

EASTERN LEHIGH VALLEY SOFTBALL LEAGUE

2017 EIGHTH & NINTH GRADE LEVEL RULES

Official rules of play shall be PIAA (Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association) rules, which can be found at www.piaa.org

Amendments to PIAA rules are as follows:

General Rules

1. Game times
 - a. Weekday game time is 6:00 PM. Saturday game times begin at 11:00 AM. Exceptions are permitted and will be indicated on the schedules.
2. Length of game and minimum playing time of players.
 1. Seven (7) innings.
 - a. American League
 1. There are no minimum playing requirements for players.
 - b. National League
 1. Each player must play at least three (3) innings in the field in a seven (7) Inning game or a minimum of two innings (2)in any game of less than 7 innings that is shortened due to darkness or weather. No player should ever sit for the first three (3) innings of any game.
3. Dimensions
 1. Length of bases shall be sixty (60) feet.
 2. Pitching rubber shall be located **forty (40) feet** from the back point of home plate at the **National League** level and **forty-three (43) feet** from the back point of home plate at the **American League** level.
4. Complete Games
 1. In the event of bad weather or darkness, a game shall be considered complete after five (5) innings, or four and one half innings if the home team is leading.
 2. In the event that the home team is ahead by ten (10) runs after four and one half innings, or the visiting team is ahead by ten (10) runs after the five (5) innings.
5. Equipment
 - A. Balls
 1. The home team shall supply one new ball and one backup ball for each game.
 - a. A twelve (12) inch ASA .47 approved optic yellow softball shall be used for play. Red-stitching is mandatory..
 - b. Bats
 1. All bats must be 2004 ASA or BESR certified softball bats.
 - c. Helmets
 1. Batters and base runners must wear protective helmets with attached facemasks and chin straps.
 - d. Pitching Facemasks shall be required in the National Division. They shall be optional in the American Division.
 - e. All coaches are required to have first aid kits at all practices and games. A pair of rubber gloves must be available.
 - f. Hit sticks may not be used during games.
 - g. Metal cleats may not be worn.

6. Rosters.

- a. Minimum size
 1. 11 player minimum unless exception is approved by league board.
- b. Minimum players needed for game is eight (8), at which the team will be assessed an automatic out in the ninth (9th) batting position. No automatic out will be charged provided there are nine (9) players in the line-up. If there are less than eight (8) players, the offending team will FORFEIT the game to the opposing team.
- c. Bringing up of players.
 1. Players may not be double rostered between the American and National leagues.
 2. National league players may be brought up to the American league on a ninth (9th) and tenth (10th) player per game basis. All players who have been brought may not play any more innings than the regularly rostered players.
 3. Sixth/Seventh Grade players may be brought up to the National league on a ninth (9th) and tenth (10th) player per game basis. All players who have been brought up may not play any more innings than the regularly rostered players.
 4. Sixth/Seventh Grade players may be brought up to the American league only if she is a tournament player or the organization does not field a National league team. Sixth/Seventh Grade tournament pitchers may pitch only in the American league.
 5. National league and Sixth/Seventh Grade players pitching in the American league will be restricted to three (3) appearances per current season. These appearances shall be permitted only in the event of sickness, injury, or vacation. Additional appearances will be permitted by league approval only. A national league pitcher may be brought up in these instances even if here regularly rostered team has a game.
 6. National league and Sixth/Seventh Grade players playing in the American league will be restricted to five (5) appearances per current season. Additional appearances will be permitted by league approval only. Should a player make more than five (5) appearances without league approval, all games in which she participated shall be declared a forfeit.
 7. Non-tournament Sixth/Seventh graders will be allowed to pitch in the National league on an unlimited basis with her Sixth/Seventh Grade team having first priority. The Sixth/Seventh grade pitcher will not be subject to the 9th or 10th player rule provided she does not play any other position during the game. The effect of this rule is that a National Division team may bring up two players plus a pitcher from the 6th/7th grade level.
 8. Middle School pitchers will be allowed to pitch in the National league provided they have not exceeded pitching 35 innings for their middle school team. Once they have exceeded the innings pitched they will no longer be eligible to pitch in the National league
 9. National league teams may roster two (2) tournament players if their organization does not have an American league team. These players may not pitch.
 10. A tournament player is defined as a player who is a member of a team that chooses it's members on a basis of tryouts and plays or will be playing in weekend tournaments, such as ASA or USSSA, or weekday exhibition play during the current season.

11. All American league coaches will receive copies of each team's American league roster. Names of any player added to the American league roster will be will be
Furnished to all coaches by the league statistician

7. Game Procedures

a. Game rainouts, cancellations & make ups

1. All rainouts and cancellations must be replayed by the first Sunday following the date of the cancellation. In the event of two rainouts/cancellations in the same week, the second game must be made up by the second Sunday following the date of the second cancellation.
 - i. Failure to follow this rule will result in the offending team being charged with a forfeit or being fined \$25.00 at the league's discretion, or both for repeat offenders. The league will have the option to reschedule the game.
 - ii. Lineup must be exchanged prior to the game and be approved by the umpire.
 - iii. If a coach moves a game after the umpires have been scheduled, a \$5.00 fine will be assessed to the requesting (offending) organization rather than having the league assume this cost. Any show up fees due the umpires shall be paid by the offending organization as well.

b. Scorekeeping

1. Scores will be kept by both teams.
 - a. Each team will hand in a line-up to the opposing team that will consist of last name, first initial, number. The line-up shall also include position. All players playing up shall be identified with an asterisk (*). Failure to identify players playing up will be considered illegal players and a forfeit will be declared.
 1. The winning team is responsible for submitting the scores to the statistician. Players playing up shall be submitted for each game as well.
 2. Failure to send the information to the statistician within twenty-four (24) hours will result in a five dollar (\$5.00) fine, payable at the next league meeting.
 - b. Protest Fee
 1. A fee of \$25.00 must accompany a written protest within 24 hours of the the umpire in compliance with the "protest rules". The fee will be \$25.00 and will be returned if the protest is upheld. The league administrator must be notified of any protest.

Batting

1. A running batting order that includes all players shall be used for the National level only. At the American level it is optional.
2. In the event a team has eight players at the start of a game they will be charged with an automatic out in the ninth (9th) batting position. Any player arriving late shall be added to the end of the batting order. If players arriving after the line-ups have been exchanged and the other team is not made aware of the changes prior to the first pitch being thrown, they will take an out when the batting position comes up the first time.
3. If a team can field nine (9) players, there will be no automatic out.

4. In the event the ninth (9th) batter leaves the game for the injury or illness, that team will be charged with an automatic out, however that player may re-enter the game at any time. This rule does not apply if a Designated Hitter (DH) is being used.
5. A Designated Hitter (DH) may be used at the American league level.
6. The strike zone shall be from the top of the shoulders to the middle of the knees and shall include the white and black portions of the plate.
7. National teams shall be permitted a maximum of ten (10) runs scored in an inning with the exception of the seventh (7) inning.

Pitching

1. Pitching rules from PIAA are acceptable
2. All eligible pitchers must be 14 years of age on July 31, 2016

Base Running

1. All PIAA Rules apply

Defense/Fielding

1. All PIAA rules apply

Post Season

1. All playoff games must be played in their entirety. Any game that isn't completed will be completed the following night. In the event there is a game scheduled the following night, the incomplete game will take precedence and shall be completed prior to the start of the regularly scheduled playoff game.
2. Team eligibility
 - a. The top four or five teams from each division will be eligible for the playoffs (see below). In the event a balanced schedule has been played and a fifth (5th) place team in one division has a better record than the fourth (4th) team in the other division, a play-in game between them will be held with the winner qualifying for the playoffs as the fourth (4th) seed. This rule applies to divisions of six (6) or more teams.
 - b. In the event of an unbalanced schedule, a one-half (1/2) game differential in the final standings caused by one team having an additional regularly scheduled game, shall be considered a tie for the standings position in question.
Example: One team finishes the season with an 8-8 record and a second team has an 8-7 record.
 - c. After the first round of playoffs have been completed, the seeding of the remaining teams will be established as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| a. Season Record | d. Runs Allowed |
| b. Head-to-Head Competition | e. Coin Toss |
| c. Divisional Playoff Winning Percentage | |
3. Player Eligibility
 - a. A player must play in at least one-half (1/2) of the regular season games.

Game Conduct

1. Any coach or player ejected from a game is automatically suspended from their next game. The ejected person will not be allowed to participate,

coach or attend the game.

2. Assistant coaches will be permitted to coach the other teams players if it is done in a positive manner. They may not address or engage the opposing coaches or umpires. Arguing or discussing a rule or call with the opposing coaches or the umpire will result in an ejection of that coach.
3. Any parent who steps on the field of play for reasons other than an injury will be ejected from the game.
4. Persons behind the Backstop
 - a. No one will be permitted behind the backstop. One warning will be issued by the umpire. On the second offense, the offending team will be assessed an out.