

2017 FASTPITCH SOFTBALL RULES

Revised 4/8/2016

League Rules – 8U Division

1. Coaches Pitch: there are NO WALKS, and NO BUNTING ALLOWED. Each batter will be allowed 3 swinging strikes or 5 pitches from the coach. The batter is not out if the 3rd strike or the 5th pitch is a foul ball. The batter will continue to bat until the ball is hit into play, there is a swinging 3rd strike OR, standing 5th pitch. No batter will be called out on a foul ball unless the ball is caught by the defense.

***NOTE TO PITCHER-Pitcher must have 1 foot in contact with the pitching rubber when the pitch is delivered. The coaches' pitch will be underhanded in order to teach the batter how to hit this type of pitch. Arc of the pitch should not be higher than the batters head. The pitching coach is not allowed to coach the batter or base runners after the pitch is delivered.**

2. **The DEFENSIVE team will consist of 10 players: 6 infielders and 4 in the outfield.** Outfielders must start play in the outfield grass. No infielder (except pitcher helper, see rule #3- will be positioned closer to home plate than the pitchers rubber prior to the release of the pitch.

3. One player on the defensive team will be the PITCHER'S HELPER. This player shall play no closer than the pitching rubber until the pitch is released. The pitcher's helper **MUST**

Wear either a **Helmet with a Face Mask or Face Guard and Heart Guard** (provided by the league). The pitching coach MUST not interfere with the ball while it is in play. The batted ball that makes contact with the pitching coach is declared a dead ball and the batter will bat again with the same count, as before the contact. **Intentional interference by the pitching coach with the fielders will result in the batter being declared out.**

4. Fielders positioned at second base and shortstop must start with both feet on the 2nd base side of the runners halfway chalk line prior to the pitch being released.

5. Each half inning will end after 3 outs OR, the offensive team has scored 5 runs. **There is no continuation rule.**

6. Distance from the front of the pitcher's rubber to the back of the point of the home plate is 35 feet. The circle around the pitcher's mound will be 16 feet in diameter.

7. BASE RUNNING: There is no stealing permitted. No lead offs, runners cannot leave the base until the ball is hit into play. Intentionally leaving early will result in the runner being declared out. Runners running out of the baseline to avoid a tag will be called out.

8. Runner may advance one (1) base on fielding overthrows @1 Base only and ball is declared dead. A chalk line will be placed halfway between 1st and 2nd base, 2nd and 3rd base, 3rd base and home plate. The chalk line will determine the base a runner is awarded once dead ball is called. Coaches may not assist a runner (e.g. assisting a base runner via physical contact). Violation will be runner being declared out.

9. Play has ended and the ball is dead once the lead runner has stopped forward progress, the ball is under control by fielder in baseline in front of the lead runner and “time” is called OR “time” has been called by the pitchers helper with control of the ball inside the pitchers circle.

10. Batter will not throw bats, and will be warned by the umpire **ONCE** for the violation. **This warning will be a team warning**, with the next violation resulting in the acting batter being declared out.

11. **One** coach is allowed on the field for defensive instruction. This coach must stay in the outfield grass at all times before the pitch and during live play.

12. Time limit for the 8U Division is One hour, or Six (6) innings, whichever comes first. **No** new inning will begin after the time limit has expired. **POINT OF EMPHASIS: A NEW INNING BEGINS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 3rd OUT OF THE PREVIOUS INNING.** Tie games can be called in 8U Division.

13. MERCY RULE: A game is a completed game if: A team is leading by more than 15 runs after 4 complete innings of play, **however** can continue to play allotted time or innings if **both** coaches agree.

14. All players must wear matching team shirts w/numbers.

15. All batter must wear a NOCSAE approved Helmet and face mask/guard (additional helmets are available by league upon request). All bats must be ASA Approved, **NO TEE BALL BATS.**

16. The official ball for 8U is the 11 –inch, ASA Ball- .047 Core.

17. The umpire’s rulings are final and non-contestable. Coaches, players and fans will exhibit good sportsmanship at all times, Profanity is strictly prohibited. Violation results in ejection from the game.

18. 8U pitchers will pitch from the 35 ft rubber (proper pitching mechanics should be encouraged but not enforced). 8U pitchers will pitch to the 4 batters of the first 2 innings. Pitching will continue until the batter puts the ball into play or gets 4 pitches from the pitcher. The coach will pitch the next 3 pitches. After the third standing pitch or swinging strike from the coach the batter is automatic out. **7 pitches total- (4 girl/3 coach) during first four batters for two innings** The player /pitcher will remain the pitchers helper when the offensive coach enters. Coaches are strongly encouraged to use multiple pitchers throughout the season.

RULE 18 to be reviewed and evaluated after 3rd Game.

19. These rules cannot be changed or modified unless a majority vote is made by the league directors (Eastern Hancock, GFS).