

LAC STE. ANNE MINOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES – 2019

This shall be known as the **LAC STE. ANNE MINOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE**.

Philosophy

To further the development of minor ball in the area served through the Lac Ste. Anne County. This is to be accomplished through developing, promoting, and regulating a minor ball program available to all participants, regardless of sex or ability, and to assist them in achieving their realistic level of ability.

This league will follow the rules and regulations of the New Canadian Rules, which are also recognized by the Alberta Amateur Softball Association, with the exception of the following rules and regulations.

1. In 2019, the Lac Ste. Anne Minor Ball League will sponsor leagues for the following age categories:

U6 - for players born in ~~2011~~, 2012, 2013, 2014

U8 - for players born in ~~2010~~, 2011, 2012

U10 - for players born in ~~2008~~, 2009, 2010, 2011

U12 - for players born in ~~2006~~, 2007, 2008

U14 - for players born in ~~2004~~, 2005, 2006 (maximum of 2 overage players)

U16 - for players born in ~~2002~~, 2003, 2004 (maximum of 2 overage players)

U19 - for players born in ~~2000~~, 2001, 2002 (no overage players)

2. The Lac Ste. Anne Minor Softball League endorse and support the concept of having mixed teams (male and female) in the U6, U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U19 age categories. When a team has only two female or two male players, at least one should be on the field at all times.
3. All players are to be given equal time, as much as possible. If this condition is not followed, it is up to the opposing team coach to bring it to the attention of the commissioner. (Refer to A-B-C rule #18).
4. The team registration deadline is April 10, 2018 for registration forms at the Lac Ste. Anne County Office in Sangudo. All players must be registered by this date, prior to games commencing, for insurance purposes. Once a community (or team) has committed their interest in joining the league, they will be required to participate in full league play. Each team registration must be accompanied by at least seven (7) signed players (including U6) plus the registration fee for each team. There will be no penalties for playing with less than nine players. Please include the number of useable diamonds in your area for ease in scheduling. All registration forms must be complete or they will not be accepted, and will be sent back to Area Representative.
5. A team will be eligible to register up to seventeen (17) team players. A player must play at least three (3) league games to be eligible to play in the final tournament. A player may register only in one division. Communities will strive to evenly split males and females amongst teams.
6. U10, U14 and U19 will play Tuesdays and Thursdays. U8, U12 and U16 will play Monday and Wednesdays. The minor leagues will start on April 30, 2018 (weather permitting). The leagues will terminate June 14, 2018 with final playoffs on June 16th and 17th, 2018 (with rainout dates of June 23rd and 24th, 2018). For the first two weeks of the season, teams will only play one game per week to allow for additional practice time. After that, the schedule will accommodate as many games as possible. (NOTE: Due to delayed start to the season, games will be scheduled until end date of June 21, 2018)
7. An affiliated player of a lower age group may play for one (1) team of a higher age group than they are registered in, provided it does not interfere with their commitment to their own age group and their presence is required on the higher age group team. Affiliated players must be identified on the score sheet roster as "AP"
8. U10 – U19 games must start no later than 7:00 p.m. with fifteen (15) minutes grace. ~~U8 games will be scheduled for 6:30 pm start.~~
9. The league playoff location will be assigned after the schedules are distributed at the start of the season.
10. Each home team will provide the home plate official and each visiting team will provide the base umpire. In the event that the visiting team's umpire is certified, they will become the plate umpire, unless the home team's umpire is also certified. **No coaches will be allowed to umpire their own games in the league or in playoffs.**
11. The home coach is responsible to ensure the umpires lay out the ground rules for team coaches and captains. See attached umpire information.

- 12. Home team shall provide balls of regulation circumference and weight (as per rule book). U8 will use a 11" Incrediball (or similar soft "COR" ball).
- 13. Games shall be postponed only because of inclement weather. In the event of a rained out game, the home team must set a mutually acceptable date within one (1) week. Rescheduled games cannot be set for the weekends unless by mutual agreement of both coaches-
- 14. In case of rain or darkness, a game shall be called if three (3) complete innings have been played for U10 or if the time elapsed is one and one half (1 1/2) hours. Others shall require five (5) complete innings out of seven (7) or time elapse of two (2) hours. In case of lightening, the game must be postponed.
- 15. Game reports must be signed by the two coaches, and the plate umpire.
Both teams are responsible for sending in score sheets within seventy-two (72) hours.
ALL game information must be on the score sheets:
(LEAGUE, GAME DATE, LOCATION, COACHES' & PLAYERS' COMPLETE NAMES)

<u>Mail</u>	or	<u>Fax</u>	or	<u>Email</u>
Lac Ste. Anne County		(780) 785-2985		recreationfcss@LSAC.ca
Box 219 Sangudo, AB T0E 2A0				
- 16. In case of rain, the home team must notify the visiting team by 4:30 p.m.
- 17. Any protest must be submitted to the local association in writing and accompanied by a cheque payable to Lac Ste. Anne County for ten dollars (\$10.00) which will then be forwarded to the League Commissioner. Notice of protest must be written on the score sheet. The score sheet and protest must be submitted within twenty-four (24) hours of the game being played. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be refunded in full.
- 18. To assist in sportsmanship and fair play, the "A-B-C" rule has been adopted. This is the expected minimum standard to follow, coaches may create fairer play rules. The exception to this rule, is that coaches may alter the arrangement for disciplinary reasons.

The ABC rule is as follows. All players get to bat in the order that they are written down on the score sheet. All players get to play in each game. To allow all players to bat, list all players on the score sheet and as their turn comes to bat, they do so. To allow all players to play in all games, the "A-B-C" rule comes into effect. All players above number 9 on the roster are considered "C" players. An equal number of players below 9 are "B" players, and the remainder are "A" players. "A" players play all the games. "B" players play all odd innings. "C" players play all even innings. See below for an example:

Roster Number	9	10	11	12	13	etc. (players on team)
1	1	1	1	1		
2	2	2	2	2		
3	3	3	A3	A3		
Ranking	A4	A4	A4	4	4	
5	5	5	5	5		
6	6	6	6	6		
7	7	7	7	7		
8	8	B8	B8	B8		
9	B9	9	9	9		
C	—	—	—	—		
	10	C10	10	10		
		11	C11	11		
			12	C12		

19. The 2019 season will have all division's (exception U19) pitchers pitching to a maximum of three (3) innings per pitcher per game. U19 division will have pitchers pitching to a maximum of four (4) innings per pitcher per game. All divisions will be allowed to use windmill or conventional pitching. **All pitchers must maintain contact with the ground with their trailing leg prior to releasing the ball.** We encourage as many pitchers as possible. One appearance constitutes an inning for every pitcher. All players should have equal playing time. Players registered in "A" level provincial ball, as a pitcher, will only be allowed to pitch with conventional motion (i.e. no windmill).
20. ~~"Hit by a Pitch Rule"...A hitting rule is in effect for all divisions. No more than 2 batters in one inning can be hit with a ball from the pitcher. A pitcher will be removed as pitcher for the remainder of the game in the event three (3) batters are struck with the ball within a game.~~
21. **Thrown Bat...**If a batter throws their bat, the first infraction will result in a warning. The second infraction may result in the batter being called out, at the discretion of the ump, as will any further infractions.
22. Pitching machines are not permitted during games. **U8**
23. ~~As per motion 14-2018, new rules are in effect for U8 for the 2018 season:~~
- ~~a. Each team will be scheduled to play 5 (five) league games within the season.~~
 - ~~b. Games will be scheduled on Mondays or Wednesdays.~~
 - ~~c. U8 scheduled league games will start at 6:30 pm and last approximately 1 (one) hour.~~
 - ~~d. Each batter will have 5 (five) pitches. If the batter is unable to hit within the 5 (five) pitches, they are out. Any forward hit, regardless of distance or forward foul, will be considered a fair ball. Foul tips are not a fair ball.~~
 - ~~e. 3 (three) out rule applies.~~
 - ~~f. 5 (five) run rule applies.~~

24. Roles:

Lac Ste. Anne County

- (a) To provide league meetings each year, as required.
- (b) To provide standard advertising of registration dates for each community participating.
- (c) To provide score sheets, schedules, and a rule book (at the current cost) for each team.
- (d) To provide medals for players, as determined at the annual playoff meeting.
- (e) To assist area contacts with leadership development.

Commissioner:

A league commissioner will be elected at the organizational meeting each year by the members present.

- (a) To assist in scheduling of the leagues.
- (b) To assist in the assigning and scheduling of final tournaments.
- (c) To evaluate protests and determine the appropriate action.
- (d) To provide direction for the Lac Ste. Anne County and the League.
- (e) Special considerations for overage players.

Area Contacts:

- (a) Attend all league meetings as scheduled.
- (b) Make decisions regarding rules and regulations.
- (c) Speak on issues presented in the name of the area they represent.
- (d) Be prepared to assist in tournament presentations.
- (e) League Rules and Regulations are to be presented to Coaches and Parents.

Coaches:

- (a) Keep up to date on rules.
- (b) Attend coaching clinics.
- (c) Provide an enjoyable experience for participants.
- (d) Ensure any information is given to local contacts to pass on.
- (e) Encourage players to attend clinics and stay to assist with the team.
- (f) Secure umpires for games as host team (plate); and as visiting team (first base).
- (g) To be a good role model.
- (h) Ensure that all player and coach information is recorded on the game sheets (first & last names) and that game sheets are signed
- (i) Both teams must submit the score sheet to Lac Ste. Anne County within 72 hours of the game.

Umpires:

- (a) Ensure you are familiar with Softball Canada Official Rule Book rules and Lac Ste. Anne Minor Ball League rules. A copy of the rules should be provided by the community arranging umpires.
- (b) Responsible for conduct of players, coaches and fans. **Excessive swearing, taunting, physical contact or poor sportsmanship should not be tolerated.** Such acts should have players, coaches or fans removed from the play area at the umpire's discretion.
- (c) All injuries, incidents and/or ejections should be documented briefly and include a signature, on the back of the score sheet to be handed in to the league office. The minor sports organization contact person for that team should also be notified of the incident.
- (d) All umpires must wear proper regulation umpire face masks.

25. That all divisions be set up as follows:

- Schedule to be of a round robin nature with home and away games, or pools, depending on the number of teams. If some teams have more home games, it is due to diamond scheduling problems or number of games played.
- One playoff per age category will be organized with all teams included, excluding U6 and U8 unless otherwise determined at playoff meeting.
- Medals will be given out to players as determined at annual playoff meeting.
- U6 and U8 divisions will receive participation medals for ALL players.

22. After a team makes five (5) runs in each inning, they forfeit their bat. It should be declared the last inning before starting (Umpires please watch the clock and ensure the final inning is declared clearly)

23. The losing coach has the option to call the game after the specified number of innings.

24. **Over-aged** players may be allowed upon special consideration. Written requests must be submitted for consideration -

- but they cannot be a pitcher or a catcher.
- all over-aged players must be marked on the score sheet prior to the game as "OA"
- Over-aged Special Consideration for participants is to be determined by the League Commissioner and subject to all points listed in 'Section: 24' and any associated conditions set by the League Commissioner.

25. All equipment standards must be followed as per the New Canadian Rules. (ie. Chin straps on helmets and fastened).

26. See Attachment "B" for Lac Se. Anne County Softball League specific rules pertaining to U12 and younger players.

→ opening inning possible

ATTACHMENT "A"**UMPIRES**

- Umpires must be familiar with Softball Canada Official Rule Book rules and Lac Ste. Anne Minor Ball League Rules. A copy of the rules should be provided by the community arranging the umpire.
- Umpires are responsible for conduct of players, coaches and fans. **Excessive swearing, taunting, physical contact or poor sportsmanship should not be tolerated.** Such acts should have players, coaches or fans removed from the play area at the umpires' discretion.
- In the event of a player ejection using the ABC rule, if an A is ejected, one B or C become A's for the remainder of the game. If a B or C is ejected a C or B become A's respectively.
- All injuries, incidents, and/or ejections should be documented briefly on the back of the score sheet to be handed in to the league office. The minor sports organization contact person for that team should also be notified of the incident.
- In the case of a fan ejection, it is the responsibility of the team the fan is associated with to make sure the fan is removed. If this does not occur that team will forfeit. If the incident occurs at the league tournament and the fan is not with either team, the tournament host should be contacted and must remove the fan. Games should not continue until fans, coaches or players have been removed to the umpire's satisfaction.
- There is to be no alcohol or smoking at the ball diamonds including the playing field and dugout. It is unacceptable for players and/or coaches to be drinking at or before games and practices. If players/coaches have been drinking at or before a game, they will be removed from the game at once, and a write up be done on the back of the score sheet to be handed in to the league.
- All umpires must wear proper regulation umpire face masks.

Repeat offenses:

- There will be zero tolerance of the alcohol rule and a repeated offence of the rule may result in the team being suspended or ejected from the league.

ATTACHMENT "B"

Rule	U6	U8	U10	U12
Rule 2- The Playing Field				
Base Path Distance				
- 40' (Softball Canada Standard for U6)	*			
- 45' (Softball Canada Standard for U8 and U10)		*	*	
- 55' (Softball Canada Standard for U12)				*
Pitching Distance				
- 30' (Softball Canada Standard for U8 and U10)		*	*	
- 35' (Softball Canada Standard for U12)				*
- Note: If Coach Pitcher, the defensive pitcher should stand at the minimum pitching distance listed above & no closer				
Rule 3 - Equipment				
Ball				
- 9" Ball - Softball Canada standard for U6 - Recommends a soft "COR" ball.	*			
- 10" Ball - Softball Canada standard for U8 – Recommends a soft "COR" ball.				
- 11" Ball - Softball Canada standard for U12 (COR .47)		*	*	*
Helmet				
- All batters will wear a batting helmet with chin strap done up while at bat & on base. U6 players are not required to wear a cage. (Updated for 2018 season)	*			
- All batters will wear a batting helmet with cage with strap done up while at bat & on base		*	*	*
- Optional for defensive pitchers to wear protective equipment (helmet with cage or face guard)	*	*	*	*
Home plate				
-19" or 21" home plate	*	*	*	
Rule 4- Coaches, Players & Substitutes				
Coaches				
-Offensive & defensive coaches are permitted on the playing field	*	*		
Players- Numbers of Players				
- Maximum of 6 players on in field	*	*		
- Minimum of 7 players & a maximum of 9 players on the field			*	*
- When playing with less than the maximum number of players, there are no automatic outs.	*	*	*	*
- If a player arrives late, they may be added to the bottom of the line up	*	*	*	*
- Each inning rotates who is the first batter	*	*	*	*
Substitutes				
- Unlimited defensive substitutions	*	*	*	*
Replacement Runner				
- a Coach may use a courtesy runner for the catcher to allow that catcher to suit up for the next half inning. The courtesy runner must be the last out.	*	*	*	*
Playing Time				
- No player is to sit more than 1 consecutive inning. Coaches will ensure that every player sits out one inning before any player sits out two innings	*	*	*	*
- A player cannot play the same position more than 3 innings per game	*	*	*	*
- The batting order should be shuffled every inning so a different player leads off each inning	*	*	*	
- Coaches are encouraged to play all players as equally as possible over the course of the season	*	*	*	*
Rule 5 – The Game				
Regulation Game				
- Practices/Modified games do not last for more than 1 hour	*			
- A new inning will not start after 1 hour 15 minutes after the scheduled start time		*	*	
- A new inning will not start after 1 hour 30 minutes after the scheduled start time				*
- In case of weather or cancellation of a game by an official & when 2 inning have been completed, the score of the game will revert to the last fully completed inning.				*
Mercy Rule				
- Mercy Rule: If any team is ahead by 15 runs or more after 3 innings, or any inning thereafter, the game will be called. If any team is ahead by 10 runs or more after 5 innings (4 1/2 if Home Team), or any inning thereafter, the game will be called				*
Run Limit Per Inning				
- Maximum of 5 runs per half inning	na	*	*	*

Rule	U6	U8	U10	U12
Charged Conferences				
- A team is permitted two defensive conferences per inning. With the third conference, the pitcher must be removed from the pitcher position for the balance of the inning	na	na	*	*
Rule 6 - Pitching Regulations				
Pitching				
- Player pitch - normal count. After 3 strikes, batter out			*	*
Hit Batters				
- If the same pitcher hits 2 batters in an inning, he/she must be removed for the remainder of that inning. If a pitcher hits 3 batters, they can't pitch for the remainder of that game.			*	*
Walks				
- Walks are allowed	na		*	*
Intentional Walks				
- There are no intentional walks		*	*	*
Rule 7- Batting				
Number of Batters				
- All Players Bat. All eligible players will appear on the batting order (whether they are in the field defensively or not). The coach must declare the last batter to the umpire before the first pitch & the umpire must inform the opposing team. It is the duty of the Coach to inform the batter. When the last batter has hit, the ball must be returned to the catcher or other defensive player, who must be touching home plate. At that time, play is suspended. All previous runs are counted. If the last batter is put out through normal play, the inning is complete.	*			
Late Players				
- Players who arrive after the start of the game will be placed last in the batting order and bat their turn		*	*	*
Bunting				
- Bunting is not permitted		*	*	
- Bunting is permitted				*
Rule 8 - Batter - Runner & Runner				
Third Strike Rule				
- Third Strike Rule is not in effect		*	*	*
Infield Fly Rule				
- Infield Fly Rule is not in effect		*	*	*
Stealing				
- Runner cannot steal bases; she/he can only run when the batter makes contact (No Stealing)		*		
- Base runners may steal on any legally pitched ball when it has <u>left the pitcher's hand</u>			*	*
- Any player can only advance one base on a steal attempt			*	*
Lead Offs				
- Runners may leave the base when the ball has <u>left the pitcher's hand</u> .		*		
- Runners may leave the base when the ball has <u>left the pitcher's hand</u> . If they leave early, they will be called out			*	*
Sliding				
- Sliding is allowed	*	*	*	*
Base Runner Advancement				
Following a fairly hit ball, the advancing of runners is considered 'over' when the ball is returned to a player in the infield (inside the base paths). Runners may continue to the base they are heading to but the fielders may attempt to throw/tag the runner out		*	*	
Overthrows				
- Runners do not advance on an overthrow		*		
- Runners advance 1 base only on an overthrow			*	
Rule 9 - Dead Ball-Ball In Play				
- No walks or free bases awarded for being hit by a pitch from a coach-pitcher		*		
Rule 12 - Scoring				
Scores & Standing				
Score & standings will not be kept as the emphasis is on player & team skill development not on winning. (CURRENTLY IN LAC STE. ANNE MINOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE....Score & Standings only applicable during league playoffs. Regular season standings carry no weight towards playoff standings. Game sheet submissions are to ensure that only registered eligible players are participating).				

U6

2018 RULES AND REGULATIONS

The rules of "T-Ball" follow the rules of softball with the following exceptions.

1. A tee is used on home plate. The tee should be a regulation softball tee.
2. The ball that is used and is a requirement in 2018 is a soft touch Incrediball (soft "COR" ball) of a 9" circumference.
3. The ball must travel to the playing line. The playing line is a marked line running 10 feet from the back of home plate. If it fails to do so, it is called a dead ball and is returned to the tee for the participant to try again. The ball must pass this line or the decision is at the discretion of the umpire.
4. There is a regulation strike out. Each batter gets three strikes - if he/she misses the ball, it constitutes a strike; if he hits a foul it is a strike; and if he hits a dead ball, it is a strike. If a dead ball, or foul fly ball, is caught by the opposition, the batter is out.
5. All participants on a team get a chance to bat in each inning. After all participants have had their turn at bat, the fielding and batting teams change positions. No three out rule.
6. A fielder replaces the pitcher in the middle of the diamond. **No more than 6 players in the infield at one time, including the catcher.**
7. For safety reasons, a player cannot throw his bat (having it level 5 bat lengths away from the tee). A batter is given one warning and if this is repeated, the batter is ruled out. All batters and base runners must wear helmets at all times with chin-straps done up.
8. Base running is allowed only when a hit takes place. No base stealing. When the ball crosses in from outfield to infield, it's a dead ball. All called out players must leave the field.
9. The winner is determined by who has the greatest number of runs.
10. The base distance is 40 feet.
11. Teams should have a minimum of 7 players on a team with a maximum of 6 infield and the remaining outfield.
12. Unlimited substitution.
13. Batting is once around the batting order. With each team having equal numbers of bats, notification of last batter should be announced, you would bat to the highest batter. (e.g. team of 15 all bat, team of 13 all bat and first two batters bat again).
14. Ball game is 3 innings or 1 ½ hours.
15. Ball is placed on the tee and on command, "Play Ball", player can attempt to hit ball.
16. When the player is the last batter or is coming from third base, the defensive player must tag the tee with the ball and the ball needs to only touch the tee not be put on the tee. This is to provide a safe environment for the players.
17. All batters must wear a helmet with the chin strap done up while at bat and on base but a cage is not required at the U6 level.

The game of T-Ball is designed for the development of batting, throwing, catching, and base running skills. It is also designed to be **FUN FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS. IT SHOULD NOT BE COMPETITIVE.**



U8

2018 RULES AND REGULATIONS

*****IMPORTANT*****
Please read this document carefully, especially items # 4-6, as there are big changes in effect for U8 the 2018 season.

The rules of "Coach Pitch" follow the rules of softball with the following exceptions.

1. The ball that is used and is a requirement in 2018 is a soft touch Incrediball (soft "COR" ball) of a 10" circumference. } }
2. The base path distance is 45'.
3. All batters must wear a batting helmet with cage with the strap done up while at bat & on base.
4. Each batter will receive 5 (five) pitches. If the batter is unable to hit within the 5 (five) pitches, they are out. Any forward hit, regardless of distance or ~~forward foul~~, will be considered a fair ball. Foul tips are not a fair ball.
5. 3 (three) out rule applies.
6. 5 (five) run maximum rule applies.
7. For safety reasons, a player cannot throw his bat. A batter is given one warning and if this is repeated, the batter may be ruled out, at the discretion of the umpire.
8. Base running is allowed only when a hit takes place. No base stealing. Runners may only leave the base when the ball has left the pitcher's hand. If they leave early, they will be warned.
9. When the ball crosses in from outfield to infield, it's a dead ball. Runners do not advance on an overthrow.
10. The winner is determined by who has the greatest number of runs.
11. Teams should have a minimum of 7 players on a team with a maximum of 6 infield (including the catcher) and the remaining outfield.
12. Unlimited substitution.
13. Ball games are scheduled for 6:30 pm start, and last approximately one hour. Games will be scheduled on Mondays or Wednesdays.
14. Each team will be scheduled to play 5 (five) league games within the season.
15. Offensive and defensive coaches are permitted on the playing field.

LAC STE. ANNE MINOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

U10

2018 RULES AND REGULATIONS

The rules of "Mites" follow the rules of softball with the following exceptions.

1. The ball that is used and is a requirement in 2019 is a soft touch Incrediball (soft "COR" ball) of a 11" circumference.
2. The base path distance is 45'. The pitching path distance is 30'.
3. All batters must wear a batting helmet with cage with the strap done up while at bat & on base. Optional for defensive pitchers to wear protective equipment (helmet with cage or face guard).
4. Home plate is to be 19" or 21"
5. Minimum of 7 players & a maximum of 9 players on the field.
6. When playing with less than the maximum number of players, there are no automatic outs.
7. If a player arrives late, they may be added to the bottom of the line up.
8. Each inning rotates who is the first batter.
9. Unlimited defensive substitutions.
10. A Coach may use a courtesy runner for the catcher to allow that catcher to suit up for the next half inning. The courtesy runner must be the last out.
11. No player is to sit more than 1 consecutive inning. Coaches will ensure that every player sits out one inning before any player sits out two innings.
12. A player cannot play the same position more than 3 innings per game.
13. ~~The batting order should be shuffled every inning so a different player leads off each inning.~~ Run through Order
14. Coaches are encouraged to play all players as equally as possible over the course of the season.
15. A new inning will not start after 1 hour 15 minutes after the scheduled start time.
16. 5 (five) run maximum rule applies.
17. A team is permitted 2 (two) defensive conferences per inning. With the third conference, the pitcher must be removed from the pitcher position for the balance of the inning.
18. 3 (three) out rule applies.

4 ball rule → Coach Pitch

19. If the same pitcher hits 2 (two) batters in an inning, he/she must be removed for the remainder of that inning. If a pitcher hits 3 (three) batters, they can't pitch for the remainder of that game.
20. Walks are allowed. However there are no intentional walks.
21. Bunting is not permitted.
22. Third Strike Rule is not in effect.
23. Infield Fly Rule is not in effect.
24. Base runners may steal on any legally pitched ball when it has left the pitcher's hand.
25. Any player can only advance one base on steal attempt.
26. On a lead off runners may leave the base when the ball has left the pitcher's hand. If they leave early, they will be called out.
27. Sliding is allowed.
28. Following a fairly hit ball, the advancing of runners is considered 'over' when the ball is returned to a player in the field (inside the base paths). Runners may continue to the base they are heading to but the fielders may attempt to throw/tag the runner out.
29. Runners advance 1 base only on an overthrow.

LAC STE. ANNE MINOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE

U12

2018 RULES AND REGULATIONS

The rules of "Squirts" follow the rules of softball with the following exceptions.

1. The ball that is used and is a requirement in 2019 is a ~~soft touch Incrediball (soft "COR" ball)~~ of a 11" circumference.
2. The base path distance is 55'. The pitching path distance is 35'.
3. All batters must wear a batting helmet with cage with the strap done up while at bat & on base. Optional for defensive pitchers to wear protective equipment (helmet with cage or face guard).
4. Minimum of 7 players & a maximum of 9 players on the field.
5. When playing with less than the maximum number of players, there are no automatic outs.
6. If a player arrives late, they may be added to the bottom of the line up.
7. Each inning rotates who is the first batter.
8. Unlimited defensive substitutions.
9. A Coach may use a courtesy runner for the catcher to allow that catcher to suit up for the next half inning. The courtesy runner must be the last out.
10. No player is to sit more than 1 consecutive inning. Coaches will ensure that every player sits out one inning before any player sits out two innings.
11. A player cannot play the same position more than 3 innings per game.
12. Coaches are encouraged to play all players as equally as possible over the course of the season.
13. A new inning will not start after 1 hour 30 minutes after the scheduled start time.
14. In case of weather or cancellation of a game by an official & when 2 innings have been completed, the score of the game will revert to the last fully completed inning.
15. ~~Mercy Rule: If any team is ahead by 15 runs or more after 3 innings, or any inning thereafter, the game will be called. If any team is ahead by 10 runs or more after 5 innings (4 ½ if Home Team), or any inning thereafter, the game will be called.~~
16. 5 (five) run maximum rule applies.
17. A team is permitted 2 (two) defensive conferences per inning. With the third conference, the pitcher must be removed from the pitcher position for the balance of the inning.
18. 3 (three) out rule applies.

(U12) As well

19. If the same pitcher hits 2 (two) batters in an inning, he/she must be removed for the remainder of that inning. If a pitcher hits 3 (three) batters, they can't pitch for the remainder of that game.
20. Walks are allowed. However there are no intentional walks.
21. Bunting is permitted.
22. Third Strike Rule is not in effect.
23. Infield Fly Rule is not in effect.
24. Base runners may steal on any legally pitched ball when it has left the pitcher's hand.
25. Any player can only advance one base on steal attempt.
26. On a lead off runners may leave the base when the ball has left the pitcher's hand. If they leave early, they will be called out.
27. Sliding is allowed.