

Harrisburg, Lennox, & Tea

8U Softball Rec League Rules

Last updated 3/15/2025

FIELD SPECS.

- 30' pitching rubber; 60' base path

GAME PLAY

- Umpires are not provided
- All games are 70 minutes "drop dead" – final game score will revert to the last full inning that was completed
- Game ties will not be played out.
- Half Innings end after 3 outs or 5 runs.

SUBSTITUTION / PLAYING TIME

- Pitchers & catchers can only play three innings in those positions. No more than 2 innings in a row.
- Players must run for themselves unless injured. A courtesy runner is permitted for the catcher only when there are two outs.
- Players are required to play 2 full innings
- Rotate players to different positions
- No defensive players can sit on the bench more than one inning in a row
- Late arriving players will be added to the end of the line up with no penalty.

EQUIPMENT

- Play with 11" Incrediball Softball.
- The catcher must wear safety equipment when catching (catcher's helmet, chest protector, and shin guards).
- Anyone under the age of 18 who is warming up a pitcher must wear a protective helmet
- Anyone on the field under the age of 18 must wear a helmet
- Defensive players are allowed to wear Softball Fielders Masks.
- Uniform shirts with a number must be worn. Highly recommend that pants are worn.

LEAGUE RULES

- **1st Inning Only: Players will pitch until the count reaches 2 balls. At this point, the coach will step in to pitch until the batter gets a hit or strikes out. No walks allowed. After the 1st Inning it will be just Coach Pitch.**
- The defense is made up of 9 players. The infield should consist of a catcher, pitcher, shortstop, and three basemen. The outfield will have three players; the outfielders may not set up in the infield.
- All players must bat.

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- Cannot run on a dropped 3rd strike.
- The infield fly rule is NOT in effect.
- **Stealing is not allowed**, leading off is permitted after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand
- Runners are encouraged to slide on all close plays.
- If a batter gets three strikes, they are out. If the batter is hit by a pitch, the batter continues to bat (do not get to take a base).
- The player up to bat and the on-deck player are the only two players that are allowed to swing a bat. Be sure that the on-deck player is in a safe place on the side of the infield & is wearing a helmet.
- Teams can play with 8 players and no outs will be assessed; however, less than 8 players will constitute a forfeit. In that case, the forfeiting team can borrow players from the other team and play out the game.
- Coaches are allowed on the field to back- up the pitcher and the catcher to keep the game moving

WEATHER

- The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) recommends suspending games when lightning is seen or thunder is heard and waiting at least 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning before resuming play. If there is more thunder or lightning after the 30-minute count begins, the clock resets and another 30-minute count begins.