

Sierra Youth Sports Softball

2025 Turkey Tournament Rules

1. 2025 Regular Season Little League Softball Rules will be used with the following notations.
2. **TEAMS:** Teams can be a regular season team from one league, OR can be a combination of players from two or more teams within a league. Only current regular season managers and coaches may be considered to manage a combined team, and regular season teams must be managed by their regular season manager. Rosters showing the players on each team will be locked in the day before the tournament begins through SportsConnect, and will be posted by the tournament coordinator. **All players must be chartered Little League players from a qualified league.** Rosters will be confirmed with local league presidents to ensure all players are eligible. Managers are solely responsible for ensuring that all players fulfill the requirements of playing participation. **The use of ineligible players WILL result in the disqualification of the team from the tournament. No refunds will be given to disqualified teams.**
3. **BATTING:**
 - a. Continuous batting order (CBO) will be used for all divisions.
 - b. All bats shall be stamped with the BPF 1.20, and 33 inches or less. The penalty for use of an illegal bat[see Rule6.06(d), if discovered before the next player enters the batter's box following the turn at bat of the player who used an illegal bat, is:
 - i. The batter is out. The ball is dead and runners must return if they advanced on the play (NOTE: The manager of the defense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline this portion of the penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play)
 - ii. The manager of the team will be ejected from the game, and the batter who violated the rule will be ejected from the game.
 - c. **Majors Division and above:** A batter may advance on an uncaught third strike if 1st base is unoccupied or if 1st base is occupied with 2 outs. This does not apply to the Minors Division.
4. All pool play games will be scheduled by a random draw by the tournament director, each team will have (1) home game and (1) visitor game, against (2) different teams. For all single elimination bracket games, the higher seeded team will be the home team (or have the choice.)
5. **TIME LIMITS:**
 - a. **Pool Play** - No new inning will begin after 1 hour, 20 minutes from the start of the game. Game will end "drop dead" at 1 hour, 30 minutes. The umpire will announce when the game clock will begin, and the umpire's time will be the official time. If the bottom half of the inning is not finished before drop dead time expires, the score reverts to the previous completed inning. Exception: If the home team takes the lead anytime after the no new inning time has passed, the game is over.
 - b. **Single Elimination Bracket** - No new inning will begin after 1 hour, 30 minutes from the start of the game. The umpire will announce when the game clock will begin, and the umpire's time will be the official time.
 - c. If the home team is winning and the game is in the bottom half inning when the no new inning time is up, the game is over.
 - d. **Minor Division-** A five max (5) run per inning rule is in effect, including the championship game.
 - e. **Major Division and above** - A max ten (8) run per inning rule is in effect, including the championship game.
 - f. A half inning is ended when there are (3) outs, or when the max runs have scored. The "once through the lineup" rule is NOT in effect.
6. The following mercy rule (Run Rule) shall be in effect. The game ends if a team is up 15 runs after 3 innings (2-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead), or 10 runs after 4 innings (3-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead.) There is no 8 run rule in tournament play.
7. Both teams will have a designated score keeper and must keep score through Game Changer. If there is a discrepancy, the umpire will hear from both score keepers to make a decision. The umpire's decision is final.

8. Score keepers must keep track of pitcher substitutions.
9. **REGULATION XIV: FIELD DECORUM:** The actions of players, managers, coaches, umpires and league officials must be ABOVE REPROACH. Any player, manager, coach, umpire or league representative who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct during the weekend will be asked to leave the facility immediately.
 - a. Anyone who has disciplinary action pending will not be allowed to play in any game until such disciplinary action is resolved.
 - b. Any player, manager or coach ejected from a game will be suspended for the next game. The Tournament Director may dictate further suspension.
 - c. Players, coaches or whole teams will be sent home if the rules are not followed.
10. **PITCHING:**
 - a. Any player on a tournament team may pitch.
 - b. A pitcher removed from the mound, can return as a pitcher any time in the remainder of the game, but only once in the same inning as she was removed.
 - c. A player may pitch a maximum of twelve (12) innings in a day. If a player pitches less than seven (7) innings in a day, no rest is required. If a player pitches seven (7) or more innings in a day, one calendar day of rest must be observed. Delivery of a single pitch during live play constitutes having pitched an inning. Exception: Junior and above, no rest requirements, no max inning requirements.
 - d. Failure to remove a pitcher who has reached her maximum number of innings pitched or use of an ineligible pitcher is basis for protest. Violations protested or brought to the Tournament Committee's attention, shall result (by action of the Tournament Committee) in forfeit of the game, and the suspension of the team's manager for the next two scheduled tournament games, even if those games are played at the next tournament level.
 - e. Majors Division: A manager or coach may come out once in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the second time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher.
 - f. Minors Division: A manager or coach may come out twice in one inning to visit with the pitcher, but the third time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher.
11. **PITCHER'S CIRCLE:** When the pitcher is in possession of the ball while in the pitcher's circle, runners who are off base must advance to the next base or retreat to the previous base. Runners may continue to advance as long as they do not stop. An attempted play from the pitcher while in the circle (including a fake throw) allows the runners to advance.
12. **PROTESTS:** Any protest must be made prior to the next pitch or play. All protests must be presented to the plate umpire at the time the protestable action takes place. The umpire crew shall make an initial ruling. If either manager is not satisfied with the ruling the protest will be presented to the Tournament Coordinator or their designee who will make the final ruling. No protests will be taken after the game. Any violations in minimum play will be corrected at the team's next scheduled game, or if a team is eliminated, considered null.
13. **TIE GAMES:** If a game is tied at the end of a pool play game, it remains a tie. If a game is tied at the completion of a single elimination bracket game, the tie-breaker rule will go into effect. The visiting team shall begin its turn at bat with the player who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning being placed on second base. Once there are three outs the home team then follows the same procedure. This will continue until either team scores more than their opponent and the tie is broken and the game is complete.
14. **SINGLE ELIMINATION BRACKET:** Seeding is determined by the pool play overall records. If there is a tie(s) in the overall pool play records, the tie breakers are as follows (in this order):
 - a. Head to head – the team with the most wins against the other tied team is the winner (if two teams only.)
 - b. Runs allowed – The team with the fewest runs allowed is the winner.
 - c. Runs scored – The team with the most runs scored is the winner.
 - d. Coin flip

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Updated 11-16-2025

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		Minors	Majors	Junior/Senior
Player Eligibility		Player must have been a chartered Little League player in a qualifying league in 2025		
Age / Division		Player must play on the appropriate age division per the Little League 2025 age chart.		
Pitching Distance		35 feet	40 feet	43 feet
Softballs		11-inch softball	12-inch softball	
Mandatory Play		Continuous batting order. No defensive requirements.		
No New Inning After		Pool play 1 hr and 20 minutes. Elimination round, 1 hr and 30 minutes.		
Drop Dead Time		Pool play 1 hour and 30 minutes. Elimination round, no drop dead.		
Innings (Complete Game)		6 Innings		7 Innings
Pitchers	Innings	Max 12 per day		No restrictions
	Rest	Seven or more innings in a day – one calendar day		No rest required
	Consecutive Games	Allowed, subject to rest requirements.		No restrictions
	Consecutive Days	If six or fewer innings pitched previous day.		No restrictions
	Returning to Mound	A pitcher removed from the circle or withdrawn from the game defensively can return as pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once in the same inning as he/she was removed.		
	Intentional Walk	Allowed, team may request an “unpitched” intentional walk.		
Max Run Rule		(5) runs max per inning	(8) runs max per inning.	
Defensive Conferences		Pitcher must be removed on 3rd visit in inning.	Pitcher must be removed on 2nd visit in inning.	
Mercy Rule		15 runs after 3 innings, 2 ½ if home team is ahead. 10 runs after 4 innings, 3 ½ if home team is ahead.		15 runs after 4 innings, 3 ½ if home team is ahead. 10 runs after 5 innings, 4 ½ if home team is ahead
3rd Strike Not Caught		Batter is out	Batter is out if 1B is occupied with less than two outs. If first is unoccupied, or if there are two outs, batter becomes runner.	
Leading Off		Pitch reaches batter	Pitch leaves the pitcher’s hand	
Illegal Bat		Batter is out (unless defense opts for result of play). Batter and manager both ejected.		
Illegal Pitch Penalty		Ball awarded to batter		
Special Runner		With two outs, a courtesy runner may be used for pitcher or catcher of record. Must use the player in the batting order who made the last out.		
Adults		One manager and two coaches permitted regardless of number of players		
Protests		<u>Playing rule or improper substitution</u> : Must be made before next pitch, play or attempted play. <u>Ineligible pitcher or player</u> : As soon as facts become known.		
Unsportsmanlike Conduct		The stealing and relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior. If, in the judgment of the umpire this behavior is occurring, the team manager and those responsible including any player(s) and/or coach(es) shall be warned after the first offense. Those responsible including any player(s), coach(es), and/or manager shall be ejected from the game for a subsequent offense.		
Tiebreaker Rule		Pool play: Game ends in a tie. Bracket games: Starts if game is tied after the complete of an inning and the no new inning time limit is reached. Or, starts in the 7th inning (8th inning for juniors and above.)		