

# EBLL MAJOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL 2018

## DIVISIONAL GROUND RULES

### GENERAL:

1 Everyone to conduct themselves in a manner that sets a good example for the players. **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS A MUST** (at practice and/or games).

2 No arguing balls & strike calls under **ANY** circumstances.

3 Strike zone is a **LIBERAL** one. Pitches over the plate from batters knees to armpits will be a strike. A close pitch should favor the pitcher. Please encourage all players to swing the bat... do not encourage players to walk.

4 If you feel a gross mistake has been made (NOT on judgment call over a strike zone or whether a runner beat the throw to a base), please conference the opposing head coach & umpire for a *calm* discussion to resolve the issue. Umpires have the final decision.

5 Intimidation of umpires will NOT be tolerated. Do NOT call out plays before they are finished or yell SAFE or OUT (or use over exaggerated hand signals) prior to the umpires call. **Zero tolerance policy for coach aggression.**

6 Both teams are responsible for preparing the field prior to games (raking/lining). Each team to provide 1 new game softball to umpire prior to start of game. Home team is responsible for putting away any umpire equipment & field equipment, as well as reporting the final scores to the division rep by e-mail.

**7 Both teams should leave the dugouts clean of water bottles and general rubbish. Please transfer full trash bags to the dumpster located in the parking lot.**

**8 Make up games to be scheduled through the VP of Softball (Bob Schrader), Division Representative (Mike Schlossberg), Player Agent (Mike Long), and Field Scheduler (Rob Kenn).**

9 No more than 4 adult coaches on the bench/dugout at one time. No coach is allowed on the field (other than coaches box) while play is in action. Do not stand closer to home plate than the dugout fence while play is in action (no standing in front of dug out). Coaches please refrain from yelling back & forth to one another between dugouts.

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11 Every team makes the play-offs.

- a. Game 1: First place plays Fourth Place or gets a 1<sup>st</sup> round bye if odd number of teams
- b. Game 2: Second Place plays Third Place (home team higher seed)
  - i. Tie breakers established by head to head
  - ii. If still tie, head to head run differential (fewest runs allowed), then a coin toss.
  - iii. In the case of a three way tie, the team with the best overall record in games played between the three teams will win the tie breaker followed by preceding tie breaker rules.
  - iv. Last resort tie-breaker (coin toss)
  - v. For Playoff Seedings, only the EB inter-league games count towards the standings. The

Crossover Games with West Bridgewater and Bridgewater do not count towards our final league seeding standings

Championship Series: Winners of semi-finals (Games 1 and 2). Play for championship, best 2 of 3

\*Higher seed Home Team games 1 and 3\*

## GAME PLAY

1. All rules must be in compliance with the 2014 Little League charter Softball Majors Divisions rulebook unless “local rules“ are in effect as stated below; each coach will be given a copy of the LL rulebook, local rules, as well as the umpires

2. Six inning game.

- 3. This year there should not be any games scheduled after the weeknight games. If there is no game scheduled directly after, There will be no new inning starting after 1:45 after first pitch. The umpire will declare the last inning as the 1:45 mark approaches. In the last declared inning, there is no run limit (unlimited runs). If the last declared inning goes quickly before the 1:45 mark the game still ends.  
\*\*Umpires, please use caution on declaring last inning\*\*\*

4. On game nights/days (Saturdays or Makeups) in which there is a game scheduled directly after (2 hours from our start time), there will be a 1 hour 45 minute Drop Dead time. At 1 hour 45 minutes from the start time, the game will end. Score will revert to the last complete inning. If there is a batter up at the plate, at 1 hour and 45 minutes, that batter will complete their at bat and the game will end.

5. All players present must be in a continuous batting order.

6. Defensive substitutions may take place at will. A player may enter/re-enter at any time. All players will bat in a continuous, rotating order. Late players shall be inserted at the end of the order (at time they arrive). If a player leaves the game prior to a scheduled at bat and is unable to continue the game, proceed to next batter in lineup.

7. 5 runs per inning maximum (with exception of last inning, unlimited RUNS declared).

8. A game is considered complete & official if after 4 innings (3½ if home team is leading), for reasons of poor weather conditions, or mercy rule.

9. Mercy Rule: If a team is leading by 10 or more runs by the completion of 4 full innings (3½ if home team is ahead), the game is considered complete & official

10. Each team must have a minimum of eight (8) players to start an official game.

11. Pitchers must pitch from the 40 foot mound, no exceptions (safety concern). **Both feet must be touching the rubber** to start pitch and pitchers **must always** keep pivot foot in contact with rubber.
12. Coaches and Managers may choose to warm up pitchers between innings.
13. Once the ball is put in play it is live, and play does not officially stop until the ball is in control of the defensive team in the pitcher's circle.
  - a. A ball should be considered a dead ball upon ball "4" with the runner walking to first base. Runner cannot advance to second and/or third upon walking.
14. No leading off bases once a pitcher is on rubber.
15. Runners may NOT advance home on passed balls or steals or overthrows to pitcher from the catcher on pitched balls. (A runner on third must be hit in or walked in)
16. The runner may not leave the base until the ball reaches the batter
17. Batters cannot advance to 1st base on a 3rd strike dropped by the catcher.
18. No head first slides other than BACK to a base. Any head first slides will result in an out being called by the umpire.
19. Runners must SLIDE or AVOID contact on any play being made to a base. Any contact between a runner & fielder as a result of a runner failing to slide, with the ball being thrown to the base in which the contact is made, will result with the umpire calling the runner out.
20. Please teach players to slide if there is any question to a play coming to the base they are running (including home plate, where incidental contact with a catcher can cause a run being taken away from the offensive team).
  - a. Please note, a player can only be called out for not sliding if he/she comes in contact with a defensive player, while the ball is in route or at the base which the runner is sliding. It is slide OR avoid....but it should be standard practice to continue to instruct the players to slide whenever a play is going to be close or questionable.
21. Little League pitching rules apply.
  - If a Player pitches more than 3 innings in a game, there is a mandatory 1-day of rest. (i.e. if a pitcher throws 1 pitch in the fourth inning of pitching, mandatory 1-day rest)
  - Max 9-innings per game, 18 per calendar week

## **EBLL MAJOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES**

Read and understand above EBLL Major League Softball guidelines, as well as standard Little League Rules as handed out.

Coach and/or his assistant must be able to participate in the Major league evaluation and draft. Attend any umpire clinics that may be held for our umpiring staff.

Have a stocked first aid kit in your equipment bag at all times. ICE Packs, band aids, etc. See league rep. Volunteer/CORI forms to be filled out by **ALL** team volunteers & forwarded to League President prior to practice or participating in team events.

Shed keys will be given to all major league coaches. Please make sure umpire equipment, field tools, and bases are put away properly (not thrown randomly on floor, or left on field), and lock shed door before leaving field.

Field Maintenance: All coaches, and/or their assistant coaches are required to be in attendance for any coaching clinics and/or field maintenance days. We are also responsible for ongoing field maintenance.

Raking/lining/mound & batters box repair prior to games, and trash pick up after the games & generally keeping the area in tidy fashion. If you are able to transfer full trash bags to a trash receptacle, it would be GREATLY appreciated.

Organize & administer distribution & return of uniform/equipment, organize team for parade & picture day, and head up any fund raising for your team that is administered by EBLL organization. Registration fees do not cover the total yearly expenses for EBLL. Fund raisers are an IMPORTANT part of our yearly revenues. Please impress the importance of this to your team's parents/children. Thank you!

Report your games scores on the day/night of a game in a timely manner, via use of the leagues ONLINE SCORE

SUBMISSION form;

- a. Major League Coaches should include the pitchers names and innings pitched.
- b. 1 pitch into the next inning counts as an inning pitched

Make up games: Please cancel and re-schedule games as far in advance as possible to allow for umpire coverage. Make

EVERY effort to stay within our scheduled games. Make ups must be approved through VP of Softball, Bob Schrader, scheduler Rob Kenn, and Player Agent Mike Long. Cancellations due to rain will be made by the Executive Board in advance (posted on website/emailed) and/or by the Umpire with input from the Coaches if at the field.

If you personally cannot attend a scheduled game, please ask one of your assistant coaches to administer the game on your behalf. If you can field a team of at least 8 players, proceed with the game as planned.

All Stars: At the end of our regular season, all coaches are required to nominate worthy players from their perspective teams for Travel/All-Star consideration. All coaches for each age group will meet to discuss in open forum each candidate, and a voting process will take place. Please watch opposing players as the season progresses with this in mind.

EB Little League Website: <http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=ebll&sid=278881419>

Major League Division Representative: Mike Schlossberg [mschlossberg@pecofct.com](mailto:mschlossberg@pecofct.com)

Softball V.P.: Bob Schrader 617-571-1575 [robertschrader@rocketmail.com](mailto:robertschrader@rocketmail.com)

Umpire-In-Chief: Tony Gareri, [anthonygiii@icloud.com](mailto:anthonygiii@icloud.com)

Player Agent: Mike Long [mlong2006@comcast.net](mailto:mlong2006@comcast.net)

EBLL President: Peter Kenn [pkenn@goedeckeco.com](mailto:pkenn@goedeckeco.com)

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Rules Governing Pool Players

1. Eight (8) players are required to record an official game
2. Players for other EB Softball Divisions can be enlisted to build a team's roster to fill all fielding positions (10)
  - 2a If a normally rostered player starts a game, but then is expected to leave early, a pool player may be activated to substitute for the

Missing player(s) to keep the roster at the requisite number (10).

3. All pool players will be listed at the bottom of the batting order of the sponsoring team.

4. Pool players will fill outfield positions, unless a safety concern is encountered. This situation will be agreed to in advance by both coaches prior to the game start.

5. A pool player is not pitch for the sponsoring team.

6. Other guidelines not covered in the above lists can be negotiated between opposing coaches before the game.