

8U Softball Rules

- 60 minute time limit, when time runs out you will play out the inning
- Coaches pitch all innings, 6 pitches per batter
- If the ball is not hit in 6 pitches the batter is out
- If the final pitch is a foul ball, the player will get another pitch
- No stealing of bases
- Leading off is not allowed
- Coaches are allowed on the field to instruct
- Open Substitution
- All Players play defense, Extra players should be positioned in the outfield
- All players bat
- Limit 5 runs per inning or 3 outs
- One Base on an overthrow (see overthrow rules)

The rules of USA will be followed with the following exceptions:

1. Our primary objective is to create an environment in which the participants have fun, learn good sportsmanship, & develop softball skills. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that this objective is met and for the conduct of their players, parents, & fans.
2. This is a physical sport & injury may result.
3. The home team will be responsible for providing a volunteer umpire. The umpire will be behind the home plate.
4. Uniform shirts must be worn & tucked in. NO jewelry is allowed.
5. Catchers must wear a mask & chest protector.
6. All batters & base runners will wear batting helmets with chin straps & face masks.
7. Please have the catcher ready early to keep the game moving
8. All players bat. Late arriving players will be added to the end of the line-up with no penalty.
9. Stealing and leading off is not allowed
10. When the ball is thrown into the infield from the outfield, runners must stop
11. Runners are encouraged to slide if close play at home
12. The infield fly rule is NOT in effect
13. The infield should consist of a catcher, pitcher, a shortstop & three basemen. The outfield will have the remaining players. The outfielders may not set up in the infield. Coaches may be in the field to help instruct their defensive players but must be positioned in grass in the outfield behind or next to the outfielders.
14. Kids should get the opportunity to play outfield every game and to be the catcher at least once during the season. Please rotate your players every two innings between infield and outfield positions. If you have more than 9 players, additional players should be positioned in the outfield.
15. 5 run rule per inning. This includes the last inning and games can end in a tie.
16. The player up to bat & the on-deck player are the only two people that are allowed to swing the bat.
17. Players who are not batting or running bases should be seated on their bench. Please do not allow players to sit on the back of the benches or hang on the fence.
18. Games must stop if there is lightning. However, games will be played in the rain as long as it is just sprinkling.
19. Each team is responsible for cleaning out their dugout.

8U Overthrow Rule

In the event of an overthrow (defined where a batted ball is fielded in the infield (on the dirt) and thrown to a base in an attempt to put out a runner or batter-runner), the runner(s) and/or batter-runner is allowed to advance, at their own peril, a maximum of two bases from the base they occupied when the play started. In the event of multiple overthrows in one play, the two base limit still applies.

In the event that a batted ball is hit safely into the outfield, the advancement of runners / batter-runner is determined by when the throw leaves the outfielder's hand (regardless of whether the ball makes it all the way onto the dirt infield or not). When the throw leaves the outfielder's hand, the runners may advance, at their own peril, to the next base ONLY. (Example: If a player is between second base and third base, when the ball leaves the outfielder's hand, the runner must stop at third base).