



Lou Gehrig Softball Juniors - Level Rules

Updated January 2014

General

1. All games are 6 innings with a five-run limit in innings 1 – 5. No run limit in inning 6 **ONLY**.
2. Pitching distance is 40 feet.
3. When warming up between innings or prior to the start of the game, a pitcher must wear a batting helmet or a fielding mask.
4. Pitchers are required to wear a fielding mask during game play.

Hitting / Running

5. Teams will use a continuous batting order – everyone bats.
6. Bunting **is** allowed at this level.
7. Stealing **is** allowed at this level. Base runners can leave the bag (to steal or lead-off) when the ball is released from the pitchers' hand. If a runner leaves the base before the pitcher releases the ball, the runner will be called out.
8. After May 31st, runners may steal home

Defense

9. Defense will play ten players (four outfielders).
10. Defensive set up
 - a. All other fielders are encouraged to wear a fielder's mask
 - b. Outfielders must be no closer than edge of outfield grass

NOTE: THE GIRL'S SAFETY COMES FIRST

11. Infield fly rule is in effect.
12. For both regular season and playoffs, every player must play at least four defensive innings. Players must be rotated at least every 2 innings to a new defensive position. They must play at least 2 innings in the infield and **2 innings in the outfield**. Players may only play a maximum of 2 innings at a specific defensive position (with the exception of the pitching position – see rule 13). Catcher is considered an infield position. This rule also applies to call-ups. A call-up cannot pitch.



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13. Pitchers may pitch a maximum of three innings per game in the regular season. This will be reevaluated by the Softball committee prior to the playoffs and communicated via the level coordinator. If a girl throws one pitch in an inning, this is considered a full inning pitched. Innings do not have to be consecutive.
14. After a pitcher hits 2 batters in an inning, the managers should call time-out to discuss the pitcher's control and if she should be removed from pitching. If the pitcher hits 3 batters in one inning, she must be removed from this position for the rest of that inning. Please use good judgment before placing this girl at pitcher again in the same game. Remember: Safety First!
15. On a swinging or called third-strike, the batter cannot advance if the catcher does not catch the pitch. (The dropped third strike rule is **NOT** in effect.)