



House League Softball Division Specific Rules

5-Pitch Division

1. Distance between bases	2. 45 ft.
3. Distance to pitching rubber	4. 25 ft.
5. Length of game	6. Four (4) innings, no open innings
7. Mercy rule per inning	8. Five (5) runs
9. Minimum # of players required to play any game	10. 5
11. Allowable bats	12. Any legal softball bat subject to Umpire approval. No baseball bats are allowed.

13. Any serious violation of the Code of Conduct will result in an in-person hearing. Please refer to the [Code of Conduct and Zero Tolerance policy](#) in the General House League rules.
14. Every division will have a double-elimination playoff.
15. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE ANY RULE CHANGES ALLOWED. COACHES MAY NOT AGREE TO ANY MODIFICATIONS BEFORE OR DURING A GAME AT ANY TIME.
16. In any game:
 - 16.1. No player may play the outfield twice unless all other players have played the outfield once.
 - 16.2. No player may sit on the bench twice until every player has sat on the bench once.
 - 16.3. Each player must play an infield position and an outfield position for at least one full inning.
 - 16.4. All players must be rotated between infield and outfield positions and must be allowed to experience all positions on the field.
17. Each team will pitch to their own team to generate as many hits as possible, to develop hitting, and to develop fielding skills by the defense.
18. The defensive team must field a “defensive pitcher”, who must have at least one foot in the pitching circle, a circle drawn with a (4) foot radius around the pitching rubber, when the ball is pitched.
19. Baserunners cannot leave the base until the batter makes contact with the ball. If an infraction occurs, the runner will be called out. Each team to receive one (1) warning. No stealing allowed.
20. Each batter shall have five (5) pitches before being called out. A foul ball for the fifth strike is not considered a strike and the batter will continue to receive another pitch until either the ball is hit or a strike or a fouled pitch is caught in the air. The coach of the team batting will pitch the ball. If a batted ball hits or interferes with the coach or player that is pitching, then the play stops, and the batter is awarded first base. The pitching Coach may not coach the kids once the ball is in play.
21. When a ball is hit to any defensive player, the player must “make a play” to a base, and when that play attempt concludes, and the ball is in the control of an infielder in the fair area of the infield,



then and only then can “time” be called. The “fair area of the infield” is defined as the fair area within the boundaries of home, first, second and third bases.

22. On an “overthrow” to any base, the play is dead, and time is called.
23. The Umpire is the only one who can call “time” to stop play. Players can only request a stoppage in play or do nothing with ball in hand to get the Umpire to call “time”.
24. Once time has been called, it is up to the Umpire to decide whether a baserunner was more than halfway to the next base, if not then the runner must return to the last base attained/occupied, unless a “force” dictates otherwise.
25. The defensive team will consist of one catcher, one pitcher, one 1B, one 2B, one 3B, one SS, and up to four OF: ten players in total.
26. See General House League Rules as all General Rules also apply.

27. **NEW RULE** 24-hour rule: players/parents/coaches and spectators are instructed to wait 24 hours before contacting a Convener or executive member for any grievance that does not involve the safety of any party. After 24 hours, it should be brought to the attention of the appropriate person. Under the contacts section of our website, a form is available to ask a question, make a comment, or file a grievance.
28. **NEW RULE** No person(s) other than the players, coaches (one head coach and two assistant coaches or parents filling in for these coaches) or officials are ever allowed on the playing field and in the dugout except for injury. An automatic one (1) game suspension will be levied against the offending individual (parent, spectator, etc.). Upon review of the incident from the disciplinary committee, a harsher penalty may be issued.

For 5-Pitch, Rally Cap and 8U, 9U, one additional person may be permitted to assist in the dugout only. For Tee Ball, additional parent volunteers are permitted on the field.
29. **NEW RULE** In addition to a parent or spectator receiving a suspension or other disciplinary action, the player they represent, and their coach, may also face disciplinary measures.
30. **NEW RULE** There will be **ZERO TOLERANCE** for any: unsportsmanlike behaviour, misconduct of any kind, unruliness of any sort, use of foul or profane language, attack of any kind (either verbal or physical) towards any Umpire, coach, player, or spectator.
31. **NEW RULE** RED ZONE RULE: no spectator, parent, player, or coach is permitted to view a game directly behind the backstop at any diamond. This will help eliminate any conflicts with Umpires and will also help the players field of view. An Umpire will provide a warning and then has the discretion to eject any person(s) from the park after that.



Red
Zone

32. **NEW RULE** For all divisions, if a game is called for weather it is considered official if at least 2.5 innings have been played.
33. **NEW RULE** Coaches are **REQUIRED** to place players in different slots in the batting order from game to game so that players receive similar numbers of at bats throughout the course of the season.