

Northwest Christian Sports League

Baseball/Softball Rules

(Revised: January 2005)

Section I

General Rules For All Divisions

1. Modification of Rules

- 1. The Official Baseball Rules and Regulations govern baseball play for Boys**, as published in the current "The Sporting News" edition. Listed in this handbook are those exceptions and modifications to the rules by our league, which are necessary in a youth program based on Christian principles. This is not intended to alter the game itself, but to set a Christian atmosphere. The league may choose to alter or clarify the rules anytime during the course of the season if it is found it is necessary to do so.
- 2. Softball play is governed by "Pony Softball" Rules and Regulations for Girls.** Listed in this handbook are only those exceptions to Pony Softball Rules.

2. Divisional Format

The league intends to provide divisional play for Teeball, Baseball, and Girls Softball, which reflect a 2-year spread in age. This will be done as long as enough players register to support a division of teams.

Projected divisions for the league's current Baseball Season are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| (1) Teeball | 5 & 6 Year Old <i>Boys and Girls</i> |
| (2) Boys Junior Minors | 7 & 8 Year Old <i>Boys</i> Coach Pitch Baseball |
| (3) Girls Junior Minors | 7 & 8 Year Old <i>Girls</i> Coach Modified Pitch Softball |
| (4) Boys Minors | 9 & 10 Year Old <i>Boys</i> Coach/Player Pitch Baseball
(Coach Pitch 1 st 2 innings of 1 st 2 games, or as determined) |
| (5) Girls Minors | 9 & 11 Year Old <i>Girls</i> Coach/Player Modified Pitch Softball
(Coach Pitch 1 st 2 innings of 1 st 2 games, or as determined) |
| (6) Boys Junior Majors | 11 & 12 Year Old <i>Boys</i> Player Pitch Baseball |
| (7) Girls Junior Majors | 12 & 14 Year Old <i>Girls</i> Player Modified Pitch Softball |
| (8) Boys Majors | 13 & 14 Year Old <i>Boys</i> Player Pitch Baseball |
| (9) Girls Majors | 15 - 17 Year Old <i>Girls</i> Player Modified Pitch Softball |

3. Age Determination

Age, for league registration purposes, is that age attained by a player on or before April 1st during the season in question. The age determination for pitching will be April 1 unless modified by the divisional rules or the league management. Check your division rules for specifics. All players will compete in their appropriate age group unless the parent requests they be permitted to play up one division **and it is approved by the league.**

4. Playing Time for Players

All players will play in as near as possible to one-half of each game. **No exceptions.**

5. Game Duration by Division

A. **Length of games** will be limited as follows:

- (1) **Teeball:** six (6) innings or one (1) hour
- (2) **Boys and Girls Junior Minors:** six (6) innings or one and one half (1-½) hours.
- (3) **Boys and Girls Minors:** six (6) innings or one and one half (1-½) hours.
- (4) **Girls Junior Majors:** six (6) innings or one and one half (1-½) hours
- (5) **Boys Junior Majors:** six (6) innings or Two (2) hours
- (6) **Girls Majors:** seven (7) innings or one (1) hour and 45 minutes
- (7) **Boys Majors:** seven (7) innings or two and one half (2-½) hours

NOTE: For one (1) hour Teeball games, the game shall be stopped at exactly one (1) hour, no matter what point the game is at.

For all other games: No new inning shall start after 15 Minutes before the scheduled designated end time. All innings started will be completed, unless the ten (10) run rule should occur, or the umpire or league official must terminate the game because of time restraints, weather, or any other reason. If the umpire or other league official terminates the game, at their discretion a determination will be made to call the game and have the final score revert to the last completed inning, or postpone the game so it can be completed at a later time.

NOTE: The ten (10) run rule will be in effect for all divisions except Teeball. If a team is leading by ten (10) or more runs after five (5) or more complete innings have been played, or after four and one half (4-½) innings if the home team shall have a ten (10) run lead, the game shall be terminated and the team in the lead shall be declared the winner. **For clarification:** If the home team is leading by ten (10) or more runs after four and one half (4 ½) innings or the visiting team is leading by 10 or more runs after five complete innings, the game shall be stopped and the team in the lead declared the winner.

6. Ejection

A. **Players, parents, or other spectators may be ejected** from the game for any of the following:

- (1) Profanity
- (2) Intentionally harming or throwing the ball at another player
- (3) Fighting
- (4) Abusive or unsafe behavior
- (5) Disrespectful comments or actions toward the umpire, coaches, other players, spectators league leadership, or others
- (6) Other non-specific situations deemed deserving of ejection by the umpire or league leadership

The game will be suspended until the offender has left the area.

B. No Smoking

In the event of a person seen smoking at a game or practice site:

- (1) **They will be asked** to extinguish their cigarette, cigar, or pipe immediately. Furthermore, they will kindly be told that if they must smoke it must be done away from the fields and **out of the sight** of all players or children.
- (2) **It is expected** that all coaches, assistant coaches, team moms, and league leaders will enforce this policy.

7. Disputed Calls

Coaches will respectfully and professionally represent a player or team on disagreements with an umpire's call. Under no circumstance will a player or spectator be permitted to approach or speak on a matter unless requested by the umpire. **Players and spectators are watching and listening.** The umpire will be open to discuss all calls questioned. The ultimate decision by the umpire will be respectfully adhered to and is **final**.

8. Distances for Bases and Pitching Mounds

Bases and Pitcher's Mounds will be the following distances:

	Bases	Pitcher's Mound
(1) Teeball	40'	N/A
(2) Boys Junior Minors	50'	N/A
(3) Girls Junior Minors	50'	N/A
(4) Boys Minors	60'	44'
(5) Girls Minors	60'	35'
(6) Boys Junior Majors	60'	44'
(7) Girls Junior Majors	60'	35'
(8) Boys Majors	75'	54'
(9) Girls Majors	65'	40'

9. Player Uniforms and Equipment

Each team is expected to report to games displaying uniformity that includes:

- (1) **Depending on the division**, each player must wear the hat, shirt, and pants **provided by or approved by the league**. The hat must be worn properly and shirts must be tucked in all the way around the waist and may not have the sleeves rolled up. Players who are pitching may wear no long-sleeved white undershirts that may distract the batter from seeing the ball.
- (2) **All players, with the exception of Teeball, are required to have plastic molded baseball or all-purpose shoes.** No metal spike or screws on type cleats are permitted.
- (3) **It is strongly recommended** that Teeball players wear baseball or all-purpose shoes for better traction than is provided by standard shoes.
- (4) **A baseball glove** must be worn by each player in the field.
- (5) **Only official Baseball and Softball bats may be used.** Soft Tee Balls will be used for T-Ball and Reduced injury factor (RIF) balls used for Junior Minors. Baseball bats may be used for Softball, however softball bats may not be used for Baseball. Wood bats are allowed in all divisions as long as they conform to league regulations.

10. Umpires

The league will provide umpires for the Major and Minor division games. For Teeball the coaches will umpire. The Junior Minors division the league will do its best to provide umpire coverage. In the event that the league cannot supply an umpire, the home team will supply the umpire for the first half of the game, the visiting team for the second half. If a field umpire is used (recommended, but at the discretion of the plate official and not mandated) and is not supplied by the league, the visiting team will supply the umpire for the first half of the game, and the home team for the second half.

11. Jewelry and Eyeglasses

The following policies have been put in place in the interest of safety:

- (1) **No jewelry** of any kind will be permitted during games or practices.
- (2) **Eyeglasses** must be made of a shatterproof material and secured with a strap.
- (3) **If desired**, players may wear a mouth guard and or protection cup. (Recommended).

12. Practice and Game Cancellations

In the event of a practice or game cancellation, the following procedures should be followed:

- (1) **The coach will determine** if a practice is canceled due to weather or any other reason.
- (2) **League leadership will determine** if specific, multiple, or all Saturday games are canceled due to weather or any other reason
- (3) **Once teams have reported for a game having an assigned umpire**, the umpire will determine if a game is canceled due to weather or any other reason
- (4) **Once teams have reported for a game with no assigned umpire**, such as Teeball, both coaches and league leadership will determine if a game is canceled due to weather or any other reason
- (5) **No games will be played** during thunderstorms, at the first sight of lightning, or after dusk.

13. Audio Devices and Systems

No audio devices will be permitted at games or practices. In order to avoid distraction and offending others, **teams** may not have any type of sound producing devices (i.e. boom boxes, stereos, megaphones, air horns) at games or practices.

14. Sidelines

The home team shall sit on the third base side of the field. Unless otherwise indicated on the schedule, **the home team is listed last.**

15. Fields

Any questions by the coach regarding field specific ground rules should be discussed and or clarified with the umpire and or other coach before the start of the game to avoid confusion. Any questions regarding obstructions such as a ditch or tall grass and the predetermined ruling of what constitutes a single, double, triple, or home run hit must be clarified with the umpire **before** the start of the game by the coach. The league will issue guidelines to the umpires as to the sites in questions so that their rulings will be consistent.

Section II
Teeball Divisional Rules
5 & 6 Year Old Boys and Girls

A. GENERAL RULES

- (1) **Innings will be limited to once through the entire batting order.** The batting team will bat through their entire order regardless of how many outs are made or the number of runs scored. A runner tagged or thrown out will still leave the field of play.
- (2) **Games will be limited to one (1) hour.** The game will be stopped at exactly one (1) hour regardless of what is in progress.
- (3) **The team in the playing field (defense) will have all players participate, but only one additional player may be added to the in field near 2nd base. No more than two (2) coaches on the field at any one time.** Coaches should be careful to direct players but not physically pick them up to position them.
- (4) **The batting team may have coaches at first and third base, off the playing field.** The batting team may only have one (1) coach on the field to assist the batter.
- (5) **Catchers are optional.** If a team uses a catcher, the catcher must remain near the rear panel of the backstop until the ball is hit. Catchers must wear a batting helmet.
- (6) **No head first slides.** The runner will be automatically out.

B. BATTING RULES

- (1) **The ball must travel at least ten (10) feet** from the tee to constitute a hit.
- (2) **Throwing the bat** is an automatic out.
- (3) **Players may swing** until they hit a fair ball.
- (4) **Batters** must wear a helmet.

C. HITS

- (1) **Single.** Batter-runners will be held up at first base for balls hit and remaining in the infield.
- (2) **Double.** A ground ball hit through the infield will be no more than a double depending on where the runner is when the ball is returned to the infield. All runners will be held at the base he/she is nearest to at the time the ball is returned to the infield, whether or not the ball is controlled by a defensive player.

Note: A runner who has rounded third base before the ball has been returned to the infield will be permitted to score.

- (3) **As Many Bases As A Runner Can Get.** A line drive or pop fly which first touches the ground in the outfield will be as many bases as a runner can get before the ball is **returned to the infield**, whether or not the ball is controlled by a defensive player. If there are no clear markings separating the infield from the outfield the call will be the judgment of the umpire (or coach if serving in the capacity of the umpire). Once the ball is returned to the infield, play automatically stops and all runners will be held at the base to which he/she is nearest. **Note:** A runner who has rounded third base before the ball has been returned to the infield will be permitted to score.

Section III
Boys Junior Minors Divisional Rules
7 & 8 Year Old Boys Baseball

A. GENERAL RULES

- (1) **Six Run Rule:** Innings will last until three (3) outs are made or six (6) runs are scored, whichever comes first.
- (2) **Throwing the bat** is an automatic out.
- (3) **Leading off bases** is not permitted.
- (4) **Base stealing** is not permitted. The runner will be called out.
- (5) **All players will bat** whether or not they are playing defense.
- (6) **Ten (10) defensive players** will play, including four (4) outfielders.
- (7) **No head first slides.** The runner will be automatically out.
- (8) **Bunting** is not permitted.
- (9) **Pinch runners** may only be used in the event of an injury. The pinch runner must be the player who made the last out.
- (10) **Infield fly rule** will not be in effect.
- (11) **Dropped third strike** rule will not be in effect.

1. PITCHING RULES

- (1) **The first four (4) pitches** will not count unless the batter swings. Balls and strikes will be called starting with the **5th pitch**. Three (3) strikes will be an out.
- (2) **Coach must pitch from** a distance of no less than 33 feet, and no more than 38 feet. This is the point of ball release, not a specific foot position. All pitches must be overhand throws, not high, arched tosses. (Maximum 5' Arc). The coach himself does not have to pitch; he can select any adult who can get the job done!
- (3) **A coach may not walk his/her own batters**, but may strike them out.
- (4) **The coach must stand up while pitching.**

2. HITS

- (1) **Double.** A ground ball hit through the infield will be no more than a double depending on where the runner is when the ball touches in the infield and/or is controlled by a defensive player within the infield. Play will be stopped and all runners will be held at the base to which they are nearest at the time the ball touches in the infield and/or is controlled by a defensive player within the infield. **Note:** A runner who has already rounded third base can attempt to score at the risk of being thrown out. No other runners may advance on a throw to home plate whether caught by the catcher or overthrown. At the time the ball touches in the infield and/or is controlled by a defensive player within the infield, play is stopped for all runners with the exception of a runner who has rounded third. All runners may advance on throws made directly to home plate from the outfield until the throw is caught by the catcher or overthrown. Once the ball is caught by the catcher or overthrown, play is stopped and all runners will be held at the base to which they are nearest.
- (2) **As Many Bases As A Runner Can Get.** A line drive or pop fly which first touches the ground in the outfield will be as many bases as a runner can get before the ball touches in the infield and/or is controlled by a defensive player within the infield. Play is stopped and all runners will be held at the base to which they are nearest at the time the ball touches in the infield and/or is controlled by a defensive player within the infield. **Note:** A runner who has already rounded third base can attempt to score at the risk of being thrown out. No other runners may advance on a throw to home plate whether caught by the catcher or overthrown. At the time the ball touches in the infield and/or is controlled by a defensive player within the

infield, play is stopped for all runners with the exception of a runner who has rounded third. All runners may advance on throws made directly to home plate from the outfield until the throw is caught by the catcher or overthrown. Once the ball is caught by the catcher or overthrown, play is stopped and all runners will be held at the base to which they are nearest.

3. OVERTHROWS

- (1) **Overthrows To First And Third Base.** In the event of an overthrow on a play to first or third base, if the ball goes out of play, all base runners will be awarded one base. In the event of an overthrow where the ball stays in play (but outside fair territory), base runners may advance only one (1) base, and at the risk of being thrown out.
- (2) **Overthrows To Second Base.** In the event of an overthrow to second base, understanding that the ball will most likely remain in fair territory, runner(s) may take as many bases as they can get. Upon return of the ball to the infield, the same rule that applies to balls returned to the infield after a hit will apply.

Section IV
Girls Junior Minors Divisional Rules
7 & 8 Year Old Girls Softball

1. GENERAL RULES

- (1) **Six Run Rule:** Innings will last until three (3) outs are made or six (6) runs are scored, whichever comes first.
- (2) **Throwing the bat** is an automatic out.
- (3) **Leading off bases** is not permitted.
- (4) **Base stealing** is not permitted. The runner will be called out.
- (5) **All players will bat** whether or not they are playing defense.
- (6) **Ten (10) defensive players** will play, 4 in the outfield.
- (7) **No head first slides.** The runner will be automatically out.
- (8) **Bunting** is not permitted.
- (9) **Pinch runners** may only be used in the event of an injury. The pinch runner must be the player who made the last out.
- (10) **Infield fly rule** will not be in effect.
- (11) **Dropped third strike** rule will not be in effect.

2. PITCHING RULES

- (1) **The first four (4) pitches** will not count unless the batter swings. Balls and strikes will be called starting with the 5th pitch. Three (3) strikes will be an out.
- (2) **Coach must pitch from the pitching rubber. Pitches must be underhand, arched tosses, with a five (5) foot minimum and eight (8) foot maximum.**
- (3) **A coach may not walk his/her own batters,** but may strike them out.

3. HITS

- (1) **Double.** A ground ball hit through the infield will be no more than a double depending on where the runner is when the ball touches in the infield and/or is controlled by a defensive player within the infield. Play will be stopped and all runners will be held at the base to which they are nearest at the time the ball touches in the infield and/or is controlled by a defensive player within the infield. **Note:** A runner who has already rounded third base can attempt to score at the risk of being thrown out. No other runners may advance on a throw to home plate whether caught by the catcher or overthrown. At the time the ball touches in the infield and/or is controlled by a defensive player within the infield, play is stopped for all runners with the exception of a runner who has rounded third. All runners may advance on throws made directly to home plate from the outfield until the throw is caught by the catcher or overthrown. Once the ball is caught by the catcher or overthrown, play is stopped and all runners will be held at the base to which they are nearest.
- (2) **As Many Bases As A Runner Can Get.** A line drive or pop fly which first touches the ground in the outfield will be as many bases as a runner can get before the ball touches in the infield and/or is controlled by a defensive player within the infield. Play is stopped and all runners will be held at the base to which they are nearest at the time the ball touches in the infield and/or is controlled by a defensive player within the infield. **Note:** A runner who has already rounded third base can attempt to score at the risk of being thrown out. No other runners may advance on a throw to home plate whether caught by the catcher or overthrown. At the time the ball touches in the infield and/or is controlled by a defensive player within the infield, play is stopped for all runners with the exception of a runner who has rounded third. All runners may advance on throws made directly to home plate from the outfield until the throw is caught by the catcher or overthrown. Once the ball is caught by the catcher or

overthrown, play is stopped and all runners will be held at the base to which they are nearest.

- (3) **Minimum Distance.** The ball must travel a minimum distance of three feet to be a hit. A semi-circle will normally be drawn 3 feet from the plate, from the first base foul line to the third base foul line. This area will be considered foul territory. Up to two strikes will be called as a ball normally fouled away if a hit ball stays in this area. (We have had balls hit and get stuck in the mud by the plate, there is no bunting, and so we crafted this rule).

4. OVERTHROWS

- (1) **Overthrows To First And Third Base.** In the event of an overthrow on a play to first or third base, if the ball goes out of play, all base runners will be awarded one base. In the event of an overthrow where the ball stays in play (but outside fair territory), base runners may advance only one (1) base, and at the risk of being thrown out.
- (2) **Overthrows To Second Base.** In the event of an overthrow to second base, understanding that the ball will most likely remain in fair territory, runner(s) may take as many bases as they can get. Upon return of the ball to the infield, the same rule that applies to balls returned to the infield after a hit will apply.

Section V
Boys Minors Divisional Rules
9 & 10 Year Old Boys Baseball

1. GENERAL RULES

- (1) **Six Run Rule:** Innings will last until three (3) outs are made or six (6) runs are scored, whichever comes first.
- (2) **Throwing the bat** is an automatic out.
- (3) **Leading off bases** is not permitted.
- (4) **Base stealing** is only permitted for 1st, 2nd and 3rd base. Not home base. The runner must leave the base after the pitched ball has crossed home plate. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the runner leaves the base prior to the ball crossing the plate, the runner shall be declared out. .
- (5) **All players will bat** whether or not they are playing defense.
- (6) **Nine (9) defensive players** will play.
- (7) **No head first slides.** The runner will be automatically out. **Note:** A base runner may dive back to a base from close proximity (such as trying to get back to the base on a caught line drive to avoid a double play) but not from what may be interpreted by the umpire as a running speed.
- (8) **Bunting** is only permitted during player-pitch innings.
- (9) **Pinch runners** may only be used in the event of an injury. The pinch runner must be the player who made the last out.
- (10) **Infield fly rule** will be in effect. The following is an explanation of the Infield Fly Rule: An Infield fly is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two (2) outs. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder who stations himself in the infield on the play should be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.
Note: When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an infield fly, the umpire shall immediately declare “**Infield Fly**” for the benefit of the runners. **If the ball is near the baselines**, the umpire shall declare, “**Infield Fly, If Fair.**” The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. **If the hit becomes a foul ball**, it is treated the same as any foul. **If a declared infield fly** is allowed to fall untouched to the ground, and bounces foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball. **If a declared infield fly** falls untouched to the ground outside the baselines, and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an “**Infield Fly.**” See Table 1 one below.

Table I
Infield Fly Application

Base(s) Occupied	No Outs	1 Out	2 Outs
1st & 2nd	Yes	Yes	No
1st, 2nd & 3rd	Yes	Yes	No
Any Other	No	No	No

- (11) **Dropped third strike** rule will not be in effect.

2. PITCHING RULES

- (1) **Coaches will pitch the first two (2) innings of the first (2) games** unless modified by league leadership. This is not left up to the discretion of the coaches nor the umpire at game time.
- (2) **Coach must pitch from the pitching rubber during coach-pitch innings.** The ball must be thrown **overhand** and at a reasonable speed.
- (3) **A coach may not walk his/her own batters**, but may strike them out.
- (4) **During player-pitch innings, four (4) balls will constitute a walk, three strikes an out.**
- (5) **Pitchers will be limited to appearing in three (3) innings.** Any portion, even one (1) pitch of an inning, constitutes appearing in an inning. If a pitcher is removed from the pitcher's position prior to appearing in three (3) innings, the pitcher may return to the pitcher's position one (1) time, whether or not the pitcher was removed from the defensive lineup.
- (6) Balking will not be called.

3. OVERTHROWS

- (1) **In the event of an overthrow**, the following will apply:
 - (a) **One base will be awarded if a ball, pitched to a batter**, or thrown by the pitcher from their position on the pitcher's mound to pick off a runner, goes into the stands, into a bench or dugout (regardless of whether the ball rebounds back into the field of play), through or over a field fence or backstop, or anywhere the ball is declared out of play.
 - (b) **One base will be awarded** if a thrown ball goes into the stands, into a bench or dugout (regardless of whether the ball rebounds back into the field of play), or anywhere the ball is declared out of play. The ball is declared dead and play is stopped. **Note: When such a wild throw is the first play by an infielder**, the umpire, in awarding bases, shall be governed by the **position of the runners at the time the ball was pitched**. In all other cases, the umpire shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time the wild throw was made.
 - (c) If all runners, including the batter-runner, have advanced at least one base when an infielder makes a wild throw on the first throw after the pitch, the award shall be governed by the position of the base runners at the time the wild throw was made.
 - (d) If a player is stealing from 1st base to 2nd base and there is a player on 3rd base, and the ball is over thrown to 2nd base, the player on 3rd base can not run home. When 3rd base is occupied the player can not advance on an overthrow. The player on 3rd can only advance by walking or a base hit.

Section VI
Girls Minors Divisional Rules
9 - 11 Year Old Girls Softball

1. GENERAL RULES

- (1) **Six Run Rule:** Innings will last until three (3) outs are made or six (6) runs are scored, whichever comes first.
- (2) **Throwing the bat** is an automatic out.
- (3) **Leading off bases** is not permitted.
- (4) **Base stealing** is not permitted. The runner will be called out.
- (5) **All players will bat** whether or not they are playing defense.
- (6) **No head first slides.** The runner will be automatically out. **Note:** A base runner may dive back to a base from close proximity (such as trying to get back to the base on a caught line drive to avoid a double play) but not from what may be interpreted by the umpire as a running speed.
- (7) **Bunting** is not permitted.
- (8) **Pinch runners** may only be used in the event of an injury. The pinch runner must be the player who made the last out.
- (9) **Infield fly rule** will be in effect. The following is an explanation of the Infield Fly Rule: An Infield fly is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two (2) outs. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder that stations himself in the infield on the play should be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.

Note: When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an infield fly, the umpire shall immediately declare “**Infield Fly**” for the benefit of the runners. **If the ball is near the baselines**, the umpire shall declare, “**Infield Fly, If Fair.**” The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. **If the hit becomes a foul ball**, it is treated the same as any foul. **If a declared infield fly** is allowed to fall untouched to the ground, and bounces foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball. **If a declared infield fly** falls untouched to the ground outside the baselines, and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an “**Infield Fly.**” **See Table I** below for infield fly rule clarification.

Table I
Infield Fly Application

Base(s) Occupied	No Out s	1 Out	2 Outs
1 st & 2 nd	Yes	Yes	No
1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd	Yes	Yes	No
Any Other	No	No	No

(10) **Dropped third strike** rule will not be in effect.

2. PITCHING RULES

- (1) **Pitchers must pitch from the pitching rubber.** The league if necessary will adjust the distance from the pitching rubber to home plate.
- (2) **Pitches must be an underhand, modified fast pitch at a moderate speed. The umpire may define moderate speed and advise the pitcher if the speed is excessive.**
- (3) **In the event that a player pitcher walks two consecutive batters,** one of the coaches may pitch to the next batter to give the player time to regain her composure. The pitcher must remain on the field near the coach in order to field any hits back to the mound. The coach may not field a hit ball.
- (4) **Coaches will pitch the first two (2) innings of the first (2) games** unless otherwise modified by league leadership. This is not left up to the discretion of the coaches nor the umpire at game time.
- (5) **Coach must pitch from the pitching rubber during coach-pitch innings.**
- (6) **A coach may not walk his/her own batters,** but may strike them out.

3. HITS

- (1) **Standard softball rules will apply in reference to hits.**
- (2) **Ground rules** that apply to a specific game site will be discussed and clarified with the coaches prior to the game.

4. OVERTHROWS

- (1) **Overthrows To First And Third Base.** In the event of an overthrow on a play to first or third base, if the ball goes out of play, all base runners will be awarded one base. In the event of an overthrow where the ball stays in play (but outside fair territory), base runners may advance only one (1) base, and at the risk of being thrown out.
- (2) **Overthrows To Second Base.** In the event of an overthrow to second base, understanding that the ball will most likely remain in fair territory, runner(s) may take as many bases as they can get. Upon return of the ball to the infield, the same rule that applies to balls returned to the infield after a hit will apply.

Section VII
Boys Junior Majors Divisional Rules
11 - 13 Year Old Boys Baseball

1. GENERAL RULES

- (1) **Six Run Rule:** Innings will last until three (3) outs are made or six (6) runs are scored, whichever comes first. **Unlimited runs in the 6th or final announced inning.**
- (2) **Throwing the bat** is an automatic out.
- (3) **Leading off bases** is not permitted.
- (4) **Base stealing** is permitted for **ALL** bases, as long as the runner leaves the base after the ball has crossed the plate. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the runner leaves the base prior to the ball crossing the plate, the runner shall be declared out.
- (5) **All players will bat** whether or not they are playing defense.
- (6) **Nine (9) defensive players** will play.
- (7) **No head first slides.** The runner will be automatically out. **Note:** A base runner may dive back to a base from close proximity (such as trying to get back to the base on a caught line drive to avoid a double play) but not from what may be interpreted by the umpire as a running speed.
- (8) **Bunting** is permitted according to standard baseball rules.
- (9) **Pinch runners** may only be used in the event of an injury. The pinch runner must be the player who made the last out.
- (10) **Infield fly rule** will be in effect. The following is an explanation of the Infield Fly Rule: An Infield fly is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two (2) outs. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder who stations himself in the infield on the play should be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.

Note: When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an infield fly, the umpire shall immediately declare **“Infield Fly”** for the benefit of the runners. **If the ball is near the baselines**, the umpire shall declare, **“Infield Fly, If Fair.”** The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. **If the hit becomes a foul ball**, it is treated the same as any foul. **If a declared infield fly** is allowed to fall untouched to the ground, and bounces foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball. **If a declared infield fly ball** falls untouched to the ground outside the baselines, and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an **“Infield Fly.”** **See Table I** below for infield fly rule clarification.

Table I
Infield Fly Application

Base(s) Occupied	No Out s	1 Out	2 Outs
1st & 2nd	Yes	Yes	No
1st, 2nd & 3rd	Yes	Yes	No
Any Other	No	No	No

(11) **Dropped third strike** will not be in effect. The batter is out.

(12) **Designated hitters** will not be permitted.

2. PITCHING RULES

(1) **Pitcher must pitch from the pitching rubber.**

(2) **Pitchers will be limited to appearing in three (3) innings.** Any portion, even one (1) pitch of an inning, constitutes appearing in an inning. If a pitcher is removed from the pitcher's position prior to appearing in three (3) innings, the pitcher may return to the pitcher's position one (1) time, whether or not the pitcher was removed from the defensive lineup, as long as they do not exceed appearing in three (3) innings.

(3) **Visits to the mound.** There will be NO LIMIT to the number of times a Coach may visit the pitcher's mound during the course of a game. However, the umpire has the authority to limit the number of visits to the mound, if in his/her opinion, he/she believes that a Coach is visiting the mound excessively, or is attempting to distract or slow down the game.

(4) **Balk rule will not be in effect in reference to advancing base runners.** A declared balk will automatically be declared a ball unless it is hit into fair ball territory. In the event of a foul ball, or a swing and miss, the pitch will be declared a ball.

3. HITS

(1) **Standard baseball rules will apply in reference to hits.**

(2) **Ground rules**, which apply to a specific game site, will be discussed and clarified with the coaches and umpire prior to the game. The umpire's ruling is final.

4. OVERTHROWS

(1) **In the event of an overthrow**, the following will apply:

(a) **One base will be awarded if a ball, pitched to a batter**, or thrown by the pitcher from their position on the pitcher's mound to pick off a runner, goes into the stands, into a bench or dugout (regardless of whether the ball rebounds back into the field of play), through or over a field fence or backstop, or anywhere the ball is declared out of play.

(b) **One base will be awarded** if a thrown ball goes into the stands, into a bench or dugout (regardless of whether the ball rebounds back into the field of play), or anywhere the ball is declared out of play. The ball is declared dead and play is stopped. **Note: When such a wild throw is the first play by an infielder**, the umpire, in awarding bases, shall be governed by the **position of the runners at the time the ball was pitched**. In all other cases, the umpire shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time the wild throw was made.

(c) If all runners, including the batter-runner, have advanced at least one base when an infielder makes a wild throw on the first throw after the pitch, the award shall be governed by the position of the base runners at the time the wild throw was made.

5. GAME CANCELLATIONS

If a game is cancelled after the third inning, when the game is rescheduled, it will start from the point it was at the cancellation. If a game is cancelled before or during the third inning, the game will start from the beginning when it is rescheduled.

Section VIII
Girls Junior Majors Divisional Rules
12 - 14 Year Old Girls Softball

1. GENERAL RULES

- (1) **Six Run Rule:** Innings will last until three (3) outs are made or six (6) runs are scored, whichever comes first. **Unlimited runs in the 6th or final announced inning.**
- (2) **Throwing the bat** is an automatic out.
- (3) **Leading off bases** is not permitted.
- (4) **Base stealing** is not permitted. The runner will be called out.
- (5) **All players will bat** whether or not they are playing defense.
- (6) **No head first slides.** The runner will be automatically out. **Note:** A base runner may dive back to a base from close proximity (such as trying to get back to the base on a caught line drive to avoid a double play) but not from what may be interpreted by the umpire as a running speed.
- (8) **Bunting** is not permitted.
- (9) **Pinch runners** may only be used in the event of an injury. The pinch runner must be the player who made the last out.
- (10) **Infield fly rule** will be in effect. The following is an explanation of the Infield Fly Rule: An Infield fly is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two (2) outs. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder who stations himself in the infield on the play should be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.
Note: When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an infield fly, the umpire shall immediately declare **“Infield Fly”** for the benefit of the runners. **If the ball is near the baselines**, the umpire shall declare, **“Infield Fly, If Fair.”** The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. **If the hit becomes a foul ball**, it is treated the same as any foul. **If a declared infield fly** is allowed to fall untouched to the ground, and bounces foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball. If a declared infield fly ball falls untouched to the ground outside the baselines, and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an **“Infield Fly.”** **See Table I** below for infield fly rule clarification.

Table I
Infield Fly Application

Base(s) Occupied	No Out s	1 Out	2 Outs
1 st & 2 nd	Yes	Yes	No
1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd	Yes	Yes	No
Any Other	No	No	No

- (11) **Dropped third strike** rule will not be in effect.

2. PITCHING RULES

- (1) **Pitchers must pitch from the pitching rubber.**
- (2) **Pitches must be an underhand, modified fast pitch at a moderate speed. The umpire may define moderate speed and advise the pitcher if the speed is excessive.**

3. HITS

- (1) **Standard softball rules will apply in reference to hits.**
- (2) **Ground rules**, which apply to a specific game site, will be discussed and clarified with the coaches prior to the game.

4. OVERTHROWS

- (1) **Overthrows To First And Third Base.** In the event of an overthrow on a play to first or third base, if the ball goes out of play, all base runners will be awarded one base. In the event of an overthrow where the ball stays in play (but outside fair territory), base runners may advance only one (1) base, and at the risk of being thrown out.
- (2) **Overthrows To Second Base.** In the event of an overthrow to second base, understanding that the ball will most likely remain in fair territory, runner(s) may take as many bases as they can get. Upon return of the ball to the infield, the same rule that applies to balls returned to the infield after a hit will apply.

5. GAME CANCELLATIONS

If a game is cancelled after the third inning, when the game is rescheduled, it will start from the point it was at the cancellation. If a game is cancelled before or during the third inning, the game will start from the beginning when it is rescheduled.

Section IX
Boys Majors Divisional Rules
13 & 14 Year Old Boys Baseball

GENERAL RULES

- (1) **Six Run Rule:** Innings will last until three (3) outs are made or six (6) runs are scored, whichever comes first. **Unlimited runs in the 7th or final announced inning.**
- (2) **Throwing the bat** is an automatic out.
- (3) **Leading off bases** according to standard baseball rules.
- (4) **Base stealing** according to standard baseball rules.
- (5) **All players will bat** whether or not they are playing defense.
- (6) **Nine (9) defensive players** will play.
- (7) **No head first slides (Safety Concern).** The runner will be automatically out. **Note:** A base runner may dive back to a base from close proximity (such as trying to get back to the base on a caught line drive to avoid a double play) but not from what may be interpreted by the umpire as a running speed. This division may also dive head first to avoid being tagged out during a run down.
- (8) **Bunting** is permitted according to standard baseball rules.
- (9) **Pinch runners** may only be used in the event of an injury. The pinch runner must be the player who made the last out.
- (10) **Infield fly rule** will be in effect. The following is an explanation of the Infield Fly Rule: An Infield fly is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two (2) outs. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder who stations himself in the infield on the play should be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.

Note: When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an infield fly, the umpire shall immediately declare **“Infield Fly”** for the benefit of the runners. **If the ball is near the baselines**, the umpire shall declare, **“Infield Fly, If Fair.”** The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. **If the hit becomes a foul ball**, it is treated the same as any foul. **If a declared infield fly** is allowed to fall untouched to the ground, and bounces foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball. If a declared infield fly ball falls untouched to the ground outside the baselines, and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an **“Infield Fly.”** **See Table I** below for infield fly rule clarification.

Table I
Infield Fly Application

Base(s) Occupied	No Out s	1 Out	2 Outs
1 st & 2 nd	Yes	Yes	No
1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd	Yes	Yes	No
Any Other	No	No	No

(11) **Dropped third strike is in effect as follows:**

- (a) The batter becomes a runner when the third strike called by the umpire (whether or not the batter swings) is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied, or first base is occupied with two outs. **Note:** When a batter becomes a base runner on a third strike not caught by the catcher and starts for the dugout, or his position, and then realizes his situation and then attempts to reach first base, he is not out unless he or first base are tagged before he reaches first base. If, however, he actually reaches the dugout or dugout steps, he may not then attempt to go to first base and shall be out. See **Table II** below for dropped third strike clarification.

**Table II
Dropped Third Strike Application**

	No Outs	1 Out	2 Outs
1 st Base Occupied	No	No	Yes
1 st Base Unoccupied	Yes	Yes	Yes

(12) **Designated hitters will not be permitted.**

PITCHING RULES

- (1) **Pitcher must pitch from the pitching rubber.**
- (2) **Pitchers will be limited to appearing in three (3) innings.** Any portion, even one (1) pitch of an inning, constitutes appearing in an inning. If a pitcher is removed from the pitcher's position prior to appearing in three (3) innings, the pitcher may return to the pitcher's position one (1) time, whether or not the pitcher was removed from the defensive lineup.
- (3) **Visits to the mound.** There will be NO LIMIT to the number of times a Coach may visit the pitcher's mound during the course of a game. However, the umpire has the authority to limit the number of visits to the mound, if in his/her opinion, he/she believes that a Coach is visiting the mound excessively, or is attempting to distract or slow down the game.
- (4) **Balk rule will be in effect.** All coaches and umpires should become thoroughly familiar with the balk rule, due to the controversies that may arise from its use in a game situation. Final decisions lie with the umpire and shall be adhered to.

HITS

- (1) **Standard baseball rules will apply in reference to hits.**
- (2) **Ground rules**, which apply to a specific game site, will be discussed and clarified with the coaches prior to the game.

D. OVERTHROWS

- (1) **In the event of an overthrow**, the following will apply:
 - (a) **One base will be awarded if a ball, pitched to a batter**, or thrown by the pitcher from their position on the pitcher's mound to pick off a runner, goes into the stands, into a bench or dugout (regardless of whether the ball rebounds back into the field of play), through or over a field fence or backstop, or anywhere the ball is declared out of play.
 - (b) **One base will be awarded** if a thrown ball goes into the stands, into a bench or dugout

(regardless of whether the ball rebounds back into the field of play), or anywhere the ball is declared out of play. The ball is declared dead and play is stopped. **Note: When such a wild throw is the first play by an infielder**, the umpire, in awarding bases, shall be governed by the **position of the runners at the time the ball was pitched**. In all other cases, the umpire shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time the wild throw was made.

- (c) If all runners, including the batter-runner, have advanced at least one base when an infielder makes a wild throw on the first throw after the pitch, the award shall be governed by the position of the base runners at the time the wild throw was made.

GAME CANCELLATIONS

If a game is cancelled after the third inning, when the game is rescheduled, it will start from the point it was at the cancellation. If a game is cancelled before or during the third inning, the game will start from the beginning when it is rescheduled.

Section X
Girls Majors Divisional Rules
15 – 17 Year Old Girls Softball

1. GENERAL RULES

- (1) **Six Run Rule:** Innings will last until three (3) outs are made or six (6) runs are scored, whichever comes first. **Unlimited runs in the 7th or final announced inning.**
- (2) **Throwing the bat** is an automatic out.
- (3) **Leading off bases** is not permitted.
- (4) **Base stealing** is not permitted. The runner will be called out.
- (5) **All players will bat** whether or not they are playing defense.
- (6) **No head first slides (Safety Concern).** The runner will be automatically out. **Note:** A base runner may dive back to a base from close proximity (such as trying to get back to the base on a caught line drive to avoid a double play) but not from what may be interpreted by the umpire as a running speed. This division may also dive head first to avoid being tagged out during a run down.
- (7) **Bunting** is not permitted.
- (8) **Pinch runners** may only be used in the event of an injury. The pinch runner must be the player who made the last out.
- (9) **Infield fly rule** will be in effect. The following is an explanation of the Infield Fly Rule: An Infield fly is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two (2) outs. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder who stations himself in the infield on the play should be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.

Note: When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an infield fly, the umpire shall immediately declare “**Infield Fly**” for the benefit of the runners. **If the ball is near the baselines**, the umpire shall declare, “**Infield Fly, If Fair.**” The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. **If the hit becomes a foul ball**, it is treated the same as any foul. **If a declared infield fly** is allowed to fall untouched to the ground, and bounces foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball. If a declared infield fly ball falls untouched to the ground outside the baselines, and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an “**Infield Fly.**” **See Table I** below for infield fly rule clarification.

**Table I
Infield Fly Application**

Base(s) Occupied	No Out s	1 Out	2 Outs
1st & 2nd	Yes	Yes	No
1st, 2nd & 3rd	Yes	Yes	No
Any Other	No	No	No

(10) **Dropped third strike** rule will not be in effect.

2. PITCHING RULES

- (1) **Pitchers must pitch from the pitching rubber.**
- (2) **Pitches must be underhand, modified fast pitch at a moderate speed. The umpire may define moderate speed and advise the pitcher if the speed is excessive..**

3. HITS

- (1) **Standard softball rules will apply in reference to hits.**
- (2) **Ground rules**, which apply to a specific game site, will be discussed and clarified with the coaches prior to the game.

4. OVERTHROWS

- (1) **In the event of an overthrow**, the following will apply:
 - (a) **One base will be awarded** if a thrown ball goes into the stands, into a bench or dugout (regardless of whether the ball rebounds back into the field of play), or anywhere the ball is declared out of play. The ball is declared dead and play is stopped. **Note: When such a wild throw is the first play by an infielder**, the umpire, in awarding bases, shall be governed by the **position of the runners at the time the ball was pitched**. In all other cases, the umpire shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time the wild throw was made.
 - (b) If all runners, including the batter-runner, have advanced at least one base when an infielder makes a wild throw on the first throw after the pitch, the award shall be governed by the position of the base runners at the time the wild throw was made.

5. GAME CANCELLATIONS

If a game is cancelled after the third inning, when the game is rescheduled, it will start from the point it was at the cancellation. If a game is cancelled before or during the third inning, the game will start from the beginning when it is rescheduled.

Section XI
Boys Seniors Divisional Rules
15 – 18 Year Old Boys Baseball

GENERAL RULES

- (1) **Six Run Rule:** Innings will last until three (3) outs are made or six (6) runs are scored, whichever comes first. **Unlimited runs in the 7th or final announced inning.**
- (2) **Throwing the bat** is an automatic out.
- (3) **Leading off bases** according to standard baseball rules.
- (4) **Base stealing** according to standard baseball rules.
- (5) **All players will bat** whether or not they are playing defense.
- (6) **Nine (9) defensive players** will play.
- (7) **No head first slides (Safety Concern).** The runner will be automatically out. **Note:** A base runner may dive back to a base from close proximity (such as trying to get back to the base on a caught line drive to avoid a double play) but not from what may be interpreted by the umpire as a running speed. This division may also dive head first to avoid being tagged out during a run down.
- (8) **Bunting** is permitted according to standard baseball rules.
- (9) **Pinch runners** may only be used in the event of an injury. The pinch runner must be the player who made the last out.
- (10) **Infield fly rule** will be in effect. The following is an explanation of the Infield Fly Rule: An Infield fly is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two (2) outs. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder who stations himself in the infield on the play should be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule. **Note: When it seems apparent** that a batted ball will be an infield fly, the umpire shall immediately declare “**Infield Fly**” for the benefit of the runners. **If the ball is near the baselines**, the umpire shall declare, “**Infield Fly, If Fair.**” The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. **If the hit becomes a foul ball**, it is treated the same as any foul. **If a declared infield fly** is allowed to fall untouched to the ground, and bounces foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball. If a declared infield fly ball falls untouched to the ground outside the baselines, and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an “**Infield Fly.**” **See Table I** below for infield fly rule clarification.

**Table I
Infield Fly Application**

Base(s) Occupied	No Outs	1 Out	2 Outs
1st & 2nd	Yes	Yes	No
1st, 2nd & 3rd	Yes	Yes	No
Any Other	No	No	No

(11) Dropped third strike is in effect as follows:

- (a) The batter becomes a runner when the third strike called by the umpire (whether or not the batter swings) is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied, or first base is occupied with two outs. **Note:** When a batter becomes a base runner on a third strike not caught by the catcher and starts for the dugout, or his position, and then realizes his situation and then attempts to reach first base, he is not out unless he or first base are tagged before he reaches first base. If, however, he actually reaches the dugout or dugout steps, he may not then attempt to go to first base and shall be out. See **Table II** below for dropped third strike clarification.

**Table II
Dropped Third Strike Application**

	No Outs	1 Out	2 Outs
1st Base Occupied	No	No	Yes
1st Base Unoccupied	Yes	Yes	Yes

(12) Designated hitters will not be permitted.

PITCHING RULES

- (1) **Pitcher must pitch from the pitching rubber.**
- (2) **Pitchers will be limited to appearing in five (5) innings.** Any portion, even one (1) pitch of an inning, constitutes appearing in an inning. If a pitcher is removed from the pitcher's position prior to appearing in four (4) innings, the pitcher may return to the pitcher's position for two (2) additional innings, whether or not the pitcher was removed from the defensive lineup.
- (3) **Visits to the mound.** There will be NO LIMIT to the number of times a Coach may visit the pitcher's mound during the course of a game. However, the umpire has the authority to limit the number of visits to the mound, if in his/her opinion, he/she believes that a Coach is visiting the mound excessively, or is attempting to distract or slow down the game.
- (4) **Balk rule will be in effect.** All coaches and umpires should become thoroughly familiar with the balk rule, due to the controversies that may arise from its use in a game situation. Final decisions lie with the umpire and shall be adhered to.
- (5) **If a pitcher hits a batter twice in the same inning,** the pitcher will immediately be pulled from pitching at that point. The pitcher may return to the mound at a later point in the game, however if the same pitcher hits another batter he then is pulled from the mound and cannot return to pitching again in the game. If a pitcher hits a total of three (3) batters in any number of innings, the pitcher must be removed from the pitcher position for the remainder of the game. He may continue to play, but can't pitch. This rule is to ensure the safety of our players.

HITS

- (1) **Standard baseball rules will apply in reference to hits.**
- (2) **Ground rules,** which apply to a specific game site, will be discussed and clarified with the coaches prior to the game.

D. OVERTHROWS

- (1) **In the event of an overthrow,** the following will apply:
 - (a) **One base will be awarded if a ball, pitched to a batter,** or thrown by the pitcher from their position on the pitcher's mound to pick off a runner, goes into the stands, into a bench or dugout (regardless of whether the ball rebounds back into the field of play), through or over a field fence or backstop, or anywhere the ball is declared out of play.
 - (b) **One base will be awarded** if a thrown ball goes into the stands, into a bench or dugout (regardless of whether the ball rebounds back into the field of play), or anywhere the ball is declared out of play. The ball is declared dead and play is stopped. **Note: When such a wild throw is the first play by an infielder,** the umpire, in awarding bases, shall be governed by the **position of the runners at the time the ball was pitched.** In all other cases, the umpire shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time the wild throw was made.
 - (c) If all runners, including the batter-runner, have advanced at least one base when an infielder makes a wild throw on the first throw after the pitch, the award shall be governed by the position of the base runners at the time the wild throw was made.

GAME CANCELLATIONS

If a game is cancelled after the third inning, when the game is rescheduled, it will start from the point it was at the cancellation. If a game is cancelled before or during the third inning, the game will start from the beginning when it is rescheduled.