



2024 RULE BOOK

SOFTBALL | Undrafted Leagues

DIVISION III

1st & 2nd Grade

Section 1.	Overall Rules
Section 2.	General Rules
Section 3.	DIVISION III Specific
Section 4.	Fall Rules



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Section 1. Overall Rules

LEAGUE INFORMATION

Teams at this level can expect two interactions per week. There are no team standings. There are no playoffs or tournaments. Each player will receive a participation trophy. There are no forfeits.

The objective of this level of baseball is to introduce the ballplayers to fielding the positions, swinging the bat, catching the ball, and running the bases

Unless otherwise stated, the official playing rules for Palatine Community Baseball & Softball (PCBS) will follow those used by IHSA Softball.

MANAGER GUIDELINES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Home team manager supplies 1 game ball and 1 best used ball for each game and reclaims them at the end of the game.
2. The home team is responsible for setting up the field, as well as determining if the field is in playable condition. After the game, the home team is responsible for the removal of the field equipment.
3. Both teams should police the area for trash and debris.
4. The home team will occupy the third base dugout.
5. The home team will have the field for 15-minutes of warm-up 35 minutes before game time. The visiting team will take the field for 15 minutes of warm-up the 20 minutes prior to game time.
6. Managers should supply team sponsors with a schedule of games.
7. Managers make sure that only league members practice or play with the team.
8. Complete PCBS issued uniforms are to be worn by players in all games, and in a proper manner (i.e., shirt tucked in, a hat worn properly, etc. - final determination rests with the umpires).
9. Managers select coaches, scorekeeper, and team parents. Team Parent can help with phone chains, organizing and providing after-game treats, and making sure the field is cleaned up after each game. The players themselves should help in cleaning the field after the game.
10. Managers should make sure that their players do not fight, swear, argue with umpires, throw equipment, or engage in unsportsmanlike conduct. The umpire or manager for any offense, as deemed necessary can remove a player from the game. In addition, a player must be immediately removed for any action he/she instigates deliberately meant to harm another player, coach, manager, or umpire.
11. Managers are required to turn in equipment to the equipment coordinator on the day specified.
12. Managers, coaches, participants, and parents are prohibited from using tobacco products and alcoholic beverages on or near playing fields during PCBS sporting events provided by the Palatine Park District. Managers should discourage this same practice among parents and other spectators. This applies to parents and spectators as well.
13. If a player misses practice without a legitimate reason or pre-excusals, a manager may elect not to start the player in the next game; however, players must play the appropriate innings required.
14. In the event of an injury, managers are responsible for seeing that injured players receive medical treatment, including transportation to the hospital if necessary and complete incident forms.

15. Managers must remain at a practice or game until all players have been provided transportation home.
16. Managers will be held accountable for the behavior of all spectators.
17. All managers and coaches in PCBS programs should exemplify the PCBS Code of Conduct. In the event any player/manager/coach/spectator is ejected from the game, he/she is suspended for up to two additional games. The player/manager/coach/spectator will be given a note explaining what his/her options and penalties are along with a description of the process.
18. Managers are responsible for ensuring these guidelines and all PCBS rules are followed to the best of their ability and in a sportsmanlike manner. Failure to do so may result in a code of conduct violation.

FIELD RULES, LINE-UP, BATTING ORDER, AND SUBSTITUTIONS

1. All players always rotate in the batting order unless injured or ill.
2. No player shall sit out 2 full innings (unless due to injury or illness) during any game before every other player on the team has sat at least one full inning. In other words, no player shall sit their second inning until every player has sat their first inning.
3. Each player must play a minimum of two innings at an infield position. The infield is defined as 1st base, 2nd base, shortstop, 3rd base, catcher, and pitcher. One of these infield plays must occur before the end of the 4th inning.
4. There is no short-center position. Teams are to play with 4 outfielders.

COMPLETE, CALLED, OR SUSPENDED GAMES

1. In the non-competitive leagues (leagues where there are no umpires provided), the home team manager is responsible for halting the game due to darkness, rain, lightning, or other unusual conditions.
2. The Palatine Park District has Strike Guard Lighting Warning systems at specific parks (detailed information on the systems operations and locations can be found on both the PPD and PCBS websites). It is expected that when actual lightning strikes have been detected (no false alarms) within the warning area, the park systems in that zone will provide a warning. When lightning has been detected, notice to take shelter is provided. One long (15-second) siren will sound, and a strobe will flash on the unit, and everyone should immediately seek shelter. After the Strike Guard System determines conditions are safe, (30 minutes of no lightning) the siren will sound three five-second intermittent blasts and the strobe will go off, providing notice that it is safe to resume activity in this area.
 - a. Every attempt should be made to continue the game if the Lightning system gives the all-clear and if the home team manager has not declared conditions as unplayable (field, darkness, etc.). Obviously, if the delay continues too long, a point will be reached where there won't be enough time to restart the game and get enough innings to make it a "complete game":
 - b. If lighting is witnessed, or thunder is heard, and the siren has not sounded (if at a park with a system) or if not heard (if at a remote site), the game should stop immediately, regardless of the inning. All participants should leave the field immediately. The game will be considered a suspended game unless the requirements of an official game have been met. No attempts should be made to "wait it out" as if the strike guard Lightning System were operating.
3. If weather or darkness interferes with play so the game is ended by the home team manager, it would be a regulation game as defined within each league; if it is not a regulation game the game is suspended.

Section 2. General Rules

PLAYING

1. IHSA rules shall apply to all PCBS games except as modified and noted by the current approved house rules.
2. Before each game, opposing managers should review the game and ground rules. Special field rules should be clarified.
3. League commissioners are empowered to impose penalties and sanctions, including suspensions and forfeiture of games, to ensure that league rules are followed. The PCBS Executive Board shall have the authority to affirm, modify, or overrule any such commissioner's ruling.
4. No swinging of bats except within the designated batter's box. On-deck circles are only allowed at Community, Gbur, Birchwood 2, Maple, and Osage as permitted within league rules.
5. At all fields permitting on-deck circles – only one on-deck batter is allowed on the field of play in the designated area, provided the batter is in the on-deck circle directly behind the batter.
6. A pitcher who has already pitched is allowed a one-time per game re-entry into the game at the pitching position.
 - a. The maximum innings a player can pitch at their current level must still be followed when determining when a player can re-enter to pitch.

EQUIPMENT

1. All players must wear a facemask, regardless of position.
2. Players must wear complete uniforms.
 - a. Shorts are not allowed.
3. Metal cleats (spikes) are not allowed.
4. Bats rules:
 - a. We are aligned with the [USA Softball Bat rules](#).
 - b. All legal softball bats shall bear the ASA 2004 (or later) or USA Softball logo signifying they meet those certifications. Examples of acceptable logos are shown below.



- c. It must NOT appear on the [USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List](#).
- d. For additional information visit: [PCBS Information | Bat Rules](#)

Section 3. Division III Rules

GRADE LEVEL, TIME LIMITS, and FIELD DIMENSIONS

The league a new player plays in is determined by their grade on April 1 of that season.

Program	Grade Level	Time Limits	Inning Limit	Base Distance	Home to Center of 2B	Pitching Distance
Division III	1 & 2	1:45	5	50'	70'-8"	30'

**Measurements are taken from the center of the bases except for home plate. Measurements are taken from the rear point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber or to the center of the bases.*

PLAYING

1. A coach may play behind the catcher to help move the game along.
2. There is no infield fly rule.
3. No drop third strike.

COMPLETE, CALLED, OR SUSPENDED GAMES

1. No new full inning shall begin after 1 hour and 30 minutes of play.
2. The inning is considered complete when 3 outs have been made, 3 runs have scored, or the team batted completely through its batting order.
3. Due to run limits per inning in place, there is no Mercy Rule.

PITCHING

1. A pitcher will throw a maximum of three pitches to a batter. If the batter fails to make contact, then the coach will throw three additional pitches to the batter. A batter will be considered out if they fail to hit the ball into the field of play within the 6 pitches. Foul balls on the 6th or subsequent pitches will result in another pitch.

BATTING

1. The batters are allowed 3 swings to hit the ball. A foul ball on the last pitch allows for an additional pitch to be thrown.
2. No bunting is allowed.

BASERUNNING

1. Leadoffs are not permitted.
2. Base stealing is not permitted. Runners must be in contact with the base until the ball is hit.
3. Once a player playing an infield position has control of the ball inside the base paths, runners shall not advance beyond the base to which the runner is headed. The fielder with control of the ball may attempt one play on a runner at the base to which the runner is headed. After this attempted play, it is an immediate dead ball situation. Other players not involved in the attempted play must stay at the base where they were headed when the fielder obtained original control.

EQUIPMENT

1. A 10" ball shall be used.

Section 4. Fall Ball Rules

This PCBS League does not have specific Fall Season rules.