

2024 SEASON RULES
GIRLS FASTPITCH SOFTBALL
(REVISED 4/12/24)

7th, 8th & 9th Grades

Note: *The purpose of the Land-O-Hills Baseball and Softball League is to allow the players to learn the game of softball and have fun doing so. The league is not run for the benefit of the coaches or the parents of the players. The rules stated below are intended to help carry out this purpose. Should a situation arise not specifically covered in these rules, resolution of the situation should be made keeping this stated purpose in mind. It is also the intention of the league to maintain a fair level of play amongst all the teams within a community. Rosters should be balanced by age and talent. All complaints will be investigated by the commissioners and they alone will determine if and what disciplinary action will be taken. Your cooperation is appreciated to keep baseball fun, challenging and rewarding for all of our young players*

GENERAL RULES:

1. Players will have just completed 7th, 8th or 9th grade to play. For Home Schooled children, players must not turn 15 before September 1 of the current season.
2. The home team will keep the official scorebook for both teams.
3. The HOME team is responsible for reporting the score to ballcharts.com/LandOHills within 24 hours of the completed game.
Login: Username: LOH2024 Password: Homerun
Select: “Admin” and then “Add/Edit Games”
Choose the game to add and select “edit”
Add Runs scored for both teams and “Save Game and Exit”.
4. No protests allowed.
3. Players can be called out or ejected for throwing equipment. This decision is up to the umpire, although the umpires should first give a warning unless the incident is intentional or flagrant.
4. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team and fans. Heckling by players or fans is not allowed. Arguing umpire calls will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and after one warning, may result in ejection. Continued incidents will result in a game forfeit.
5. All players present at the game must play at least two innings in the field, with the following exceptions:
 - Coaches and umpires must be notified if a team member will not participate due to disciplinary actions.
 - Ejections for unsportsmanlike conduct - failure to comply will result in forfeit of the game.
6. Each team will have 8 rostered players in the game at all times. In the case the team does not have 8 girls, a team is allowed to bring up a non-rostered player from a lower age group from another LOH team in order to complete the game. Add-on players must bat last and cannot pitch or catch. Add-on players must be communicated by the coaches before the game starts.
7. Ten girls play the field (4 outfielders).
8. If a rule is not specified within, WIAA rules would take precedence.
9. Each player must have either a number or name on their uniform.
10. Scheduled games can be canceled or postponed only because of weather related conditions by 5pm of game day.
 - a. The home team coach must take the initiative to communicate to the visiting coach and is responsible for notifying the Community Directors of the date and field of choice to insure availability.
 - Coaches will make a good faith attempt to reschedule rained out games.
 - Rained out games may be played at any LOH venue and also on Saturdays/Sundays.

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- The home team from the original game will be responsible for baseballs and umpires.
- The home team shall provide a minimum of two alternate dates within 7 days of the rained out game.

FIELD PREPARATION:

1. The home team is responsible for having the playing field in good condition.
2. Bases and pitcher's rubber must be staked down.
3. Bases are 60 feet apart. The pitcher's mound is 43 feet.
4. A double base will be used at 1st base.

GAME RULES:

1. The home team will supply two new 12 inch, high visibility raised seam softballs for each game.
2. The home team will provide the home plate umpire or both umpires if both are paid. The visiting team will provide one base umpire unless the home team provides paid umpires.
3. Games start promptly at 6:00 pm. Teams arriving more than 15 minutes late shall forfeit the game, however, this rule may be waived by mutual consent of the coaches.
4. Visiting team gets warm up on the field from 5:45 to 6:00.
5. No new inning may start after 8:00 pm. In case of a tie, the Umpires will determine if the game can be safely completed.
6. Games shall consist of 7 innings. Four and one-half (4 ½) innings is considered a full game if the home team is ahead, five (5) if the visiting team is ahead. Score reverts back to the last completed inning for a game called in the middle of an inning.
7. A half inning consists of 3 outs or 7 runs scored. The 7-run rule is not in effect the last inning of the game. (Both the visiting and home teams have unlimited runs in the last inning.)
8. A team will bat all players present that game with the batting order staying the same. If a batter bats out of order, she is out. The batters are out if it is found out in the current inning.
9. The infield fly rule is in effect.
10. If the batter is hit by the pitch, the batter is given first base. Attempts should be made to avoid being hit. The umpire's discretion is used to determine avoidance.
11. A game can be considered over if the winning team has a ten (10) run lead at the end of five (5) innings or anytime thereafter.
12. Only the pitcher can call timeout when in control of the ball. Play is live until the umpire calls time.

PITCHING:

1. The strike zone is from the knees to the armpits.
2. No minimum arc is required. **Maximum arc of 6 feet.**
3. Contact with the Pitcher's Plate - The pitcher must start her windup with at least one foot in contact with the pitching rubber. Players may start with one foot back or step back during windup. Due to the varying levels of play and levels of skill in pitching development, prior to the start of the pitch, NFHS rules allow the pitcher to choose foot placement. Prior to the start of delivery, both feet must be partially within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.

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4. Maximum of four innings per pitcher per game. There is no consecutive inning rule. A pitcher may reenter the game as a pitcher as long as she has not exceeded the 4 inning limit and any part of an inning should count as a full inning.
5. Pivot foot must be in contact with the rubber or the ground (drag foot). (No step taken off mound).
6. A walk to first base is a live play. Stealing is allowed.
7. If the pitch bounces before the plate and hits the batter, the base is not given. The ball is dead and base runners may not advance.

BASE RUNNING:

1. Players must wear helmets at all times while in the field of play. Intentional removal of a helmet while baserunning when the ball is live shall result in the runner being given a warning for the first such incident or being declared "OUT" for any further incidents.
2. If the ball is out of play, the runners shall be awarded the base to which they were headed plus one base.
3. Example #1 - An overthrow out of bounds while a runner is going from first base to second - the runner is awarded third base.
4. Example #2 - An overthrow out of bounds while a runner is heading back to first base after going part way to second - the runner is awarded second base,
5. If a play is made at home plate, the runner must slide or attempt to avoid contact. It is a judgment call by the umpire if the play is close enough to require a slide. The umpire must call the runner out if the runner does not slide when the umpire decides a slide was required. The catcher cannot block home plate or make a play for the runner if she does not have the ball or will not have the ball before the runner reaches the base. The umpire shall warn the catcher for the first infraction and can eject the catcher from the game for flagrant or further infractions.
6. If a play is made on a runner by throwing the ball, the runner may advance to the next base, including home plate, or return to the original base.
7. If the catcher drops the third strike, the ball is in play and the batter may attempt to reach base safely if 1st base is unoccupied or there are 2 outs. The batter can begin running anytime before she reaches the dugout or fence line whichever applies. Once the batter reaches the dugout or fence line, she is out. The umpire is also to call the batter out if a teammate or coach touches her before she attempts to reach 1st base..
8. Base stealing is allowed. Runners can attempt to steal a base after the ball crosses home plate. (No lead off prior to the ball being released from the pitcher's hand: One warning given per team)
9. A batter reaching first base safely and overrunning the base may immediately return without liability of being tagged out, providing she does not attempt to advance to second base. If an attempt to advance to second base is made, she may be tagged out.
10. If a runner interferes with a fielder attempting to play a ball, the runner is out. Fielders cannot be on the baseline unless going after a hit ball, or runner is awarded next base. (3 feet)
11. If two outs, supply a courtesy runner for the catcher. The courtesy runner is the player that made the last out.
12. When time is called: if the runner is halfway to the next base, she advances to the next base.

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BATTING:

1. Bats must be marked with the USA/ASA Certified stamp.
2. No designated hitter
3. All players present at the game must bat in common numerical order.
4. The batter must wear a batting helmet with a protective face guard
5. Bunting is allowed.

UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT:

1. Metal spikes are not allowed.
2. No jewelry or metal hair clips allowed.
3. Catchers must wear a protective helmet, face mask, shin guards and chest protectors.
4. Protective face masks are recommended for all infielders but are not required.

7-9 Girls End of the Season tournament is July 19-21th in Stone Bank