

INTERLEAGUE RULES FOR MAJOR SOFTBALL - 2026

THE FOLLOWING RULES WERE AGREED UPON JACKSON SOUTHWEST, CHELSEA, DEXTER, JACKSON NORTHWEST, YPSILANTI ARBOR AMERICAN, YPSILANTI NATIONAL, MILAN, LINCOLN AND SALINE

While Schools are in sessions for all leagues inter-leaguings no new inning may start after 8:15. If you are in the middle of an inning play that inning out to finish the game.

For the first five (5) innings there is a five (5) run rule per inning (this means once your teams or opposing team has scored five (5) runs this is the same as three (3) outs. The five-run rule will be followed for the first (5) inning and for the last inning only the following applies:

If it becomes apparent that fewer than six (6) innings will be played because of the time limit the umpire and managers will agree upon the final inning before that inning begins. Each team will then bat thru their batting order one (1) time or until the defensive team makes 3 outs.

This applies for both teams whether you are Visitors or Home team.

1. When three (3) outs are recorded, or
2. All players on the roster have batted once in that half-inning.

If after three (3) innings, two and one-half innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If after four (4) innings, three and one-half innings if home team is ahead, one team has a lead of ten runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If after five (5) innings, four and one-half innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of (8) eight runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede to the opponent.

6.08(a) and 8.03(c) – Permits a defensive team to “intentionally walk” a batter in all divisions of softball.

6.08 - The batter becomes a runner and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out (provided said runner advances to and touches first base) when –
(a) (1) four “balls” have been called by the umpire; the ball is live and in play.
Base runners may advance;

(2) The defense elects to “Intentionally Walk” the batter by announcing such decision to the plate umpire. The request may be made prior to or during the at-bat. NOTE 1: Such notification must be made by the defensive manager. The manager must request and be granted “time” by the umpire and then inform the umpire of the defense’s intent to walk the batter. NOTE 2: The ball is dead and no other runners may advance unless forced by the batter’s award.

8.03(c) - If the defense pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally, they may announce the decision to the plate umpire prior to or during the at bat or legally deliver all pitches to the batter. See 6.08(a).

A player in the starting line-up who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game, **in the SAME** position in the batting order provided: (when using continuous batting order make sure they are meeting their mandatory play on Defense)

- (a) His or her substitute has completed one time at bat and:
- (b) Has played defensively for a minimum of six (6) consecutive outs.

Rule 2.00 – At-Bat (Note 1 and Note 2): Clarifies that when using the continuous batting order, players do not need to meet the running portion of mandatory play.

- (i) **Mandatory Play:** Every rostered player present at the start of a game will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time. For the purposes of this rule, “six (6) defensive outs” is defined as: A player enters the field in one of the nine defensive positions when his/her team is on defense and occupies a defensive position while six outs are made; “bat at least one (1) time” is defined as: A player enters the batter’s box with no count and completes that time at bat by being retired, retired as a batter-runner or runner, scores, or the inning or game ends.
- (ii) **PENALTY:** The player(s) involved shall start the next scheduled game, play any previous requirement not completed for Section (i), and the requirement for this game before being removed.

NUMBER OF VISITS BY A MANAGER OR COACH TO PITCHER:

- (a)___ A Manager or coach may come out two (2) times in one game to visit with the pitcher, but the third time out, the player must be removed as pitcher.**

(b)___ A manager or coach may come out twice in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the second time out, the player must be removed as pitcher.

Regulation VI(c), Rule 3.03(c), Tournament Rule 4 (c), Tournament Rule (d), Tournament Rule 9(a), and Tournament Rule 10(c)-Pitchers Removed from the Circle: This change allows a pitcher who has been removed from the circle to return as a pitcher regardless of whether he/she moves to a different defensive position or the bench.

Rule 8.01(g) A.R. 2 – Permits the pitcher to remove herself from the pitcher’s plate with either foot first prior to the hands being brought together. A.R. 2 - For the pitcher to remove herself from the pitching position 1) before the hands have been brought together as noted in 8.01(f), the pitcher may legally step back from the pitcher’s plate with either foot;

There will be a Continuous Batting Order. If a player gets hurt while at bat the next batter in the order takes her place and assumes the count and the game continues. If the injured player is unable to continue in the game the next time, he is scheduled to bat merely skip over him and continue the game. It is not an out.

If a player gets injured while running the bases, the player who made the last out the previous inning is the player who is substituted to run for the injured player.

Rule 2.00 – Courtesy Runner, Rule 3.04, Rule 7.14(b), and Tournament Rule 3(d):

This change provides clarifications for using a courtesy runner with both the traditional batting order and the continuous batting order. It also clarifies that when using the continuous batting order, the offense may use a courtesy runner for both the pitcher and catcher of record at the same time when there are two outs.

3.04 - A player whose name is on the team’s batting order may not become a substitute runner for another member of the team. A local league may permit a “courtesy runner” for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs. Exception: If the continuous batting order is used, the “courtesy runner”

may be in the team's batting order and must be the player in the batting order who made the last out. **See 7.14(b).**

7.14(b) Courtesy Runner: -

Note 3: If the pitcher and the catcher of record are on base with two outs, the offense may use a courtesy runner for both the pitcher and catcher of record at the same time. The offense shall place the courtesy runners in order of the bases. EXAMPLE: With two outs and the pitcher at second base and the catcher at third base, the offense wishes to use courtesy runners for both the pitcher and the catcher of record. The offense will use the player who made the second out of the inning as the courtesy runner for the pitcher of record on second base and the player who made the first out of the inning as the courtesy runner for the catcher of record at third base.

ALL SUSPENDED GAMES WILL BE RESUMED EXACTLY WHERE THEY WERE LEFT OFF. REGULAR SEASON PITCHING WILL BE GOVERNED BY REGULATION VI.

REMEMBER THERE ARE NO ON DECK BATTERS AND NO BATTERS OUTSIDE OF THE DUGOUTS WITH HIT STICKS OR DOING SOFT TOSS WHILE THE GAME IS GOING ON.

MANAGERS AND COACHES ARE PERMITTED TO WARM UP A PITCHER AT HOME PLATE OR IN THE BULLPEN OR ELSEWHERE AT ANY TIME, INCLUDING IN-GAME WARM-UPS, PRE-GAME WARMUPS AND IN OTHER INSTANCES. THEY MAY ALSO STAND BY TO OBSERVE A PITCHER DURING WARM-UPS IN THE BULLPEN. THIS IS REGULAR SEASON ONLY.

THERE MUST BE A MANAGER AND/OR COACH IN THE DUGOUT WITH THE PLAYER'S AT ALL TIMES.

THERE ARE ONLY ALLOWED THREE COACHES IN THE DUGOUT AT ALL TIMES.