

# OFFICIAL LA CROSSE COUNTY 4-H SOFTBALL OBJECTIVES & RULES



## To:

Develop and practice good sportsmanship  
Learn decision making  
Learn to cope with success & failure  
Develop new friendships  
Develop club and team bond

## Objectives

Encourage more participation at county softball committee planning meeting  
Develop physical skills and softball ability  
Involve as many youth and adults as possible  
Encourage pre-game warm up exercise for all team members to avoid injury

## Softball Team Requirements

**\*All grades refer to current 4-H year (9/2016-8/2017)**

**\*Bases will be 60 feet apart.**

Coaches - please stress caution when using younger members as players. *Coed teams are encouraged in all Divisions.*

**\*a youth member can only move up one division and must have completed a Release of Liability form before playing\***

**Youth Teams:** composed of 4-H members grades K-5\*

Pitching distance will be 30 feet

Use an 11" restricted flight softball

**Jr. Teams:** composed of 4-H members grades 4-8\*

Pitching distance will be 35 feet

**Sr. Teams:** composed of 4-H members grades 6-13\*

Pitching distance will be 46 feet

## Rules

**All teams are required to have one non-playing certified adult coach.**

1. All players on a team must be enrolled in the 4-H program by the enrollment deadline day for the current 4-H year.
2. A 4-H member will be able to play in up to TWO divisions with ONE team per division with club team as priority.
3. Teams can use 10 players - minimum of 5 required.
4. All team members can bat, but it is optional. Coaches are to notify other team before the game starts if they plan to let all members bat.
5. Two or more clubs may join together and form 2 or more teams, but only 1 team per division. Teams must have approval prior to game time by of softball committee chair.
6. Rubber spikes and turf shoes can be worn. **NO STEEL SPIKES!**
7. Shoes and shirts must be worn by coaches and players at tournament game.
8. Bases will be 60 feet apart.
9. Youth batters will be allowed 4 balls and 3 strikes. Youth batters can not strike out on a foul ball. **Youth players can use a tee if requested.**
10. Junior batters will be allowed 4 balls and 3 strikes. Batter hitting a foul ball on last strike is out. All players must be pitched to.
11. Seniors will be allowed 3 balls 2 strikes. Batter hitting a foul ball on last strike is out. All players must be pitched to.
12. Catcher must let ball drop, a catchers mask is optional.
13. Mat is 17" wide by 22" long from point of plate and 28" long on outside edges.
14. Batter cannot run to first base on any third strike, no lead off until ball is hit and no stealing.
15. Infield fly rule will be in effect for Jr. and Sr. teams.
16. If play is close at bases or home plate, runners must slide.
17. Home team to be determined for first round games at time of drawing. Captains & coaches will flip a coin before starting time to determine home team for 2nd round play. Starting line-up's with first & last names of players are due to diamond person in charge before play.
18. All teams must be ready to take the field at the start of the hour.
19. Warm-up batting is allowed only while on deck at the coaches discretion.
20. Youth and Junior: 5 innings or 55 minutes will be played for all tournament games, whichever comes first. Championship games will go complete 6 innings. Senior: 7 innings or 55 minutes will be played for all tournament games, whichever comes first. Championship games will go complete 7 innings.
21. If there are only two teams in a bracket, the game will be 7 innings with a 15 run rule after 5 innings with exception of Cloverbud game.
22. If darkness or rain interferes with playing before four innings, the umpire decides whether to continue to play or replay the game. If game is replayed, both teams start with scores at beginning of present inning played.
23. For all tournament games (except championship games) team with a 15 point lead will be declared the winner. However, **the other team will be allowed to hit their batting order.**
24. If point spread is large and both coaches agree, game can end prior to four innings.
25. (Substitutions) Original player may re-enter game only once and must bat in original batting order but can play any position.
26. WIAA rules do not apply to 4-H softball.
27. Any player, coach, team or spectator who displays poor sportsmanship will be ejected from the tournament by the umpire and will not be allowed to play/coach in or attend the following tournament. If ejection occurs in the last tournament, you are out for the first tournament of the next season. Second offense results in being ejected from the following two tournaments. **Fees are non-refundable.**
28. **NO** throwing water by coaches/team members or spectators at a softball tournament.
29. Ground Rule Double for any ball that goes under fence or cable on playing field.
30. **Use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drug before and during the game is prohibited. Ejection will result.**
31. For safety reasons, no personal bats will be allowed. Only 4-H labelled bats supplied by the 4-H Softball Committee will be used.
32. A courtesy runner should be the player who made the most recent out.
33. If a player is injured during the game and unable to play (at umpires discretion) then no automatic out for that player will be charged if no sub is available.
34. No practicing on tournament diamonds is allowed.
35. **No Harassment/Bullying of anyone at any time WILL NOT be tolerated.**



4-H for FUN!