

LAKE COUNTRY SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

2023

This league abides by Softball BC Rules except for the following amendments:

Division Specific Amendments on last page

1. Equipment:

- A. Only softballs marked with a gold dot will be used during games.
- B. No illegal bats—single wall aluminum and wooden bats only. No two-piece or double wall bats (composite).

2. Roster:

- A. Players must be on the team roster submitted at the beginning of the season in order to play league games and tournament games.
- B. 20 players max on the roster.
- C. Players must be 16 years of age by December 31, 2022, or older.
- D. You can use players from other teams if you are short in LEAGUE PLAY ONLY. Those players must be registered in the Lake Country Orthodox Softball League.
- E. Players must play a minimum of 3 league games to play in tournament games.

3. Batting Line-up:

- A. No more than 2 males in a row on the batting line-up.
- B. If a player in a batting order over 10 players is injured or removed from the game and no substitute of the same sex is available, an out will **NOT** be recorded each time the player is due up.
- C. If a player arrives after the game has begun, that player will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
- D. There is NO auto-out for the missing 10th player if a team can only field 9 players.

4. Bunting:

- A. Bunting is allowed.
- B. If a player shows a bunt, they **MUST** bunt. If they do not bunt, they will be called out.
- C. “Slap hitting” is allowed. However, players are **NOT** permitted to run towards the pitcher, out of the batter’s box

5. Fielding:

- A. 10 players in the field. Minimum 4 women in the field during play
 - 1. Exception: Playing with 9 players- 3 females on the field is acceptable.
- B. All players must play on the field at least TWO innings per game.

6. Pitching:

- A. Orthodox and figure 8 pitching only. Women may use slingshot pitching.
- B. No Windmill will be allowed.
- C. The pitcher may not make a complete revolution in the delivery.
- D. The arch of the ball cannot be higher than six feet.
- E. Pitchers must start with two feet on the pitching rubber.
- F. Orthodox definition: Arm and hand cannot come past the shoulder upon delivery.
- G. Slingshot definition: As per Softball BC: A slingshot type pitch is defined as "turning the body toward the first or third base and bending the elbow during the backswing."
 - A. The ball must NOT pass the pitcher's head on the backswing.
- H. In case of an illegal pitch, the Umpire will call: "No pitch" (before delivery) and will be classified as a ball.

7. Home team is determined on the schedule.

- A. Playoffs: Rankings will determine Home team. Final game is a coin toss.

8. Innings played:

- A. Games are a maximum of seven innings.
- B. Time limit: No new inning after 1.5 hours Tournaments: No new inning after 1 hour 20 min.
- C. Last inning is an open inning.
- D. Exceptions:
 - i. If the umpire stops the game due to fading daylight or poor weather conditions
 - ii. Mercy rule:

Innings are capped at 6 runs (except the last inning is open). At the end of 5 innings (or 5 ½ if the team to bat is ahead), if one team is ahead by ten or more runs that team is declared the winner and the game continues to be played out to seven innings, score is stopped at time of Mercy.

9. Canceled games:

- A. Rained out games will be posted to the LCOS Facebook page and team reps will be notified.
- B. Cancellations due to closed fields will be at the discretion of the District of Lake Country.
- C. Cancellations of games by teams due to shortage of players or other foreseeable reasons must be made a full 24 hours prior to game time. The team must notify the opposing team AND the Vice President to cancel the umpire and field reservation.
- D. If a team fails to show up at game time without notice, the defaulting team will be charged umpire fees and are payable prior to the final tournament (*if not notified by noon of game day)
- E. If teams are unable to schedule a make-up game, the team who canceled the game will forfeit. If the game was canceled due to field closure, each team will be awarded 1 point.

10. Make-up games:

- A. Teams may schedule a make-up game if there is field and umpire availability. Please notify the Vice President of the requested make-up day/time and he/she will book the field & umpire.

11. Winning teams are to post the score to the Google doc provided on LCOS website

- A. Two points for a win, one point for a tie.

12. No abuse will be tolerated towards an umpire, fans, other team or teammate.

13. Lead off/Stealing:

- A. The runner may not leave the base until the pitcher has released the ball; Failure to do so will result in the runner being called out.
- B. If the offending player is 3rd out, the same batter will start the next at bat.
- C. Stealing home: Batters may steal home. **See division rules for exceptions

14. Infield fly rule in effect:

- A. The batter will automatically be called out if there are runners occupying 1st and 2nd and/or 3rd base and there are less than 2 out.

15. Dropped third strike:

- A. A batter may run to first base if a third strike is dropped by the catcher.
**See division rules for exceptions

16. Substitute Runner Rules:

- A. If you require a runner for an existing (or new) injury, you must notify the umpire and only run to first base after batting.
- B. If injured during the game, a player may also use a runner.
- C. If a player runs to second, they cannot get a runner unless injured during that play.
- D. Teams must use "last available" as a substitute runner (ie: last out or player home, unless the player is the catcher or an injured player).
- E. Catchers are exempt from this rule when they need time to dress for the next inning.

17. Pregnant players are not able to play in this league.

DIVISION AMENDMENTS

WOMENS: N/A

MIXED- SPRING:

REC:

1. No stealing home
2. No bunting
3. No running to first on dropped third strike

COMPETITIVE: N/A

MENS:

1. Wood bats only
2. Hot dot balls
3. Coin flip in regular season to determine home & away
4. Runs per inning mercy: 10 runs, 7th inning open
5. Mercy: 15 after 5 innings

MIXED- FALL: TBD