

2021 Little Missouri League Softball Rules

April, 2021

Game Days & Times:

- 8 & Under – Mondays-One game only. Game time at 6:00 pm
- 10 & Under – Mondays-Sundays-Saturday-Double header. Game time at 7:00 pm & 8:00 pm
- 14 & Under – Fridays-Sundays-Double header. Game time at 6:00pm
- 18 & Under – Wednesdays-Double header. Game time at 6:00 pm
- Sunday games – 3:00 PM or mutual decision between coaches.
- Saturday games- coaches decision

General Rules:

- Age is determined as of December 31, 2020. Proof of age may be asked for. Ex: If a girl turns 15 on January 1, she is still eligible for the 14 & Under team.
- Host team will furnish umpires and the appropriate softballs.
Umpires must be at least an age group older than the age of the team playing. Ex: A 12 year old boy cannot umpire the 14 & Under game.
- Players may move up an age group, but not down an age group (except 8u).
- All 10 & Under, 14 & Under and 18 & Under teams in this league will be sanctioned for the State Tournament.
- Total cost for the year will be \$150. This will include state sanctioning for the three groups, all three league tournaments and trophies. Once paid, your teams are set for the year!
- Please send a 10 & Under, 14 & Under and 18 & Under team roster to Tim this year.
Include the players' name, age and date of birth.
- It is recommended that all coaches carry with them proof of age for every player.
- Safety bases are mandated by ASA. They will not be required for our league because of financial constraints. Refer to the 2020 Rule Book to review the rules regarding the safety base.

REMEMBER – every team needs to turn in your Team rosters to **Tim by 6/2/2021**, even if your team is not going to the State Tournament. This is the only way your players will be eligible to be pick up players for other teams. If Tim does not receive your roster by 6/2/2021, you will be responsible for sending your roster to the State Commissioner - Carol Pipgrass (605)334-6374. NOTE: A player can be listed on only one team roster – ex. a 14 year old cannot be listed on both the 14 and Under roster and the 18 and Under roster. If your team plans on going to state, you will be responsible to turn in your background .

8 & Under Rules

- Must be 5 years old as of January 1st in order to play
- Will hit off of the tee/coach may pitch 3 pitches to player
- A ball hit off of the tee is fair if it passes the 15 foot arch **which is measured from the back of home plate**
- Bat throwing – Coaches please discourage this early on – the team shall receive one warning, the next player to throw their bat will be called out!
- Only one base on a hit unless the ball is hit into the outfield
- The outfield is behind the base paths
- The game ball will be an 11 inch safety "Incrediball"
- Coach's Box – only one person allowed in the box.
- If you need to use 9 year olds, they must play in the outfield
- No score will be kept as this is to be a fun, learning experience
- The game is over in 3 innings or when the ball players lose interest, this is up to the discretion of the coaches
- Coach May pitch 3 pitches to each batter, then player will hit off tee (unlimited swings)
- Outs will be called on the bases and player will return to dugout if called out. All 10 players will bat no matter the number of outs. Only 10 players on the field at a time. Teams will need to rotate players if they have more than 10.

10 & Under Rules

- There will be NO infield fly rule
- The game ball will be an 11 inch ball
- A foul tip must be over the batter's head in order for a batter to be called out on a caught ball unless it is the third strike.
- 60 minute game, Five innings or if Run Rule comes into play: whichever comes first – time starts when ump says “batter up”
- Five run rule per inning for the first four innings, no run limit in the 5th inning
- Run Rule: ahead by 15 after 3 innings=end of game
- 10 run rule in the 4th inning, the game is over
- International Rules apply to break a tie at the end of 5th inning. The player who is to bat last in that half of inning shall be placed on second base.
- Substitution, ASA rules apply. Must occupy the same batting order. Both cannot be in the game at the same time.
- The rover is an outfielder and all 4 outfielders must play behind the base paths
- The pitching rubber is 40 feet with an 8 foot circle
- The batter will only receive 5 pitches with no balls and strikes being called
- The player pitcher will pitch three pitches at 32 ft and the coach will pitch the last two pitches wherever needed to build confidence of batter.
- If the 5th pitch is hit foul, the batter receives another pitch

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- The player pitcher's rubber will be the front of the 8 foot circle (32 feet), keeping in mind that if their team will be going to state the mound will be at 35 feet.
- Both the player pitcher and the coach pitcher must be lined up with home plate (not off to the side)
- When the coach pitcher is pitching, please move off to the side after each pitch so the team pitcher can see and field the ball but you must stay in the circle
- The catcher **must** wear a helmet and mask
- If batter is hit by a ball, the batter **will not** be awarded a base because we are not keeping track of balls/strikes.
- The batter **must** wear a helmet **with optional chin straps**.
- No Bunting or Stealing
- Must wear batting helmet **with mask**
- Coach's Box – only one person allowed in the box.
- The team's pitcher (not the coach pitcher) must have one foot on the 40 foot rubber when they are not pitching.
- Bat throwing – Coaches please discourage this early on – the team shall receive one warning, the next player to throw their bat will be called out!
- If a player leads off base too soon, the **TEAM** will receive a warning. If it happens a second time, the player will be called out.
- Overthrows- If a play (overthrow) is made on a runner, the runner may advance at their own risk, one base – Only **ONE** base per overthrow. When the ball is being thrown back to the player/coach pitcher and they miss the ball, this is **NOT** considered an overthrow and no advancement is allowed.
- Teams can play with 10 players if they have 10; if a team has 9 players they can play with 9.
- If a team has only 8 players, they must take an out when the 9th player is supposed to bat.
- A courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher and catcher anytime and does not count as a substitute player. Clarification: The courtesy runner should be an extra player, but if you do not have an extra player, use the player who made the last out as the courtesy runner.
 - However, the ASA Rule states otherwise. Be aware of this rule, since it will apply at the State Tournament.
- Players must have played 5 league games with the league team in order to be eligible for the league tournament.
- A seeded double elimination tournament will be held.
- Players may lead off when the ball is released from the pitcher's hand (player or coach)
 - With this lead off, the player then becomes a live runner and can be tagged out in a throw down
 - Catcher may throw down for the tag
 - If the ball is overthrown, the runners may advance

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- BUT there is no stealing in this age division and so the runner must return to the base at which they were at when the over throw occurs, tag and then may advance
- Only 1 base on the overthrow.

Haley Putnam Sportsmanship Trophy for 10 & Under

- Each team will have one vote for a team, not an individual
- **Turn in votes to Abbie by 6/29/2021**
- League Officers will break a tie if necessary
- The league will purchase a traveling trophy with name plates.
- The trophy needs to be returned to the 10 & Under tournament the following year.
- Vote for the team that has displayed the best sportsmanship throughout the year.

14 and 18 & Under Rules

- 14 & Under
 - 75 minute time limit – Start clock when ump calls batter up
 - 75 minutes or seven innings; or the run rule of 12 after 3rd and 8 after 5th, whichever comes first. Play 7 innings, 7 run limit
 - Pitching rubber will be 43 feet measured from the back of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber with an 8 foot circle around the rubber.
- 18 & Under
 - 75 minute time limit – Start clock when ump calls batter up
 - 75 minutes or seven innings; or the run rule of 12 after 3rd and 8 after 5th, whichever comes first. Play 7 innings,
 - Pitching rubber will be 43 feet measured from the back of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber with an 8 foot circle around the rubber.
- International Rules will apply to break a tie. The player who is to bat last in that half of inning shall be placed on second base.
- Leading off early – 14U team will receive one team warning/second time will be an out No warning will be given to the 18U team/will be called out.
- A foul tip must be over the batter's head in order for a batter to be called out on a caught ball unless it is the third strike.
- 14u Players must have played 5 league games and 18u players must have played 3 games with the league team in order to be eligible for the league tournament.
- Chin straps **are optional in the league**
- **NOCSAE masks** for the helmets are required for the State Tournament.
- Re-entry Rule – Any player, may be substituted or replaced and re-entered once, providing players occupy the same batting positions whenever in the lineup.
- Coaches under 18 years of age will be asked to wear a helmet while coaching bases.
- All other ASA rules apply
- A seeded double elimination tournament will be held.

Tournament Rules

- The league will supply 2 leather game balls for the tournament at each site
- No infield warm ups allowed – come on the field ready to play. There will be time allotted for the coaches to flip, exchange rosters, etc.
- It will be a judgment call by the League Officers to decide if and for how long a team that is playing back to back may rest in between games
- 5 warm up pitches for the first inning will be allowed, then only 3, whether it is with the catcher or not
- The host team will find umpires for the first game on the first day
- Coaches are then expected to umpire the game which follows their game
- On the second day of the tournament, the host team is responsible for finding umpires for the first game
- Coaches of the first game are then expected to umpire the second game that follows
- An ASA umpire will be either ump behind the plate or in the outfield, coaches' choice for the remaining games of the tournament
- The league board members will be responsible for finding ASA umpires
- The higher seed will be the home team in all games except the championship game, where the undefeated team is the home team. If the championship goes into an extra game, then the coin flip will be used.
- The league has purchased a first, second, and third place traveling trophy with name plates for the 10 and Under, 14 and Under, and 18 and Under tournaments. The respective teams are responsible for the engraving if they wish to do so.
- The traveling trophies need to be returned the second day of each respective tournament.
- Individual medals will also be awarded to all of the players and coaches on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams
- **GET your team records to Abbie. 10 Under records are due by 6/29/2021, 14 Under records are by 6/27/2021; 18 Under records are due by 6/30/2021.** These dates are set to determine tournament seeding or your team will receive a forfeit for that game with a score of 0-8. Call if you have any questions.