**Central Iowa Little League**

**2017 Official Regulations & Playing Rules Clarifications**

Managers & coaches are expected to read & understand the Official Regulations & Playing Rules. This page highlights key regulations & rules.

**Majors Softball**

* **Protective Gear:** All catchers must have on protective gear. (Throat guard, protective cup and little league approved chest and head gear). Violation of this rule will result in a forfeit of your game. The score will be declared 9-0 **“NO EXCEPTIONS”**
* Pitching Records: Date, opponent, location, names of pitchers and number of innings thrown by each pitcher. Opposing managers should initial the other’s pitching records after each game.
* **Batting Order**: Establish whether the team is batting their entire lineup or 9-player batting order. This should be decided at the plate meeting prior to the start of the game.
* Call-Up Players: With approval of the town president, managers may invite Minors players if they expect a shortage of their normal roster that would place the team at 8 or fewer expected players. Minors players will be permitted to play in up to 7 games. Minors players will not be allowed to pitch.
* Playing with Less Than 9 Players: No penalty.
* Mandatory Play: If more than 9 players are present for a game, each player must bat at least once & play defensively for at least 6 consecutive outs.
* Sliding: Sliding is not required, but runners who do not slide may be called out if an umpire believes the runner interfered with a defensive player. Runners must slide feet first when advancing to a base (runners may dive when returning to a base).
* Jewelry: Jewelry – except items worn to alert medical personnel to a specific condition – is prohibited.
* Time Limit: Games will be subject to a 1 hour & 45 minute time limit. A new inning cannot start after 1 hour & 40 minutes.
* International Tie Breaker: If the score is tied after 6 innings or time limit, one extra inning will be played. The offensive team will place the player who made the last out of the previous inning at 2nd base to start the extra inning.
* **5 Run Rule**: A half inning ends after 3 outs or 5 runs, whichever occurs first. Unless in the 6th then no run rule shall be in effect.
* Dropped 3rd Strike: Dropped 3rd strike rule applies.
* Look Back Rule: If the pitcher has the ball in the circle and is not making a play on any runner, the runners may leave their bases & stop once before making an immediate decision to advance or return to their base.
* Leave On Release: A runner may leave their base when the pitcher releases the ball.
* Pitching Distance: 40’ measured from the front of the pitcher’s plate to the back of home plate.
* Pitching Limits: A player may pitch in a maximum of 9 innings per game and 18 innings per calendar week (Sunday-Saturday).
* Pitcher May Return: A pitcher who remains in the game & moves to another position may return to pitch, but only once per inning.
* **Mercy Rule**: The game shall end after the game has reached the end of 4 innings and a team is ahead by 15 runs or more or 5 innings and a team is ahead by 10 or more runs.