

Rule  
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## 8U 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 All defensive players must be even with the Coach-Pitcher or farther back. No defensive player, except the Catcher, can be closer to the batter than the Coach-Pitcher or pitching machine used to deliver the softball.
- 4 Mandatory rotation of all positions every two (2) innings with equitable assignment to infield and outfield positions. No player shall play more than two (2) consecutive innings and four (4) total innings at a critical position (1B, 3B, Pitcher, and Rover) per game. If a team has only seven (7) players, than one player may play more than two (2) consecutive innings at a critical position, but still must not play more than four (4) innings at a critical position.
- 5 Play is stopped with the first attempt from an infielder to return the ball to the Coach-Pitcher. When play is stopped, the umpire will determine the placement of the runners to the best of her/his judgment. Any runner beyond halfway to the next base is awarded that base, any player who has not reached halfway must return to the prior base.
- 6 Ten (10) players may play in the field at one time, but no less than six (6) are required to start and continue play in a game.
- 7 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.
- 8 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.
- 9 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.
- 10 Free substitutions are allowed defensively at any time.
- 11 Incomplete games (rain, etc.) considered suspended are picked up where they left off.
- 12 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
- 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 Regular season games may end in a tie if time has expired at the end of the inning.
- 15 Extra innings may be started to break a tie if time has not expired. ITB rule applies.
- 16 A Complete Game is defined as six (6) innings of play or expiration of the time limit prior to the start of the next inning, whichever occurs first.
- 17 The courtesy rule can be used for the Catcher. The courtesy runner will be the batter who made the last out.
- 18 Home plate conference is held 5 minutes before the beginning of every game.

## All Age Groups Softball Rules

- 19 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).
- 20 League approved 11-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.
- 21 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.
- 22 Base path length will be 60 feet.
- 23 A 12 (twelve) run, Run-Ahead rule is in effect after the team with the lower score bats four (4) times.
- 24 A four (4) run scoring limit per inning for each team will be enforced except for the sixth or any extra innings.
- 25 Sliding is optional.
- 26 A maximum of six (6) players can be positioned in the infield prior to the pitch. A player may play next to a Coach-Pitcher in the pitching circle.
- 27 Infield fly rule will not be in effect. Bunting is not allowed in the division.
- 28 Base stealing is not allowed.
- 29 Up to two (2) coaches are authorized to be on the playing field on the outfield grass when their team is in the field. The coach will not interfere with either a player or a ball that is in play. Interference by a coach in the field will result in all runners/batter being declared safe and advancing at least one base. The umpire may award additional bases if it is determined that runner(s) would have advanced more than one (1) base if there had been no coach interference. No coach can physically move a defensive player while the ball is in play. First occurrence will be a warning; second occurrence will result in the coach not being allowed on the defensive field for the remainder of the game. No coach can physically move an offensive player while the ball is in play. First occurrence will be a warning; second occurrence will result in the coach being removed from the game with no advancement allowed by the player in either case.
- 30 One (1) advanced base (maximum) is allowed on an overthrow to a base or home plate by a defensive player. The base is not automatically awarded. If a runner chooses to advance at her own risk, she will not be forced to return to the previous base if an attempt to return the ball to the pitcher is made prior to her reaching the halfway point between the bases. An overthrow is defined as the first attempted play from the field with the ball staying in live ball territory. (If the ball enters dead ball territory from the first play, there is a one (1) base award).
- 31 Coaches will pitch to their own team using the sling shot pitching machine and there will be no walks. Speed for the pitching should be set at 28-30 MPH. The Coach-Pitcher must be 35 feet from the batter while pitching. No non-swinging strikes will be called (the batter must swing at the ball to get a strike). The batter can be called out on strikes. A maximum of five (5) pitches will be allowed for each batter. A batter taking five (5) pitches without a hit will be called out, but she cannot strike out at the end her at bat on a foul ball. Coach pitch may be used instead of machine pitch if agreed to by coaches. Coach pitch needs to be done at the 35 foot pitching mound.
- 32 However, the coach will not interfere with either a player or ball that is in play. If the Coach-Pitcher is hit by a batted ball, the ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base; only runners who are forced will advance.