

## BRW REC LEAGUE RULES Exceptions /Clarifications

### **All AGE GROUPS:**

We will use the USSSA rulebook as our “Base Rule Book”. Please see this link:

[http://ussa.com/docs/2019/USSSA\\_FPRB\\_19.pdf](http://ussa.com/docs/2019/USSSA_FPRB_19.pdf)

***It is incumbent upon the coaches to have read and understand the rules of Softball. Ignorance of a rule is not an acceptable excuse.***

- Time Limit:
  - 7 innings or the new time limit.
  - Max 5 runs per half inning.
  - No new inning after 1 Hour and 20 minutes. However, PLEASE finish the full inning you’re in unless and until the home team gains the lead. Coaches are encouraged to play to the time limit for experience, even if mathematically eliminated.
  - Games may end in a tie.
- A team may play with as few as 8 players in attendance without taking an out for the 9<sup>th</sup> position in the batting order. However, if a 9<sup>th</sup> player is in attendance, she must play. If only 7 players are in attendance, the team must forfeit.
- All outfielders must start the play with their feet in the outfield grass.
- Continuous Batting Order required: Injuries or early departing players do not cause an out. Late Arrivals must be added to the last position in the pre-game batting order.
- No Dropped Third Strike, No Infield Fly Rule.
- If at any point, a player is hit by a pitch\*, they will take first regardless of whether the ball has made contact with the ground!
- Play is stopped when the ball is in the possession and control of any defensive player within the pitching circle. The “Look Back Rule” will be enforced as we continue to focus on long term game instruction.
- Runs Limits:
  - 12 run lead after 4 completed innings
  - 10 run lead after 5 completed innings

### **8U:**

- 11” Softie ball to be used. “Softie” is defined as a Reduced Injury Factor, Level 1 ball.
- In 8U, if a batter is hit by a pitch, they shall advance to first base. However, there are no bases-on-balls in 8U.
- First two innings will feature a player-pitched inning. After four pitches, regardless of the count the Offensive coach will come in to operate the pitching machine for a maximum of an additional three (3) pitches. Foul balls on the third or subsequent pitch may result in an additional machine-pitch.
- Strikeouts will occur whenever the batter takes three strikes from the pitcher (or swings or any combination of taken strikes and missed swings) Or swings and misses (3) or takes 3 pitches from the machine.
- Innings 3 and beyond will be 100% machine pitch. These innings will feature five (5) machine pitches per batter.
- Louisville Slugger’s Blue Flame Pitching machine will be used and operated by the batting team’s coaches.
- Pitching Machine settings will be determined and communicated by the League.
- Umpires will be provided by the League.
- As many as two (2) defensive coaches are permitted in the field in 8U only.
- 10 defensive players. This 10<sup>th</sup> player must be a 4<sup>th</sup> outfielder (Short Center).

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- Base Runner may leave the base when the pitched ball crosses the plate to encourage aggressive base-running and to prepare players for the higher age / skill levels of the game. If the ball is not struck by the batter, baserunners must return to the base. While they are off the base, they are “in play” to be picked off.
- No Stealing.

### **10U:**

- **See modifications listed above for ALL AGE GROUPS**
- This league will feature 100% Player-pitched games.
- 11” Regulation Ball will be used.
- Pitching:
  - No Pitcher may pitch more than 2 consecutive innings nor more than 3 total innings.
  - With regard to a pitcher’s limits, one pitch is considered one inning.
  - Original pitcher may not return until 3 outs have been achieved or the inning’s run limit has been met.
- Base Runner may leave the base when the pitched ball crosses the plate.
- Stealing is allowed & ENCOURAGED. (1 base at a time but can’t steal home). Stealing one base at a time encourages catchers to attempt the throw w/o risk of runners advancing.
- Bunting is encouraged. Slapping is encouraged. “Slashing” is not permitted (“Slashing”: showing the bunt but swinging away).

### **12U:**

- **See modifications above for ALL AGE GROUPS**
- See the USSSA Rule Book and “All Age Group” Exceptions/Clarifications, at the top of page 1.