

D19
Rules and Regulations
Handbook
2024

Version 1.0

D19 Handbook

Table of Contents

Preamble.....	3
Constitution	4
Protests.....	6
Administrative Rules	7
Roster Rules.....	9
Scheduling Rules.....	11
Game Times and Cancellations.....	12
Umpires.....	13
Rules for Sliding.....	15
Rules Pertaining to Baseball for Atoms	16
Rules Pertaining to Softball for Petites.....	18
Rules Pertaining to Baseball for Bantams.....	20
Rules Pertaining to Softball for Chics.....	22
Rules Pertaining to Baseball for Midgets.....	24
Rules Pertaining to Softball for Robins.....	26
Bat Rules: Softball & Baseball	27

Preamble

The purpose of the District 19 Sports Association is to encourage and promote good sportsmanship, both on and off the field of play.

“Sportsmanship” is that quality of honorable behavior, which because of its courtesy, dignity, respect, cooperation, and trustworthiness habitually wins the esteem of one’s fellow man, be he an opponent or ally.

Sportsmanship comes to all of us at all times, but real possession of this virtue comes only to those who so exemplify the Golden Rule that they consistently hold the respect and loyalty of the community. For them there are no alibis, no unnecessary abusive remarks, no scheming to win at any cost; rather, a genuine love of fair play which makes them modest winners and gracious losers.

Acts of sportsmanship on the field of play have in them the seeds of high character and lifelong friendships.

Constitution

1. The name of this organization shall be “District 19 Sports Association”. Further reference to District 19 in this handbook will be delineated as “D19”.
2. Meetings
 - a. The organization shall hold meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month or as needed based on seasonal needs. The meetings may be face-to-face or virtually determined by the president based on the agenda content for the month. (2023)
 - b. The time and place of all meetings shall be designated by the president of the association and an announcement of the meeting will be made to all officers and town presidents.
 - c. Meeting for Rule changes.
 - i. October meeting is presentation for rule changes by organizations.
 - ii. November meeting is review of rules and voting results
 - iii. December meeting is the final vote on rules
2. Rule Changes
 - a. The rules of play can be changed only at the October/ November meeting.
 - b. Constitution/ Administrative changes may be made at other times only by unanimous vote of those present at the meeting.
 - c. A simple majority vote of the governing body present at the meeting is required.
 - d. All changes pertaining to Federation Baseball and Softball rules are subject to change in February or March without unanimous decision.
 - e. A quorum of 4 members of the governing body shall be present at any association meeting for the business to be transacted
3. The Governing body of D19 shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the district, plus the president of each member town. In the absence of the town president, his designated representative may vote in his place. Each town is entitled to one vote, unless that town is observing a probationary period.
4. The President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected to office at the October meeting by a majority vote of the members present. The officers shall take office in January of the following year. If no one volunteers to take the office of President, this assignment shall be rotated annually among the town Presidents. Town rotation is as follows: Freeburg, St. Libory, Millstadt, Smithton, Valmeyer, Waterloo, New Athens, Dupo, Columbia, Mascoutah and Red Bud. (2023)
5. Duties of the President
 - a. The President shall be the chief officer of the association.
 - b. The President shall preside at all meetings of the association, have general and active management of the doings of the association, and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the board are carried into effect. (2016)
 - c. The President shall have the power to make decisions as he deems necessary in order to maintain the integrity of the organization. These powers shall include suspensions of managers, players, coaches, and umpires; fines (up to \$50) for any rule infraction; and any other action he may choose. If a town wishes to protest any presidential decision, a written protest must be mailed to the district secretary and it must be signed by at least 2 other town presidents in order to bring this to a district meeting.

6. Duties of the Vice President
 - a. In the absence or disability of the President shall perform the duties and have the powers of the President and shall perform such other duties as the association shall prescribe.
7. Duties of the Secretary
 - a. Shall keep all records
 - b. Shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings and email the minutes of the last meeting to all town presidents or whoever is D19 representative for the town.
 - c. Shall perform such other duties as the association shall prescribe.
8. Duties of the Treasurer
 - a. Shall keep an accounting record of the association and shall furnish a report of all transactions to the association at each meeting.
9. The fiscal year of the association shall begin on January 1st and end on December 31st of that year.
10. D19 Sports Association shall engage in no political activity.
11. Under no circumstance shall anyone ever convicted of a sex crime be allowed no manage or coach a team that is a member of D19. In addition, anyone convicted of a child sex offense shall be prohibited from communicating with, approaching, or contacting any child under the age of 18 at a public park where D19 games are currently being played.
12. D19 reserves the right to conduct a background check on any manager or coach in the league.
13. No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products shall be permitted on or near the players' benches or the coaching boxes. Violation of this rule shall result in immediate ejection from the game. This rule also applies to the umpires in charge of that game.
14. Sportsmanship
 - a. Profanity or any unsportsmanlike remarks or gestures detrimental to the game, umpires, opposing players, or fellow teammates by any manger, coach, or player will not be tolerated in any Association game. Violation of this rule will constitute ejection from the game.
 - b. Conduct of a team's followers is the responsibility of the team manager. Entry onto the playing field by a spectator to assault or abuse in any way a player, manger, coach, or umpire will constitute immediate forfeiture of the game by the team to whom the spectator is associated.
15. No player may address an opponent. The National Federation rule applies.
 - a. This rule states: "A coach, player, substitute, or other bench personnel may not:
 - i. Use word or act to incite or try to incite spectators to demonstration;
 - ii. Use profanity, intimidation tactics, remarks reflection unfavorably upon any other person or taunting or baiting;
 - iii. Use any language intended to intimidate;
 - iv. Behave in any manner not in accordance with the spirit of fair play"
 - b. The umpire shall eject the offender from the game, unless the offense is judged to be of a minor nature, the umpire may warn the offender and then eject the offender if the offender should repeat the offense. Federation Rule 3, Section 3-h.

Protest

1. A manager may protest a game because of alleged misapplication of the rules.
2. No protest will be permitted on judgment decisions by the umpire.
3. Whenever an alleged violation of a playing rule occurs during a game, the manager or coach of the protesting team must call “time” and immediately notify the umpires and the manager of the opposing team that the game is to be continued “under protest.” Failure to comply will nullify and void any future protest regarding the alleged violation of the playing rules.
4. The protest will not be recognized unless the umpires are notified at the time the play under protest occurs and before the next pitch is made or a runner is retired. Each protest must be marked at the time of the protest.
5. Each protest must be in writing, signed by the person or persons making the protest and accompanied by a protest fee of twenty dollars.
6. The written protest and protest fee must be in the hands of the district secretary with-in seventy-two (72) hours of the date of the protested game.
7. The managers and the umpires involved in the protested game must be present at the time the protest is heard by the governing body of D19.
8. The district president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and each town president or his authorized representatives will form the protest committee. The president of D19 will preside at the meeting and will vote in case of a tie.
9. All protest will be decided by secret ballot.
10. In the event a protest is disallowed or declared not valid, the protest fee shall not be refunded. In the event a protest is allowed, all fees shall be refunded.
11. All managers must have a D19 rule book at all games. Any manager who does not have a rule book at a game may not file a protest concerning that game. (1998)

Administrative Rules

Subsection League Management

1. The rules governing Association games shall be the same as those outlined in the official Baseball and Softball Federation rules and the D19 rules. A link to these rules are on the D19 website under the link to this handbook.
2. Each D19 rule, policy, or constitutional change will be dated in the rule book. (1990)
3. D19 By-laws will be distributed to each organization with sub sections pertaining to each division. (2007)
4. A representative from each town must attend the majority of the meetings held in a fiscal year to be able to vote the following fiscal year. A fiscal year runs from January 1 till Dec 31st. (2023)
5. The name, address, and phone number of each town's president, vice president, and other officers must be filed with the district secretary at the March meeting.
6. All towns must file their teams, including managers and coaches, with the district President by the March meeting. Team lists received after the meeting will be returned to the submitting town president. That particular team will not be permitted to participate in league play for that season.
7. Divisions will be determined by current grade in school rather than birth date. The divisions and appropriate grades are as follows:
 - a. Atoms and Petites.....2 & 3
 - b. Bantams and Chics.....4 & 5
 - c. Midgets.....6, 7 & 8 (2015)
 - d. Robins.....6, 7 & 8 (2006)
8. Entry fees for teams will be \$35.00 per team. All team fees must be paid before the May Meeting. (2015)
9. A uniformed roster will be used by all organizations. This will be supplied to the District president. (2008)
10. Town presidents will receive a copy of all other town team rosters, as well as, the officers of that town. Each town president will be required to E-mail all rosters and list of officers to the D19 President who will then e-mail them out to all the town presidents. (2009)
11. A special D19 rules meeting must be called for all managers, coaches, and umpires before the first season game to familiarize everyone with the rules and regulations and to promote better sportsmanship in D19.

12. D19 Board Members reserve the right to limit the number of trophies/medals for any given division. In the event of a tie in a division, D19 will provide one set of trophies/medals with the cost of additional sets of trophies/medals to be equally divided between the towns involved in the tie. (2023)
13. A first, second, and third place trophy or medals will be given in each division determined by the playoffs. Subject to D19 approval. (2023)
14. An All-Star Game will be held prior to the end of the season. Two teams will be formed from each division from players nominated by the team coaches for their own players. Additional teams will be formed when more than one division is formed due to high team count. The number of players nominated per team will be relayed to coaches prior to the start of the season. Hosting of the tournament will be rotated among the towns and determined in January of each year based on field availability. (2023)
15. The D19 website contains seasonal information for coaches, players and parents. The schedules will be posted when available. Scores during the season should be submitted by each team so that division standings can be seen throughout the season by those visiting the site. In addition, D19 Rules and announcements will be added for viewing.

Subsection Game Play/Safety

1. The manager or an adult will be with the team at the start and for the duration of the game, or the game will be forfeited.
2. First name and last name initial must be included in the score book; full name if duplicates exist. Score books without the first name and last name initial will be returned to the manager for correction. Failure to correct will result in forfeit. (2023)
3. No defensive coaches shall be allowed on the field during play.
4. The game will be started with a new ball.
5. Any game started in natural light may be finished under the lights by mutual agreement of the opposing managers. Lights must be adequate by agreement of the umpires and both managers.
6. A regulation Association game shall not be less than four and one-half (4 1/2) innings in length.
7. Round robin batting and free substitutions will be used. All pitchers at every level, since batting round robin may re-enter as a pitcher adding to their games pitch count (if applicable). (2024)
8. Players in all divisions must wear full helmet head protectors with earpieces while batting and running the bases. Catchers in all divisions must wear a catcher's helmet and throat protector. A throat protector is not required when the catcher's mask is of the "hockey" style.

9. No automatic out is recorded when batting with a short line-up. Any player taken out of the line up due to injury or taking a restroom break when it comes to their time to bat will not result in an out. You will skip that batter and go to the next batter. That batter will just bat when it is their next time around in the line up. You must notify the other team and umpire when this happens.
10. Any player deliberately throwing a bat or helmet in anger shall be given a warning. A second offense will result in immediate ejection of that player.
11. Courtesy runners may be used in D19 games, for catchers only, regardless of the number of outs. The player making the most recent out of that inning or prior shall be the courtesy runner. The catcher must immediately begin to put the catcher's gear on upon returning to the dugout for a courtesy runner.
12. An inning played is when a player is in the field for all three outs in that inning.
13. Parents will refrain from playing walk-up songs during D19 games at all levels of play.

Rosters

1. All rosters must include the players' names, addresses, and grade level. The roster must be turned in to the D19 President before or at the April Meeting. The penalty for not having rosters in on time will result in a late filing fee of \$2.00 for each team. This fee must be paid before the end of the season or all games will result in automatic forfeit. (2008)
2. Team rosters must be carried at all times. Team rosters must be shown upon request by the opposing team. PENALTY: Upon failure to show roster of team in question, opposing team must follow the protest procedure.
3. All rosters must contain the name, email and cell phone number of the manager and coaches for that team. In case of a change, the district president must be notified of the manager's or coach's name and phone number. The district president will be responsible for notification of all managers in that division of the change in one week. (2023)
4. At the time of filing rosters, each town must make known in writing to the district president the days of the week on which diamonds will not be available for league play in his/her town and days on which, because of other circumstances, teams cannot play. Each division and its circumstances must be clearly defined.
5. Designated for late sign-ups only. Final changes to a team's roster must be filed with the district president on or before the third day prior to the first scheduled game of the season. In addition, if a town president wants to add a player to any of his town's rosters after that date, he must receive the consent of the district president. The district president will notify all town presidents of the addition. (2001)
6. Any child living within the school district limits of any D19 member cannot be on the roster of any other D19 member without the approval of the towns' presidents. (2007)
7. Any game that is played with a team having non-roster player(s) is forfeit by that team. If the game is played as a practice or scrimmage game, the non-roster player(s) must be from the same division or a division below.
8. No child shall play any division below their grade level division under any circumstances. (2007)
9. The registration of a player on an official roster does not exempt that player from protest at a later date provided sufficient proof of ineligibility is presented at the time of protest. The Protest Committee, upon proper evidence being shown by any Association manager or coach, must declare the player in question ineligible. The player's team automatically forfeits any and all games in which the ineligible player participated as a member of the team.

10. Determination of player/team selection within a division is left to the discretion of the town officials as to how this should be accomplished. The district representative from that town will oversee the procedure. The town president will email the rosters to the D19 President in accordance with rule four (4) of this section. (2018)
 - a. This means each team in that town division should have an equal number, or within one, of first and second year players. (Bantam, Chic, Robin, Midget)
 - b. Teams may be defined by grade in total or by a combination of grades within a division: Atom and Petite. D19 Board will divide the division, likewise, into two levels of play. For teams with both grade levels present, that team must play in the higher grade level. When there are not enough teams to create a separate division of upper grade and lower grade teams, a 3 run equalizer will be given to lower and mixed grade teams when playing an all upper grade team. (2019)

Scheduling

1. Scheduling will be done by the D19 President. Scheduling will be done using a set schedule. The number of games for the season will start with a maximum of 12 games. Exceptions to this will be voted on at the March Meeting. Any conflicts arising from this would have to be settled by the town Presidents involved. (2008)
2. Each division may use Fridays for either Rainouts or for Scheduling Conflicts (2008)
3. Any division having fourteen (14) or more teams will be divided into two (2) equal divisions geographically. (2024)
4. D19 seasons will begin on the Monday two weeks before Memorial Day. All schedules including playoff games must be completed no later than July 15th. (2023)
5. All schedules must be distributed to the town presidents no later than the last week of April. The schedules must be in the hands of the team no later than the May 1st. (2016)
6. Each schedule will contain the team name, team number, and the names and phone numbers of the manager and coaches for that team. The manager's name will be listed first.
7. Each team manager must report game results via the district website in a timely manner. Any game reported without a result to the district president or secretary by July 15th of that season will result in a loss for that team. (2023)
8. All rescheduled games must be rescheduled before June 15th. After June 15th, games may only be rescheduled due to inclement weather or field availability problems. This means after June 15th no reschedule for less than 8 players. 7 players or less is a forfeit. (2024)
9. No game may be postponed without the agreement of both managers. Postponements will be made at least seven days prior to the scheduled date of the game.
10. Normal playing days for all Division will be as follows:
 - Monday and Wednesday:** Petites, Bantams, and Robins
 - Tuesday and Thursday:** Atoms, Chics, and Midgets (2024)
11. Playoff games for each division will be held at the end of the season. Dates will be determined by the D19 Board and announced near the start of the season. Games will be played on the same nights as season games for each division, when possible. (2023)

Game Times and Cancellations

1. All association games are scheduled to start at 6:00 pm, but may start at a different time if there is a mutual consent between the two managers.
2. As a result of travel problems, if a team arrives at an out-of-town destination after the scheduled starting time:
 - Ten minutes will be allotted for warm-up time, unless this would delay the starting time past 6:30 pm, which shall be the latest any Association game may start.
 - Any team which cannot start by 6:30 pm must forfeit the game.
 - The manager of the delayed team must make every effort possible to make the home manager aware of his delay.
3. The home team must relinquish the diamond 15 minutes prior to game time.
4. In case of darkness or inclement weather, the umpires in charge of the game shall exercise their judgment and determine if play should be continued or halted.
5. In case of a tornado warning, the game will be suspended.
6. At the first sign of lightening, the game will be halted for 30 minutes. (2015)
7. Federation Baseball and Softball rules shall apply for all games halted.
8. For any reason if a game results in a tie, and the game is of regulation innings, the game will be recorded as a tie. (2008)
9. Cancellation of a game due to inclement weather prior to the official start of the game will be in the hands of the opposing managers. Once the game has officially started, the decision is in the hands of the umpires. If the game is halted during play, the umpires must wait a minimum of 20 minutes before making their decision. (2008)
10. All games canceled due to inclement weather must be scheduled within two weeks of the scheduled date. The Home team coach is responsible for arranging the rescheduled game. If there is no response from the Away team coach then contact your town's President to resolve. The Presidents will then have 1 week to set the outcome. (2008) All games must be replayed within the D19 season. (2023)
11. D19 will not play games if the Heat Index reaches 105°; games will be postponed or rescheduled.

Below 105° Heat Index, each town can make a decision as to whether the game should or can be played. Both team coaches should consider the options below to allow play and come to a mutually agreeable solution. Player safety should be the primary factor in deciding if a game is playable or not. (2023)

- Play a shortened game, i.e. 4 or 5 innings.
- Delayed start by 30-60 minutes, when possible to allow heat index to drop below 105°.
- Provide frequent hydration breaks.
- Lower inning run limits to shorten game time.

Umpires

1. The home team shall provide both the home plate and the base umpire. The home team shall provide all balls to be used in the game. Each game shall start with new balls. (2023)
2. It is the responsibility of the home team to supply umpires who are the correct age. If umpires of the correct age are not available and both coaches agree to the umpires available, the game can be play as scheduled. If not, then the game will be rescheduled. (2016)
3. Minimum age for umpires in each division will be as follows:

Division	Field Umpire	Plate Umpire
Atom & Petite	12 years	12 years
Chic	14 years	14 years (patch removed 2014)
Bantams	14 years	15 years (patched removed 2015)
Robin	16 years	Patch preferred (2016) 16 years
Midget	16 years	16 years (patch removed 2022)

4. Two umpires will be used in all the Divisions. Home plate umpire will keep count of all pitches and swinging and/or foul ball strikes.
5. All umpires are required to familiarize themselves with the Association Rules, Official Rules of Baseball, and Official Rules of Softball.
6. All umpires must be sure of the date, time, and location for the game to which they are assigned.
7. Umpires should arrive at the playing field 20 to 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the game to check for hazards which may affect the playing of the game.
8. Before the game, both umpires and the managers from each team will meet to discuss the ground rules. These rules must be clearly defined so there will be no doubt as to an umpire's decision based upon the ground rules.
9. The umpires will not allow any deviation from the rules of the Association or the Official Rules governing any scheduled Association game.
10. Each umpire is the representative of both the league and the game and is required to enforce all the rules.
11. Any non-certified umpire calling balls and strikes must be in full umpire equipment. Umpires in the atom/petite division counting pitches from behind home plate, must wear a face mask. Chest protector and shin guards are optional.
12. Any player, coach, or fan who physically abuses any player, coach, or umpire shall be suspended until a review of the incident by the district president.

13. Umpires must sign both home and visiting team scorebooks with their signature after each game played ensuring the final score is accurately recorded. (2023)
14. No family member of any coach or player shall be allowed to umpire another family members game unless agreed upon by both coaches. (2009)
15. All umpires must attend an umpire clinic. (2016)
16. Each town will ensure their umpires are appropriately dressed and designated as an "Umpire" in some manner. No revealing or tight clothing should be worn. (2023)

Rules of Sliding

The National Federation rules concerning sliding will be in effect. Those rules are as follows:

Rule 2: PLAYING TERMS OR DEFINITIONS

SECTION 32-SLIDE

ART. 1...A LEGAL SLIDE can be either feet or head first. If a runner slides feet first, at least one leg and buttock shall be on the ground. If a runner slides, he must slide within the reach of the base with either a hand or a foot.

ART. 2...A SLIDE IS ILLEGAL IF:

- A. The runner uses a rolling, cross-body or pop-up slide into the fielder.
- B. The runner's raised leg is higher than the fielder's knee when the fielder is in a standing position.
- C. The runner goes beyond the base and makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder.
- D. The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg.
- E. The runner tries to injure the fielder.

Rule 8: BASERUNNING

SECTION 4 – RUNNER IS OUT

ART. 2...ANY RUNNER IS OUT WHEN HE/SHE

B. does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or illegally alters the action of a fielder in the immediate act of making a play.

PENALTY: The runner is out, the ball is immediately dead, and interference is called.

NOTE: Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal. (2-32-1, 2)

C. Does not legally attempt to avoid a fielder in the immediate act of making a play on him/her.

PENALTY: The runner is out; the ball remains alive unless interference is called.

NOTE: Jumping, hurdling, and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder as long as the fielder is on the ground.

POINT TO EMPHASIZE:

SLIDING: There has been some confusion regarding the legality of base runners sliding or going into a base standing up.

Some coaches and umpires have been under the opinion the base runner must slide directly into the base. Although a runner is never required to slide, if a runner chooses to slide into a base (whether or not a force play is involved), he/she must slide within reach of the base with either a hand or foot. A runner may slide outside the width of the base as long as he is able to reach the base with either a hand or a foot and does not violate any of the provisions under Rules 2-32-1 and 8-4-2b and 2c.

Rules 2-32-1 and 8-4-2b and 2c do not specifically cover a base runner that goes into a base standing up. This action by itself is legal. However, a runner is prohibited from going into a base standing up and making contact with the fielder or altering the play of the fielder. If the runner violates this rule, the runner shall be penalized as if it were an illegal slide. This rule is in effect whether or not a force play is involved.

INCIDENTAL CONTACT/MALICIOUS CONTACT: The rules committee is concerned that all collisions are being ruled malicious contact. A violent collision may occur and be ruled incidental contact with no penalty to either offense or defense. So that the focus may be given to the parameters surrounding malicious and incidental contact, the following is offered:

Contact or a collision is considered to be malicious if:

1. The contact is a result of intentional excessive force, and/or
2. There is intent to injure. It should not be misconstrued that the absence of these two conditions would automatically preclude the presence of something malicious, but they would certainly offer a starting point.

Umpires are to rule on a player's intent when determining malicious or incidental contact. To help eliminate the question of intent, runners should be instructed to use a legal slide or attempt to avoid making contact with any defensive player.

Rules Pertaining to Baseball for Atoms

1. The pitching and base distance for each division will be as follows:
 - a. Atoms Pitching.....Rubber 38'
Bases.....55 feet
Ball.....9 inch baseball (2024)
2. If during the process of any game in the Association, the home team, after 4 ½ or more innings is leading by 10 or more runs, or the visiting team after five (5) or more innings is leading by 10 runs at the end of any completed inning, then the umpire shall terminate the game. From that point, upon agreement of both managers, the game may be completed for practice only. (2019)
3. A team may not score more than five (5) runs in any one inning. As soon as the fifth run crosses the plate, there are automatically three (3) outs for the team batting, and that half of the inning is over. The five (5) run rule applies until the end of the fifth inning. After the fifth inning, an unlimited number of runs may be scored. (2022)
4. Players in the Atoms division must play at least 3 innings in a completed game. The only exceptions to this are disciplinary action being taken by a manager or illness. The manager of the opposing team and the umpire must be informed of these exceptions before the game. If a game is called because of the run rule, any player who did not play the required number of innings, must start in the field the next game.
5. Before each game, the managers will exchange the lists of available players' first name and last name initial; full name if duplicate names are present. Players not available by the end of the 3rd inning do not have to play in that game. All line-ups must include both the first names and last name initial of the players.(2023)
6. Any player arriving after a game has begun must be inserted in the last spot in the batting order.
7. Runner(s) must stay on the base until the batter swings in the Atoms division.
8. The infield fly rule will not be enforced in the Atoms division.
9. At the time of the pitch, all defensive players must play positions as defined in the National Federation rule book. No outfielders may play the infield position. The ten players must be a 1 pitcher, 1 catcher, no more than 4 infielders, and no less than 2 outfielders. (2008) All outfielders must play a minimum of fifteen (15) feet behind the square of the infield.
10. In the Atom division, games must be played with ten (10) players on the field but with no less than eight (8) players if ten (10) players are not available.
11. Shirt tails must be tucked in at all times. Caps are an optional part of the uniform.

12. **Kid pitch Rules (2011)** – Only 1st and 2nd innings. (2022)
- Home plate umpire will call balls & strikes / hit batters from behind catcher. (2012)
 - Youth pitchers get 6 warm-up pitches to start the game and 3 warm-up pitches between innings or in the event a new pitcher is inserted during an inning. (2019)
 - Youth pitchers are only required for 2 innings. (2022) If a pitcher is removed mid inning, the new pitcher is only allowed the remaining incidents from the previous pitcher (i.e. pitcher leaves with 3 incidents, new pitcher only has the next 5 of the inning).(2022) If the pitcher gets out of their first inning with <4 incidents, they will enter the next inning with the remaining incidents up to 5 total. (2019)
 - Youth pitchers are allowed no more than 5 incidents per inning. An incident is defined as a walk or a hit batter; however, each pitcher shall not exceed 2 hit batters in an inning. If incident limit or hit batter limit is reached, the offensive team’s coach shall pitch the remainder of the half inning with normal coach pitch rules (section 13). (2015)
13. **Coach pitch Rules** - Each coach will pitch to his own respective players. It will be to each coach’s discretion as to how to pitch – overhand, underhand, etc. There will be a maximum of seven (7) consecutive pitches to any batter from their coach-pitcher. There will be no called balls or strikes, but the umpire will keep count of all pitches and swinging and/or foul ball strikes. There will be no walks and no hit batters. An out will consist of:
- Three swinging strikes, or
 - One foul ball and two swinging strikes, or
 - Two foul balls and one swinging strike, or
 - Seven (7) pitches
14. **Coach Pitch:** The first six pitches in the Atoms divisions must be delivered from the pitching rubber. Only on the 7th pitch may the pitcher move closer to home plate, but no closer than thirty-five (35) feet. Adult pitchers are limited to no more than 3 warm-up pitches between innings. (2019)
15. Atoms are automatically out on any dropped third strike.
16. The batter, while standing in the batter’s box, must take a full swing. No bunting.
17. No stealing will be allowed. Runners must stay on the base until the batter swings. **PENALTY:** After one warning runners leaving the base before the batter swings are out, and the play is dead.
18. When a batted ball hits the coach-pitcher, the ball is dead and must be replayed. Any hit ball hitting the coach-pitcher will not count as one of the seven pitches. (2007)
19. Any throw to first base which goes in foul territory, runners may **NOT** advance pass their intended base on an over-throw to first base. Any throw going out of play, allows the batter and base runners to advance only to the base they were going when the ball was hit. (2010)
20. If an illegal bat is discovered during a game, it should be removed from play. There is no penalty for the use of an illegal bat. (2015)
21. No inning shall start after 8pm. (2016)

Rules Pertaining to Softball for Petites

1. The pitching and base distance for each division will be as follows:

Petites:	Pitching.....30 feet
	Bases.....55 feet
	Ball.....11 inch softball (2024)
2. If during the process of any game in the Association, the home team, after 4 ½ or more innings is leading by 10 or more runs, or the visiting team after 5 or more innings is leading by 10 runs at the end of any completed inning, then the umpire shall terminate the game. From that point, upon agreement of both managers, the game may be completed for practice only. (2019)
3. A team may not score more than five (5) runs in any one inning. As soon as the fifth run crosses the plate, there are automatically three (3) outs for the team batting, and that half of the inning is over. The five (5) run rule applies until the end of the fifth inning. After the fifth inning, an unlimited number of runs may be scored.
4. Players in the Petite division must play at least 3 innings in a completed game. The only exceptions to this are disciplinary action being taken by a manager or illness. The manager of the opposing team and the umpire must be informed of these exceptions before the game. If a game is called because of the run rule, any player who did not play the required number of innings, must start in the field the next game.
5. Before each game, the managers will exchange the lists of available players' first name and last name initial; full name if duplicate names are present. Players not available by the end of the 3rd inning do not have to play in that game. All line-ups must include both the first names and last name initial of the players. (2023)
6. Any player arriving after a game has begun must be inserted in the last spot in the batting order.
7. Runner(s) must stay on the base until the batter swings in the Petite divisions.
8. The infield fly rule will not be enforced in the Petite divisions.
9. At the time of the pitch, all defensive players must play positions as defined in the National Federation rule book. No outfielders may play the infield position. The ten players must be a 1 pitcher, 1 catcher, no more than 4 infielders, and no less than 2 outfielders. (2008) All outfielders must play a minimum of fifteen (15) feet behind the square of the infield.
10. In the Petite division, games must be played with ten (10) players on the field but with no less than eight (8) players if ten (10) players are not available.
11. Shirt tails are not required to be tucked in. Caps or Visors are optional on defense. (2008)
12. Each coach will pitch to his own respective players. It will be to each coach's discretion as to how to pitch – overhand, underhand, etc.

13. **Kid pitch Rules (2018)** – Only innings 1 and 2
- a. Home plate umpire will call balls & strikes / hit batters from behind catcher.
 - b. Pitcher must have 1 foot on the pitching plate (rubber) to start the pitch. (2024)
 - c. Youth pitchers get 6 warm-up pitches to start the game and 3 warm-up pitches between innings or in the event a new pitcher is inserted during an inning. (2019)
 - d. Youth pitchers are only required for 2 innings. (2022) If a pitcher is removed mid inning, the new pitcher is only allowed the remaining incidents from the previous pitcher (i.e. pitcher leaves with 3 incidents, new pitcher only has the next 5 of the inning. (2022) If the pitcher gets out of their first inning with <4 incidents, they will enter the next inning with the remaining incidents up to 5 total. (2019)
 - e. Youth pitchers are allowed no more than 5 incidents per inning. An incident is defined as a walk or a hit batter; however, each pitcher shall not exceed 2 hit batters in an inning. If incident limit or hit batter limit is reached, the offensive team's coach shall pitch the remainder of the half inning with normal coach pitch rules. (Section 14).
14. **Coach Pitch Rules (2018)** - There will be a maximum of seven (7) consecutive pitches to any batter from their respective coach-pitcher. There will be no called balls and strikes, but the umpire will keep count of all pitches and swinging and/or foul ball strikes. There will be no walks and no hit batters. An out will consist of:
- 3 swinging strikes or,
 - 1 foul ball and 2 swinging strikes, or
 - 2 foul balls and 1 swinging strike, or
 - 7 pitches
15. Petites are automatically out on a dropped third strike.
16. All pitches in the Petite division must be delivered from the pitching rubber.
17. Adult pitchers are allowed no more than 3 warm-up pitches between innings.
18. The batter, while standing in the batter's box, must take a full swing. No bunting is allowed.
19. No stealing will be allowed. Runners must stay on base until the batter swings. **PENALTY:** After one warning by the umpire, runners leaving the base before the batter swings are out, and the play is dead.
20. Base runners may not advance beyond the base they are going to, unless a play is being made, after a batted ball to the outfield is in the possession of an infielder within the square of the bases.
21. When a batted ball hits the coach-pitcher, the ball is dead and must be replayed. Any hit ball hitting the coach-pitcher will not count as one of the seven pitches. (2007)
22. Any throw to first base which goes in foul territory, runners may **NOT** advance past their intended base on an over-throw to first base. Any throw going out of play, allows the batter and base runners to advance only to the base they were going when the ball was hit. (2010)
23. No inning shall start after 8pm. (2016)

Rules Pertaining to Baseball for Bantams

1. The pitching and base distance for each division will be as follows:

Bantams:	Pitching.....45 feet
	Bases.....65 feet
	Ball.....Bantam/Midget
2. If during the process of any game in the Association, the home team, after 4 ½ or more innings is leading by 10 or more runs, or the visiting team after 5 or more innings is leading by 10 runs at the end of any completed inning, then the umpire shall terminate the game. From that point, upon agreement of both managers, the game may be completed for practice only. (2019)
3. A team may not score more than seven (7) runs in any one inning. As soon as the 7th run crosses the plate, there are automatically 3 outs for the team batting, and that half of the inning is over. The 7 run rule applies until the end of the 5th inning. After the 5th inning, an unlimited number of runs may be scored. (2019)
4. Players must play at least 3 innings in a completed game. The only exceptions to this are disciplinary action being taken by a manager or illness. The manager of the opposing team and the umpire must be informed of these exceptions before the game. If a game is called because of the run rule, any player who did not play the required number of innings, must start in the field the next game.
5. Before each game, the managers will exchange the lists of available players' first name and last name initial; full name if duplicate names are present. Players not available by the end of the 3rd inning do not have to play in that game. All line-ups must include both the first names and last name initial of the players.(2023)
6. Any player arriving after a game has begun must be inserted in the last spot in the batting order.
7. The infield fly rule will be enforced in the Bantams division.
8. A second trip to the mound by a manger or coach for the same pitcher in the same inning will cause that pitcher to be removed from pitching for the remainder of that inning.
9. At the time of the pitch, all defensive players must play positions as defined in the National Federation rule book. No outfielders may play the infield position. The ten players must be a 1 pitcher, 1 catcher, no more than 4 infielders, and no less than 2 outfielders. (2008)
10. All outfielders must play a minimum of fifteen (15) feet behind the square of the infield.
11. Games can be played with no more than ten (10) players and no less than eight (8) players. (2009)
12. Bantams may not advance on an overthrow from the catcher to the pitcher. (2007)
13. Balks to be called. An explanation will be given and there will be NO advancement of the base runners. (2009)
14. Base runners in the Bantam divisions may not leave the base until the pitcher releases the ball. This rule applies to both the wind-up and the stretch positions. The penalty for leaving the base early is the base runner is out and the ball is dead. Pick-offs are not allowed. There is no leading-off before stealing. (2007)
15. Players in the Bantam divisions may score on a passed ball or a wild pitch.

16. Pitchers are limited to four (4) innings per game or 60 pitches, whichever comes first. A pitcher entering during the progress of an inning shall be charged a full inning. Maxing at 60 pitches eliminates the pitcher from the mound for 3 days (i.e. Pitcher throws 60 pitches on Monday cannot pitch again until Friday). Any pitcher who throws less than 20 pitches can pitch the next day, 21-40 pitches requires one day rest (i.e. Pitcher throws 33 pitches on Monday, can pitch on Wednesday). (2019)
17. The batter may attempt to advance to 1st base on a dropped 3rd strike. National Federation rules govern this call.
18. The number of warm-up pitches allowed is as follows:
 - five (5) between innings;
 - seven (7) for a new pitcher
 - Unlimited for a new pitcher replacing an injured pitcher during an inning.
19. Shirt tails must be tucked in at all times.
20. Caps are an optional part of the uniform.
21. No portable mounds allowed. (2009)
22. No inning shall start after 8pm. (2016)
23. If an illegal bat is discovered during a game, it should be removed from play. There is no penalty for the use of an illegal bat. (2015)
24. Bunting is allowed in the Bantam Division. (2015)

Rules Pertaining to Softball for Chics

1. The pitching and base distance for each division will be as follows: (2010)

Chic:	Pitching.....35 feet (2018)
	Bases.....60 feet
	Ball.....11 inch softball
2. If during the process of any game in the Association, the home team, after 4 ½ or more innings is leading by 10 or more runs, or the visiting team after 5 or more innings is leading by 10 runs at the end of any completed inning, then the umpire shall terminate the game. From that point, upon agreement of both managers, the game may be completed for practice only. (2019)
3. A team may not score more than four (4) runs in any one inning. As soon as the 4th run crosses the plate, there are automatically three (3) outs for the team batting, and that half of the inning is over. (2022) The four (4) run rule applies until the end of the 5th inning. After the 5th inning, an unlimited number of runs may be scored. (2024)
4. Players in the Chic divisions must play at least 3 innings in a completed game. The only exceptions to this are disciplinary action being taken by a manager or illness. The manager of the opposing team and the umpire must be informed of these exceptions before the game. If a game is called because of the run rule, any player who did not play the required number of innings, must start in the field the next game.
5. Before each game, the managers will exchange the lists of available players' first name and last name initial; full name if duplicate names are present. Players not available by the end of the 3rd inning do not have to play in that game. All line-ups must include both the first names and last name initial of the players.(2023)
6. Any player arriving after a game has begun must be inserted in the last spot in the batting order.
7. The infield fly rule will not be enforced in the Chic divisions.
8. A second trip to the mound by a manger or coach for the same pitcher in the same inning will cause that pitcher to be removed from pitching for the remainder of that inning.
9. At the time of the pitch, all defensive players must play positions as defined in the National Federation rule book. No outfielders may play the infield position. The ten players must be a 1pitcher, 1 catcher, no more than 4 infielders, and no less than 2 outfielders. (2008)
10. All outfielders must play a minimum of fifteen (15) feet behind the square of the infield.
11. Games must be played with ten (10) players on the field but with no less than eight (8) players if ten (10) players are not available.
12. Chic may not advance on an overthrow from the catcher to the pitcher. (2007)
13. Stealing is allowed in the Chic division for 2nd and 3rd base at the point of release. You may ONLY advance to home on a batted ball put into play. (2022)
14. A dropped third strike in the Chic division is an automatic out on the batter.

15. The number of warm-up pitches allowed is as follows:
 - Five (5) between innings
 - Seven (7) for a new pitcher
 - Unlimited for a new pitcher replacing an injured pitcher during an inning
16. Pitchers in the Chic division
 - a. Are limited to five (5) innings per game. (2012).
 - i. Pitching to any batter in an inning constitutes an inning pitched.
 - b. Pitcher must have 1 foot on the pitching plate (rubber) to start the pitch. (2024)
17. A batter hit by a pitch will be awarded first base.
18. Shirt tails are not required to be tucked in.
19. Caps or Visors are optional on defense. (2008)
20. Bunting will be allowed in the Chic divisions.
21. No inning shall start after 8pm. (2016)

Rules Pertaining to Baseball for Midgets

1. The pitching and base distance for each division will be as follows:

Midgets:	Pitching.....55 feet
	Bases.....80 feet
	Ball.....JJ Ball
2. If during the process of any game in the Association, the home team, after 4 ½ or more innings is leading by 10 or more runs, or the visiting team after five (5) or more innings is leading by 10 runs at the end of any completed inning, then the umpire shall terminate the game. From that point, upon agreement of both managers, the game may be completed for practice only. This rule shall apply only the MIDGET divisions. (2007)
3. A team may not score more than seven (7) runs in any one inning. As soon as the seventh run crosses the plate, there are automatically three (3) outs for the team batting, and that half of the inning is over. The seven-run rule applies until the end of the sixth inning. After the sixth inning, an unlimited number of runs may be scored.
4. Players in the Midget division must play at least 3 innings in a completed game. The only exceptions to this are disciplinary action being taken by a manager or illness. The manager of the opposing team and the umpire must be informed of these exceptions before the game. If a game is called because of the run rule, any player who did not play the required number of innings, must start in the field the next game.
5. Before each game, the managers will exchange the lists of available players' first name and last name initial; full name if duplicate names are present. Players not available by the end of the 3rd inning do not have to play in that game. All line-ups must include both the first names and last name initial of the players.(2023)
6. Any player arriving after a game has begun must be inserted in the last spot in the batting order.
7. The infield fly rule will be enforced in the Midget division.
8. At the time of the pitch, all defensive players must play positions as defined in the National Federation rule book. No outfielders may play the infield position. The 9 players must be a 1 pitcher, 1 catcher, no more than 4 infielders, and no less than 2 outfielders. (2008).
9. All outfielders must play a minimum of fifteen (15) feet behind the square of the infield.
10. All Midget games must be played with no more than 9 players, with no less than eight (8) players. (2008)
11. Shirt tails must be tucked in at all times. Caps are an optional part of the uniform.
12. A second trip to the mound by a manager or coach for the same pitcher in the same inning will cause that pitcher to be removed from pitching for the remainder of that inning.
13. All baseballs used in the Midget division must have an all-leather cover. Synthetic covered baseballs are not allowed.
14. Balks shall be called immediately in the Midget division.

15. Pitchers are limited to five (5) innings per game or 75 pitches, whichever comes first. A pitcher entering during the progress of an inning shall be charged a full inning. Maxing at 75 pitches eliminates the pitcher from the mound for 3 days (i.e. pitcher throws 75 pitches on Monday, they cannot pitch until Friday). Any pitcher who throws less than 25 pitches can pitch the next day, 26-50 pitches requires a one day rest (i.e. pitcher throws 43 pitches on Monday, they cannot pitch until Wednesday). (2019)
16. On a dropped third strike the Midget division may attempt to advance to first base. National Federation rules govern this call.
17. Metal spikes may be worn in the Midget Division. (2019)
18. A portable mound may be used in the Midget Division.
19. If an illegal bat is discovered during a game, it should be removed from play. There is no penalty for the use of an illegal bat. (2015)
20. Bunting is allowed in the Midget Division. (2015)
21. No inning shall start after 8pm. (2016)

Rules Pertaining to Softball for Robins

1. The pitching and base distance for each division will be as follows: (2010)

Robins:	Pitching.....	40 feet
	Bases.....	60 feet
	Ball.....	12 inch softball
2. If during the process of any game in the Association, the home team, after 4 ½ or more innings is leading by 10 or more runs, or the visiting team after five (5) or more innings is leading by 10 runs at the end of any completed inning, then the umpire shall terminate the game. From that point, upon agreement of both managers, the game may be completed for practice only. This rule shall apply only the ROBIN divisions. (2007)
3. A team may not score more than seven (7) runs in any one inning. As soon as the seventh run crosses the plate, there are automatically three (3) outs for the team batting, and that half of the inning is over. The seven-run rule applies until the end of the sixth inning. After the sixth inning, an unlimited number of runs may be scored.
4. Players in the Robin division must play at least 3 innings in a completed game. The only exceptions to this are disciplinary action being taken by a manager or illness. The manager of the opposing team and the umpire must be informed of these exceptions before the game. If a game is called because of the run rule, any player who did not play the required number of innings, must start in the field the next game.
5. Before each game, the managers will exchange the lists of available players' first name and last name initial; full name if duplicate names are present. Players not available by the end of the 3rd inning do not have to play in that game. All line-ups must include both the first names and last name initial of the players. (2023)
6. Any player arriving after a game has begun must be inserted in the last spot in the batting order.
7. The infield fly rule will be enforced in the Robins division.
8. At the time of the pitch, all defensive players must play positions as defined in the National Federation rule book. No outfielders may play the infield position. The 9 players must be a 1 pitcher, 1 catcher, no more than 4 infielders, and no less than 2 outfielders. (2008)
9. All outfielders must play a minimum of fifteen (15) feet behind the square of the infield.
10. All Robin games must be played with no more than 9 players, with no less than 8 players. (2008)
11. A second trip to the mound by a manger or coach for the same pitcher in the same inning will cause that pitcher to be removed from pitching for the remainder of that inning.
12. Shirt tails are not required to be tucked in. Caps or Visors are optional on defense. (2008)
13. The number of warm-up pitches allowed is as follows:
 - Five (5) between innings
 - Seven (7) for a new pitcher
 - Unlimited for a new pitcher replacing an injured pitcher during an inning
14. A batter hit by a pitch will be awarded first base.
15. Stealing will be permitted in the Robin division at the point of release.
16. There are no pitching limits (innings) for the Robin divisions.
17. Bunting will be allowed in the Robin divisions.
18. No inning shall start after 8pm. (2016)
19. Metal cleats may be worn in the Robin Division. (2019)

Bat Rules for D19 Games

Softball Bat Rules for Chics and Robins: All softball bats must be stamped with USSSA. Illegal bats must be removed from the game and play continues. No penalty will be given.

Baseball Bat Rules for Bantams and Midgets: (Based on SIJHSAA) (NFHS RULE 1-3-2)

*The following bats are legal for use.

a. Any non-wood bat containing a silkscreened or permanently marked BBCOR label as detailed in section 1-3-2 of the NFHS baseball rules book or,

b. Any bat 30 inches and under that has a greater than minus three drop and a barrel diameter no larger than 2 5/8 inches provided that bat contains the USA Baseball logo or (-12 cap on drop),

c. Any wood bat that meets the NFHS standards detailed in section 1-3-2 and 1-3-3 of the NFHS baseball rules book.

NOTE 1: Any bat 31 inches and over must meet the NFHS guidelines and contain the BBCOR label.

NOTE 2: All bats with a 2 1/4" barrel diameter are illegal.

NOTE 3: Any non-wood bat with a barrel diameter greater than 2 5/8" is illegal.

NOTE 4: Any bat with a USSSA logo is illegal.

Legal and Illegal Non-Wood Bats Without a USA Baseball Logo			
Length	Weight	Barrel Diameter	Status
31	28	2-5/8"	Legal assuming BBCOR Labeled
30	22	2-3/4"	Illegal -- Maximum barrel diameter is 2-5/8". Additionally this bat will not contain the BBCOR Label
30	20	2-1/4"	Illegal -- No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
29	18	2-1/4"	Illegal -- No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	20	2-1/4"	Illegal -- No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
28	19	2-1/4"	Illegal -- No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	28	2-3/4"	Illegal -- Maximum barrel diameter is 2-5/8". Additionally this bat will not contain the BBCOR Label
29	26	2-5/8"	Legal assuming BBCOR Labeled
30	27	2-5/8"	Legal assuming BBCOR Labeled
32	22	2-1/4"	Illegal -- No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	25	2-1/4"	Illegal -- No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
30	27	2-1/4"	Legal assuming BBCOR Labeled
30	18	2-1/4"	Illegal -- No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
Legal and Illegal Non-Wood Bats With a USA Baseball Logo			
Length	Weight	Barrel Diameter	Status
30	20	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
31	20	2-5/8"	Illegal-- A 31" and over bats for use in SIJHSAA contests must meet the NFHS guidelines including BBCOR Label. It does not matter if this bat has a USA Baseball Logo. A 31" bat has to be BBCOR Labeled.
28	18	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
29	18	2-1/4"	Illegal -- No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	21	2-5/8"	Illegal-- A 31" and over bats for use in SIJHSAA contests must meet the NFHS guidelines including BBCOR Label. It does not matter if this bat has a USA Baseball Logo. A 31" bat has to be BBCOR Labeled.
27	15	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
29	19	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
30	18	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat