



**West Windsor Little League  
2017 Softball Rules of Play  
Majors Division**

Last Update:  
3/20/17

All teams are provided with the Little League Softball Official Regulations and Playing Rules. All managers and coaches should get to know the important rules that the league is required to abide by. As a guide, we have summarized some of the important rules and regulations from the handbook and have added one or two additional rules that West Windsor Little League Girls Softball-Majors Division will follow. The Official Regulations and Playing Rules apply in all cases unless superceded below. If you wish to review the handbook, please contact the league coordinator.

In games against teams from other towns, these rules do NOT apply; District 12 Rules apply instead.

General Rules

1. Girls eligible to participate must be Little League Age 10, 11 or 12 (as measured on January 1 of this year) or have played at least 2 years in WWLL Minors.
2. Softball will be a 12 inch ball.
3. Players will not be allowed to wear jewelry of any kind, with the exception of a medic alert bracelet.
4. A manager or coach shall not leave the bench except to confer with a player or an umpire and only after receiving permission from an umpire.
5. There is to be a maximum of 9 and a minimum of 8 girls on the field at any one time. A team having more than 8 girls eligible to play may not opt to play 8 on the field.
6. No new batters after 6<sup>th</sup> run scores; a play must be made. (Up to 9 runs can be recorded in an inning)
7. Mercy Rule: If a team is winning by 18 or more runs after 4 innings, or 9 or more after 5, the game is ended.
8. Intentional walks are not permitted.
9. The **red safety base at first base** at Ward Field is to be used for a batter/runner's initial run to first base when running through the bag only. In this situation it is required that the batter/runner tag the red safety base and not the white "fielder's" portion. The first infraction by a player shall result in a warning being issued to that player. The second infraction by a player shall result in that player being called out by the umpire. For all other play at first base, including plays where the batter/runner is rounding first base and heading toward second base, the regular

white portion of the base will be used and the red safety portion of the base is not in use.

10. Batters must attempt to avoid being hit by pitched balls at all times in accordance with reasonable standards interpreted by the umpire. If, in the sole opinion of the umpire a batter purposely is hit by a pitch or fails to avoid being hit by a pitch, then that will not count against the pitcher's hit batsmen limit. Unless the umpire determines otherwise, if the batter is hit by a pitch, the batter is to take first base.
11. Bunting is permitted.
12. **Slap bunting is not permitted and will result in an out.** Slap bunting is when the hitter "shows" bunt by taking a bunting stance and then pulls the bat back and hits away, usually "slapping" at the ball.
13. **Slap hitting IS permitted.** Slap hitting is where the batter, from the left-handed batter's box, takes a half swing at the ball trying to hit it while starting to run towards first base.
14. Stealing is allowed. The runner must maintain contact with the base until the pitcher has released the ball.
15. The infield fly rule is in effect.
16. Once the ball is in the control of the defensive team in the circle, a runner may not come off the base. If the runner comes off the base at that point (with no play made by the pitcher) the runner is out. In the same manner, if a runner is off the base and the ball comes under the control of the defensive team inside the circle (with no play being made by the pitcher), the runner must immediately make a decision to go forward or back to the previous base. They cannot go forward or backward, make a stop, and reverse their direction. If they do not, the runner is out. Warnings will not be given by the umpire.
17. Girls must follow the "slide or avoid" rule. Players may not attempt to knock over or hurdle the fielder or they can be called out, at the discretion of the umpire.
18. Warnings will also not be given by the umpire for any other rule violations, including catcher's interference, throwing the bat, etc.

#### Pitching rules

1. The pitching distance will be 40 feet from the pitching rubber to the point of home plate for all windmill pitchers and for all non-windmill pitchers.
2. Pitching circle is to have a radius of 8 feet.

#### West Windsor Little League Housekeeping rules

1. Home team will take the first base dugout and should provide the umpire with game balls.
2. Visiting team will take the third base dugout.
3. Game balls:
  - a. Games played at Ward Field: Home team manager signs out game balls at

the Ward Field concession stand the day of the game.

- b. Games played at WWCP: Home team manager should obtain game balls at the Ward Field concession stand in advance, or obtain them directly from the Equipment Manager in advance.
4. No inning may start after one hour and fifty minutes has elapsed from the start of the game. A new inning is deemed to have started when the third out (or final run, in the case of the six run rule) of the previous inning is registered.
5. If a game is tied after six innings, additional innings can be played until the one hour and fifty minute time limit is reached. If no game follows, then the game can continue past the one hour and fifty minute time limit, but in no case may an inning start after 9:00 PM (Sunday through Thursday) or 10:00 PM (Friday and Saturday). If the tie is not broken before the time constraints are met, then the game will be continued at a mutually agreed upon time. The league coordinator must be notified about the scheduling of the suspended game, so as to arrange for umpires.
6. Each team is to exchange starting line-ups prior to the commencement of play and all pitching changes are to be provided to the opposing team.
7. Each team shall chart the innings pitched by their team and by the opposing team. At the end of the game each team will send to the league Coordinator an e-mail listing the final score, all pitchers, and the number of innings pitched by each pitcher.
8. All girls must play at least 6 defensive outs in the field. Free substitution is permitted.
9. All girls, whether playing defensively or not, will bat in the lineup.
10. No food is permitted in the dugout. Water but **no other** beverages are permitted. No "sports drinks." Each team must clean the dugout area prior to leaving the area. Please encourage the girls to clean up.

11. For safety reasons, there is no on-deck circle position and no swinging of the bat in the dugout.
12. The **home team must** line the base lines and the 8 foot pitching circle before each game. The **visiting team must** rake the field and clean out both dugouts after each game.
13. In the event of poor weather on days prior to a game, it is the responsibility of the **home team manager** (or their delegates) to review the conditions of their **scheduled** field and to complete any maintenance to the field to ensure that their game can be played and started on a timely basis. Failure to have the field in playing condition (at the umpire's discretion) within 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time will result in a forfeit in favor of the visiting team.
14. In the event of poor weather the day of a game, the league coordinator will determine if the fields can be played on. Once the coordinator gives the "okay", it then becomes the responsibility of the home team manager to decide if the conditions have changed. If the umpire gets to the field and decides the fields are unsafe, the umpire's ruling supercedes all previous decisions.
15. If games are cancelled due to poor weather, the 2 managers must agree to a new date and inform the league coordinator, who will arrange for a field and umpire for the new date.
16. It is the responsibility of the home team to either select an adult volunteer to fulfill / directly supervise the announcer booth and scoreboard duties or to complete this responsibility themselves. If the "booth" duties are not supervised properly, the entire league can potentially lose the privilege of the use of the booth and the scoreboard.
17. Abuse of umpires will not be tolerated. We will at all times have either an adult umpire or another adult in charge of the game who will work with our youth umpires to ensure that the games are umpired in a professional manner. Any coach or manager ejected from a game for abusing the umpire will be automatically suspended from the following game, will have to leave the complex at which the game is being played and will not be allowed at the complex at which the next game is being played. Additionally, any manager or coach that is ejected must meet with the VP of Softball, the appropriate League Coordinator and the Player Agent prior to resuming managerial duties for games or practices. The umpire will notify the Umpire Coordinator of the ejection promptly.