

Softball Rules 2017

U-8 Softball

U-8 – GAME

- 1) **GAME:** The Game shall consist of 6 innings. No new innings shall start after 2 hours. Make every attempt to play all 6 innings. Playing out the bottom of the 6th inning when the home team is winning is based upon coaches consent to continue.
- 2) **GAME:** All batters, runners, catchers, and pitchers must wear a helmet with a facemask, to be provided by the parent/guardian. Helmets should remain on runners until they are out of play. Catchers equipment will be provide by the league. Infield facemask should also be worn.
- 3) **GAME:** If a team has 8 or more players they must field a team. Any team with 8 players may go without a catcher or outfielder. The coaches may decide to split the teams evenly and scrimmage if a team does not have 8 players. Unless prior arrangements are made with league commissioners, a forfeit will be listed for teams unable to play a scheduled game.
- 4) **GAME:** Defensively, each player shall play at minimum 1 inning in the infield and 1 inning in the outfield, a player may play the same infield position only **two** innings per game.
- 5) **GAME:** A Player cannot sit out two (2) consecutive innings. Each player must play at least one (1) inning in the infield by the end of the 4th inning. No player should sit out for a 2nd inning until all players have sat out for 1 inning. **The use of dedicated player positions is not permitted.**
- 6) **GAME:** Run Rule: A game shall end at the end of 5 innings (at the discretion of the loosing coach) when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat. A game shall end at the end of 4(at the discretion of the loosing coach) when a team is 15 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat

U-8 – COACHING

- 1) **COACHING:** Offensive coaching shall consist of a first base coach and a third base coach. The pitching coach may NOT coach base runners during the play. Once a batter hits the ball he becomes a base runner – the pitcher can no longer ‘coach’ that player in regards to running bases.
- 2) **COACHING:** The ‘Coach’ Pitcher must not catch the ball from the opposing team players; encourage the throws to the 1st baseman and/or the pitcher. The exchange shall take place from the 1st baseman and/or pitcher.
- 3) **COACHING:** The ‘Coach’ Pitcher may begin play at the front of pitcher circle, and may step outside the circle at delivery. The ‘Coach’ Pitcher may choose to start farther back inside the circle.
- 4) **COACHING:** Two defensive team’s coaches are permitted to “roam” the outfield during the game to provide instruction of the game. The coach shall make no attempt to physically assist his/her players or slow the natural flow of the game.

U-8 – Batting

- 1) **BATTING:** The batter will have six (6) attempts at hitting the ball. Three strikes and the batter is out. Foul tips are strikes; however, no batter can foul out. If the 6th pitch is fouled a seventh pitch is granted as the 6th pitch until a fair ball or strike. Not swinging at the sixth (6th) pitch is considered a strike, batter will be declared out.
- 2) **BATTING:** There are NO walks and no bases awarded for being hit by the pitch.

Batting Cont'd

- 3) **BATTING:** Bunting is not permitted.
- 4) **LAST BATTER:**
 - a) Each half inning ends when 3 outs are recorded, or
 - b) All the batters on the line up card have batted once in that half inning, or
 - c) Five (5) runs have scored.

(c) does not apply to the last half inning of the game for either team.

(a) and (b) apply to all half innings.

For (b) – “All Batters on the line up card” If team A has 12 players and Team B has 10 players playing in the game – Team B will be permitted to bat up to and including 12 batters in the given inning. (EQUAL NUMBER OF AT BATS). Team B must then start the following inning where they left off in their batting order.

U-8 - BASE RUNNING

- 1) **BASE RUNNING:** There is NO base stealing permitted. A base runner must have one foot on the base until the ball is hit or passes the plate. Any runner leaving the base before the ball is hit or passes the plate, the team will be warned and an out called the next time it occurs.
- 2) **Base Running cont'd:** If a batter has an infield hit, they must stop at first base. If the ball is hit in the outfield, the runner may continue until the ball is thrown in to the infielders. Any base runners may advance to the base they were approaching if they were more than halfway to that base. In the event of an overthrow, runners cannot advance.

3)

U-8 – Defense

- 1) **DEFENSE:** 10 players shall begin play, Pitcher, Catcher, 1st, 2nd, 3rd basemen, SS, Left, Left Center, Right Center and Right fielders.
- 2) **CATCHER:** A catcher is not required when a team is forced to field 8 players.
- 4) **FIELDING:** No infield player may play closer to the batter than the 45-foot line, until the ball has been hit. The pitcher must stay inside the pitching circle until the ball is hit. Player pitchers may not stand in front of pitching rubber until the pitch is released.
- 5) **FIELDING:** The outfielders must play no closer than the edge of the grass, or 15' behind the base.
- 6) **FOR LAST BATTER:** 1.) record the 3rd out at appropriate base, 2.) Anything less than 2 outs the play is to be made at home plate. It shall be encouraged to make throws to the catcher.

U-8 – PITCHING

- 1) **PITCHER:** must wear helmet with a facemask and must have both feet in the pitchers circle until the ball has been hit.
- 2) **PITCHING CIRCLE:** The circle is 15'; the front edge of circle will be at 28' from the apex of home plate.
- 3) **PITCHING COACH:** The pitcher (coach) should be at least 35' away from the plate. The coach from the batting team will pitch to their team. The pitch should have minimal arc. The pitch is to simulate a fast-pitch softball pitch.

U-8 – FIELD SET UP

- 1) **60':** Each base line shall have a 60' mark from home plate, draw the line 4' into fair territory; this line is used for 1st and 3rd basemen as they are to start play behind this line.
- 2) **30':** Between 1st & 2nd; 2nd & 3rd; 3rd and Home – mark a 4' line that is halfway between each base. When a runner has passed the halfway prior to a defensive player holding up the ball, they will be awarded the base they were going to – if they did not reach half way – they will return to the previous base.
- 3) **Pitching Circle:** The pitching circle shall be 15'. The front of the circle will be at 28' from the apex of home plate. The pitching rubber will be at 35'.

