

**Inter-Lakes Girls Softball League
2025/2026 Rules and Regulations
Updated January 2026**

I. Inter-Lakes Girls Softball League House Rules and Regulations

A. Objectives:

1. The Inter-Lakes Girls Softball League will maintain as its primary objective, an amateur softball contest for the mutual benefit and enjoyment of the players, sponsors and everyone involved and the furtherance of clean sportsmanship and kindly understanding between the people involved, development of the capabilities of individuals, a sense of fair team play and moral standards for all involved.

B. Membership:

1. All applicants, grades kindergarten through 12, who live in the Walled Lake Consolidated School District and surrounding areas, shall be eligible to participate in League play.
2. No player shall appear in any league game or practice unless the manager has in his/her possession a written consent by the parents or guardian of the child.

C. Fees:

1. Registration fees will be used to cover administrative and maintenance expenses, umpire fees, equipment, etc.
2. Refund policy is 100% prior to breaking of the teams, 50% prior to the start of the Managers Meeting and no refund after Managers Meeting begins.

D. Sponsors:

1. Teams sponsored entirely by one merchant shall play under that merchant's name unless otherwise agreed upon with the sponsor.

E. Scheduling:

1. All scheduled league games shall be played on Monday through Friday at 5:45 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.
2. A team must have a minimum of eight (8) players to start and finish a game. When playing with eight players, the ninth spot will not be an automatic out as written in USSSA Rules. A late start time will be deducted from total game time. A forfeit will be enforced 10 minutes after game time. In the event that a school sponsored function (including an immediate family member's graduation ceremony) has reduced a team's roster to less than the required number of players, the game may be rescheduled based on approval from the Chief Umpire. Managers should notify the Division Director of school sponsored functions impacting their ability to field a team, no less than one week prior to the affected game. Division Directors will contact the Chief Umpire and opposing Manager to cancel and reschedule the game. If notification of the event is less than one week prior, rescheduling will be at the discretion of the Chief Umpire. Both Managers must agree to the rescheduled day and time before the rescheduled game is approved and added to the schedule.
3. In all Divisions a game will be considered complete if 3 innings have been played or 2 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead or time limit is reached. A regulation game is six innings for slow-pitch and seven innings for fast-pitch. If a game is tied at the end of regulation during regular season play, the game will continue until the time limit has expired. The official time limit for all divisions will be 75 minutes. No new inning will start after 70 minutes. Game start time will be given by the umpire after pre-game conference. All innings started will be completed with the exception of darkness.

4. During play-off games, if game is tied when time limit is reached, the game must continue until a winner is decided. All Divisions will use the International Tie Breaker Rule. In the Pigtail and Braid Divisions, it will become all coach pitch to finish the game.
5. In the case of inclement weather, the Chief Umpire and/or an Executive Board Member shall have the responsibility of deciding whether the game should be played or cancelled. When cancellation occurs prior to scheduled start times, the Division Directors will be contacted immediately by the Chief Umpire or an Executive Board member. The Division Directors will contact the Managers. Games will be rescheduled by the Chief Umpire as soon as possible and communicated to the Managers through the Division Directors. When a game is called after play has started and meets the requirements of a complete game, it is considered complete and scores should be reported to the Division Director(s). If it does not meet the requirements of a complete game, the game shall be suspended and rescheduled as noted above. When play resumes, it will be from the point the game was suspended.
6. In case of darkness becoming a factor during games, play will continue as long as conditions are safe in the judgment of the chief umpire. Complete game same as rule number three.
7. Standings are determined by a point system with two points being awarded for a win, one point for a tie, and no points for a loss.
8. The determination of regular season standings and regular season trophy position will utilize the following criteria, in the order listed: 1. Points; 2. Wins; 3. Head to Head; 4. Runs Allowed; 5. Coin flip for non-trophy positions only.
If all criteria are equal, a playoff game will be played to determine the final regular season standings. The Division Directors will publish weekly regular season standings using the above criteria. Post-season play-off match ups will use the final regular season standings to determine seeding positions.
9. The playoffs will consist of a single elimination bracket with a high/low seed format. There will also be a consolation bracket for one loss teams. The higher seed is the home team throughout the playoffs. The final two unbeaten teams in each division will play in the championship game.
 - a. If a division has 4 teams or less, a round robin will be played to determine the final two teams that will play in the championship game.

F. General Playing Rules:

1. Every girl must play defensively for at least two of the first three innings in the field. Any manager not playing a girl for at least two innings will forfeit the game. Exception: If the game is resumed at a later date and continues for less than two innings and a player was not present at the regularly scheduled game.
2. Players arriving after the start of the game may be placed at the bottom of the order only if the team has not batted through the order and providing two innings can be played defensively.
3. If a player leaves the game early for any reason, she will not be an automatic out but will be skipped over in the batting line-up.
4. Each team must have its line-up in the hands of the official scorekeeper before game time. Home team is the official scorekeeper and will record the start time given by the umpire.
5. The entire team is to have a turn at bat, in order.
6. The only people allowed in the dugout will be registered players and designated coaching staff, not to exceed four people. All players not occupying a position in the game shall remain in the dugout at all times. The home team shall use the third base player's bench. Coaches must be in the coaches' box or inside the dugout opening.
7. Free defensive substitution. Exception: If a pitcher is removed from the mound, she may return to the mound once in the same inning.
8. Each player must be in 50% of the regular season games to be eligible for the play-off games. Exception: Due to injury or with Board approval.
9. Any player may be ejected from the ball game by the umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct. Should a player be ejected from the game, she must appear before her director before playing the next game. Any further ejections, the player must appear before the Board of Directors.
10. Use of suspended or ineligible players shall mean automatic forfeiture of any game in which the player competed. Any player who has not paid the registration fee is ineligible.
11. Only the team manager or coach has the right to talk to or question the umpire about rule interpretations. There will be no questions regarding the umpire's judgment calls.

12. No player shall be allowed to play if she has a splint or cast of any kind.
13. No smoking and/or use of any tobacco products will be allowed within 50 feet of any playing area or dugout.
14. Warm-up on the diamond should be at least five minutes for each team. Teams may be instructed to start play without infield practice.
15. Every player must be in equipment issued to play. Rubber sole shoes must be worn (includes rubber cleats). Hats or visors are optional but must be league issued or Board approved. All offensive players must wear NOCSAE approved batting helmets and Fast-Pitch Divisions must wear NOCSAE approved face guards.
16. Catcher must wear proper uniform; chest protector, mask and helmet. Hat is optional.
17. Official softball bats are used in all divisions and comply with the guidelines set forth in the USSSA Rule Book.
18. Pitcher's mound and base sizes will be whatever the league supplies. The league will provide a double first base for use in all games.
19. The umpire has the authority and control of the game after it has started.
20. The umpire has the right to stop play if a player has been injured.
21. All bats and playing equipment not being used must be kept within the dugout.
22. Throwing the bat will be called an automatic out at the umpire's discretion after one team warning. The warning will be issued during ground rules.
23. Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire as dangerous, is not permitted and must be removed. Starter post earrings will be allowed.
24. A courtesy runner will be allowed to replace an injured player. She must be the most recent out on the injured player's team.
25. If a player is injured at bat, the next batter assumes her count and the injured batter may come to bat on her next turn.

G. Division Rules

Pigtail Division

1. This Division will follow U.S.S.A. slow-pitch rules as directed and/or modified by the League.
2. A player will pitch to every batter until the batter gets a hit, has three strikes or three balls. There will be no walks. If three balls are thrown, a coach from the batting team will come in and finish the count with a maximum of five pitches. A player will be considered out if there is no hit after five pitches. If the player hits a foul ball on the last pitch, she will receive an additional pitch for that and any succeeding foul balls. Pitcher must be positioned within five feet on either side of the pitching rubber when a coach comes in to pitch.
3. No intentional walks are allowed. Pitcher must pitch to the batter.
4. Four runs or three outs end a teams at bat.
5. It will be an automatic dead ball on any overthrow to first base only. An overthrow to first base is considered to be any ball which is thrown from fair territory and crosses the first base foul line.
6. Outfielders must be positioned at/or behind the grass line.
7. Infield fly rule is not in effect, and no base stealing (player will be called out).
8. On any hit ball, the runners may advance until the ball is in possession of the pitcher on the pitchers mound. Time will be called and any runners halfway or more to the next base may advance to that base.
9. If a pitched ball hits a player, the player is not awarded first base.
10. Pitching distance is 30 feet and the base distance is 60 feet.

Braid Division

1. This Division will follow U.S.S.S.A. slow-pitch rules with modified pitch (fast-pitch strike zone) as directed and/or modified by the League.
2. A player will pitch to every batter until the batter gets a hit, has three strikes or four balls. There will be no walks. If four balls are thrown, a coach from the batting team will come in and finish the count with a maximum of five pitches. A player will be considered out if there is no hit after five pitches. If the player hits a foul ball on the last pitch, she will receive an additional pitch for that and any succeeding foul balls. Pitcher must be positioned within five feet on either side of the pitching rubber when a coach comes in to pitch.
3. Each team must use at least 2 pitchers per game for a minimum of 1 inning each. A minimum outing for a pitcher is considered to be either 3 outs or an inning run max allowed. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in a forfeit.
4. No intentional walks are allowed. Pitcher must pitch to the batter.
5. Four runs or three outs end a teams at bat.
6. Infield fly rule is not in effect, and no base stealing.
7. If a pitched ball hits a player during kid pitch, the player is awarded first base. If the batter does not make an attempt to get out of the way of a rolling pitch, the umpire shall call that pitch a ball.
8. Pitching distance is 35 feet and the base distance is 60 feet.

Ponytail Division

1. This Division will follow U.S.S.S.A fast-pitch rules as directed and/or modified by the league.
2. There will be no batting practice on the fields during warm-ups.
3. Pitching distance is 40 feet and the base distance is 60 feet.
4. A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher to put her equipment on as an option to speed up the game. The runner must be the last out.
5. Four runs or three outs end a teams at bat.
6. No stealing home on passed ball or overthrow back to the pitcher. Stealing home is allowed if a play is made on any runner.
7. When a batter strikes out and the ball is not caught, the batter is out and cannot advance to first base. The ball remains live.
8. A pitcher will be removed from the pitching position (remainder of game) if they hit 3 batters in one inning or 4 batters total.

Sassoon Division and High School Division

1. This Division will follow U.S.S.S.A fast-pitch rules as directed and/or modified by the league.
2. There will be no batting practice on the fields during warm-ups.
3. Pitching distance is 43 feet and the base distance is 60 feet.
4. A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher to put her equipment on as an option to speed up the game. The runner must be the last out.
5. Four runs or three outs end a teams at bat.
6. A pitcher will be removed from the pitching position (remainder of game) if they hit 3 batters in one inning or 4 batters total.

H. Managers:

1. Managers must be approved by the Board of Directors. Any changes must be reported to the Division Director. Managers must sign a contract before team rosters are handed out.
2. The Board of Directors must approve any change in a manager of a team.
3. As a returning manager in the Pigtail and Braid Divisions, you are entitled to protect no more than four players from your prior two year's team roster. Players included as protections are: a) players from prior two year's regular season teams, b) sister of a protected player, c) daughter(s) of manager. As a manager in the Ponytail and Sassoon Division, you are entitled to one player protection in addition to your own daughter(s). A draft system will be used to select players in the Ponytail and Sassoon Division.
4. New manager's protections in the Pigtail and Braid Divisions will be their daughter(s) only plus one additional player.
5. No player shall be added to a team roster by a Manager.

6. The manager shall at all times maintain control over his/her team; players, coaches and parents.
7. Managers have the responsibility to see that players respect property at all times (school buildings, fences, ball fields, equipment, etc.).
8. Practices shall be limited to four days per week, maximum of two hours per day.
9. No practices shall begin before the designated start date. Any violations will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and will result in disciplinary action by the Board of Directors to include game suspensions or removal from the manager position.
10. Do not leave players unattended after practices or games.
11. Foul language at games or practices by managers, coaches, players or parents will not be tolerated.
12. Motorized vehicles allowed in designated parking areas only.
13. Managers and/or coaches may use disciplinary action in the form of benching a girl for unexcused absences from practice or games, unfit or unsportsmanlike conduct, or if a player's conduct does not meet the requirements stated in the rules. Any disciplinary action must be reported to their respective division director.
14. Managers have the responsibility to bring players before the Board of Directors when other disciplinary action fails.
15. Any Manager may be ejected from the ball game, by the umpire, for unsportsmanlike conduct. Should a manager be ejected for the game, he/she must appear before his/her director before managing the next game. Further ejections, the manager must appear before the Board of Directors.
16. All managers must attend appropriate scheduled clinics.

I. Protests:

1. The umpire must be advised and notation entered in the official score book before the next pitch that the game is being played under protest. A \$50.00 fee must be filed by the manager protesting with a written protest within 48 hours to the director of the division. Money will be refunded if the protest is won. No checks will be accepted, money orders or cash only. Exception: During the play-offs, a verbal protest and \$50.00 fee must be filed and the protest must be resolved before the next pitch is thrown.
2. No protests will be accepted concerning an umpire's judgment. Protest may be filed concerning the rules of the game and their interpretation or the eligibility of players.
3. After the protest is filed with the umpire and entered in the official score book, the game shall continue to conclusion with the protest being handled at a later date.
4. All protests will be decided by a meeting of the Protest Committee and the Managers of the questioned game. This will be done within 48 hours after receiving a written protest and fee. The protest committee is comprised of the Coaching Director, Chief Umpire, the Director of Division Directors, and 4 Division Directors.

J. Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct can be called on any player, manager, coach, scorekeeper, parent, spectator or any person connected with any team in the league.
2. Defines as appears in the Inter-Lakes Girls Softball League Rules and Regulations; anyone who does not cooperate with the League Rules and By-Laws and is continually causing trouble, such as harassing the umpires, delaying the ball game, fighting, hand spitting, using foul language, displaying poor attitude, or any other overt act.
3. Disciplinary action such as benching, forfeiture of game, appearance before the Director and or Board of Directors and suspension or dismissal from the league may be used if conduct does not meet requirements stated in these rules.

II. Inter-Lakes Girls Softball Travel Team Rules and Regulations

A. Travel Team Board Participation:

1. The affiliated Travel Team Board will designate a representative to participate on the ILGSL Board to maintain communication and coordination between activities of the Inter-Lakes Travel Teams and the Inter-Lakes Girls Softball League. Coordination to include, but not limited to:
 - a. Presentation of Managers for each age division.
 - b. Scheduling of tournament activities utilizing Maple Glen fields.
 - c. Coordination of volunteer activities for any field or equipment improvements needing joint cooperation.
 - d. Submission to the ILGSL of all requests for travel team funding.
 - e. Presentation of Travel Team operating policies.

B. Team Formation:

1. Teams shall be established as follows:
 - a. The Board of Directors shall approve one primary team in each USSSA division.
 - b. A second team in each USSSA division may be approved to operate for the purpose of developing additional travel players.

C. Managers:

1. Travel Team Board must establish and implement selection criteria for Managers to include but not be limited to:
 - a. Applicants name and approved background check.
 - b. Experience in coaching and/or managing youth sports teams.
 - c. Prior participation in ILGSL or Inter-Lakes Travel Softball teams.
 - d. Demonstrated ability to teach advanced softball skills..

D. Team Selection:

1. The Travel Team Manager(s) in conjunction with the Travel Team Board shall have final authority regarding selection of players. The following procedures must be followed:
 - a. A minimum of eight (8) players per team must live in the Walled Lake Consolidated School District or surrounding areas and/or have previously participated in ILGSL.
 - b. The team manager shall hold at least one try-out. This try-out must be well publicized to all league participants.
 - c. The manager may also employ other methods to determine player selection.

E. Funding:

1. Funding for Travel Teams are as follows:
 - a. The ILGSL shall obtain insurance for approved teams. Cost of insurance for Travel Teams to be paid by each Travel Team.
 - b. The ILGSL will provide funding from the special account for tournament registrations based on the number of teams and proposed schedule of each team. A maximum of \$600.00 per team shall be funded from the special account to cover costs associated with tournament registrations. Reimbursement limit to be reviewed annually.

(1) Funding for travel teams will be contingent on the following:

- (a) Team volunteer commitment at the ILGSL sponsored tournaments.
- (b) Team and Manager selection criteria are met.

c. ILGSL affiliated travel teams will transfer funds to the ILGSL General Account to cover the fixed operating costs for the league on a per player basis. This amount will be established according to the following formula; ILGSL early registration fee minus cost of umpires, house uniforms and league supplied equipment.

F. Uniform/Team Names:

- 1. All teams shall display “Inter-Lakes” on their team uniform jerseys or the initials “ILGSL”.

G. League Participation

- 1. All players participating on an ILGSL supported Travel Team will be encouraged to register and participate in the Inter-Lakes Girls Softball League. Registration fees for players participating in ILGSL will include the travel team per-player payment amount.
- 2. Travel teams participating in local travel team league play will utilize Maple Glen Park for all home games and coordinate scheduling of their home games with the ILGSL Scheduling Director.
- 3. “If a player plays in ILGSL and is also plays on a travel team, ILGSL games (Monday – Thursday) shall take precedence over the travel team.

**Amended for the 2025/2026 Season per the November 2025 Inter-Lakes Girls Softball League Board Meeting
Sean Sutton – ILGSL President**