



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 Dennell 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	Dennell Anderson Lindsey Stanton Margaret Bayduza Orry Gelowitz	Real Bourbeau Chris Moser
All	April 20, 2026	Edits 8, 9, 10 & 13. Add 17 & 18 – U18 Division Rule Interpretation & 2026 LMBL Softball Age Chart Edit 20 – Finals Add 21, 22, 23 & 24	03	Dennell Anderson Evan Aasen Margaret Bayduza Real Bourbeau	Pam Cannan 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 shall 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 (smoke or rain) must do so a minimum of 48 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 48 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 league and final games will be scheduled for weekends. Either Friday, Saturday, or Sundays.
 - 1) In the event of a re-scheduled weeknight game, the game should start at 6:30 pm.
10. There will be NO open innings during any games.
11. All players coaching 1st or 3rd base must wear a helmet.
12. All offensive players must wear a cage on their batting helmet.
13. All infield defensive players are required to wear a face mask regardless of age category.
14. NO metal cleats.
15. 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.

Interpretation: To clarify 8 – players = no outs (when the 9th position is called to bat). 7 – players = 1 out (when the 8th position is called to bat).

16. 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 lmbll.ca *official rosters*.
- 5) Overage players and boys cannot pitch or catch.

17. Teams may bring underage player(s) to play games to fill a weekend tournament roster, provided they are registered with the SAME association, to minimize games cancelled.

- These underage players must be marked U/A on the lmbll.ca *official roster* as well.
- Regardless, the overage players must follow rules above.

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

Interpretation: To clarify overage rules for all LMBL softball games, in 2023 the LMBL board passed a motion that **removed** the softball U17 and U19 age divisions and **replaced** (not combine) **with a single U18 division.**

2026 LMBL Softball Age Chart			
CATEGORY	BORN IN or LATER THAN	OVERAGE YEAR*	COMMENT
U18 – Modified	2008-2010	2007	Under 18 prior to Jan 1 st of current year. 19-year-old players are the O/A category
U15	2011-2012	2010	Under 15 prior to Jan 1 st of current year.
U13	2013-2014	2012	Under 13 prior to Jan 1 st of current year.
U11	2015-2016	2014	Under 11 prior to Jan 1 st of current year.
U9	2017-2018	2016	Under 9 prior to Jan 1 st of current year.

- Overage Year is still subject to Rule #16.1 to 16.5 above.

RULES FOR LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

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

20. The final championship medal game will be a 6 inning (U11 / U13) or 7 inning (U15 / U18) game.

Interpretation: To clarify time limit rules for the 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.

21. The Home team shall not play their half of a final inning if the home team is ahead before their bat or at any time during the last inning, the game is considered over.
22. A “Coin Toss” may be used to determine home team as required; the “Coin Toss” will usually be done immediately after the Coaches plate meeting. Teams NOT in attendance will automatically forfeit “choice of inning”.
23. Temporary Runner (Courtesy) – may be used for either a catcher or pitcher gets on base with two (2) out or is on base when the second out is recorded, the offensive team has the option to have a temporary runner run for the catcher or pitcher. Teams may elect to use a temporary runner for either the pitcher or catcher or both during an inning.
24. U13 or Older (Higher) Pitching Rule:
 - 1) Pitchers may pitch a maximum of four (4) innings per game.
 - 2) Should a pitcher throw one (1) pitch (excluding warm-up pitches), this is classified as a complete inning pitched.
 - 3) In the event of extra innings, the pitching rule is not in effect.
 - 4) The penalty for pitcher(s) exceeding the limit of innings pitched is: 1) the coach is ejected, and 2) the player(s) is removed from the pitching position.

U9: 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
<i>If the ball is hit foul – the coach continues with another pitch until ball is hit into fair territory.</i>	

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 all League 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 all League 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 all League and Championship play.