



Washington District 4

SOFTBALL INTERLEAGUE RULES 2022

All rules in the 2022 Softball Rule Book shall apply with the following D4 Interleague Rules modifications and additions listed below.

Every game, even between two teams from the same league, is an Interleague Game and is subject to these rules

Managers will contact opposing managers at least the weekend before scheduled game to confirm game times, locations, etc. Does not matter who contacts who (home or visitor), just have a communication contact.

Please contact other managers as soon as possible if a game needs to be canceled due to not enough players, weather, etc. Home teams make sure that umpires are aware also.

Game Schedules: All game schedules will be approved by League Presidents involved. All initial changes to the schedule must be approved by the Interleague scheduler. Rainouts, tied games, continuation games, changed games and canceled games shall be rescheduled by the teams and leagues involved.

Field Equipment: The Host League will provide all field equipment (i.e., chalk, bases, etc.) and make sure that the field is set and playable by game time.

Major and Minor Player Pitch Softball Rules

Game Time Limit: Major and Minor Player shall have no new inning after 1 hour and 45 minutes from scheduled game time or 6 complete innings, which ever comes first.

Players: A Team may be able to start and play a game with 8 players. No outs shall be given for not having a ninth batter.

Umpires: Home team will provide two (2) umpires. Plate umpires do have the option of standing behind the pitcher to call balls and strikes.

Scorekeepers: The Home team will provide the official scorekeeper.

Game Balls: Home team is to provide 2 new game balls for game use.

Continuous Batting Order: Mandatory for Minor Player Pitch. Majors will have continuous batting order from April 11th to May 15th. Major teams can then choose to still use continuous batting order or straight nine. Once a manager decides at the plate meeting, that batting order is used throughout the game. One team can be continuous and one can be straight 9 in the same game.

Courtesy Runner: A courtesy runner can be used for the pitcher and/or the catcher when an inning has 2 outs. This is to speed up the time between innings. If using continuous batting order, the courtesy runner shall be the last available player in the batting order. If using straight 9, the courtesy runner must be a player from the bench.

Run Rule (Mercy Rule) Majors Only: The Run Rules of 15 run lead after 3 innings and 10 run lead after 4 innings shall be in effect. This rule shall not be used in Minor Player Pitch.

5 Run Rule: Minor Player Pitch shall have a limit of 5 runs score per inning. No "open innings" for the last inning of the game and game must continue even if a team can not even the score.

Major Softball shall have the option to use a 5 run per inning rule, provided both teams agree to it at the plate meeting. If one manager does not want to use the 5 Run Rule, the game is played the standard way. No open innings if used.

Foot in Box: Batters must keep one foot in the batter's box once they enter the box until the completion of the at bat, unless forced out by a pitched ball or other play. Refer to Rule 6.02(c).

Un-Caught Third Strike: Shall be used in the Major Division. Shall not be used in Minor Player Pitch.

Minor Coach Pitch Softball

Games Time Limit: Games shall be complete if either 4 full innings are played or no new inning after 1 ½ hours after scheduled game time.

Players: Teams may start and play games with as little as 6 players. All players may be on the field while on defense (6 in the infield including catcher with extras in the outfield).

Coaches: Coach Pitch teams will be allowed to have 4 coaches assist players during a game. While on offense, a coach will pitch to their own team while at bat, 2 coaches can coach bases at 1st and 3rd, and 1 coach to run the dugout. While on defense one coach will be the "umpire" at home plate, additional coaches can coach out on the field behind the base paths provided they do not touch the ball or interfere in the play physically. A coach must be in the dugout at all times if a player is in the dugout.

Game Balls: Home team shall supply 1 new softcore 11" softball per game.

Continuous Batting Order: Shall be used

Runners: Runners are allowed one base at a time unless it is a well hit ball into the outfield in which case they may take two. No extra bases on any over thrown balls.

Stealing Bases: Stealing of bases is not allowed.

Innings: Half inning shall be complete if 3 outs are made by the defense or 4 runs are scored by the offense.

Pitching: From April 11th to May 14th, a coach shall pitch to their own team a maximum of 5 pitches, unless the 5th pitch is fouled off. If a batter fails to hit the ball in those 5 pitches, the batter is out.

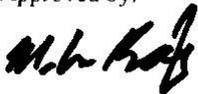
From May 15th to the end of the season, players will pitch to batters a maximum of 4 pitches each. If a batter does not hit the ball in those 4 pitches, the offensive coach will pitch the remaining pitches left to the batter. (Example --- if a kid pitcher throws 4 pitches and 2 are declared balls and 2 are declared strikes, the coach only gets 1 pitch to throw unless fouled off).

Player Pitchers may only pitch one inning in each game.

Player Pitchers can pitch from a distance of 30' from home plate.

The Rules set forth above may be changed with a majority vote of the League Presidents involved in the interleague. Proposed changes will be forwarded to the District Administrator, and the respective leagues involved for comment and final approval.

Approved by:



Mike Ray
District Administrator
Washington District 4
Approved: 03/15/22