

8U SOFTBALL RULES

(Rev. 1/2016)

1. A complete game will be 6 innings or 2 hours. No new inning will start after the 2 hour time limit has expired.
2. **Both head coaches will have a brief meeting before the game to discuss/review any rules and/or answer any questions. (NEW FOR 2016)**
3. 5 runs per inning limit.
4. The fielding team consists of 10 players, with the outfield having 4. Outfielders need to be in the grass.
5. Full team roster batting order will be used.
6. Everyone gets in the games as much as possible.
7. Coaches are encouraged to be on the field when their team is playing defense.
8. Girls pitch first 3 innings (3 different pitchers), then the batting team coach pitches innings 4-6.
9. Pitching distance is 32 feet, for both coaches and girls. NO MOVING UP.
10. "Wind-Mill" Rule -- No "Sling Shot" pitching motion allowed. When coaches are pitching, they do not need to windmill.
11. Base paths are 60 feet.
12. An 11-inch ball will be used. No soft or bouncy softballs.
13. The Home team will supply 1 new game ball for every game, and the Visiting team will supply 1 good used ball for every game. Take your ball with you after the game.
14. All offensive players, including the on deck batter, must wear helmets. Base runners removing helmets may be called out.
15. Players must wear face masks on helmets.
16. There will be free substitution at all positions. Re-entry will not apply with the exception of the pitcher.
17. Pitchers removed from pitching cannot return to pitching in that same inning.
18. A pitcher can pitch a maximum of 5 pitches per batter. When 3 Balls have been thrown, the coach of the team batting takes over. There are no walks.
19. Balls and Strikes will be called. Coaches need to step up and take responsibility to ensure that this occurs.
20. **3 strikes are an Out – whether swinging or "looking."** No walks from coaches or girls.
21. The catcher needs to get the passed balls-not the coach. We need to promote this as much as possible.
22. Teams must clean up dugouts before leaving.
23. No infield fly rule.
24. Game time is 6:00 pm.
25. For rain outs, please try to call before 4:30 if possible.
26. We encourage a large strike zone.
27. Coaches are the umpires. You may want to have parents help out with the bases.
28. 3 outs per inning.
29. 5 warm up pitches allowed per inning.
30. A fielding pitcher is at the pitching position when the coach is pitching. When the girls are pitching, the coach should still be out there ready to take over if necessary and to watch out for line drives back at the pitcher. Please try to knock down any line drives before it hits the pitcher.
31. No leading off.
32. Only take one base on a hit unless it goes into the grass, then coaches need to use common sense on runner advancement. If a ball is hit hard through the infield gaps, or in the air to the outfield, the batter/runner may advance to 2nd base at her own risk.
33. No advancing on overthrows.
34. If a batter gets hit when a girl is pitching, they will take their base. If a coach hits them, you probably need to find a different coach to pitch!
35. Runners must slide at bases where there is a play being made on them -- with the exception of first base. Any player not sliding into the base will be called out at the umpire's (coach's) discretion. A runner will not be automatically called out for not sliding, if it is judged by the umpire (coach) that it was not reasonable or necessary for the runner to attempt a slide (such as the defender being too far up the baseline to permit a slide). However, the runners must make every attempt to avoid a collision – including plays at Home. Failure to do so will result in the runner being called out at the umpire's (coach's) discretion.