

## Delaware District 02 Inter-League Rules 2009 Softball Major & Senior Divisions

1. All games shall be played under 2009 Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules except as listed within this document.
2. Any player taking the position of catcher is required to wear a catcher's helmet and mask with a dangle-type throat guard. This includes warming up a pitcher on the field and in the bullpen or during pregame infield practice. **Repeated violation of this rule will result in ejection of player and/or manager.**
3. **Any player, coach or manager throwing equipment or using foul language will be ejected from the game.** Ejected players are to remain in the dugout unless a parent is present or he/she has their own vehicle, at which time they are to leave the grounds immediately. Ejected managers and coaches must leave the grounds immediately.
4. All ejections carry an automatic one game suspension that is not appealable. Suspended player, manager, or coach may not be on the complex during their suspended game.
5. A team may not start a game with eight players (Rule 4.16-7). A grace period of 20 minutes will be allowed to start a game. A team which does not complete warm-ups prior to expiration of grace period shall forfeit their warm-up. Should the grace period expire, the game shall be rescheduled. A game rescheduled under this rule will be rescheduled until one team fails to field 9 players for the 2nd time. That team will forfeit the game. Examples:  
Original game - Team A has 9 players, Team B 8 players - game rescheduled  
Rescheduled game - Team A has 9 players, Team B has 8 players - Team B forfeits game  
  
Original game - Team A has 8 players, Team B 9 players - game rescheduled  
Rescheduled game - Team A has 8 players, Team B has 8 players - Team A forfeits game  
  
Original game - Team A has 8 players, Team B 9 players - game rescheduled  
Rescheduled game - Team A has 9 players, Team B has 8 players - game rescheduled  
Rescheduled game - Team A has 8 players, Team B has 9 players - Team A forfeits game
6. After starting a game, if a team cannot field nine players due to an ejection or injury, the game will be suspended and finished at a later date.
7. Pool play will be allowed for Senior division only. Pool play must follow Rule V(c) - Selection of Players - Alternate method of operation.
8. Lineup cards must be exchanged between teams prior to start of game (umpires may also request copies). Line-up cards **MUST** be properly filled out with number, and first & last names so as to assist in tracking pitcher/player eligibility. Lineup cards must show batting position of each player in the starting lineup. Lineup cards must also list substitutes, manager, and coaches. Starting pitcher must be clearly marked.
9. Major and Senior division teams **will** use Round Robin batting order (all players must bat). (See rule 4.04) **If a player is injured or has to leave a game early and is NOT substituted for, that player's position in the batting order will be skipped over and team is not penalized.**
10. Major division teams will play with four outfielders. All outfielders must play normal outfield position, i.e. no shortfielder behind 2<sup>nd</sup> base. Once this election has been made it shall remain in effect for the entire game unless number of eligible players drops below ten. Teams may start game with 9 players, but if a 10<sup>th</sup> player shows up after the game starts, they must be assigned a defensive position and placed into the game at the earliest opportunity. **Note: This rule does not apply to Senior division teams.**
11. Major games will be subject to a four run per inning limit. Senior games will be subject to a seven run per inning limit. Innings end immediately upon the scoring of the 4<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> run the play may continue but the run limit is in effect. (This is to protect our players from injury) Due to time restraints managers may want to discuss with each other and the umpire and decide whether or not to make the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) inning the unlimited run inning.

12. The 10-run rule, 4.10(e), will be used in both the Major and Senior divisions. This option is used once a game becomes official (must be at the end of the bottom half of the inning if visiting team is ahead).

13. No new inning (top half of an inning) will begin after the published curfew time on all non-lighted fields. Curfew times are listed for each date on the schedule. All managers are to carry the schedule at all times. The latest a game can end, is as follows, 10pm for Major 10:30pm for seniors

## **Delaware District 02 Inter-League Rules 2009 Softball Major & Senior Divisions**

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14. The pitching week shall run from Sunday to Saturday.

15. A pitching log (form supplied by District 2 Softball Inter-league) will be kept by each team. This log will document (at a minimum): date of each game played, name of opposing team, pitcher or pitchers used (for your team only), and number of innings pitched by each pitcher. This log must be available for review by opposing team and umpires prior to start of every game. (Suggestion: keep log with scorebook)

16. The home team will supply game balls and shall occupy the third base dugout.

17. Two adults may be used as base coaches. This option may only be used if three adults are present in the dugout. Should only two adults be present, only one adult base coach may be used. In the event only one adult is present, no adult base coaches may be used. **AT NO TIME SHOULD MORE THAN THE THREE ADULTS ON THE ROSTER BE IN THE DUGOUT.**

18. After the completion of the game, Managers and coaches shall not leave players at the field/complex unaccompanied by an adult.

19. If there is a game on the schedule immediately following your game, your game must finish 10 minutes prior to scheduled start of 2<sup>nd</sup> game.

20. All weekday games begin at 6 pm unless otherwise noted on schedule.

21. Providing both the home plate and base umpires shall be the responsibility of the home team (regardless of facility where scheduled). It shall be the responsibility of each league to verify that managers are using qualified umpires. This is critical for umpires working home plate in the Senior division.

**REMEMBER: Local Little League programs are required to obtain completed volunteer applications from and conduct background checks on managers, coaches and other volunteers (i.e. umpires) who come into regular contact with players.**

### **GAME CHANGES:**

If a team cannot play a game for any reason, including inclement weather, the home team manager will contact their league representative within 24hrs. League representatives will inform the Softball ADA, who will reschedule the game at the earliest open date that will give each manager a minimum of 48hrs notice.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER:**

Managers are to call the Hotline number of the host league to determine the fitness of the field. If the message on the Hotline does not cancel the game, teams should report to the field. Prior to the start of a game, only officials of the host league have the authority to declare a field unfit for play. Once a game has started the umpire-in chief shall be the sole judge as to whether and when play shall be suspended. (Rule 3.10 (b))

**ALL POSTPONED GAMES** must be rescheduled under the "Game Changes" rule.

### **SCORE REPORTING:**

Teams will report scores online at [www.suburbanlittleleague.org](http://www.suburbanlittleleague.org) as soon as possible. Both teams are required to submit scores to ensure accuracy.

Directions for submitting scores:

1. Go to [www.suburbanlittleleague.org](http://www.suburbanlittleleague.org)
2. Click "online forms/Game reports and Questionair" link along the left border

3. Choose the game report link and complete all fields with a red ! next to them
4. Click "submit form"

A Suburban official will update the data and statistics will be available via the "Standings" link.

Please feel free to include highlights of the game.