

# Little League Softball® and ASA Rules, Regulations, and Operations Comparison



	Little League Softball	ASA
<b>Age Determination Date</b>	December 31/January 1	December 31/January 1
<b>Age Structure</b>	<b>Tee Ball: 4-7</b> <b>Minor: 7-11</b> (5 and 6-year-olds with 1 year Tee Ball may play up); Minors may subdivide for Coach Pitch* and Player Pitch - EX. 8U and 10U <b>Major Division: 9-12</b> <b>Junior: 12-14</b> <b>Senior: 13-16</b> <b>Big League: 14-18</b>	<b>10U</b> (8-10 years old)  <b>12U</b> <b>14U</b> <b>16U</b> <b>18U</b>
<b>Playing Field</b>		
Base Lines	60 feet (Tee Ball: may be 50 feet)	60 feet
Pitching Distance	<b>Tee Ball/Minor: 35 feet</b> <b>Major: 40 feet</b> <b>Junior/Senior/Big: 43 feet</b>	<b>10U: 35 feet</b> <b>12U: 40 feet</b> <b>14U and above: 43 feet</b>
Fence Distance	<b>Min: 180 feet-220 feet</b>	<b>10U: 175-225 feet</b> <b>12U-18U: 200-225 feet</b>
On-Deck Position	<b>Minor/Major: Not Permitted</b> <b>Junior/Senior/Big: Permitted</b>	Permitted
<b>Equipment</b>		
Cleats	<b>Minor/Major: Metal cleats are not permitted</b> <b>Junior/Senior/Big: Metal Permitted</b>	<b>12U and below: Metal cleats not permitted</b> <b>14U and above: Metal permitted</b>
Ball	<b>Minor: 11"</b> <b>Major/Junior/Senior/Big: 12"</b>	<b>10U: 11"</b> <b>12U-18U: 12"</b>
Bats	1.20 BPF	ASA certification (2000 or 2004)
Length	<b>Majors and below: No more than 33 inches</b> <b>Junior/Senior/Big: No more than 34 inches</b>	No more than 34 inches
Weight	No maximum weight	No more than 38 oz.
Catcher's Mask	Mask must have a dangling throat protector	Mask must have throat protector (extended wire frame or dangling throat protector)
Double First Base	Allowed	Must be used
<b>The Game</b>		
Innings	<b>Minor/Major: 6 Innings</b> <b>Junior/Senior/Big: 7 Innings</b>	<b>10U and above: 7 innings</b>
Run Rule	<b>Minor/Major: 10 after 4</b> <b>Junior/Senior/Big: 10 after 5</b>	15 after 3; 12 after 4; 8 after 5
Time Limit	None; unless imposed by league in regular season	May impose 1 hour 40 min
Players to Start/End Game	Must have 9 players	May start/end game with 8; take an out

Substitutions	<p><b>Minor/Major/Junior/Senior/Big Regular Season:</b> Only a player in starting lineup may re-enter the game</p> <p><b>Minor/Major/Junior Tournament:</b> Starters and substitutes may re-enter the game after Mandatory Play has been met</p> <p><b>Senior/Big League Tournament:</b> Starters may re-enter game once; A substitute may not re-enter the game once removed</p>	Starters & substitutes may re-enter
Mandatory Play	<p><b>Minor/Major/Junior/Senior Regular Season:</b> 6 outs; 1 at-bat</p> <p><b>Minor/Major/Junior Tournament:</b> 12 or less players, 1 at-bat and 6 consecutive outs; 13 or more, 1 at-bat</p>	None

### Pitching

Intentional Walk	Must throw 4 balls	Must throw 4 balls
Illegal Pitch	<p>Only pivot foot must start on pitcher's plate (aligns with NFHS)</p> <p>No crow hop</p> <p>No leaping</p>	<p>Both feet must start on pitcher's plate</p> <p>No crow hop</p> <p>No leaping</p>
Penalty for IP	<p><b>Minor/Major:</b> A ball on the batter</p> <p><b>Junior/Senior/Big:</b> Ball on the batter; all base runners advance one base</p>	Ball is called on the batter; base runners advance one base
Pitching Restrictions	<p><b>Minor/Major:</b> 6 innings or less, no rest required; 7 or more innings, 1 day rest required</p> <p>Maximum of 12 innings in a day</p> <p><b>Junior/Senior/Big:</b> No restrictions</p>	None

### Batting

Bunt	<b>Minors/Majors/Junior/Senior/Big:</b> Allowed	Allowed
Bunt Attempt	Holding bat in strike zone; Must be pulled back for a ball (aligns with NFHS)	Must move bat towards ball for strike call
Extra Positions	<b>Senior/Big:</b> DH	DP/Flex
Drop 3rd Strike	<p><b>Minors:</b> Not Allowed; batter is out</p> <p><b>Major/Junior/Senior/Big:</b> Allowed</p>	<b>10U and above:</b> Allowed

### Base Running

Sliding	<p><b>Minor/Major:</b> No head first slide when advancing</p> <p><b>Junior/Senior/Big:</b> Head first slide allowed</p>	Head first slide allowed
Stealing	<p><b>Minor:</b> May leave when ball crosses the plate</p> <p><b>Major/Junior/Senior/Big:</b> May leave at release</p>	<p><b>10U:</b> May leave at pitcher's release unless local league rule</p> <p><b>12U and above:</b> May leave at release</p>
Penalty for leaving early	Baserunner called out	Baserunner called out
Courtesy/Pinch Runner	<b>Special Pinch Runner:</b> Once each inning a team may utilize a player who is not in the batting order as a special pinch runner for any offensive player.	Yes, but not same player for pitcher and catcher special pinch runner for any offensive player.

\*Coach Pitch is a Division of the Minor Division that allows the Manager or Coach to pitch to their players while on defense to help teach the game of softball and keeps the game moving. A Coach Pitch division would NOT be considered a competitive Minor Division.

# Operations and Administration

## Little League Softball®

## ASA

### Chartering

Charter/Registration Fee	\$10 per team in all divisions	\$12.50 per player (\$250 deductible)* 23.50 per player (\$125 deductible)* \$19.50/player with photo (\$250 deduct.)* \$30.50/player with photo (\$125 deduct.)*
Accident Insurance	Majors and below: \$23-31 per team (\$50 deduct.) Juniors and above: \$55-60 per team (\$50 deduct.)	Included in registration fee
Liability Insurance	\$278 flat-\$39 per team (depending on # of teams)	Included in registration fee
Directors & Officers	Included with Liability Insurance	Additional \$450
Crime Insurance	Additional \$250	Additional \$150
Sample 7 Team League	<b>\$674</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
Background Checks	125 Free background checks per league; additional background checks available for nominal fee	\$7-\$11 unless purchased through ACE Certification
Safety/Risk Management	ASAP (A Safety Awareness Program)	Safety and Concussion Awareness
Boundaries	Boundary Map required	Boundaries not required

### Resources

Free Coach Resources	<b>Little League University:</b> Online articles, skills, drills and instructional videos for all levels Coach's Box eNewsletter (monthly) Divisional Coaching Booklets PCA Double Goal Coach course	Candrea on Coaching monthly article  Balls and Strikes online magazine (4 per yr.)  Play Positive videos
Coach Resources	<b>Softball Excellence Coaching Courses:</b> 7 courses at \$17.95 each (video and printout) Coach Clinics (in-person)	<b>ACE Certification:</b> \$25 for Level 1; \$20 for all other levels
League Resource	<b>Little League University:</b> Free information and tutorials for league officials Local and Regional Administrative Clinics <b>Charter &amp; Marketing Toolkit:</b> Includes sample fliers, promotion ideas and league operation suggestions The Little League Notebook eNewsletter (monthly)	<b>Registration Guide:</b> How to Information  Inside Pitch eNewsletter (monthly) Online umpire test
Umpire Resource	<b>Little League University:</b> Articles and video on umpire rotations, rules, interpretations, etc. Umpire Registry Fairball eNewsletter Umpire Clinics and Schools	National umpire school
Parent Resource	<b>Little League University:</b> Articles and tips for parents <b>Positive Coaching Alliance:</b> Parent Course The Parent Connection eNewsletter	
Player Resource	<b>The Little League Magazine:</b> Annual publication with MLB	<b>Audio Podcast:</b> discuss pressures and issues surrounding the game
Playing Rules	Printed and eBook	Printed and App

### Initiatives

Grants/Funds	<b>Grow the Game Grants:</b> Little League Grant awards up to \$20,000; Over \$1 million given annually <b>Honda Grants:</b> Available to Little League programs	<b>Liberty Mutual:</b> 20 - \$2,500 grants <b>MUSCO Bright Light Award:</b> 1 - \$2,000 tournament fee credit
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Player Initiative	<b>Little League Softball® Days:</b> Game days with colleges and universities across the country	
Additional Play	Special Game Tournaments <b>Cost:</b> Teams must meet min. insurance requirements	Tournaments <b>Cost:</b> \$100-\$1000 entry fee per team
Awards Program International	Awards for numerous league official positions International Coach Clinics	
<b><u>Post-Season Tournament</u></b>		
Post-Season Play	<b>9/10 &amp; 10/11:</b> State Level; Region Invitationals <b>Majors/Junior/Senior/Big:</b> End in a World Series with championships televised on ESPN family networks	<b>10u-18U:</b> End in a National Tournament
Participation	US and International; Over 25 countries	US
Entry Fee	\$200 per team	\$100-\$800 per Tournament level
League Travel Reimbursement	\$1 per mile at the State level and beyond for 150+ miles per one roundtrip	None
Nationals/WS Travel	<b>Regional champions:</b> All team expenses paid, including travel, lodging, food	Discounts available from certain sponsors

\* ASA Player registration includes Accident and Liability insurance within the fee.