACHERS

One (1) adult is allowed in each coach's box with a player. A maximum of 1 manager and 2 coaches are allowed per team. A "scorekeeper" is allowed in the dugout, however they cannot instruct players. ***Only appointed managers and coaches shall coach or instruct players during the game!***

FIFTEEN (15) RUN RULE *(Local)*

If after four (4) innings, three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the home team must bat in its half of the inning.

FIVE RUN RULE

The fifth run scored by a team in their half inning ends the inning. From the sixth inning on, the five (5) run rule does not apply. If the game is running long or getting dark prior to the sixth inning, then both teams and umpires will get together prior to the start of an inning to state which inning will be the last.

INJURIES

Time out will be called immediately if a child is injured.

2 HOUR TIME LIMIT

Games are limited to two (2) hours if there is a subsequent game scheduled. The two hour period begins with the actual start of the game. An inning in progress at the end of the two (2) hours should be completed.

FOOD / DRINK IN THE DUGOUT

Absolutely no food or drink other than water or sports drinks are permitted in the dugout or on the benches. No glass containers of any kind are permitted.

INFIELD FLY

The infield fly rule does not apply.

RUNNERS

Open stealing is permitted to third base & will be allowed only during the second half of the season. Please confer with other teams coach to ensure this is understood. There is no stealing of home at this level of play.

EQUIPMENT

Helmets with face guards and protective vests will be available for use by all offensive team players.

Berks County Girls Softball League

Rules and Regulations

10 & Under Divisions

Home team head coach- please offer a copy of these rules to the plate umpire before the game begins.

This age group was established to be fundamental and instructional. The main goal is to teach the girls how the sport is played and to keep their interest.

Age: Teams shall consist of girls as defined by the 10U ASA classification: A player who is 10 years of age or under January 1 of the current year.

The 11" Dudley yellow raised seam day/night softball is the **official game ball**.

1. Establish ground rules- fair, foul, and out of play.
2. **Bases** are set at 60' and the **pitcher's plate** is at 35'.
3. All games are 6 innings or 2 hours long. The inning started prior to the 2-hour **time limit** must be played out.
4. Only 5 **runs** will be allowed per inning per team. Five runs or 3 outs constitutes ½ inning.
5. Tie games count as a ½ win and a ½ loss.
6. No **infield fly** rule.
7. No **stealing**. However, with an overthrow into foul territory, a runner may advance one base maximum. With an overthrow into fair territory a runner has no limits. On any attempt from an infielder to throw the ball to the pitcher, all runners must stop. If the runner is halfway, she may continue unless out. If she is not yet halfway, she must return to the previous base.
8. All players must be listed in the **batting order** on the score sheet and must bat in this order throughout the game. If a player arrives late, she must be placed at the bottom of the batting order. If a player must leave a game for any reason, there will be no penalty against her team.
9. All players must participate in at least **2 complete innings** per game.
10. A 15-minute **grace period** will be given to each team with 8 players, in order to start the game. If the game starts 15 minutes late, it should end 15 minutes late.

11. The defensive team may play 9 or 10 players, but the 10th player must be in the outfield. All outfielders must be positioned on the same arc. No short fielder position. A team must have at least 8 players present to start the game. If players arrive late, they must fill the void position for that inning.
12. Players may play any position; however the players cannot be repositioned during an inning, except for injury or the change of pitchers.
13. **No bunting** in any game situations.
14. **No leads** at all. Runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit.
15. When lining the field, a 16' circle (8'radius) around the pitching rubber must be included. The pitcher must stay in this area in order to receive the throw that will stop the play.
16. Pitching:
 - Both feet must be in contact with the pitching rubber
 - 1 pitch constitutes an inning
 - A player may only pitch a maximum of 3 innings per game.
 - There is no limited substitution in the pitching position
 - If the same defensive pitcher hits 2 batters in the same inning, this pitcher must be replaced with a new defensive pitcher.
 - Pitching will be performed underhanded by defensive players only UNLESS:
 - There are 4 walks by the defensive team in an inning, THEN
 - A coach from the offensive team will pitch and finish the inning.

Rules for Coach Pitching:

- a. There will be unlimited pitches. The batter must either strike out or hit the ball. There will be no walks.
 - b. The plate umpire must still call strikes.
 - c. The coach who is pitching will do NO coaching while on the field as a pitcher.
 - d. The pitcher-coach cannot touch the batted ball except in self-defense.
 - e. While there is a coach pitching, the defensive pitcher will stand on either side of the pitching rubber.
 - f. A defensive pitcher must start the next inning.
17. All players and coaches must show respect and sportsmanship at all times.
 18. The home team is responsible for canceling games and contacting the umpire assignor at least 1 hour before game time. Home team will pay the umpire fee. ½ of the fee will be payable to the umpire by the home team (exception: forfeit by visiting team) if the game is not cancelled 1 hour before game time. Pay fee at the end of the game when getting the umpire to sign the scorebook. (BCGSL recommendation)
 19. The home team is responsible for forwarding game statistics to their league commissioner, within 48 hours of the completed game.

Any rules not listed will revert back to ASA rules.

Softball Coach's Pitch

(Instructional Level of Play)

EXETER LITTLE LEAGUE – INTERPRETATIONS

PITCHING

Pitching will be done by the offensive team's own managers or coaches. A player must still field the pitcher's position. Adult pitchers cannot make defensive plays.

BATTING

A batting order consisting of all players will be used. Players do not have to be playing a defensive position in order to bat. Strikes (& strikeouts) will be called. An expanded strike zone (shoulders to the bottom of the knees and the black edges of the plate) will be used. Walks are not permitted.

RUNNERS

There is no stealing permitted at any time, and no advancing on overthrows.

SUBSTITUTION / PARTICIPATION

Free substitution of players is permitted. Managers will ensure that all players have equal playing time during every game and not play the same defensive position for more than one (1) inning per game.

COACHERS

One (1) adult is allowed in each coach's box. Defensively, up to 2 coaches are permitted on the field.

FIVE RUN RULE

The fifth run scored by a team in their half inning ends the inning.

INJURIES

Time out will be called immediately if a child is injured.

2 HOUR TIME LIMIT

Games are limited to two (2) hours if there is a subsequent game scheduled. The two hour period begins with the actual start of the game. An inning in progress at the end of the two (2) hours should be completed.

FOOD / DRINK IN THE DUGOUT

Absolutely no food or drink other than water or sports drinks are permitted in the dugout or on the benches. No glass containers of any kind are permitted.

INFIELD FLY

The infield fly rule does not apply.

UMPIRES

Umpires will be adult managers, coaches, or parents. Coaches will decide before the game how umpiring will be handled. Two umpires should be used. Balls and strikes will be called from either behind the plate or behind the pitcher. Umpires may be the adult Coach / Pitcher from the offensive team or team at bat. If so, the adult Coach / Pitcher will call balls and strikes.

EQUIPMENT

RIF (*Reduced Injury Factor*) softballs will be used.



12. Exeter Little League Tournament Softball



Does your son or daughter show some promise and is he/she able to step up their game to a tournament level brand of softball? Make plans NOW to continue your softball season and tryout for the ETLT Tournament Teams. Typically four players from each Majors or Minors teams are selected to attend tryouts at the end of the regular season to be eligible to participate in Little League District/International Tournaments. Though four players are highly recommended there are instances when three or five players may be selected. The tournament tryouts will be announced around the middle of May and are expected to be held in mid-June. Once teams are selected, practices will start shortly following the tryout date.

The following is some general information as more will become available during the regular season.

Player Selection and Tournament Play:

1. *Players are recommended for tournament play consideration solely based upon their regular season performance.*
2. *Players are selected for tournament play based upon regular season performance in addition to tournament tryouts.*
3. *Players may be selected based upon their ability to play positions other than those played during the regular Little League season.*
4. *Tournament play is competitive by nature as opposed to the instructional philosophy encouraged during the regular Exeter Little League season. During tournament play, players are guaranteed no more than the minimum playing time as defined by the official Little League Tournament Rules.*
5. *Players are expected to be present for all team practices and games throughout tournament play. The practice schedule will be as dictated by the tournament team coaching staff*
6. *Tournament play may require significant travel to various host league locations. Parents will make every reasonable effort to ensure that their child is present for ALL team practices and games as communicated by the tournament manager.*

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT TEAM (11&12 Year Olds): This team is mostly made up of 12 year olds, but some 11's may make the team. This is a double elimination tournament that begins around the end of June. The District winner advances to Sectional play. Further advancement is possible as this team could ultimately advance to the Little League World Series in Portland, OR in mid August. For the proposed dates of this tournament, see the 2010 Pennsylvania Tournament Schedule Calendar at: <http://www.pastatell.org/tournament.htm>. (Softball - Little League).

10 & 11 Year Old State Tournament Team: This team is mostly made up of 11 year olds, but some 10's may make the team. This is a double elimination tournament that begins around the end of June. The District winner advances to Sectional play. Further advancement is possible as this team could ultimately play for the State Championship in early August. For the proposed dates of this tournament, see the 2010 Pennsylvania Tournament Schedule Calendar at: <http://www.pastatell.org/tournament.htm>. (Softball - 10-11)

9 & 10 Year Old State Tournament Team: This team is mostly made up of 10 year olds, but a few 9's may make the team. This is a double elimination tournament that begins around the end of June. The District winner advances to Sectional play. Further advancement is possible as this team could ultimately play for the State Championship in early August. For the proposed dates of this tournament, see the 2010 Pennsylvania Tournament Schedule Calendar at: <http://www.pastatell.org/tournament.htm> (Softball - 9-10)