

## 2010 OREGON DISTRICT ONE LITTLE LEAGUE INTERLOCKING SOFTBALL GUIDELINES

The following guidelines will be followed in addition to the Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League Softball.

The Interlocking Board will consist of all Softball Vice Presidents or their representatives who have Leagues in the Interlocking program. Each League should be represented at all meetings; any league not represented will abide by the decision(s) of the majority in attendance. Meetings will be organized to approve all Interlocking Guidelines, schedule season play, reschedule when needed, and act on any violations of a regulation, playing rule or interlocking guideline. They will also decide any protest and handle complaints as they arise. The ADA of Softball for District One Little League and/or their Assistant and a District Umpire Consultant will also attend all meetings.

All managers and coaches of the Interlocking Leagues will be familiar with all regulations, rules, and guidelines. They will also attend all mandatory managers and coaches meetings.

The Interlocking board will have meetings during the season as needed.

1. Managers and coaches will meet at the field 45 minutes before game to determine the field suitability. If the two managers cannot agree if the field is playable, a board member or safety officer of the home team will decide. If the umpire(s) are available pre-game they will make the decision if the game can be played safely. Once a game is started, the umpire is the **ONLY** person who can decide whether the game can be continued or stopped. Pitchers will be charged for innings pitched if an inning or more has been completed prior to the game being suspended. If the field is not playable, the manager of the home team will contact the manager of the visiting team and umpires at least two (2) hours before game time, if possible. If a team cannot play a game because of lack of players, the manager is to notify his/her Softball Vice President and the opposing manager and umpires at least 24 hours before game time, if possible.
2. All players must be in full uniform (shirts, pants or shorts, and socks). Patches must be on uniforms for minor level and above. Hats or visors are optional on an individual basis. Uniform shirts must be tucked in (unless the shirt is made to be worn on the outside). Exception to tucking shirt in will be the catcher while playing the defensive catching position; they may have shirt untucked.
3. Borrowing of players is not permitted. If either team cannot field nine players (**7 FOR MINORS**), the game will be referred for rescheduling. The game should be rescheduled within 24 hours if possible.
4. Any team that has not played any two (2) regular scheduled games or rescheduled a game more than twice due to a lack of players or any other reason (excluding rainouts), will be brought before the Interlocking Board for review and any necessary disciplinary action within a week after the second infraction. Penalties that could be enforced on manager of the team include: First offense - Written warning; Second offense - suspended for the next scheduled game; Third offense -Suspension for the remainder of the season.
5. Because of the shortage of fields, games played on Saturdays will be held to a two (2) hour time limit. If there is not a scheduled game immediately following, there will be no time limit. Ties will be completed just before the next scheduled game between those two teams. If they are not scheduled to meet again, game will be completed at the first available date. However, the required amount of innings to constitute a legal game must be played. No inning will start after the two-hour time limit. If there is a two-hour time limit in effect, an inning started must be completed unless due to weather or darkness. Exceptions: A legal amount of innings needed to be played must be completed and the last scheduled game of the

day will have no time limit.

6. If after four innings (five Jr/Sr), 3 and one-half innings (4 and one-half Jr/Sr) the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent.
7. Home team is responsible for umpire scheduling, no matter which team's field is used. The home plate umpire will wear full equipment as required in the rulebook. This is to be provided by the home team. The home plate umpire will not be a manager or coach from the same interlocking league level, except in an emergency. Required umpires needed for games are Jr/Sr and Little League - home plate and one base umpire. Minor - home plate umpire and if available a base umpire. Home field will provide umpires for both games for doubleheaders.
8. Each team will furnish regulation game balls. One (1) new and one (1) good used ball are required from both teams. Each team should have available additional good used balls in case needed. The umpire will be the sole judge of fitness of balls. 11" balls will be used in the minor division, 12" balls in the major, junior and senior divisions. Only solid color balls may be used.
9. The home team is responsible for field preparation (field must be chalked). The cleanup of dugouts and bleacher areas and removal of fences is the responsibility of both teams.
10. Managers must make scorebooks available to opposing manager upon request. Each team will provide an official scorekeeper. The manager or coach will not keep the official score. It is recommended that the official scorekeepers sit together. Location, time and date of game as well as pitching stats (First and last name, uniform # and innings pitched by each pitcher) and umpire signature should be completed in ink.
11. Managers will provide the home plate umpire with starting lineups and substitutions. All substitutions must go through the home plate umpire, who will then report to scorekeepers. Lineup will contain first and last names and uniform numbers of all players on the team.
12. No player will wear jewelry or metallic items. No piercings are allowed. Hair jewelry (beads, barrettes, etc) will not be allowed. Exceptions: medic alert bracelets, soft bands or ribbons.

### **RESCHEDULING OF GAMES**

If a game is not played for any reason, the manager of each team must notify the Vice President of their league that day, so the Vice Presidents or their designated scheduler can reschedule that game for the next available day. Canceling a game for any reason must go through the Vice Presidents or the opposing manager for the teams involved. All games will be rescheduled.

Preference order for rescheduling games:

1. Games not played due to field conditions.
2. Games not played due to school conflicts or high school game conflicts.
3. Games not played due to lack of players.

### **PITCHERS**

Violations of Regulation 6 of the Little League Softball rule book will be brought to the attention of the Interlocking Board.

### **FARM LEAGUE**

1. There will be a two (2) hour time limit. **HOWEVER**, the required amount of innings **MUST** be played to constitute a legal game. No inning will start after the two-hour time limit. If an inning starts before the time limit, it will be completed (Home book will keep time). Ties will be completed at the next scheduled game between the two teams. If they are not scheduled to meet again, the game will be completed at the first available date.

Exception: If it's a Saturday game, and is the last scheduled game of the day or there is no game

immediately following there will be no time limit.

2. A minimum of 7 players will be required to play a game.
3. A five (5) run limit per inning will be invoked for the entire game.
4. All players on the roster will bat in the order they are listed on the lineup card until there are three (3) outs or the five (5) run limit has been met. If a player must leave, their batting position will be skipped without penalty.
5. Games will be played with player-pitch only.
6. After 4 called balls, pitched by a player, the offensive coach will enter and pitch assuming the batters strike count. No called strikes will apply for coach pitch if the batter does not swing. The coach can throw only 3 pitches (a foul ball on the last pitch does not count against the batters 3 pitches) if the batter does not swing or get a hit the batter is **out**.

## **MINOR LEAGUE**

1. There will be a two (2) hour time limit. **HOWEVER**, the required amount of innings **MUST** be played to constitute a legal game. No inning will start after the two-hour time limit. If an inning starts before the time limit, it will be completed (Home book will keep time). Ties will be completed at the next scheduled game between the two teams. If they are not scheduled to meet again, the game will be completed at the first available date.

Exception: If it's a Saturday game, and is the last scheduled game of the day or there is no game immediately following there will be no time limit.

2. A minimum of 7 players will be required to play a game.
3. A five (5) run limit per inning will be invoked for the entire game.
4. All players on the roster will bat in the order they are listed on the lineup card until there are three (3) outs or the five (5) run limit has been met. If a player must leave, their batting position will be skipped without penalty.
5. Games will be played with player-pitch only.

## **MAJOR LEAGUE**

1. There will be a two (2) hour time limit. **HOWEVER**, the required amount of innings **MUST** be played to constitute a legal game. No inning will start after the two-hour time limit. If an inning starts before the time limit, it will be completed (Home book will keep time). Ties will be completed at the next scheduled game between the two teams. If they are not scheduled to meet again, the game will be completed at the first available date.

Exception: If it's a Saturday game, and is the last scheduled game of the day or there is no game immediately following there will be no time limit.

2. There will be a five (5) run limit in the first five (5) innings with the 6th inning open.
3. All players on the roster will bat in the order they are listed on the lineup card until there are three (3) outs or the five (5) run limit has been met. If a player must leave, their batting position will be skipped without penalty.
4. Games will be played with player-pitch only.

## **JUNIOR LEAGUE**

1. There will be a (5) run limit in the first (4) innings, all innings after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning are open.
2. If one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more after (5) innings or (4 ½) if the home team is ahead, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to their opponent.
3. Home field is responsible for providing umpires and both teams will supply one game ball per game.
4. When playing double headers, teams will alternate home field status.

## **PROTEST GAME POLICY**

Protests shall be followed according to the rule book. Any protest for any reason whatsoever must be submitted by the manager first to the umpire on the field of play and then in writing to the ADA of Softball within 24 hours. The umpire in chief shall also submit a report immediately to the ADA of Softball.

The Interlocking Board and District Umpire Consultant(s) will hear and resolve any protest. If protest is allowed, game will resume from exact point of when infraction occurred.

## **EJECTION POLICY**

The following is the procedure that will be followed when a manager, coach, and/or player has been ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct.

1. The umpire shall report such incidents according to rule 9.05 (a, b, c) in the Little League rulebook. The report shall contain all necessary information and is to include rule numbers that apply.
2. The umpire will report to the ADA of Softball immediately following the game by phone and within 24 hours by letter or email.
3. Once the report has been received, the ADA of Softball will notify all members of the Interlocking Board. At the time of notification a meeting will be scheduled. The meeting will be held at the earliest possible date and no later than the next scheduled game day for the team involved.
4. The ejected manager, coach and/or player will be invited to present their side after being advised of the umpire's report.
5. The District One Representative will chair the hearing. After all information has been presented, the hearing committee will adjourn. The District 1 Representative will inform all parties of the outcome of the Interlocking Board's decision.
6. The appropriate penalty below shall be imposed if the hearing committee upholds ejection: First offense: suspended for next scheduled game to be played or suspended for remainder of season. Second offense: Suspended for next two scheduled games to be played or suspended for remainder of season. Third offense: Suspended for remainder of season.

## **PARENT AND SPECTATOR CONDUCT**

Respectful behavior will be required of our Managers, Coaches, Players and Spectators toward umpires and one another. Behavioral problems will not be tolerated by Managers, Coaches, Players, Parents and or Spectators at any game, at any ball field, at any time. Managers and coaches bear the responsibility for the conduct of their team and crowd. They should do **WHATEVER IT TAKES** to minimize any disruptions or acts of unsportsmanlike conduct. This includes, but is not limited to, removal of any spectator(s) acting in a disruptive or unsportsmanlike manner!!

Any spectator, Manager, Coach or Player, may be removed by the umpire (ORS 164.276 and ORS 164.278) for objecting to a decision, unsportsmanlike conduct, language, or conduct deemed inappropriate. If ejected, the Manager, Coach, Player or Spectator must leave the area immediately (the sight and sound rule). The umpire may suspend the game until this action has occurred. League Officials from either league should assist the umpire in calming situations and dealing with unruly spectators.

If an ejection occurs the offender will not be permitted to attend the teams next scheduled game. If an ejection occurs, the President of the offending League will inform the host president of the team's next game. If the ejected offender shows up at the next game and refuses to abide by this rule, they will be considered to be trespassing (ORS 164.278) and the police will be called to remove the spectator. If that happens the matter will be brought before the interlocking board, and the offender could be expelled for the remainder of the season.

**Any Violations should be reported immediately to the appropriate District Staff; DA Bob Hudlow (503) 312-3272 and ADA of Softball Jamie Schlosser (503) 369-2737. All issues will be handled with in 24 hours and decisions will be final.**