

## 2026 Paducah Chiefs Major League Softball Rules (Player Pitch)

### Rules

1. Softballs will be provided by the league for games.
2. The score will be kept by the coaches or a representative designated by coaches on both teams for all games. The scoreboard will be used if operators are available.
3. A half inning will be ended at 3 outs or 5 runs, unless it is the last inning. Coaches must agree prior to the inning that it will be considered the last inning.
4. We will use a continuous batting order where all players on the team will be in the batting lineup.
5. Teams may start a game with 8 players with no penalty.
6. Pitching distance is 40 feet. Base dimensions are 60 feet.
7. Rules of softball will apply with a few exceptions listed below.

### Batting

1. Players follow normal batting rules. Foul lines will be observed. No on deck hitters.
2. A player can be called out for throwing a bat – there are no warnings.

### Pitching

1. Any player on the team may pitch. There is no limit to the number of pitchers used per game.
2. Pitchers removed from the circle or withdrawn from the game defensively can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game but only once in the same inning as she was removed.
3. The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the innings limit (see below), but the player may remain in the game at another position
  - a. A player cannot pitch more than 12 innings in a day. If a player pitches in seven or more innings in a day, one calendar day of rest is mandatory.
4. Defensive teams can intentionally walk a batter by announcing the decision to the plate umpire without throwing the pitches. An individual player can only be walked in this way once during a game. Pitches must be thrown to walk that same player again.

### Fielding

1. Each player on the team must play 6 consecutive outs on defense.

### Baserunning

1. Stealing is allowed. When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready for delivery of the ball, base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been released by the pitcher on the delivery.
2. A courtesy runner is allowed for the pitcher or catcher with two outs. The courtesy runner must be the player in the batting order who made the last out. In the case of an injury, the last out can then run for the injured player.
3. Headfirst slides are not allowed. That player will be called out if they slide headfirst.
4. Runners will advance only one base on an overthrow out of play.

### Length of Game

1. If one game is scheduled per night, games will last 6 innings or 1 hour 45 minutes after the start time, whatever happens first. Coaches from both teams can agree to end a game any time after 90 minutes instead of starting a new inning.
2. If a doubleheader is scheduled on a night, games will last 5 innings or 1 hour after start time, whatever happens first.
3. Run Rules are in effect: 15 runs after 3 innings. 10 runs after 4 innings. 8 runs after 5 innings.
4. If a new inning has started before time limit, the teams will finish that inning.
5. If the game is tied after innings limit with time remaining, the game will play 1 extra inning. If a game is tied at the time limit, the game will end in a tie.