

A) The Playing Field / Equipment

1. 60' between bases with 30' baseline hash marks.
2. 35' to pitcher's plate with 8' radius pitching circle.
3. Foul lines, batter's box, and base coach boxes per ASA Rule Book.
4. An eleven inch optic yellow ball with red stitching is required.
5. Batting helmet faceguards are required and chin straps are strongly suggested.
6. Face masks are strongly suggested for all players in the field.
7. Each team may have one (1) Head Coach and two (2) assistant coaches.

B) Pitching regulations

1. 8u players will pitch the first three pitches to each batter during the first two innings of each game.
2. An 8u players may pitch a maximum of one inning per game, to encourage each team to allow multiple girls to pitch.
3. While the 8u player is pitching, if the batter does not swing and the pitch is called a strike by the umpire, the strike will count against the batter. However, if the batter swings at the pitch and misses this will not count as a strike.
4. After the first 3 pitches by the 8u girl, the remaining pitches will be coach pitch. The number of remaining pitches is equal to the number of strikes remaining against the batter i.e. if the 8u girl pitches 2 called strikes during her three pitches, then the coach will only get 1 pitch. If there are no called strikes during the 8u girls pitches, then the coach will get 3 pitches.
5. Strike zone is from the top of the batter's shoulder to the bottom of the batter's knees.
6. A pitcher will be allowed 5 warm up pitches when the game starts, when a new pitcher enters the game, otherwise 3 per inning.
7. The pitcher's wind up must start with both feet in contact with the rubber, facing the batter. .
8. The coach pitcher will remain off the field while the 8u girl pitches.
9. The coach pitcher must start from the pitching rubber and the ball must be released towards the batter while within the 8 pitching circle. *Notes: The coach-pitcher does not have to maintain contact with the pitching rubber while in pitching motion.*
10. The coach pitcher must avoid contact with the ball and defensive players when the ball is in play. Upon a batted ball, the coach pitcher must leave fair territory immediately without interference. If there is unintentional interference by the coach, it will be declared a dead ball/no pitch and all runners will return to their original base. If it is declared intentional interference, it will be a dead ball and the lead runner will be called out *Note intent is at the discretion of the umpire*
11. After the pitch is made or while the ball is in play, the coach-pitcher shall not direct any players in any way. The coach-pitcher may instruct a batter prior to a pitch being made. *PENALTY: If a coach pitcher instructs after a pitch he/she will be given a warning by the umpire A second offense may result in removal from the game*
12. The pitcher-helper (defensive player) must keep at least one foot in the pitcher's circle and be 2 steps behind the pitching rubber until the ball is released. All pitcher-helpers must wear a face guard or a helmet with faceguard and a chest guard.

C) The Game / Playing Rules

1. A game shall consist of 6 innings or no new inning after 75 minutes. Umpires are not obligated to inform teams about how much time is left. Home Team is responsible for book. The clock starts immediately after the coaches meeting.
2. Home team is decided by the schedule and at least one player and coach will be present at the umpire meeting.
- 3) Mercy Rule: If the home team is up 15 runs after 4 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings the ball game is over..
- 4) Tied game after full game is played or last completed inning after time expires, game is entered into record as a tie.
5. A team must have at least eight (8) players to start an official game. If a team is short players a team may bring up to two (2) players up from a lower rec league to field a team. You may only bring up enough players to field a team of nine (9) players.
6. Teams will bat their entire team in the lineup, with a maximum of 7 runs per inning(1st 5 innings) or 3 outs. The 6th Inning will be a max of 10 runs. All players must play at least 3 defensive innings per game. Players must also play at least one inning in the infield and 1 inning in the outfield.
7. Teams may use up to ten (10) defensive players.
- 8) Outfielders must have a STARTING position in the outfield (grass area) before the ball is pitched.
9. Two defensive coaches are allowed on the field and must be positioned in the outfield.
10. A maximum of six (6) pitches with unlimited fouls on the last pitch or three (3) strikes shall count as an out. There will be NO WALKS.
11. There is no infield fly rule, no bunting, no stealing, and no dropped third strike rule.
- 12.) An umpire will call time when the ball is held by a defensive player stopping the lead runner or no further play is being made (Umpires judgment).
- 13.) An umpire will call time when the ball is controlled with both feet by any defensive player within the pitcher's circle intentionally or unintentionally.
- 14) No jewelry (unless medically necessary) is allowed on the field.
- 15) **Please ensure catchers are always ready to go at the beginning of each inning and have someone(16 or older) behind the catcher to catch passed balls to throw back to pitcher. This will speed up the game.**

D) Batting and Running

- 1) Runners may leave the base after the ball crosses the plate anticipating a hit ball but must return if the ball is not hit Runners may be called out for leaving early and this is at the discretion of the umpire.
- 2) Any hit ball that lands in either batter's box is a foul ball.

- 3) A player removed from the game due to injury will only be allowed to return to the game if both coaches agree. The injured player will be skipped in the batting order without penalty.
- 4) Sliding – Head first slides are not allowed and will result in an out. Diving back to a base is not a head first slide.

E) Other Rules

- 1) All other softball rules will be in accordance with ASA Rules and the Umpires call will be final.
- 2) All safety and conduct rules will be in accordance with WYSI and enforced by the Umpires and Commissioners.
- 3) Rain outs/Suspended Play: Will be determined thirty (30) minutes prior to the first game time by the Overall Commissioner at the recommendation of the Instructional, 8U, 10U or 12U Commissioners. During game times, Coaches and umpires will determine this. Lightning Policy will be in accordance to VVYSI Lightning Policy. In the event the game is called prior to the 4th inning, for whatever reason, the game will resume at a later date and will continue just as the game was never stopped (runners will return to bases, batter will have same pitch count and the outs will continue, etc). In the event the game is called after the beginning of the 4th inning, for whatever reason, the winner will be determined by going back to the last full inning and the team with the highest score wins (unless home team is batting and is winning at the time the game is suspended, home team will be considered the winner). In the event the game was tied, the game will be considered a tie. All make up games will be coordinated through your 8U Commissioner.

F) Tournament Seeding

- 1) 8U tournament seeding is determined by the In House regular season records. All regular season scores must be reported to the 8U Commissioner. If two teams are tied then head to head is the first tie breaker followed by least runs allowed followed by most runs scored followed by coin flip.

G) Umpires

- 1) All Umpires must be at least 16 years of age. Only (1) umpire per game will be allotted. Exception: 8U Championship Game there will be 2 umpires. Umpire Fees are \$35.00.
- 2) Only Head Coaches may privately and respectfully discuss calls that are made on the field but under no circumstance are Assistant Coaches, players or fans allowed to argue balls and strikes or any calls on the field. The Head Coach is responsible for the actions of its Assistant Coaches, players and fans.. All issues with any umpire must be directed to the Umpire Director and the Overall Commissioner.