



LAKELAND MINOR BALL LEAGUE

SOFTBALL RULES

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Revision History

Section	Date	Details	Revision	Contributions By	Approved By
All	May 5, 2023	Initial Document from previous rules	00	D'Arcy Evans Margaret Bayduza	Dennell Anderson – LMBL President
All	April 25, 2024	Edits to 2023 Rules via Motion 2024-007 Formatting Edits	01	Alain Mahe Dennell Anderson Kim Gauthier Margaret Bayduza Real Bourbeau	Justin Blackburn Chris Moser

LAKELAND LEAGUE – SOFTBALL RULES

SOFTBALL RULES APPLYING TO ALL DIVISIONS

1. Lakeland Minor Ball League (“LMBL”) rules apply first, and all other Softball Alberta rules apply thereafter.
2. All players SHALL be registered with Softball Alberta.
3. Each team must submit a completed *official roster* to LMBL board each year. *Official rosters* must be entered on the LMBL.ca website prior to league play beginning.
4. Each team must carry an *official roster* with them to each game.
5. Home team will provide game balls, umpires, and prepared diamonds. If the home team cannot supply an umpire, they may access umpires from other communities.
6. Home team must provide the *official scorebook* which must be shared between the two teams. The official score that is sent to the league is what is recorded in the *official scorebook*.
7. All players are in the batting order, must be on the *official roster* and written in the *official scorebook*.
8. Teams cancelling games due to reasons OTHER THAN INCLEMENT WEATHER (AQI, rain, etc.) must do so a minimum of 24 hours prior to game time.
 - 1) Games cancelled within this time limit will result in no points awarded to either team and may be re-scheduled.
 - 2) Games cancelled with less than 24 hours notice for reasons other than weather will result in the cancelling team forfeiting the two points to the other team. If both teams agree, the game can be re-scheduled for exhibition play.
9. All weeknight games start at 6:30 pm.
10. No innings will start after 8:30 pm. Games may continue beyond 8:30 pm if mutually agreed upon by each head coach and umpires.
11. There will be NO open innings.
12. All players coaching 1st or 3rd base must wear a helmet.
13. Players must wear a cage on their helmet. Helmet chin straps must be worn by all players in all divisions.
14. Pitchers U18 and under are required to wear a face mask.
15. NO metal cleats.
16. We want to encourage all kids to play. The related Softball Alberta rules DO NOT apply:
 - 1) A team can play with 7 or 8 players without the 9th position being an automatic out.
 - 2) Players are allowed to pitch and catch in the same game.
 - 3) Substitutions are unlimited.

17. Teams are allowed three (3) overage players on the field at one time.

- 1) Can only play if they do not have a team to play on at their own level in their community.
- 2) Overage players must be from one year older than the team they are playing on.
- 3) Overage players must be indicated on team line up PRIOR to game.
- 4) Overage players must be marked O/A on the lmbll.ca rosters as well.
- 5) Overage players and boys cannot pitch or catch.

18. LMBL will replace the U17 and U19 divisions with a single U18 division.

RULES FOR CROSSOVER AND CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

19. No new inning to start after 1 hour and 30 minutes of play unless the game is tied.

Interpretation: To clarify time limit rules for the crossover and champion tournament games – The start of the game begins when the first pitch is thrown. The umpire shall state the time and it is recorded by the official scorekeeper.

9U: PLEASE REFER TO THE 9U & U9 MODIFIED RULES DIVISIONAL PACKAGE BOOKLET

U11: BASES @ 45', POINT OF HOME PLATE TO FRONT OF PITCHER'S PLATE – 35' WITH 11" BALL.

1. Maximum of 5 Runs Scored per Half Inning: Once the 5th run of the half inning is scored the inning automatically stops no matter how many outs there are, and that half inning is over. This rule will apply to League Play and Championship play.
2. Each pitcher will be allowed to pitch two consecutive innings only per game within the Lakeland League.
3. NO WALKS Modified Rule of U11 Softball Only
 - a. **Purpose** – to encourage players to hit rather than waiting it out for a walk, to prevent innings resulting in a long series of walks and keep the game moving.
 - b. If a pitcher reaches a count of four (4) balls, the coach will come on field and pitch the remaining strikes. No pitched walks. Hit by pitch still takes a base.
 - c. The coach must be from the hitting team and must NOT interfere with the play when the ball is hit.
 - d. The pitcher on the field stays in the pitching position and will continue to pitch for the next batter.

- e. If a coach comes in to throw the remainder of strikes, they must throw underhand pitches from the pitching rubber or up to 2 steps in front of the rubber.

Interpretation: No matter the pitch count, a MAX of three (3) pitches (regardless of coach accuracy). They must NOT throw over that, if the batter is unable to hit the pitch(es) that is thrown by the coach, they are out. No stolen bases are permitted during the coach pitch phase.

U13: BASES @ 55', POINT OF HOME PLATE TO FRONT OF PITCHER'S PLATE – 38' WITH 11" BALL.

1. Maximum of 5 Runs Scored per Half Inning: Once the 5th run of the half inning is scored the inning automatically stops no matter how many outs there are, and that half inning is over. This rule will apply to League Play and Championship play.

U15: BASES @ 60', POINT OF HOME PLATE TO FRONT OF PITCHER'S PLATE – 40' WITH 12" BALL.

1. Maximum of 7 Runs Scored per Half Inning: Once the 7th run of the half inning is scored the inning automatically stops no matter how many outs there are, and that half inning is over. This rule will apply to League Play and Championship play.

U18: BASES @ 60', POINT OF HOME PLATE TO FRONT OF PITCHER'S PLATE – 60' WITH 12" BALL.

1. Maximum of 7 Runs Scored per Half Inning: Once the 7th run of the half inning is scored the inning automatically stops no matter how many outs there are, and that half inning is over. This rule will apply to League Play and Championship play.