

JCLL Softball Ground Rules 2024

1. All teams will wait 15 minutes after the scheduled start time for the opposing team to field nine (9) players. In the event a team cannot field nine (9) players, a player may be used from the opposing team to play outfield only. Must be a different player each inning.
2. ALL divisions will observe a five (5) run/inning rule, unless previously agreed to by managers and umpire before game starts. Last inning can be an unlimited run inning **IF** both managers and umpire agree to terms before game, and time permits.
3. 15 run (after 3 innings), 10 run (after 4 innings) and 8 run (after 5 innings) rule **will be Mandatory, rule 4.10 (e)**. If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15), ten (10), or eight (8) runs, the home team must bat in its half of the inning. The manager of the team with the least runs **shall** concede the victory
4. No jewelry, watches, rings, chains, headbands, wristbands, or body piercing can be worn during the game unless prescribed (Doctors note must accompany player) or that indicate a medical condition.
5. **Only** managers, coaches, and players on the team are allowed in the dugout during the game or practice. With the exception of an injury situation, parents and team volunteers are NOT permitted to be in the dugout or on the field at anytime during practices or games. Should a substitute coach be required, the individual must be an approved coach or manager.
6. Managers and Coaches ejected from a game will leave the field immediately. They must be out of sound and sight of the game.
7. Managers and coaches are discouraged from using electronic devices of any kind in the dugouts, except those used for the purpose of scorekeeping or for medical reasons. Players are not permitted to have electronic devices in the dugout.

8. Fields will be lined, safe and playable. The two Managers will come to an agreement and make the decision on the condition of the field prior to the game to determine if the game will be played. After the game starts, it is the plate umpire's decision
9. Catchers must wear a mask with a dangling throat protector while taking infield practice or warming up pitchers.
10. Each team is responsible for their crowd's conduct.
11. At the start of the game and with a pitching change, 8-10 warm up pitches will be permitted at the umpire's discretion. Between innings, 5-10 warm up pitches are permitted at the umpire's discretion. The time between innings is limited to one (1) minute.
12. Mandatory Play for all divisions will be Continuous Batting Order and six (6) outs played defensively.
13. All games will have a 2 hour time limit. No new inning can start after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the start of the game. An inning begins when the last out of the previous inning is made. This is for Junior, Major and Minor (kid pitch) Softball.

Minors Only

1. Stealing is permitted on passed balls during the kid pitch but stealing home is permitted during kid pitch **once** per inning.
2. JCLL teams will observe and adopt the hybrid pitching rule (also known as the Brunswick rule) in 2024. The rules is as follows:
 - Player will pitch to a batter.
 - If the batter receives 4 Balls, a Coach will come in and finish the at-bat which will either end in a strike-out or a batted ball put out, or the batter

reaches base. There are no walks. The coach will throw no more than 4 pitches.

- The next batter will start with Player pitch.
- Coach is not a play-maker
- In Spring 2024, starting 4/6, all games will be modified hybrid. Hybrid model is in effect for the first 4 weeks of the season. Starting May 1st, all remaining games will be kid pitch with 3 strikes, 4 balls.