

Northeast Indiana-District 10 Little League Baseball & Softball

Summary District 10 Prep Softball Rules as of April 7, 2026

1. Game time limit is 1 hour. No new inning will start after 1 hour; play continues until completion of the current inning. Tie games are permitted.
2. Run Rules:
 - a. Lead of 15 after 3 innings
 - b. Lead of 10 after 4 innings
 - c. Lead of 8 after 5 innings
3. The softball needs to be a level 1 (soft core) 11" ball.
4. No bunting is allowed.
5. The pitching plate shall be at a distance equal to 35 feet. (Tip of the home plate to the front of the pitching plate).
6. The pitching circle shall be at a distance of an 8-foot radius from the middle of the rubber.
7. Must have at least 7 players at the start of the game. Must start with 7 and end with 7. A maximum of 10 may play in the field. A catcher is not necessary if BOTH teams agree.
8. To increase speed of play, offensive teams can place an approved adult behind the catcher to place balls into a bucket if the catcher does not field it.
9. Each team may have no more than one (1) coach in the outfield, and one (1) coach in the infield, while their team is on defense to aid in the instruction of the team.
 - a. For teams with only 2 coaches, if both are on the field, whether offensively or defensively, you MUST have an approved parent helper in the dugout.
 - b. A team may have up to 4 approved coaches. There is no limit on other approved volunteers such as team parents. Only 4 approved volunteers are allowed in the dugout per game.
10. The Person pitching must pitch from the pitching plate. The person after delivering the pitch must land in the circle also. Coaches shall pitch to their own batters. Five (5) hittable pitches (determined by the umpire) or 3 swinging strikes the batter is out. There are no walks. The pitch must be a flat pitch and not an arched pitch, which means that the person pitching needs to move back in the pitcher's circle to get a flatter pitch.
11. Remember:
 - a. If the ball hits the batter NO BASE is AWARDED.
 - b. A swing is a swing, which is a strike no matter what.
12. The at-bat is over after 5 runs or 3 outs, whichever occurs first.
13. A continuous batting order is used. There are no batting substitutions. If you have a late

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arrival, that player should be added to the end of the batting line up. If you have a player that is unable to continue or finish the game, mark through that players batting position and continue with the batting order. There is not an out called on the vacant spot. A player may return to the batting order.

14. The runner shall not leave their base until the pitched ball has been batted. (No Stealing)
15. The infield is defined as: 3 feet beyond the bases. A chalk “dash” should be marked, parallel to the baseline, 3 feet beyond, halfway between 1B and 2B, as well as between 2B and 3B.
 - a. Outfielders must start each play in the grass.
 - b. Only one base is allowed for all runners on any hit ball that does not leave the infield. Any ball hit beyond the infielders, using the above definition, will only be allowed a maximum of 2 bases for ALL runners. This will include ground balls not fielded or fielded in error by an infielder. The defense can prevent any runner from obtaining 2 bases.
 - c. There is NO advancement of ANY runners on an overthrown ball at any base/plate or return throw to the pitcher near the pitcher’s circle.
*****This amendment is to encourage the learning of defense and throwing the ball to the appropriate bases rather than always throwing to the circle to “kill the play” or “stop the runners”. As well as, preventing “running up the score in an inning”.***
16. No Dropped Third Strike Rule
17. The host site is responsible for providing umpires; coaches may be used
18. The pitcher is required to wear a batting helmet with a face shield or fielder’s mask
19. There is no on-deck circle.

SPECIAL NOTES: Any protest shall be marked in both scorebooks with the reason for the protest and the game time remaining. Romona Dunfee at 260-433-5539