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2018 Major League Softball Rules

Rosters: Official rosters of each team will be filed with the *Little League Softball Assistant District Administrator* before the first game. A maximum of 15 and a minimum of 12 players will be carried on each team. Roster changes will be submitted to the *Little League Softball Assistant District Administrator* within three calendar days.

Home Team: The team listed second on the scheduled playing date is the home team and shall have the playing field for ten minutes at twenty minutes before game time (when available) for their warm ups.

Visiting Team: The team listed first on the scheduled playing date is the visiting team and shall have the playing field for ten minutes at ten minutes before game time (when available) for their warm ups.

Playing Field: Prior to the start of the Major League Softball season, each participating league will prepare ground rules that are unique to their fields. A copy of these ground rules will be supplied to the *Little League Softball Assistant District Administrator*. These ground rules shall be covered at the pregame conference with the umpires. Each league is responsible for the preparation of the fields.

Softball: Softballs will be 12", white or optic yellow, leather or synthetic leather and normal flight.

Pitching: A pitcher who pitches in 4 or more innings in a game may only pitch in 4 innings or less in the next played game. Any questions – See Pitching Rules for Interleague Play

Batting Order: The batting order will consist of 9 batters. Batters will keep one foot in the batter's box during their at-bat.

Pinch Runners: A team will be allowed one pinch runner per inning.

Umpires: The home team shall provide a minimum of two umpires, 16 years or older. (Adults preferred)
Rule 9.00 (d) will not be in force. (stealing signs and automatic ejection).

Starting Time: Weekday games will start at 6:00PM. (When two teams from different Leagues are participating or prior arrangements are made.) Weekend games will start at the scheduled time. Every effort should be made to reschedule games not played due to weather. This is the responsibility of the participating leagues.

Ending the Game: There are no time limits used in Major Softball. (Section VII (h)) The 10 run rule will be used. Any team trailing by 15 runs after 3 innings or 10 or more runs after four or more innings and the game will be called. (Rule 4.10e) **Leagues may use a time limit on weekend games due to field constraints.**

Regulation Game: A regulation game shall consist of a minimum of four innings. (Weeknight games called due to darkness and have reached the fourth inning is a completed game. If less than 4 innings and game will be resumed from the point it stopped.)

Darkness: Calling the game due to darkness is the **sole judgment of the umpires** and not any local league rule.

Protest: Protests will first be submitted on the field of play in accordance with playing rule 4.19. Protests are only considered when they involve interpretation of a playing rule or the use of an ineligible player. The written protest must be e-mailed within one calendar day of the day of the game (2 days if it is a Saturday game) and sent to the *Little League Softball Assistant District Administrator*. His decision is final. (Phil Raines at praines22@yahoo.com)

District Tournament of Champions: The champion from each league will represent their league in the District 4 Tournament of Champions.

ALL GAMES ARE PLAYED BY THE 2018 LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL RULES, EXCEPT FOR PITCHING !!!