

# Softball 7-8 Combination Rules 2010

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

NO SCORE WILL BE KEPT FOR GAMES; THERE WILL BE NO WINNERS OR LOSERS.

**There will be a tournament for interested teams at the end of the season where score is kept and winners will advance.**

6 year-olds are allowed on a team; maximum is 3 per team.

Weekday games start promptly at 5:45 PM

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 one new ball and one back-up ball.

Games are 6 innings; minimum game is 3 innings, playing time approximately 1 ½ hours.

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

**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. A team with less than 9 players has an automatic out for any unfilled position in the batting order. IF A TEAM HAS SEVEN PLAYERS, COACHES MAY DECIDE TO EQUALIZE THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS BETWEEN BOTH TEAMS AND CONTINUE PLAY.

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

**Batting:** Batting order is continuous and includes every player.

Each half inning is 3 outs or 10 batters whichever comes first. Starting with 6<sup>th</sup> inning, each inning is 3 outs.

The 10<sup>th</sup> batter must be announced. When then 10<sup>th</sup> batter is up, there will be automatically be 2 outs. Play is finished when an out is made or after an attempted play the ball is in the possession of any infielder.

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

No base stealing. Runner remains on base until ball is hit, or it passes the batter. If the runner leaves too soon, runner is warned and returns to the base.

Runner may not advance on an overthrow to any base.

Play ends when ball is in secure possession of an infielder.

Maximum is one base for any hit to the infield.

For any ball hit to the outfield, maximum is 2 bases. If a runner is less than half-way to the next base as play ends, runner returns to previous base. If runner is more than half-way to next base as play ends, runner may advance to next base.

**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 15 feet behind the base paths, usually that means on outfield grass.

Defensive team may insert a 4<sup>th</sup> outfielder as 10<sup>th</sup> player.

Free substitution applies for all defensive fielding positions due to using continuous batting order. Each player must meet mandatory play requirement of playing for 6 consecutive outs.

Defensive team, while in the field has the option to use a defensive coach and a coach/pitcher.

Play ends when ball is in the secure possession of the pitcher in the circle.

**Pitching:** Pitching rubber is 30 feet from back point of home plate.

Each batter is given 4 strikes before being called out. There are no walks.

During April coaches pitch. Starting May 1 coaches pitch odd innings, players pitch even innings. If player throws 4 balls, defensive team coach pitches to complete batters turn at bat. A defensive player is positioned in pitching position when coach is pitching.

Strike zone extends from middle of shins to top of shoulders and to the inside edges of both batters boxes.

To expedite game, catcher should be ready to take field immediately after 3<sup>rd</sup> out. Pitcher is allowed maximum of 5 warm-up pitches.

**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 which rule 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.