

Softball 11-12 Combination Rules 2011

Official rules of play are in the Little League Rule Book. Amendments to Little League Rules:

IMMEDIATELY AFTER EACH GAME, WINNING MANAGER PHONES OR EMAILS SCORE, PITCHERS NAMES, AGE, AND INNINGS PITCHED TO COORDINATOR

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10 year-olds are allowed on a team; maximum is 3 per team, they must be at least second year players.

Weekday games start promptly at 5:45 PM (6:00 PM for games involving Hellertown)

Weekend games start promptly at time listed on schedule.

Pre-game field times: teams divide available practice time evenly

Host team practice ends 30 minutes before game starts

Travel team practice ends 10 minutes before game time.

Last 10 minutes is for field prep time, exchange lineups, ground rules, and questions.

Home team supplies two umpires and two game balls.

10 run rule is in effect after any full inning from 5th inning on (4 ½ innings if home team is ahead).

No inning may start after 7:45 prior to May 1. Lighted fields may be exempt from this rule.

All continued games start at the point game was suspended. Pitching and mandatory play requirements must be fulfilled for the week in which the game was originally scheduled.

Postponement/Cancellation: Teams report to the field unless they get a call to cancel. To postpone a game due to weather conditions, host team manager calls the traveling team manager at least 1 ½ hours before game start time. Managers agree to reschedule any postponed game for the next available rain date or within 7 days. Coordinator decides when and where to play any game not scheduled within 7 days. Game location may change; home team will not change for any rescheduled games. Umpires, coordinator, and refreshment stand must be notified of postponement and date/time of rescheduled game.

Both teams must make every attempt to have field playable and avoid canceling a game.

Game may start with 8 players. Any player arriving late can immediately enter the game at the end of the batting order. Any team unable to field 8 players within 15 minutes of scheduled game time will forfeit that game.

Should a team know it would not have 9 players, a minor league player, age 10 may play for one game, only if that player's minor league team does not have a game that day. That player may not pitch and must meet mandatory play requirements.

Players, manager, and a maximum of 3 coaches are allowed in the dugout during the entire game.

Base-running: Courtesy runner may be used if catcher is on base with two outs. Courtesy runner is the last person called out.

Collision rule: Base runner must avoid a collision by avoiding the tag, sliding, returning to previous base, or giving up as out. If there is a collision the runner is called out. If the collision is deliberate, umpire may expel the runner from the game.

On the other hand, a fielder that does not have the ball may not be in the base path to create a collision. If obstruction occurs, umpire awards the base that runner would have reached if not obstructed.

Defense: Before each pitch and until pitcher releases the ball, outfielders are no closer than 20 feet behind the base paths, usually that means on outfield grass.

Pitching: Pitching week is from Monday to Sunday, because Sunday is normally used for makeup games.

Strike zone extends from top of knees to armpits.

Pitcher may pitch a maximum of 7 innings in a game or 9 innings in a week. If pitcher pitched more than 2 innings in previous game one calendar days rest is required. If three games are scheduled in a week, a pitcher may pitch 12 innings that week, but the last 3 innings pitched must be in the third game.

Before each game, managers will exchange documents showing pitcher, innings, and age for each of their games that week.

Protest must be lodged with the umpire before the next pitch and play is continued. Formal protest must be written and given to coordinator within 24 hours. Protest must cite the rule that was broken and provide full details. Protest committee consists of coordinator and 2 officials from neutral leagues.

Conduct:

Coaches must sign code of conduct. Umpires are asked to enforce it.

No one is permitted behind the backstop. Fans are not permitted on the playing field for any reason other than injury. Penalty is ejection from the game.

Players and fans may cheer for their team only, until the pitcher steps on the rubber and is ready to pitch. Badgering any player on the opposing team is not permitted.

No smoking, observe host team rules. Each team cleans up it's dugout after each game.

Any player, manager, or coach ejected from a game is suspended for the next 2 games. Notify coordinator of any suspension.

Unsportsmanlike conduct, profanity, or abusive language from any player, coach, or fan is not tolerated. Managers / coaches are responsible for the actions of their team and fans and may be penalized for offenses.

First offense - manager gets written warning

Second offense – manager is suspended for this game and next 2 games

Third offense - manager is suspended for rest of season.

Fans may be asked to leave the field for any offense.

Rosters are frozen after May 1.