

# 2008 OFFICIAL LA CROSSE COUNTY 4-H SOFTBALL OBJECTIVES & RULES

## Objectives

### To:

- Develop and practice good sportsmanship
  - Learn decision making
  - Develop physical skills and softball ability
  - Learn to cope with success & failure
  - Involve as many youth and adults as possible
  - Develop new friendships
  - Encourage pre-game warm up exercise for all team members to avoid injury
  - Develop club and team bond
  - Members of softball team (activity) should be encouraged to be active members of the softball project. Then they could exhibit at the fair and complete a record book.
  - Allow all team members to play in tournaments
  - Encourage more participation at county softball committee planning meeting
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## Softball Team Requirements

### Cloverbud Teams:

1 Game per tournament composed of 4-H members grades K-2\*

### Youth Teams:

- A. Will be composed of 4-H members grades 2-5\*
- B. Pitching distance will be 30 feet.
- C. Cloverbud members maybe used at the coaches discretion.
- D. Will be using a 11" restricted flight softball.

### Jr. Teams:

- A. Will be composed of 4-H members grades 4-8\*
- B. Pitching distance will be 35 feet.

### Sr. Teams:

- A. Will be composed of 4-H members grades 6-13\*
- B. Pitching distance will be 46 feet.

**Coaches - please stress caution when using younger members as players.**

**\*All grades refer to current 4-H year (9/2006-8/2007)**

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## Rules

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

Coed teams are encouraged in all Divisions.

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 on only one team per tournament.
3. Teams can use 10 players - minimum of 5 required.
4. All team members can bat, but it is optional. Coaches are to the 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. If one club has enough players they may have two teams per division. Players must have approval prior to game time by of softball committee chair.
6. A catchers mask is optional.
7. Rubber spikes and turf shoes can be worn. **NO STEEL SPIKES!**
8. Shoes and shirts must be worn by coaches and players at tournament game.
9. Bases will be 60 feet apart.

10. Youth batters will be allowed 4 balls and 3 strikes. Youth batters can not strike out on a foul ball. All players must be pitched to.
11. 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.
12. Seniors will be allowed 3 balls 2 strikes. Batter hitting a foul ball on last strike is out. All players must be pitched to.
13. Catcher must let ball drop.
14. Mat is 17" wide by 22" long from point of plate and 28" long on outside edges.
15. Batter cannot run to first base on any third strike.
16. No lead off until ball is hit.
17. No stealing.
18. Infield fly rule will be in effect for Jr. and Sr. teams.
19. If play is close at bases or home plate, runners must slide or avoid contact with fielder or they will be called out.
20. 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.
21. All teams must be ready to take the field at the start of the hour.
22. Warm-up batting is allowed only while on deck at the coaches discretion.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. For all tournament games (except championship games) team with a 15 point lead or more after 4 complete innings will be declared the winner.
27. If point spread is large and both coaches agree, game can end prior to four innings.
28. Teams do not furnish balls for tournaments.
29. (Substitutions) Original player may re-enter game only once and must bat in original batting order but can play any position.
30. WIAA rules do not apply to 4-H softball.
31. 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.**
32. NO throwing water by coaches/team members or spectators at a softball tournament.
33. Ground Rule Double for any ball that goes under fence or cable on playing field.
34. **Use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drug before and during the game is prohibited. Ejection will result.**
35. No high-tech bats, such as Mikon, will be allowed.
36. A courtesy runner should be the player who made the most recent out.
37. 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.