

8U LEVEL SOFTBALL RULES

INTER-COMMUNITY GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE

3/17/25

1. Field Rules:

- Base path is 50 feet.
- A double first base should be used for all games. Set the base with white portion in fair territory and the orange portion in foul territory. Fielder uses white portion. Batter-runner uses the orange portion unless there is no play at first.
- Teams can choose to use a regulation 11 inch ball or an **11 inch softie** ball. · If teams playing differ, the fielding team will choose which ball they want pitched since they will be fielding the balls. If a coach knows a batter is very fearful of the regulation ball, a softie ball can be pitched to her even if the fielding team has chosen the regulation ball.
- Ground rules should be established before each game.

2. Game Rules:

- Games will consist of 5 innings or 1 ½ hours, unless:
 - Immediate termination due to lightning
 - Stoppage due to darkness. At the discretion of the umpire or both coaches due to poor visibility and safety reasons.
 - Coaches mutually agree to shorten the game.
- Score is not kept

3. Hitting Rules:

- Each game the batting line up shall include all members of the team.
- ALL BATTERS MUST WEAR A HELMET WITH ATTACHED FACE GUARD · One consecutive order throughout the entire game.
- Players arriving late can be added to the bottom of the lineup. Each inning will consist of each batter batting once.
- Coaches should let players know when the last batter is up.
- Unlimited substitutions allowed anytime during the game – everyone is batting, no changes to the lineup.
- No bunting - first occurrence is a warning, second time the batter is out · NO THROWING OF THE BAT - - first occurrence is a warning, second time the batter is out.
- Games until Mother's Day – each player will be given 8 hittable pitches and will have 5 strikes (swings) before the player is out.
- Games after Mother's Day - each player will be given 5 hittable pitches and will have 3

strikes (swings) before the player is out.

- No stealing of bases - first occurrence is a warning, second time runner is out.
- Runner can leave the base when the ball is hit

4. Defensive Rules:

- All defensive team players shall be on the field at the same time.
- A minimum of 6 players required for the game unless otherwise agreed upon by both coaches.
- Only six (6) defensive players are allowed on the infield portion of the playing field. These positions are 1st base, 2nd base, shortstop, 3rd base, pitcher and catcher. The remaining defensive players will be disbursed in an umbrella style format in the outfield.
- No player should be in the outfield all game. Everyone should have at least 1 inning of infield
- The catcher position is optional in this division/league. If a catcher is used, the catcher must wear protective catching gear, which includes but is not limited to a catcher's mask, chest protector, and leg guards. A parent may fill in if there are not enough players. The catcher should be placed behind home plate far enough back to avoid being hit with a bat.
- No infield fly rule
- If the ball is overthrown to any base the runner does not advance. This encourages the girls to make throwing plays without the risk of advancing runners.
- Play ends when the first baseman or pitcher has the ball or it is an overthrow to one of them. Runners must return to the base that is closest

5. Pitching Rules:

- A coach or pitching machine may be used for pitching.
- A pitcher's helper from the defensive team will stand about 6 feet from the side of the coach pitcher/pitching machine.
- Coach pitches from around 25-30 feet way from the batter. Aim to throw ball straight, not in an arc.
- The pitching machine is optional for the home team and the away team. Either team may supply the pitching machine for a game.
- The pitching machine will be placed at a distance of 30 feet from home plate.

- Even if a pitching machine is only utilized by one team it will remain on the field for the entire game.
- The coach or adult volunteer of the batting team will feed the pitching machine when their team is at bat.
- Any batted ball that hits the machine is a live ball and should be played as such.
- Highly recommended pitcher position wear a fielding face guard.

****COACHES AND ALL ASSISTANTS INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM ARE EXPECTED TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE OF SPORTSMANSHIP AND FAIR PLAY TO ALL THE GIRLS ON THEIR TEAM AND TO OPPOSING TEAM AND COACHES. THE GIRLS IN THIS DIVISION ARE VERY YOUNG AND WILL REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF PATIENCE BY THEIR COACHES, TEAMMATES AND MOST OF ALL, PARENTS. THE GAME CAN BE COMPETITIVE AND AT THE SAME TIME BE INSTRUCTIONAL BUT MOST IMPORTANT FUN!**