



# 2022 RULE BOOK

[www.illinoisfastpitchsoftballleague.com](http://www.illinoisfastpitchsoftballleague.com)

[www.ilfpsbl.com](http://www.ilfpsbl.com)

#### **A: Governing Rules**

1. All USSSA rules will apply, except as modified by the following.
2. All rules are in effect for both regular season and post season play.\*
3. Specific rules pertaining to home teams park district/field use will be observed before league rules.

#### **B: Rosters**

1. Each Team must submit a roster to the league no later than April 1st, 2022. Teams may not add players to their roster after this date, except in cases subject to prior approval by the ILFPSBL. Violation of this will result in forfeit of games played by non-roster player(s).
2. Each manager must carry copies of the Birth Certificates and Roster with them and have each available for inspection at all ILFPSBL games. If the opposing manager asks to view these documents, and the manager cannot provide same, OR the player in question is not rostered, that team may forfeit the game and any other game where ineligible player was used. Outcome and final ruling will be made by the ILFPSBL.
3. The game involving a challenged player(s) must be completed. The game will be played under protest and final result determined by the ILFPSBL.
4. Call ups within the same organization will be allowed. A team may call up from a younger age group team within their organization to avoid forfeiting a game. The team with the call up player must notify the opposing manager before the game starts. Call ups are not allowed to pitch and must hit last in the batting order.  
EXCEPTION: To avoid forfeits, a team may use a substitute player at the same age level, but cannot be from another team participating in the ILFPSBL. The use of the substitute player MUST be approved by the opposing manager and age verified prior to the game. The substitute player CANNOT pitch and MUST bat last in the batting order.
5. The players are assigned to a division based upon their age as of January 1 of 2022.

#### **C: Time Limits**

1. No new inning may start after 105 minutes (1:45) of game time has been played. If there is a game scheduled after or the facility has rules governing use of the field, then the no new inning limit will be 90 minutes (1:30) of game time played.
2. If a game has completed 7 innings and is tied before the time limit, the game will continue under normal playing rules.

#### **D: Field Conditions**

1. Home Team Managers shall contact the opposing team manager when questionable weather and/or field conditions exist.

#### **E: Game Preparation & Managers' Responsibility**

1. The home team manager and coaches are to lay out the bases and pitching mound before each game.
2. The home team will get the playing field for practice first. The visiting team will be given the field for warm up at least 20 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. The visiting team will concluded their warm ups 5 minutes before game time. Managers are required to be at home plate 5 minutes before first pitch for ground rules and exchange of lineups.
3. The home team will choose which dugout they will use during the game.
4. The home team will supply 2 new, approved game balls prior to the start of the game. The home team keeps the balls after the game.
5. Managers are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents and fans.
6. Each team is to police the entire field and place any trash in the receptacles provided. **PLEASE CLEAN YOUR DUGOUT AFTER YOUR GAME.**



## **F: Line ups, Forfeits, Lightning, Suspended Games, Rain Outs, &Protests**

1. Managers will be at home plate 5 minutes before the schedule game time to exchange line-ups and cover ground rules with the umpire.
2. Rain outs re-scheduling will be the responsibility of the impacted managers. Once a date is agreed upon, the HOME team will contact the ILFPSBL and it will be added to the schedule.
3. **Umpire No Show**
  - a. 10U-11U: If agreed upon, the game can be played as an official game with coaches acting as umpires. If it is not agreed upon to use coaches as umpires, then the game will be rescheduled. NO FORFEITS will be enforced due to an umpire not fulfilling their contract.
  - b. 12U-14U: Not an official game. Game can be played as a scrimmage with coaches acting as the umpire, and rescheduled for a later date. NO FORFEITS will be enforced due to an umpire not fulfilling his contract.
4. A minimum of eight players is necessary to start a game. Any team with less than eight players fifteen minutes after the scheduled start time will forfeit that game.
5. Once a game begins, in all cases, the umpire's judgment regarding darkness, rain, etc., is final.
6. If a game is suspended due to rain, the game will resume where it was suspended when rescheduled unless the game has qualified as an official game. If so, the score will be reported and it will be a completed game. Please see age division rules for official game completion.
7. If anyone (manager, coach, spectator or umpire) sees lightning, the game will be suspended for **30 minutes** with all participants seeking shelter/safety, off the field. In order for the game to continue, umpires will wait for a **minimum of 30 minutes** to pass before the last sighting of lightning has occurred. If the umpire sights lightning again after play has resumed, he/she will stop play permanently for that day. If a field or park uses an automatic lightning detector, play will not resume until the 'all-clear' indicator has been signaled. All normal rules apply to suspensions, ties, and legal game decisions.
8. Protests are ONLY allowed if a rule interpretation is in question. The protesting team must immediately declare their intent to protest before the next legal play. No protests can be made after the next legal play. The protesting team must inform the ILFPSBL by 10 p.m. the date of the protest in writing and pay the \$50 protest fee. The ILFPSBL will make a ruling on the protest within 48 hours of receipt of the protest fee. All ILFPSBL rulings are final. No protests are allowed on umpire judgment calls.
9. Any coach, manager or fan that is ejected from the game will be suspended for 2 games. A second ejection will result in suspension for the rest of the ILFPSBL season.

## G: Division Rules

### 10U

1. Any rules not specifically covered by ILFPSBL rules will revert to USSSA rules.
2. Pitching mound distance 35ft, base distance 60ft.
3. Games will be 6 innings in length or end under the time restrictions below (#3), whichever comes first .
4. No new inning will start after 1:45 of the games start time. If there is a game scheduled after or a time limit mandated by the hosting facility, no new inning will start after 1:30 of game time.
5. A completed game will be 3 ½ completed innings if the home team is ahead, 4 completed innings if the visiting team is ahead.
6. **Run Limit:** The maximum runs a team can score in any innings is five (5) with the exception of the final declared inning. The maximum runs a team can score in the final declared inning is ten (10).
7. **There is no mercy rule in regular season games.**
  - a. **Playoff mercy rule will be as follows:**
    - **15 after 3**
    - **10 after 4**
8. Use of continuous batting order.
9. Free defensive substitution but pitcher may re-enter as a pitcher only once.
10. Speed up rule for pitcher and catcher with two outs mandatory.
11. No dropped third strike will be enforced.
12. No infield fly rule will be enforced.
13. Stealing will be on the release of the ball by the pitcher.
  - a. A warning will be given to the runner by the umpire for the first infraction. Subsequent infractions by that runner will result in an out.
14. Stealing of home is allowed.
15. **SLASHING IS NOT ALLOWED. *Slashing* is defined as a batter showing bunt, then pulling the bat back and taking a swing. ANY PLAYER THAT ATTEMPTS TO SLASH WILL BE EJECTED FROM THE GAME, AS WILL THE MANAGER OF THE OFFENDING TEAM.**
16. Scores emailed to: timschwind76@yahoo.com
17. All-Star game will be play on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Players representing teams will be based on final standings.
18. Playoffs will be double elimination tournament hosted by Bloomingdale June 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

## 11U

1. Any rules not specifically covered by ILFPSBL rules will revert to USSSA rules.
2. Pitching mound distance 40ft, base distance 60ft.
3. Games will be 7 innings in length.
4. No new inning will start after 1:45 game time. If there is a game scheduled after or a time limit mandated by the hosting facility, no new inning will start after 1:30 of game time.
5. A completed game will be 4 ½ completed innings if the home team is ahead, 5 completed innings if the visiting team is ahead.
6. **Run Limit:** The maximum runs a team can score in any innings is five (5), with the exception of the final declared inning. The maximum runs a team can score in the final declared inning is ten (10).
7. **There is no mercy rule in regular season games.**
  - a. **Playoff mercy rule will be as follows:**
    - **15 after 4**
    - **10 after 5**
8. Manager must declare at ground rules use of one of the following offense batting line ups:
  - a. Straight 9 batters with or without a DH
    - Players may Pinch Hit once and starter may re-enter the game in original spot in batting order
  - b. Use of Extra Hitter DH is allowed
    - Players may Pinch Hit once and starter may re-enter the game in original spot in batting order
  - c. Continuous Batting order no DH
9. Free defensive substitution. Pitcher may re-enter as a pitcher only once.
10. Speed up rule for pitcher and catcher with two outs mandatory.
11. Stealing will be on the release of the ball by the pitcher.
  - a. A warning will be given to the runner by the umpire for the first infraction. Subsequent infractions by that runner will result in an out.
12. Stealing of home is allowed.
13. **SLASHING IS NOT ALLOWED. *Slashing* is defined as a batter showing bunt, then pulling the bat back and taking a swing. ANY PLAYER THAT ATTEMPTS TO SLASH WILL BE EJECTED FROM THE GAME, AS WILL THE MANAGER OF THE OFFENDING TEAM.**
14. Scores emailed to [jamesvargas@ifpsbl.com](mailto:jamesvargas@ifpsbl.com)
15. All-Star game will be play on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. Players representing teams will be based on final standings.
16. Playoffs will be double elimination tournament hosted by Bloomingdale June 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

## 12U

1. Any rules not specifically covered by ILFPSBL rules will revert to USSSA rules.
2. Pitching mound distance 40ft, base distance 60ft.
3. Games will be 7 innings in length.
4. No new inning will start after 1:45 game time. If there is a game scheduled after or a time limit mandated by the hosting facility, no new inning will start after 1:30 of game time.
5. A completed game will be 4 ½ completed innings if the home team is ahead, 5 completed innings if the visiting team is ahead.
6. **Run Limit:** The maximum runs a team can score in any innings is five (5), with the exception of the final declared inning. The maximum runs a team can score in the final declared inning is ten (10).
7. **There is no mercy rule in regular season games.**
  - a. **Playoff mercy rule will be as follows:**
    - 15 after 4
    - 10 after 5
8. Manager must declare at ground rules use of one of the following offense batting line ups:
  - a. Straight 9 batters with or without a DH
    - Players may Pinch Hit once and starter may re-enter the game in original spot in batting order
  - b. Use of Extra Hitter DH is allowed
    - Players may Pinch Hit once and starter may re-enter the game in original spot in batting order
  - c. Continuous Batting order no DH
9. Free defensive substitution. Pitcher may re-enter as a pitcher only once.
10. Speed up rule for pitcher and catcher with two outs mandatory.
11. Stealing will be on the release of the ball by the pitcher.
  - a. A warning will be given to the runner by the umpire for the first infraction. Subsequent infractions by that runner will result in an out.
12. **SLASHING IS NOT ALLOWED. *Slashing* is defined as a batter showing bunt, then pulling the bat back and taking a swing. ANY PLAYER THAT ATTEMPTS TO SLASH WILL BE EJECTED FROM THE GAME, AS WILL THE MANAGER OF THE OFFENDING TEAM.**
13. Scores emailed to: mwhitson12@gmail.com
14. All-Star game will be play on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. Players representing teams will be based on final standings.
15. Playoffs will be double elimination tournament hosted by Bloomingdale June 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

## 14U

1. Any rules not specifically covered by ILFPSBL rules will revert to USSSA rules.
2. Pitching mound distance 43ft, base distance 60ft.
3. Games will be 7 innings in length.
4. No new inning will start after 1:45 game time. If there is a game scheduled after or a time limit mandated by the hosting facility, no new inning will start after 1:30 of game time.
5. A completed game will be 4 ½ completed innings if the home team is ahead, 5 completed innings if the visiting team is ahead.
6. **Run Limit:** The maximum runs a team can score in any innings is five (5), with the exception of the final declared inning. The maximum runs a team can score in the final declared inning is ten (10).
7. **There is no mercy rule in regular season games.**
  - a. **Playoff mercy rule will be as follows:**
    - **15 after 4**
    - **10 after 5**
8. Manager must declare at ground rules use of one of the following offense batting line ups:
  - a. Straight 9 batters with or without a DH
    - Players may Pinch Hit once and starter may re-enter the game in original spot in batting order
  - b. Use of Extra Hitter DH is allowed
    - Players may Pinch Hit once and starter may re-enter the game in original spot in batting order
  - c. Continuous Batting order no DH
9. Free defensive substitution. Pitcher may re-enter as a pitcher only once.
10. Speed up rule for pitcher and catcher with two outs mandatory.
11. Stealing will be on the release of the ball by the pitcher.
  - a. A warning will be given to the runner by the umpire for the first infraction. Subsequent infractions by that runner will result in an out.
12. **SLASHING IS ALLOWED**
13. Scores emailed to: kb92377@gmail.com
14. All-Star game will be play on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. Players representing teams will be based on final standings.
15. Playoffs will be double elimination tournament hosted by Bloomingdale June 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.