



ELV Softball

Eastern Lehigh Valley Softball League

2022 SENIOR'S RULES

→ General Rules

- 1) **Game Times** - Games are seven (7) innings long. An inning shall end when three (3) outs have been made or a maximum of seven (7) runs have scored. Beginning in the sixth (6th) inning, three (3) outs are required to end the inning. This will also apply to every inning that follows. No new inning shall begin after a (2:15) time limit. Of course, if darkness comes into play umpires should use their own discretion for safety reasons.
- 2) **Length of game and minimum playing time of players.**
 - A. Games are seven (7) innings long. Beginning in the sixth (6th) inning, three (3) outs are required to end the inning. This will also apply to every inning that follows. No new inning shall begin after a (2:15) time limit. Of course, if darkness comes into play umpires should use their own discretion for safety reasons.
 - B. A running batting order consisting of all the players is mandatory
 - C. Each player must play at three (3) Innings in the field in each game of six (6) or seven (7) innings or a minimum of two (2) innings in any game of five (5) innings or less is shortened due to darkness, weather or mercy rule. No player shall sit consecutive innings defensively after the fourth (4th) inning. Each player must play a minimum of two (2) innings within the first four (4) innings.

- 3) **Dimensions** - The pitching rubber shall be forty-three (43) feet from the back of the plate and the bases will be set at sixty (60) feet.

4) Complete Games

- A. In the event of bad weather or darkness, a game shall be considered complete after five (5) innings, or four & one half innings (4-1/2) if the home team is leading.
- B. Mercy Rule - In the event that the home team is ahead by ten (10) runs after four & one half innings (4-1/2) innings, or the visiting team is ahead by ten (10) runs after the five (5) innings.

5) Equipment

- A. The home team shall supply one new ball and one backup ball for each game.
- I. A twelve (12) inch ASA .47 approved optic yellow softball shall be used for play.
Red stitching is mandatory
- B. Bats
- I. The PIAA follows the NFHS Bat process that is outlined in NFHS Rule 1-5. It also states that bats must have one of the 3 ASA or USA Certification marks and not be on the USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks. Please note this list only includes bats that at one time were approved with the USA/AS
- Bat Certification mark on the bat, but are no longer approved.
- Here is the link: <https://usa.asasoftball.com/e/BB1P2000.asp>
- C. Helmets
- I. Batters and base runners must wear protective helmets with attached facemasks and chin straps.
- D. Pitching Facemasks shall be optional but **highly recommended** for all pitchers
- 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 - Twelve (12) player minimum unless an exception is approved by the league board.
- B. Minimum players needed for the game is eight (8), no automatic out will be charged provided there are eight (8) players in the line-up. If there are less than eight (8) players, the offending team will FORFEIT the game to the opposing team. The opposing team has the option of supplying a player (s). The Forfeiting team is responsible for paying the umpire.
- C. Bringing up of players
- I. Any legally rostered 7th - 9th grade player can play unlimited games - she must play at her primary level first.
- II. Coaches will have access to all team rosters. Names of any player added to the league roster will be updated throughout the season.

7) **Game Procedures**

A. Game rainouts, cancellations and make ups

- I. All rainouts and cancellations must be replayed by the second 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.
 1. 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.
 2. Lineup must be exchanged prior to the game
 3. 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 - Scores will be kept by both teams.

- I. Each team will hand in a line-up to the opposing team that will consist of last name, first initial, number. All players playing up shall be identified with an asterisk (*)
- II. The winning team is responsible for submitting the scores to the statistician google form. Players playing up shall be submitted for each game as well.
- III. 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.

- 8) **Game Protests** - A fee of \$25.00 must accompany a written protest within 24 hours of the completion of the game being protested. The protest must be filed with the umpire in compliance with the 'PIAA protest rules". The protest is for rules only, not judgement calls and the protest must take place before the next pitch. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld. The league administrator must be notified of any protest within twenty-four (24) hours.

→ **Batting**

- A. A running batting order that includes all players shall be used.
- B. In the event a team has eight players at the start of a game they will not be charged with an automatic out. Any player arriving late shall be added to the end of the batting order. If players arriving after the lineups 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.
- C. The strike zone shall be from the letters to the knees and shall include the white and black portions of the plate.
- D. An inning shall end when three (3) outs have been made or a maximum of seven (7) runs have scored. Beginning in the sixth (6th) inning, three (3) outs are required to end the inning.

→ **Pitching**

- A. Pitching rules will be from the PIAA rule book
- B. All organizations and coaches should use good judgement and not pitch girls that are too young and risk injury. It is better to move or forfeit the game rather than risk and injury.

→ **Base Running** - All PIAA rules apply

→ **Defense/Fielding** - All PIAA rules apply

→ **Game Conduct**

- A. 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.
- B. Assistant coaches will be permitted to coach the other team's 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.
- C. Any parent who steps on the field of play for reasons other than an injury will be ejected from the game.
- D. Persons behind the Backstop
 - I. 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.

→ **Post Season**

- A. 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.
- B. Team Eligibility - We will discuss and vote on with the coaches at the last meeting. Normally all the teams make it, depending on number of participants during the year and amount of forfeits. A single elimination tournament is held either during the week or on one weekend.
- C. Player Eligibility - A player must play in at least one-half (1/2) of the regular season games.