

EASTERN LEHIGH VALLEY SOFTBALL LEAGUE

2017 FALL 8, 9 & 10 LEVEL SOFTBALL RULES

- The game time is 1:30 minutes. If the visiting team is batting and behind, finish the inning. If the home team is behind, finish the inning. If the home team is ahead and batting, the game concludes at that point. **A tie is a legitimate result.**

No new inning starts after 90 minutes. If a new inning starts before the time limit you play out the inning – **the game doesn't revert back to the previous inning** – the home team bats and finishes the game.

- Time starts when ground rules break. The next inning starts when the 3rd out of the previous inning is made.
- A maximum of 4 innings shall be pitched in a game, with only one reentry per pitcher per game, **but the fourth (4th) inning for a pitcher can only occur, if the game reaches seven (7) innings.** Only use drafted pitchers. If circumstances require a non-designated pitcher to pitch, approval will be needed from the Fall Ball Administrators ahead of time.
- No infield or outfield warm ups are allowed. The pitcher will get 5 warm ups for their first inning per game played, only 3 warm ups in additional innings.
- Only 1 offensive and 1 defensive conference shall be held per inning. After the initial conference with the pitcher, she must be taken out on the next visit to the mound.
- No player shall sit consecutive innings defensively.
- The maximum number of batters a team shall have in an inning will be nine (9). The ninth (9th) batter shall be announced. If there are less than two (2) outs and a fly ball is hit to the outfield and caught, the runners may advance until the ball is controlled by an infielder in the dirt. (If there is a base runner on second base and she is clearly past third base before control of the ball is established by an infielder in the dirt, she can attempt to score as well. The defense can attempt to make a play on any runner.

On a base hit to the outfield, runners may advance until an infielder has control of the ball in the infield dirt. At that point the play is dead. (Runners will be permitted to continue advancement to the base directly in front of them). If the runner is past the base she may continue at her own risk, if she hasn't established the base yet, unless a play is made on her she may not proceed. The defense can attempt to make a play on any runner.

If the ball is hit in the infield and an out is made the play is dead. (No runs will be allowed to score no matter how many outs there are). If the ball is overthrown the play will be called dead when an infielder gets control of the ball or the ball goes out of play. (If a base runner scores from second or third base on an over throw, the run/runs will be counted). Any base running will conclude at that point. If there are two (2) outs play will stop when the out is made or an infielder has control of the ball in the infield dirt. If a runner is clearly past any base she may continue to the next base. The defense can make a play on any runner at this point. The ninth (9th) batter rule does not apply in the seventh (7th) inning, or any inning thereafter, where three (3) outs are required.

- Late arrivals are to be added to the bottom of the original batting order.
- A collision rule shall be in effect. A fielder may not block any base unless she is in possession of the ball. A base runner must slide or give herself up to avoid a collision. If a baserunner does not slide and nothing more than incidental contact occurs, the runner shall not be declared out.
- All games are to be played. All rainouts are to be rescheduled and played. The league will cancel any games due to inclement weather. You will be notified no less than 1 and one half hours if at all possible before your scheduled game time by the statistician. **COACHES WILL NOT CANCEL OR RESCHEDULE GAMES.**
- Scores will be kept at all games. Standings will be kept. Playoffs will be held.
- PIAA Rules shall be used. One paid umpire per game will be furnished. The bases will be set at 60' and the Pitcher's Mound will be set at 43'.
- Regular spring rules apply except for the above changes for fall.

DO NOT RUN UP THE SCORE!

If you have a big lead, change pitchers (Starter can always re enter). Stop stealing, taking extra bases etc. This is the coach's responsibility.

Have the girls run on and off the field between innings. Have your catcher and pitcher ready to take the field. Use 5 warm up pitches first appearance, 3 every additional inning. Keep the game moving. Make your position assignments the night before the game or worst case before the inning is over, not after the inning.