**2025 HAAA 8u Softball Rules**

Softball Coordinator: Rob Miller (724)516-2337

President: Mike Leichliter (724)454-1123

RED = rule added or changed 11/13/24

HAAA will follow USA Softball rules with the following exceptions:

**Game Length:**

* Games are 6 innings or less after completion of 41/2 innings if subsequent innings are started and the game is called for darkness or weather the final score will revert back to the last full inning.
* Three outs or 5-runs scored per inning. No runs count after the fifth run.
* The 10-run rule is in effect after completion of 3 ½ or 4 innings.
* There is no run limit for any inning deemed the last inning.
* A 1hr50min “finish the inning” will be imposed for all regular season games

**Canceled Games:**

• When a game is canceled, it is the responsibility of the home team coach to reschedule the game.

• The home team coach will make 2 attempts to reschedule the game. If a later date and time can’t be agreed upon, the home coach will contact the softball coordinator.

• If the visiting coach is not contacted by the home coach or can’t get in touch with the home coach then the visiting coach will contact the softball coordinator

**Playing Field:**

* An 8ft radius circle is to be drawn around the 35ft pitching rubber. The kid playing pitcher can be to the left or right no closer than 35ft. The coach may pitch from the front of the circle with at least 1 foot in the circle.

• 60 foot bases

* 15 foot foul arc- If a ball is touched prior to crossing the arc it is a foul ball.

**Fielders:**

* Teams are allowed 10 players in the field: Catcher (a coach can stand behind the catcher for safety reason and also speed of play), Pitcher, 4 infielders & 4 outfielders, all 4 outfielders must play in the outfield 30 feet behind baselines.
* All players are required to play 2 innings in the infield with 1 inning being in the infield. The only exception is players 6 years old or under where the coach feels there may be a player safety concern.
* Each team is allowed 6 infielders (Catcher, first, second, third, shortstop, and pitcher).
* A minimum of 8 players is required to start a game.
* When playing the outfield girls must start/play 30-feet behind the baselines. Outfielders are allowed to make plays at bases with their feet as long as their starting position was 30 feet behind the baselines.
* A batted ball that is popped up and caught by the catcher regardless if ball is foul or fail, or catcher is standing or crouching will be recorded as an out.

**Batting:**

* A continuous batting order will be used with players batting in the same rotation.
* No bunting, or stealing. Leading off a base is allowed once the ball is hit or passes the plate. This includes leaving the base on missed swing. Runner is not liable to be put out and may not advance.
* Batters will be allowed 3 strikes. There is a maximum of 8 pitches per batter, excluding foul balls on the last pitch.
* Foul balls are not considered strikes.

**Pitching:**

* Coaches will do the pitching.
* If a batted ball hits the coach “pitcher”, the ball is dead (no pitch). The coach must make an attempt to get *out*of the way.

**Base running:**

* Play stops when the ball crosses the infield baseline on a throw from the outfield and is controlled by an infielder. Control is defined as possession either in hand or glove.
* If a base runner has passed the base when play is stopped she may advance to the next base, if not she must return to the previous base. Any runner trying to reach extra bases is at risk of being put out until all base runners are on base or the ball is returned to the coach “pitcher”.
* A play must be made for the runner to be out at home either by tagging the runner or the plate if there is a force.
* A runner is out if the hit ball hits her while running the base paths.
* If a ball is fielded and overthrown to any base the runner or runners including the batter cannot advance past the base they were running to at the time the ball was thrown. A ball thrown from the outfield is not considered an overthrow, but must be possessed by an infield player before the ball becomes dead.
* Under no circumstances may runners achieve extra bases on a batted ball that does not pass beyond the baseline.
* You may only go head first when going back to a base. No head first sliding to any base or home plate while trying to advance.
* Any batted ball that is touched by an infield and travels beyond the baseline is a live ball and runners can continue to advance until the ball is possessed by an infielder inside the baseline

**Coaches:**

* Coaches cannot be involved in any play.
* Coaches are not allowed on the infield during play (including foul territory); coaching must be done from the bench, coach’s box, or outfield.
* Only head coaches are allowed to dispute calls or have communications with the umpire during the game.
* Coaches are to instruct players to avoid interference and obstruction; however, neither obstruction nor interference will be called. Coaches should obtain a copy of the USA Softball rules and read and understand obstruction and interference.
* Scores are to be reported to Rob Miller by the winning team within 12 hours of the completion of the game. Any players or coaches ejected need to be reported to the Softball Coordinator as well.
* Only 4 coaches plus a score keeper are permitted in the dugout or on the field (no parents or spectators). All coaches must have volunteer clearances.

**Safety:**

* No metal spikes or batting donuts.
* All batters and base-runners must wear batting helmets with face guard.
* It is mandatory at 8u for all infielders to wear face masks.
* The child playing pitcher must wear a chest protector.
* Bats must meet USA Softball standards. All bats must be approved bat models, and must be properly marked OFFICIAL SOFTBALL. Bats MUST bear the approved ASA/USA Softball 2004 certification markings, and also must not be listed on the latest edition of the USA Softball Banned Bat List. All bats must be legal bats allowed by USA Softball. All bats, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, must comply with the USA Softball bat standards. The umpire has sole discretion to disallow the use of any bat that does not meet these standards.

**Playoffs:**

* Players must play in 50% of the teams scheduled games to be eligible for the HAAA Playoffs.
* Teams must play 10 games in order to be eligible for the HAAA Playoffs.
* A & B Brackets will be decided by regular season record with a blind draw for seeding.
* A 1hr50min “finish the inning" time limit for all playoff game.
* Any team who forfeits a game in the playoffs will be disqualified and removed from the playoffs.

**Call Ups and Call Overs:**

* Every attempt must be made to use a call up player before using a call over player. A call over player must be disclosed to the opposing team’s head coach prior to the start of the game. A call over player can only play the outfield and must bat last in the batting order.
* No Call Over Players can be used in the HAAA Playoffs.

**Sportsmanship:**

* When the pitcher comes set all chanting/cheering by players, coaches and spectators must stop. Penalty • 1 offence - warning by ump • 2 offense – Coach removed from game
* Poor behavior towards an umpire by spectators, coaches and players will not be tolerated. It is the head coach of each team’s responsibility to maintain a safe environment for all players, umpires and spectators. The head coach is responsible for their players, fans, and parents.
* If a player is ejected from a game, she will also be suspended from the next game played. If a violation of this occurs, the head coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season including playoffs.

Any rules not covered, refer to current USA Softball Manual.