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## 18U, 14U & 12U Softball Rules

- 1 Standard Babe Ruth Softball rules will be followed with the following exceptions or points of emphasis:
- 2 All players in good standing will be listed in the batting line up and will bat in that order. Good standing shall mean faithful attendance at practices and games unless the manager excuses the absence in advance.
- 3 No player in good standing will sit out more than two (2) innings per game. "Sitting Out" is defined as not participating when your team is in the field.
- 4 Nine (9) players may play in the field at one time, but no less than seven (7) are required to start and continue play in a game.
- 5 All players bat in order whether playing in the field or not. Any player who must leave the game early will NOT be called out each time she would be at bat.
- 6 If a batter cannot bat because of injury, she will NOT be called out each time she is up to bat. She can re-enter the game.
- 7 Any player arriving after her turn at bat can immediately be inserted at the end of the lineup and can take a position on the field.
- 8 Free substitutions are allowed defensively at any time.
- 9 A base runner can leave the base as soon as the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- 10 Incomplete games (rain, etc.) considered suspended are picked up where they left off. An incomplete game is considered a game of less than four (4) complete innings. Incomplete games will resume at the last completed inning prior to the suspension of play.
- 11 Game times will be the following on the weeknight games No new inning may be started after 1 hour and 30 minutes from the actual game start time. The Umpire is required to tell the home team scorekeeper the start time of the game. The game will drop dead at 1:45 with the score reverting to the last inning completed. On weekend day games no new inning may be started after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the actual game start time. The Umpire is required to tell the home team scorekeeper the start time of the game. The game will drop dead at 2:00 with the score reverting to the last inning completed
- 12 Regular season games may end in a tie if time has expired at the end of the inning. Extra innings may be started to break a tie if time has not expired. ITB rules will be used.
- 13 A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if four (4) or more complete innings have been played or if the team second at bat has scored more runs in three (3) or more innings than the other team has scored in four (4) or more innings.
- 14 A Complete Game is defined as six (6) innings for 12 U players and seven (7) innings for ages 14U and higher or expiration of the time limit prior to the start of the next inning, whichever occurs first. Unlimited runs for 12U is in the 6th inning and for 14U, 16U and 18U in the 7th inning.
- 15 The courtesy rule can be used for the Catcher and Pitcher at anytime. The courtesy runner will be the batter who made the last out.

## All Age Groups Softball Rules

- 16 Players may not register to play on more than one team that would go head to head in competition: either intra-league or inter-league. For players who participate in both house league and competitive "travel" softball programs, to be eligible to play in spring inter-league championship series, must be players who maintained their player good standing as defined in above Rule # 2 and have actually participated in at least **60% of practices and 60% of games** during the regular season unless absences are due to illness or injury. It is the coach's responsibility to track the attendance of these players during the regular season and have player's attendance documentation (practice attendance sheet and regular season game book) available for inspection throughout the championship series. Prior to the start of each championship series game coaches will exchange attendance information for these players on their team to confirm players eligibility status. If this documentation is not complete or available player(s) will **not** be allowed to participate in that game. Disputes about documentation and enforcement of this rule will be resolved/performed by each leagues president/commissioner. Coaches who create false attendance documentation will be suspended from their respective leagues from any further coaching duties as directed by their league president/commissioner.
- 17 Home plate conference is held five (5) minutes before the beginning of every game.
- 18 Third base dugout is the home team dugout. First base dugout is the visiting team dugout. Home team is responsible for lining the field and putting out bases (and putting bases away if no other game is following).
- 19 League approved 12-inch game balls will be provided to the teams. The Home team will provide a new ball; the Visiting team a backup ball. If no new balls are available, the umpire will chose the best available used balls from the teams and proceed with the game.
- 20 League provided batting helmets will be equipped with a face mask and chin strap. Players choosing to use a personal batting helmet are required to use a face mask and chin strap.
- 21 Base path length will be 60 feet.
- 22 A 12 (twelve) run, Run-Ahead rule is in effect after the team with the lower score bats four (4) times.
- 23 A four (4) run scoring limit per inning for each team except for the last inning as defined in Rule #14.
- 24 Sliding is legal. Feet first into bag; head first or feet first back to the bag. If there is an attempted play at the plate, players must slide into home plate. Players who do not slide if a play is being made are called out. This will be a judgment call by the umpire and their call will not be disputed.
- 25 A maximum of six players can be positioned in the infield prior to the pitch.
- 26 The same player-pitcher is allowed to exit and re-enter the pitcher position ONCE in a game. Extra innings do not count for the number of innings pitched or for the player-pitcher's re-entry rule. Any part of an inning on the mound constitutes a complete inning pitched.
- 27 Infield fly rule will be in effect (Umpire Judgment). Bunting is allowed in the division.
- 28 A pitcher cannot pitch more than three (3) innings in a regulation six (6) inning game. There is no pitching limit at the U-14, 16, and 18 levels.
- 29 Pitching rubber set at 40 feet for U-12 and 43 feet at the U-14, 16, and 18 levels.
- 30 Unlimited base stealing is allowed. The ball is live on a dropped third strike and the batter can attempt to advance to first base (if unoccupied with less than two outs; occupied or unoccupied with two outs).
- 31 Players from a younger age bracket may play up to support an older team that is short of players for a game without penalty.
- 32 No metal cleats will be allowed to be used in house league games.