

LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL®



Presentation Highlights

- Numbers and Outside Influence
- Basics of the Program
- Chartering Options and Development Strategies
- You Draft It



State of Play – The Numbers

- Team Sports Participation by 6-12 year-olds
 - **Overall:** 2011 – 55.5% 2016 – 56.3%
 - **Female:** 2011 – 49.4% 2016 – 52.8%
 - **Regular Basis:** 2011 – 41.5% 2016 – 36.9%
- Individual Sport by 6-12 year-olds
 - **Overall:** 2011 – 53.2% 2016 – 49.8%
- Average Number of Sports Played by an Athlete by 6-17 year-olds
 - 2.14% down to 2.01%

Softball Participation

- Softball 6-12 year-olds (2008-2011)
 - Decrease of 31.3% (1.3 million to 862)
 - Fastpitch and Slowpitch;
 - Casual player
 - Football, Baseball, Track, Soccer and Basketball
- Softball 6-17 year-olds (2009-2014)
 - Increase 1.6% (988,000 to 1,004,000)
 - Regular Basis



2008-2016 Softball Core Participation Numbers

- 6-12 Year-Olds Fastpitch Softball – Regular Basis
 - 2008 – 275,000 = 1%
 - 2010 – 231,000
 - 2012 – 436,000 = 1.5%
 - 2013 – 315,000
 - 2014 – 350,000 = 1.2%
 - 2015 – 388,000
 - 2016 – 290,000 = 1%



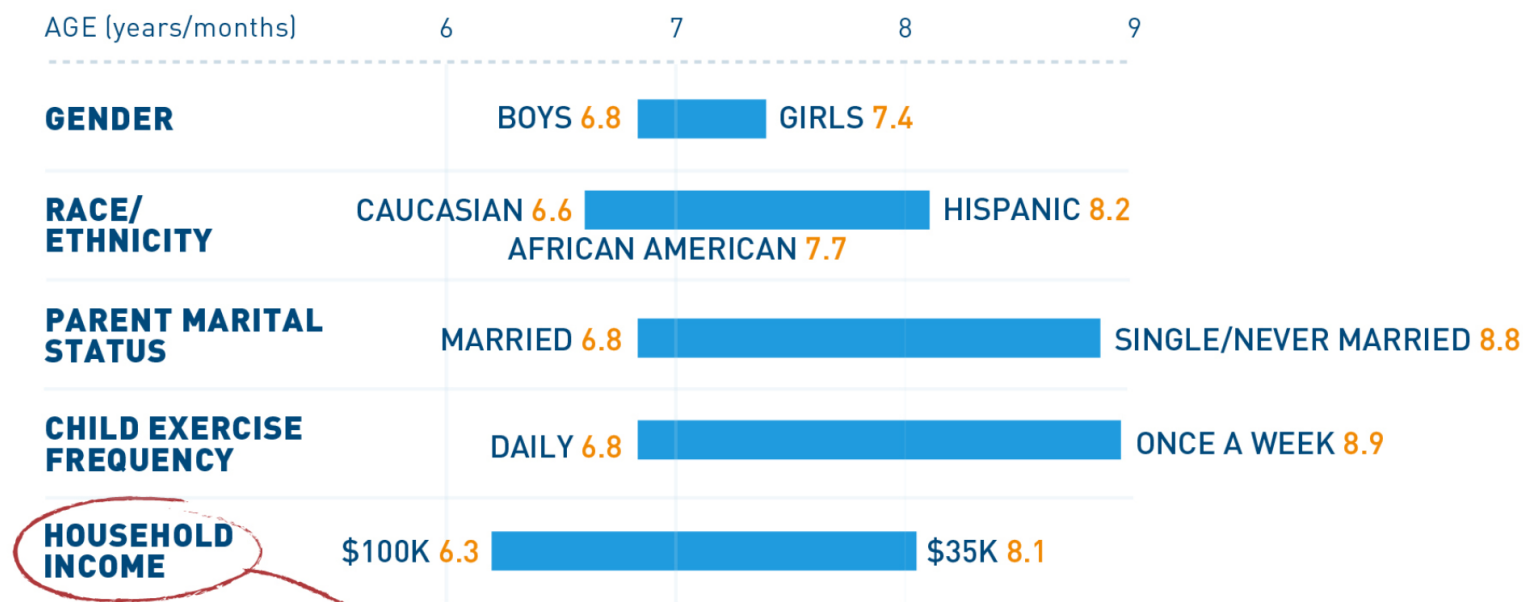
NFHS Softball Participation

- NFHS Fastpitch Softball
 - 2008/2009 – 368,921 (#4)
 - 2009/2010 – 378,211 (#4)
 - 2010/2011 – 373,535 (#4)
 - 2011/2012 – 367,023 (#5)
 - 2012/2013 – 362,488 (#5)
 - 2013/2014 – 364,297 (#5)
 - 2014/2015 – 364,103 (#5)
- Other Sports Ranked Higher
 - Track & Field
 - Basketball
 - Volleyball
 - Soccer
- States Not Offering Fastpitch
 - South Dakota
 - Wyoming
- States Offering Slowpitch
 - Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, and Oklahoma

Sports Participation – Key Indicators

Key Indicators of Early Success

Average age of entry into organized or team sports



Money is the biggest driver of early participation.

Benefits of Athletics for Females

- Reduce Health Risks
 - Physical
 - Mental
- Reduce Risky Behaviors
- Increased Academics
- Positive Relationships
- Overall Well Being



Reasons for Decrease of Participation

- Limited activity or playing time
 - Practice
 - Games
 - Fun, Fitness and Fundamentals
- Cultural barriers
 - Sons not Daughters
 - Urban and Rural
 - Black and Hispanic
 - Economic
 - Other responsibilities
- Over-structured
- Single-Sport Specialization
 - Travel Ball
- Untrained Volunteers/Coaches
- Late Entry for Females
- Only the Best
- Too Much Too Soon
- Overuse injuries

Suggestions for Increasing Participation

- What do Kids Want
 - Video Games
 - What do the boys get?
- Free Play
- Encourage Multi-Sport Play
- Revitalize House Leagues
- Designed for Development
- Trained Adults

What Kids Want From A Coach
The answers they gave researchers

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 1. | RESPECT AND ENCOURAGEMENT |
| 2. | POSITIVE ROLE MODEL |
| 3. | CLEAR, CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION |
| 4. | KNOWLEDGE OF SPORT |
| 5. | SOMEONE WHO LISTENS |

Suggestions for Increasing Participation cont.

- Safe and secure place for children to practice/play
- Affordable – equipment, registration, seasonal costs
 - Transportation?
- Cultural openings
 - Marketing Material Geared towards Audience
- Involving/Registering Girls at a Younger Age
- Role Models
 - Encouraging parents to participate with daughters
 - Softball Days => High School or College



Little League Softball Efforts

- Websites & Data Center
- Softball Awards
 - Volunteer of the Year
 - Hall of Excellence
- Communications & Publications
- Social and Digital Media



- Additional TV coverage and streaming
- Participation Review
 - Coach Pitch
 - Content

Working Partnership to Grow the Game

- ONE Softball
- Women's Sports Foundation
- Pitch in For Softball
- USA Softball
- MLB RBI
- International Softball Federation (ISF) and country or region-specific Softball Federations
- Mark Cooke



Little League University - Coaches Resource Center

- Free to all Chartered Leagues
- Updated regularly
- Features both video and text based articles as well as the latest Little League news
- Content specific for softball, describing skills, helpful drills and suggestions on how to structure practice
- Tee Ball & Coach Pitch Program



LittleLeagueU.org



10-Week Tee Ball Program

LittleLeague.org/TeeBall

Tee Ball Full Practice Plan Week 2

Practice Goal: What the kids should know by the end of today!

The players should be able to throw overhand, stepping with opposite foot and swing a bat unassisted.

Materials and Equipment:

- wiffleballs (15), bucket for balls (1)
- tee, or large traffic cone (1)
- hula hoops (3 or 4), weave 3 to 4 large circles of ribbon into the fence
- string or zip ties (3 or 4)
- cones (5)
- bat (1)

Practice Sequence:

1. Gather and welcome players. Review coaches' names and players' names. Review purpose for being at the field and show enthusiasm to start the practice. Verbally review the cues for throwing and have players raise their throwing hand and touch their stepping foot with that hand. Discuss the PCA tip of the week. (3 minutes)

Positive Coaching Alliance Talking Points for Tee Ball Coaches

Week 2—Rebounding from Mistakes (Mistake Ritual)

- All athletes, even great ones, make mistakes, but great athletes know how to bounce back from mistakes.
- On your team it should be okay to make a mistake. If your players fear mistakes, they won't try their hardest. Tell them to remember to just keep hustling and working hard, no matter what!
- Use a Mistake Ritual to help your athletes focus on the most important play—the next play. When someone on your team makes a mistake, they can flush it down the toilet by making a flushing motion with their hand.
- Also, tell that person, "That's okay. Flush it! Get ready for the next play!"

2. Statues: explain the game to players while they are still gathered from the welcome. While explaining, demonstrate how they will be tagged and how to freeze like a statue. Keep explanation brief as players will learn by trying. Have players find a spot to stand in the dirt (personal space) and on "go" players run anywhere in the infield. When the coach says, "freeze like _____," they must freeze like a statue of whatever the coach calls out. The coach then says, "go," and the players run again. Things to call out: like your favorite superhero, like an animal, like a race car driver, like you are throwing a ball, like you just hit a home run... Repeat. This time play that the coach tags the players. They freeze like a _____ whatever the coach calls. While a coach and players are playing, hang 3 to 4 hula hoops at player-throwing height on the fence. Space them about 10 feet apart.

3. Call players in and have them sit in the grass. Talk a bat. Before teaching, discuss safety rules. They must have two hands on the bat, never throw it and stay in the line. There are no accidents. Demonstrate a swing using your favorite hand/your throwing hand? That hand either below, bend knees, stand "sideways," eyes on that the bat should be held in the fingers and pads in their palms. Have them put their index finger of one hand on the palm of their other hand. They should close their finger as tight as possible. Once the hand is closed, try to get their index finger out. Do this again with the other hand. Being placed where the fingers meet the hand the other hand. Again have them grip down hard and try to take their hand. It should be much more difficult to free the second time. This should demonstrate to the players: fingers is a stronger grip than using the palms. Once proper grip, have players spread their feet slightly with shoulders in an athletic position with knees slightly bent and shoulders should be in line with the pitcher. Encourage them to swing hard while staying balanced. Encourage players that they must watch the ball that they are hitting. They should follow through by finishing with their head shoulder and the knees on their back facing the pitcher's mound.

target. It is a good idea to have them say "ready" on their eyes on their target as a reminder each time to target first. The next move is to step directly to the target and hand should move in a circular motion. Ask to tell players that when they take the ball out of their thumb should go past their thigh and then the ball to go up facing the sky - "thumb to thigh, show it to should release the ball to the target and let their arm move to finish the circular motion. Stressing this to prevent them from stopping their arms as soon as the ball. (4 minutes)

4. Stop players and call back to the coach. Have each their wiffleball in the bucket and give another team.

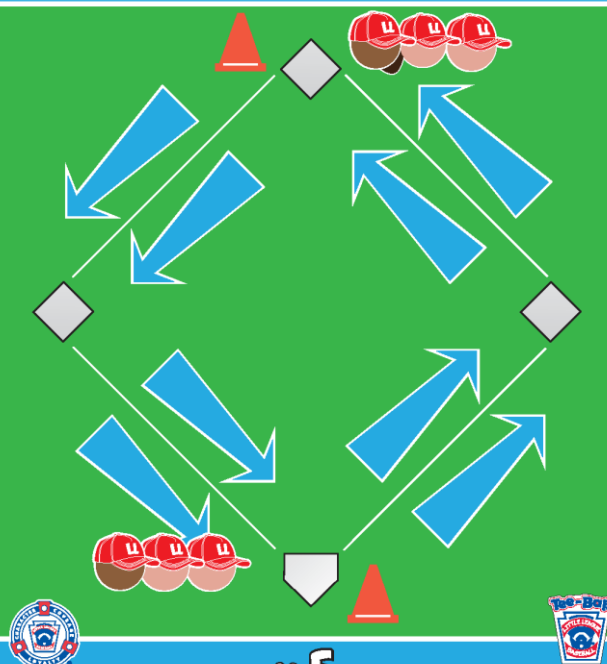
BREAK (3 minutes)

5. Call players in and have them sit in the grass. Talk a bat. Before teaching, discuss safety rules. They must have two hands on the bat, never throw it and stay in the line. There are no accidents. Demonstrate a swing using your favorite hand/your throwing hand? That hand either below, bend knees, stand "sideways," eyes on that the bat should be held in the fingers and pads in their palms. Have them put their index finger of one hand on the palm of their other hand. They should close their finger as tight as possible. Once the hand is closed, try to get their index finger out. Do this again with the other hand. Being placed where the fingers meet the hand the other hand. Again have them grip down hard and try to take their hand. It should be much more difficult to free the second time. This should demonstrate to the players: fingers is a stronger grip than using the palms. Once proper grip, have players spread their feet slightly with shoulders in an athletic position with knees slightly bent and shoulders should be in line with the pitcher. Encourage them to swing hard while staying balanced. Encourage players that they must watch the ball that they are hitting. They should follow through by finishing with their head shoulder and the knees on their back facing the pitcher's mound.

6. Gather players and have them give another player about what they learned today and how it will help Tee Ball players. Give the PCA tip of the week. Remind the next event. (4 minutes)

Dismiss

TEE BALL PRACTICE



#5 RUN THE BASES RELAY

- The players are divided into two teams. One team lines up at second base and the other team lines up at home plate. Each line should be out of the way of the base paths.
- On "go," the first player in line at second base runs around the bases back to second base while, at the same time, the player at home runs around the bases back to home plate. Once the players arrive back to their team's line they tag the next player to continue the race.
- The first team finish is the winning team.

Practice 2 – Quick Plan (45 minutes)

View the FULL PRACTICE PLAN for detailed instructions for every activity within each lesson

6:00 – 6:03 Introduction

- Welcome players
- Review names (players and coaches)
- Review how to throw/PCA tip of the week

6:03 – 6:10 Statues

- Players are tagged and must freeze like whatever the coach says
- (See full practice plan for complete instructions)

6:10 – 6:15 Review Grip and Throwing

- Players gather in circle
- Grip wiffleball with whole hand using fingertips
- Demonstrate grip and throwing with opposite foot

6:15 – 6:30 Team Throwing

- Hula hoops need to be fastened to the fence
- Players are broken into even teams
- Players take turns throwing through the hoop against the fence
- Each throw that is made through the hoop counts as an "out" for that team. Players are working toward three outs
- Coaches monitor for grip and stepping with opposite foot
- (See full practice plan for complete instructions)

Break

6:35 – 6:40 Swinging

- Demonstrate a swing to players
- Have players practice swinging without a bat (a dry swing)
- Take each player, one at a time to practice with a tee while others are still dry swinging

6:40 – 6:45 Conclusion

- Have each player compliment another/PCA tip of the week
- Review what they learned
- Remind of next event (practice, game)



Task 2—Rebounding from mistakes (Mistake Ritual)

On this team it's okay to make a mistake. If we fear mistakes, we won't try our hardest. Remember to just keep hustling and working hard, no matter what!



Initiatives



Grow the Game Grant Program

- Little League Softball Grants available
 - Up to \$20,000
- Who can apply?
 - In good standing with Little League, Region and District
 - Any league chartered with the program or planning to charter the program
 - Non-profit status
- What can they be used for?
 - Camps/clinics
 - Special Game Tournaments
 - Capital Budget Improvement
 - Marketing (TV, Radio, Fliers, etc.)
- How?
 - Submit Completed Form, Written Proposal and Project Estimate
 - 3 Letters of Recommendation
 - Financial Statement
 - League Point Person must be willing to follow-up with individual overseeing those grant funds



Little League Softball Days

Over 35 colleges and universities across the country hosted Little League Softball Days



Partnered with Oregon State, Arizona State, UCLA, UMASS, Boston College, Hofstra, South Florida, Tennessee, DePaul, Michigan, Baylor, Penn State, and many more.

LittleLeague.org/SoftballDays/



Little League Softball Special Games

- Allows Little League programs to organize weekend tournaments easier during the Regular Season, Second Season and Fall Ball.
- Additional flexibility in rules for participation, pitching, games in a day and team composition to increase the attractiveness and competitive level.
- Games played count towards tournament eligibility for Junior and Senior League.
- Complete details of special games options are available online at LittleLeague.org/Assets/forms_pubs/SpecialGamesGuidelines_Softball.pdf

Recent Softball Changes

The following changes were recently revised in the past few years:

- Regulation IV – allow 12-year-olds to participate in Majors and Juniors;
- Pitching Distance change from 40' to 43' for Junior and Senior League Softball (aligns with NCAA and ISF);
- Bat BPF to 1.20;
- Metal cleats option for upper divisions;
- Definition of a bunt (aligns with NCAA);
- Allowing a runner to steal at the release of the pitch in the Major Division;
- Allowing the batter to run on a dropped 3rd strike at the Major Division;
- Allowing tournament teams to participate in special games after tournament teams are announced;
- Penalty for use of an illegal bat

Softball Changes cont.

- Relaxed pitching regulations –
 - **Minor/Majors:** 12 innings in a day; 6 innings or less, no rest required.
 - **Junior/Senior League:** No restrictions
- Relaxed games in a day:
 - **Minor/Majors:** Two doubleheaders in a 7-day period
 - **Junior/Senior League:** Up to 3 games in a day.





Little League Softball® and ASA Rules & Regulations Comparison

	ASA	Little League Softball
Age Determination Date	December 31/January 1	December 31/January 1
Age Structure		
	8U	Tee Ball: 4-7
	10U	Minor: 7-8 (5 and 6-year-olds with one year of Tee Ball may play up); 9-11 (Minors may include Coach Pitch* and Player Pitch)
	12U	Major Division: 9-12
	14U	Junior: 12-14
	16U	Senior: 13-16
	18U	Big League: 14-18
Playing Field		
Base Lines	60 feet	60 feet (Tee Ball: may be 50 feet)
Pitching Distance	10U: 35 feet 12U: 40 feet 14U and above: 43 feet	Tee Ball/Minor: 35 feet Major: 40 feet Junior/Senior/Big: 43 feet
Fence Distance	10U: 175-225 feet 12U-18U: 200-225 feet	Min: 200 feet
On-Deck Position	Permitted	Minor/Major: Not Permitted Junior/Senior/Big: Permitted
Equipment		
Cleats	12U and below: Metal cleats are not permitted 14U and above: Metal permitted	Minor/Major: Metal cleats are not permitted Junior/Senior/Big: Metal Permitted
Ball	10U: 11" 12U-18U: 12"	Minor: 11" Major/Junior/Senior/Big: 12"
Bats	ASA certification (2000 or 2004)	1.20 BPF
Length	No more than 34 inches	Majors and below: No more than 33 inches Junior/Senior/Big: No more than 34 inches
Weight	No more than 38 oz.	No maximum weight
Catcher's Mask	Mask must have throat protector (extended wire frame or dangling throat protector)	Mask must have a dangling throat protector
Double First Base	Must be used	Allowed

The Game

Innings	10U and above: 7 innings	Minor/Major: 6 innings Junior/Senior/Big: 7 innings
Run Rule	15 after 3; 12 after 4; 8 after 5	Minor/Major: 10 after 4 Junior/Senior/Big: 10 after 5
Time Limit	May impose 1 hour 40 min	None, unless imposed by local league during regular season
Players to Start/End Game	May start/end game with 8; take an out	Must have 9 players
Substitutions	Starters & substitutes may re-enter	Minor/Major/Junior/Senior/Big Regular Season: Only a player in the starting lineup may re-enter the game Minor/Major/Junior Tournament: Starters and substitutes may re-enter the game after Mandatory Play has been met Senior/Big League Tournament: Starters may re-enter game once; A substitute may not re-enter the game once removed
Mandatory Play	None	Minor/Major/Junior/Senior Regular Season: 6 outs; 1 at bat Minor/Major/Junior Tournament: Depends on Roster size

Hitting

Bunt	Allowed	Minors/Majors/Junior/Senior/Big: Allowed
Bunt Attempt	Must move bat towards ball for strike call	Holding bat in strike zone; Must be pulled back for a ball (NFHS)
Extra Positions	DP/Flex	Senior/Big: DH
Drop 3rd Strike	10U and above: Allowed	Minors: Not Allowed; batter is out Major/Junior/Senior/Big: Allowed

Base Running

Sliding	Head first slide allowed	Minor/Major: No head first slide when advancing Junior/Senior/Big: Head first slide allowed
Stealing	10U: May leave at pitcher's release unless local league rule 12U: May leave at release	Minor: May leave when ball crosses the plate Major/Junior/Senior/Big: May leave at pitcher's release
Penalty for leaving early	Baserunner called out	Baserunner called out
Courtesy/Pinch Runner	Yes, but not same player for pitcher and catcher	Special Pinch Runner: Once each inning a team may utilize a player who is not in the batting order as a special pinch runner for any offensive player.

Pitching

Intentional Walk	Must throw 4 balls	Must throw 4 balls
Illegal Pitch	Both feet must start on pitcher's plate No crow hop No leaping	Only pivot foot must start on pitcher's plate (aligns with NFHS) No crow hop No leaping
Penalty for IP	Ball is called on the batter; base runners advance one base	Minor/Major: A ball on the batter Junior/Senior/Big: Ball on the batter; base runners advance one base
Pitching Restrictions	None	Minor/Major: 6 innings or less, no rest required; Max of 12 innings in a day Junior/Senior/Big: No restrictions

*Coach Pitch is a Division of the Minor Division that allows the Manager or Coach to pitch to their players while on defense to help teach the game of softball and keeps the game moving. A Coach Pitch division would NOT be considered a competitive Minor Division.

Little League vs. NFHS Rules & Regulations

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS AND LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL™ RULES AND REGULATIONS COMPARISON



GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

	Little League	NFHS
Scope of Play	Worldwide	United States
Membership	Community based leagues w/boundaries	Public & Private Schools or equivalent
Sports Scope	Softball (fast pitch) and Baseball	Softball (FP & SP), baseball and a large number of other school sponsored sports and activities
Players	Female & Male Ages 4-18 Tee Ball (4-7), Minor (6-12), Major (9-12) Junior (12-14), Senior (13-16), Big (14-18)	Female & Male Grades 7 thru 12 with eligibility Middle School/JR High (grades 7-9) JR Varsity (grades 9-12), Varsity (grades 9-12)
Divisions of Play	Age, Residence	Age, Residence
Player Eligibility	Spring, Summer, Autumn of calendar year	Spring and/or Autumn of school year
Playing Seasons	Limits to roster size (Differ by division) Limits to number of same age players on Major roster Pitching limits on innings in game, day, week Pitching rest required based on innings pitched Minimum games in a season is 12 Re-entry restrictions (mandatory play and sub rule)	Roster size determined by school No age group limit No limits No rest required Schedule set by schools and/or league guidelines No wait period for re-entry
Restrictions		

PLAYING FIELD

	Little League	NFHS
Base Lines	60 Feet	60 feet: FP & SP w/12" ball; 65 feet: SP with 11" ball
Field Distance	Recommended: 200 Feet Major: 40 Feet JR/SR/Big: 43 Feet	185-235 ft. for fast pitch 43 feet all levels
Pitching Distance	Major: Not Permitted JR/SR/Big: Permitted	Permitted
On-Deck Position	Major: Foul lines extended 9 ft thru point of home plate JR/SR/Big: 10 ft long x 8.5 ft wide	10 ft long x 8.5 ft wide for all divisions of play
Catcher's Box	Allowed - optional Treated as 2 bags on initial play Only white bag can be used thereafter	Allowed - optional Same Both bags can be used thereafter
Double First Base	Must disengage from anchor on impact	Disengage bases not mandatory
Other Bases	Must be provided and must be protected with 8 ft min high wire fence	Recommended for contestants Bench/dugout area fence protection not mandated
Bench / Dugout		

NFHS

Permitted: All Levels
12" dia., .47 max COR; 375 lbs max compression, 6 1/4-7 oz. Must be optic yellow w/NFHS authenticating mark
ASA Certification and not on the Non-Approved list
34" max for all divisions
Same
Must have throat protector (extended wire frame or dangling throat protector)
Same Optic markings not permitted
Glove or mitt; no solid optic or optic markings
Same Face Guards: Mandatory Chin Straps: Optional
Permitted

NFHS

JH/IV/VAR: 7 Innings; Regulation 5 JH/IV: doubleheaders 5 Innings each by state adoption
JH/IV/VAR: 15 after 3 (2 1/2) and 10 after 5 (4 1/2)
None; unless playing in public park and one is imposed
By state association adoption
Must have 9 to start; may finish with 8 (short handed rule) Penalty: Forfeiture
Straight 9 or 10 using DP/Flex option
No mandatory play rule in regular or post season games.
Managers and substitutes each have one re-entry
For dead ball appeal allowed

NFHS

18 Innings/week Rest required Minimum 3 Inn., no rest 18-30 Innings/week Rest required Minimum 5 Inn., no rest	No restrictions
	NFHS written rules
	NFHS written rules
	NFHS written rules
	Same Penalty
	Ball on batter; if runner, runner awarded one base Only a ball on batter for 20 second violation
	Same
	3 per game total
	Must throw 4 balls
	5 or 1 minute
	Once per inning; no warm up pitches
	Can re-enter; can return to pitch
	NFHS
	Allowed
	Same
	DP/Flex (optional) for all levels
	JH/IV/VAR: Allowed
	Must not move to be hit by pitch when in batters box. If in box, do not have to move.
	Batter out; Bat removed; Batter & head coach ejected. Runners return to base or remain out
	Immediate dead ball. Batter is out Runners return to base occupied at time of interference



Little League® International

Baseball and Softball

Steps for Starting a Softball Program

If I am interested in my league offering the Little League Softball program what are the next steps?

1. **Discuss offering Little League Softball program with your local Little League board** – The first step to adding a softball program to your local Little League is to discuss the addition of the program with the board. The board should appoint a softball committee to head up the effort. The committee should consist of at least one board member, and may include other members of the league or members of the community interested in starting a Little League Softball program. Some members that you may choose to include on the committee include your local high school softball coach, or other members in the community involved with softball. This committee will oversee items such as promotion of the softball program, identifying potential managers and coaches, securing softball fields, recruiting players, etc. *Note: When securing fields, a softball program may use either a traditional softball field or may use an existing baseball field.*
2. **Let your District Administrator know that you are planning to offer Little League Softball** – Your District Administrator will be able to let you know what other leagues in the district are currently offering softball and what opportunities may exist for interleague play or combined teams. Additionally, your District Administrator may be able to put you in touch with other softball contacts in the district that may be able to help you in starting your own program.
3. **Begin promoting your softball program and gauge interest in the community** – When you first begin promoting your Little League Softball program, consider promoting the program for all ages 4-18. Based on the interest at each age level, you can determine which levels of play your league will offer. You may choose to have girls interested in participating complete an interest form, similar to a registration form. This will allow your league to easily contact these individuals during registration. Keep in mind that even if your league

DEDICATED TO
SOFTBALL PLAYERS
WORLDWIDE

REDFINE

LITTLE LEAGUE®
INTERNATIONAL
SOFTBALL

WHERE THE WORK COMES TO COMPE

TELEVISION ON THE ESPN FAMILY OF NETWORKS

LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL®

BECOME PART OF THE
NEXT GENERATION
OF FEMALE ATHLETES

Learn More
LittleLeagueSoftball.org

Little League Softball® strengthens self-esteem, promotes teamwork and sportsmanship, and develops on-field fundamentals while providing a competitive outlet for girls.

Founded in 1974, the program has more than 25,000 softball teams and 300,000 participants worldwide. Working to grow the game of softball at the grassroots, Little League® has collaborated with more than 25 countries to create a foundation for success. Little League Softball includes division of play for girls ages 4 to 16, which culminates at three Softball World Series tournaments for international competition and friendship.

Little League Softball is proud to offer a number of different initiatives to support local leagues including Little League University, affordable coach and player

clinics, Little League Softball Days at top colleges and universities, and opportunities for financial assistance.

Little League brings communities together and offers a peer experience to families in the U.S. and around the world.



"Little League was huge start and success in so and gave me the event in love with the game. I girls a chance to dream part of something big."

Little League Softball
2018 Little League® Hall of Excellence



Promoting and Operating a Successful Softball Program

Structuring the Board

Little League would recommend adding at least two positions to the local league board when starting or operating a softball program: a Softball Vice President and a Softball Player Agent.

Softball Vice President

Appointing a Softball Vice President to oversee the operations is an important task for any league managing a softball program. One of the primary goals of this position is to promote the program within the local softball community. The Softball Vice President acts as a liaison between the league board and those involved in the softball program.

"I WAS THE PLAYER THAT WASN'T THE BIGGEST, FASTEST OR SMARTEST, BUT STILL I LEARNED THROUGH LITTLE LEAGUE® THAT I HAVE NO LIMITS."

SUE ENQUIST,
FORMER NCAA PLAYER & HEAD COACH
11 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

360,000 PLAYERS,
4 WORLD SERIES TOURNAMENTS,
LIVE TELEVISION COVERAGE ON ESPN

**DREAMING,
LAUGHING, LEARNING,
AND COMPETING**

PLAYER REGISTRATION

XYZ Little League
General Pizza Place – January 11-12 – 10am-5pm
More Information: www.XYZLittleLeague.org



Starting Softball at the District Level

- Tee Ball or District-wide programs
- Work Together and Communicate
 - Softball ADAs or Committees
 - Education and Training Opportunities
 - Schedules
 - Junior and Senior League
 - Tournament
 - Divisions being entered
- Combine Teams
- Interleague
- Special Games



Starting Softball Local League Suggestions

- Board Structure – League should add at least two positions to their Boards to help oversee the softball program
 - Softball Vice President
 - Softball Player Agent
 - Marketing Position
- Fall Ball/Second Season
- Tee Ball Softball
- Age Structure for Softball
- Regulation IV and Player Pools
- Find Facilities
- Promote the Program
- Training and Education
- Work with DAs to coordinate Regular Season schedule



Chartering Little League Softball

Methods of Chartering

- Addition to an existing charter
- Addition to an existing charter with modified boundaries
- Softball Only Charter

Addition to an Existing Charter

- Softball can be chartered by simply listing softball teams on your league's charter application
- Charter fees and insurance rates are the same as those for baseball
- Most appropriate when the same board is running both baseball and softball programs in a community

Addition to an Existing Charter with Modified Boundaries (cont'd)

- Chartered by listing softball teams on the league's charter application
- Charter fees and insurance rates are the same as those for baseball
- The league may request to operate with expanded boundaries for the softball program only to draw more girls to the program

Addition to an Existing Charter with Modified Boundaries (cont'd)

- Modified boundaries may include unchartered areas or areas chartered by another league not offering softball
- If an area in a modified boundary is chartered by another league, that league must give up rights to operate softball in that area
- **All modified softball boundaries must be submitted as a waiver request and approved by the Charter Committee**

Softball Only Charter

- A softball league can be chartered as a separate entity from a baseball league in a community
- This option is best when the softball program is operated by a separate board or when there is a group of individuals who would like to focus only on softball operations

Softball Only Charter (cont'd)

To charter a softball only league:

1. Complete and submit a charter application
2. Complete and submit a Little League constitution
3. Complete and submit a boundary map signed by the District Administrator, the League President, and the League Presidents of any baseball leagues whose boundaries the softball only league encompasses
4. All baseball leagues whose boundaries the softball only league overlaps must submit a letter giving up their rights to charter softball
5. **All softball only charters must be approved by the Charter Committee**

You Draft It



District/League Issues

- My district/leagues don't offer softball, what can I do?
- A County/Park & Rec. won't let my league add softball or they'll let in a competing baseball program.
- My softball leagues/parents are constantly complaining they are underserved in comparison to baseball. What can I/they do?

Recommendations/Feedback

- What other benefits do we need to be attractive?
- If you have competing softball, what have you “heard” is the reason they play/charter with another organization?
- Rule changes?
- Best way to educate coaches, managers, parents?

Little League® Graduates

A few Little League Softball graduates through the years:

- **Crystal Bustos:** USA Softball Team (Canyon Country LL)
- **Sue Enquist:** Former Head Coach at UCLA
- **Cat Osterman:** USA Olympian (Bear Creek LL)
- **Heather Tarr:** Head Coach at the University of Washington
- **Angela Tincher:** VA Tech; No hitter against US Team (Clifton Forge LL)
- **Jackie Traina** – University of Alabama and 2012 WCWS Champions (Naples LL)

Gatorade National Players of the Years

- Carly Hoover (SC), Alexis Bower (PA), Pauline Tufi (AK)
Sarah Ing (Washington DC), Carolyn Szymanski (DE)



For more information, visit
LittleLeagueSoftball.org or
Facebook.com/LittleLeagueSoftball



Sara Thompson
Director of Softball Development
Sthompson@LittleLeague.org

