



# 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	Dennel Anderson – LMBL President
All	April 25, 2024	Edits to 2023 Rules via Motion 2024-007 Formatting Edits	01	Alain Mahe Dennel Anderson Kim Gauthier Margaret Bayduza	Justin Blackburn Chris Moser
All	May 1, 2025	Edit 7 – Batting order Edit 13 – Helmet Edit 14 – Facemask Edit 17 - Players Add U11 3 – Stealing Edit U11 4 – No Walk Rule	02	Dennel Anderson Lindsey Stanton Margaret Bayduza Orry Gelowitz	Real Bourbeau 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*.

***Interpretation:*** To clarify batting order rules for all LMBL games – Late arriving players should be marked as a substitute at bottom of batting order lineup until they arrive. When they arrive, they can be added to the lineup in the last batting position. If a player is called to bat and is not available, it is an out. This can be discussed at the plate meeting if any players are anticipated to be late.

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. All offensive players must wear a cage on their batting helmet.
14. All infield defensive players 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. No limit to overage players on the roster; however, teams are only 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 lmbi.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. Stealing
  - a. Base runners may steal on any legally pitched ball when it has left the pitchers hand.
  - b. A player can only advance one base on a steal attempt.
  - c. A player cannot advance to home on a steal, passed ball, or wild pitch. The player must be batted in or forced home by a walk or is part of a continuation of a play (i.e. overthrow).

**Interpretation:** To clarify, this rule is that on one pitch, a player may attempt to steal one base. If successful, that player must stay on that base until the next pitch is delivered, where the player may attempt to steal another base. Once they are on third base, they must then be batted in where they are scoring only from a force (ie. walk) or from a hit. Also, no stolen bases are permitted during the coach pitch phase.

#### 4. NO WALKS Modified Rule of U11 Softball Only

- a. **Purpose** – to encourage players to hit rather than waiting 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 the 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 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.

Count	Coach Pitches
4-0	3 pitches
4-1	2 pitches
4-2	1 pitch
If the ball is hit foul – the coach continues with another pitch until ball is hit into fair territory.	

**Additional Clarity** - the coach comes in and will pitch up to three (3) pitches (regardless of coach accuracy). A player hit by a coach pitch still takes a base. However, foul balls will not result in an 'out', and the player will still see more pitches. The additional benefit is that the umpire doesn't have to determine if the coach pitch is a ball or strike. The League doesn't want to put the umpires in the position to make calls on coach pitching / accuracy.

#### 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 – 43' 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.