Indoor Baseball/Softball League Rules

AGE LEVELS

Baseball:

- 6-9U….. 46/60 (Coach Pitch & L.L. rules)
- 10-12U …50/70 (Cal Ripken rules)

Softball:

- 6-9U…..40/60 (Coach Pitch)
- 10-12U….. 40/60
- 13 – 14U ……43/60

Adult Co-Ed Softball

- 18yrs + Slow Pitch

LEAGUE FORMAT

All games are on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

- THIS IS A WEEKEND LEAGUE. IF YOU CANNOT COMMIT TO THIS, THIS IS NOT THE LEAGUE FOR YOUR TEAM

REGULAR & POSTSEASON FORMAT

8 game guarantee.

Please check website for game schedule

The regular season will consist of 7 games and 1 championship /consolation week.
The top two teams in each division will play in the championship game while all other teams will play in a consolation game. The playoffs are separate by age. At no time will teams from one age level face a team from another age level. In order to be eligible for the postseason, a player must have appeared in at least 3 regular season games.
Playoff Round

If tied at the end of regulation play, international tie break rules will be played until a winner emerges.

- International Rules means, last batted out becomes the runner on second with 1 out to start the inning. All other rules remain in place as well as current batting order.
- Awards will be presented to the championship team by league commissioner

Team Rosters

- 12 player minimum. There is no player maximum.
- **12 player minimum for Adult League**
- Managers should carry current roster, and a copy of these rules.
- A player may be only on 1 roster per age division;
  However a 9U player may be on an 10-12U roster, but would be required to pay the individual/registration fee for both teams.
- Liberty Arena will supply baseballs and 1 umpire per game

Individual Players/Free Agents (players without a team)

Pool Player lists will be created for individuals looking to join a team. Pool player teams will need volunteer coaches and all pool players need to bring their own equipment. Team fees will be divided by the number of players on the team once they are placed on a particular team. Player fees will be due once the player accepts the roster spot on a team.

Substitute Players: new players can be added to the roster at any time prior to week 4 of league competition.

Pick up players: Sub fees will be $15 per game played.

Player Age/Eligibility

The age cutoff for the indoor season is **April 30th for all players.** Whatever age a player will be on that date in the following year is that player’s “league age” (for example, a child turning 12 years old prior to April 30 of 2016, is considered an eligible 12 year old in a 2015 league). A player may “play up” an age level; he cannot “play down” under any circumstances.

All individuals over the age of 18 are eligible for Adult Co-Ed.

BAT REGULATIONS

The Liberty Arena Baseball League will follow Little League International bat rules for the indoor season at all levels. **NO “BIG BARREL”, NO “BAMBOO”, NO “COMPOSITE”**

**BATS MAY BE USED FOR ANY AGE LEVEL OF THE INDOOR LEAGUE. ONLY WOODEN BATS** may be used.
PITCHING REGULATIONS
There is a two-inning limit for pitchers. To clarify, an inning is 3 outs; so in effect each pitcher is allowed to get 6 outs before being replaced.

- **ALL AT BATS START WITH A 1 – 1 COUNT**
- Please remember that you are responsible for these young men and the futures that they may have.
- **BE SMART!**

Pitcher Re-Entry: If a pitcher is removed from the mound and goes to another defensive position, they may not return as a pitcher in that game. The second trip to the mound by the coach or defensive player will result in the pitcher being removed from the pitching position.

Adults league pitchers have no pitching limit.

Game Duration

Starting and Ending the Game

All league games will be allocated time slots of 80 minutes to play. Teams will be given roughly 5 minutes for warmup at the start of their time block, and will play for 80 minutes. Teams will begin to clear the field area 5 minutes before the next game is scheduled to begin. Games shall start and end on time. Games will be 6 innings or 80 minutes max, whichever comes first. A clock will be used - when 80 minutes are up, the game stops immediately. Play as many innings as time allows within the time frame.

The league will not reschedule games for any reason, including, but not limited to, “acts of God”; ie winter storms. No refunds will be given for un-played games.

Game Length:

In the event the home team does not get a chance for their last at-bats, the final score will be recorded as of the last fully played inning. Example: Time runs out in the top of the 6th with the home team trailing, the final score will be recorded as it was at the completion of the 5th inning.

BASEBALL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>6-9u</th>
<th>10-12u</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mound/Base</td>
<td>46/60</td>
<td>50/70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Length</td>
<td>6 or (80 minutes)</td>
<td>6 or (80 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Game</td>
<td>4 innings</td>
<td>4 innings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercy Rule</td>
<td>All ages are subject to a 15 after 4, 10 after 5, innings run rule. If the Home Team has hit the Mercy Rule the Game is over. You will not continue the game to add runs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SOFTBALL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>6-9u</th>
<th>10-12u</th>
<th>13-14u</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mound/Base</td>
<td>40/60</td>
<td>40/60</td>
<td>43/60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Length</td>
<td>6 or (80 minutes)</td>
<td>6 or (80 minutes)</td>
<td>6 or 80 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Game</td>
<td>4 innings</td>
<td>4 innings</td>
<td>4 innings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercy Rule</td>
<td>All ages are subject to a 15 after 4, 10 after 5, innings run rule. If the Home Team has hit the Mercy Rule the Game is over. You will not continue the game to add runs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adult Co-Ed Softball

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>18+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mound/Base</td>
<td>50/70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Length</td>
<td>6 or (80 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercy Rule</td>
<td>No Mercy Rule</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mercy Rules expanded

Games will be adjusted for lopsided scoring. Losing team may have the possibility of an extra out during their at-bat, extra fielder, etc. Umpires may institute a 5-run per inning rule to the team in the lead or institute that the team in the lead bats only one time around that inning.

Spectators/Dugout Areas

Any spectators will need to remain away from the netting while games are in progress. No spectators are allowed in the dugout area or on the playing field.

Teams at bat or substitutes for teams on the field must remain in the dugout area (bench areas). There is no on-deck circle. Batters will be allowed a maximum of 2 practice swings prior to stepping to the plate for their at-bat.

Umpiring

Liberty Arena will provide one (1) paid official for each game. The umpire is responsible for calling all plays at all bases, for enforcing all rules of the game, and keeping the game moving. Under no circumstances will a spectator or other person be permitted to be a second umpire.
**Offensive/Defensive/Baserunning/Stealing/Advancement of Runners**

**LINE UP/BATTING ORDER:**
Liberty Arena would like to let the coach play as many players as he/she wants. The only information needed regarding a Starting Lineup is the number of batters. The batting order must be set prior to the game and stays the same for the game’s duration. Each team must have 9 players in field to start a game.

**ALL AT BATS START WITH A 1 – 1 COUNT**

Offense: Teams MUST BAT the ENTIRE LINEUP.
- Teams will progress through the entire batting order regardless of whether a player actually plays on the field any particular inning. Please make sure that players get to play innings in the field and not just used for at bats.
- If a player comes late to a game they must be placed at the end of the batting order (please advise other coach of any change during game of either player leaving early or coming late to a game).
- In case of an Injury OR if a player must leave before end of game (no out taken, simply skip that batter)

Defense: Any player on the roster may play in any defensive position at any time.
- All coach pitch divisions, the coach pitcher is not allowed to field any live balls. He/She is considered part of the playing field.
- Substitutions can be made on the field any inning, and players may re-enter the game as fielders (not pitchers).

**Courtesy Runner:** A courtesy runner can be used for Catcher at any time & is Mandatory with 2 outs. The courtesy runner must be the last batted out.
- All coach pitch leagues, there is no stealing or leads of bases allowed. For all remaining divisions, there is 1 Steal per inning allowed. Lead offs are permitted as per Cal Ripken rules. The same leads/stealing rule is applied to the Adult League.
- In 6-9U division, the baserunner can steal once ball crosses home plate, as per little league rules.

**Passed Balls** (All divisions) - A runner may advance on a passed ball to 2nd & 3rd base, but there is NO advancement to HOME on a passed ball.

**Base On Balls** (All divisions) - There will be no advancing to second after a base on balls. Once the batter reaches first base, the play is dead until pitcher addresses the rubber for next pitch. All base-runners will be allowed to advance up to 1 base.

**NO Dropped Third Strike** (In All divisions) - The runners may advance 1 base, but batter is out even with 2 outs and/or if 1st base is not occupied.

**SLIDING:** All divisions are NOT permitted to slide head first and baserunners must avoid contact AT ALL TIMES!
**Speed Up Rules:**

The pitcher will be allowed only two warm-up pitches between innings. A new pitcher will be allowed four warm-up pitches. Only one throw is permitted after an out. If the out is a strike-out, the catcher must throw the ball back to the pitcher. If the out is made by an outfielder, the ball must be returned to an infielder, and then directly to the pitcher. No time outs allowed by the batter, unless for emergency. NO Intentional Walks.

**Keeping the Game moving**

- Please do not try to warm-up on the field.
- Batting cages are available for rental before or after your games.
- Teams and Coaches should be ready to move into the playing field 5 minutes prior to the start of their schedule game time.

The **Home Team** will always be seated on the first base dugout. The Home Team catcher should already be geared up! As soon as the play clock expires from the previous game, teams should advance to the field and put their bags outside a dugout. Once the dugout is clear, put the gear in it. The home team should immediately take the field.

The **Visiting Team** will always be seated on the third base dugout. The visiting team should immediately send a batter to on deck circle and then step to the plate when the pitcher has completed the designated number of warm-up pitches. After each game, coaching staffs & teams must clear the field as quickly as possible after each game – PLEASE DON’T Hold post-game meetings on the PLAYING FIELD OR DUGOUT AREA.

**Coaching – Bench & Field Conduct**

Only one Head Coach and at most TWO Assistant Coaches are allowed on the playing field, in the dugouts, and in the warm-up/practice areas, along with the rostered players. Everyone else must sit in the designated spectator area. No protests will be allowed – feedback is welcome and can be sent to the Liberty Arena league commissioner about game issues.

**Field of Play (All Leagues)**

- Netting in left:center/right field
- Fly balls that hit the ceiling net within the base path area, are considered above the goal area in left field are a home run. Balls hitting off the wall on the ground are playable. Balls hitting the outfield wall on a line drive are an automatic triple.
- If a batted ball hits anything in foul territory before it is caught, including the ceiling net, wall nets, or wall padding, it is a foul ball.
- If a batted ball hits the ceiling net in fair territory INSIDE the baselines, it is an automatic out.
- Batted balls that hit the ceiling net in fair territory BEYOND the baselines are playable but cannot be caught for an out.
- Batted balls that hit the ‘Outfield Fence’ on the fly are playable but not catchable for an out.
**Definition**: ‘Outfield Fence’ includes the netting in right field, the spectator protection in center field, and the wall/vertical netting in left field. Batted balls that go over the spectator protection in center field in the air will be ruled as a Home Run. Balls that bounce over, or go through in any way, any part of the outfield fence will be ruled as a double. The player should raise both hands above the head to signal this.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY** – in the event of snow or other bad weather, Liberty Arena remains open unless there is a state of emergency declared here in Pa. Due to field rentals, training programs and other facility-related commitments, it is not possible to reschedule games that may be affected by the weather. There are no refunds for games that do not get played.

**ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY** – The Liberty Arena Baseball League does not tolerate unprofessional or unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, players or parents. The umpires have complete and final authority on the field and may remove anyone – coach, player or parent – who acts in an unprofessional or unsportsmanlike manner toward another coach, player, parent or umpire. The manager is responsible for the behavior of his team’s coaches, players and parents of players. Any coach who is removed from a game will be suspended pending the findings of a League inquiry. Any team who has someone (player, parent, and/or fan) from their side removed from the game may be subject to disciplinary action by the League.

Liberty Arena thanks you for your participation in our new facility and the inaugural “Indoor Baseball/Softball League.” Coaches; please be sure to play your players at multiple positions during the game and not to have players just in the batting order. This “indoor league” is not set up for dominant teams, but to ensure a FUN learning experience for all players/coaches involved. As within any league indoor or outside; we look forward to continue to set rules as they need addressed as per teams involved.

Bring Your Game,
Liberty Arena Staff