



8U Softball Division Rules

Updated: August 2025

1. Teams will consist of a minimum of 10 Players, with a maximum of 13 Players.
2. All Players present will be in the batting lineup, but only 10 defensive Players per inning on field.
 - **Infield** positions are: Pitcher, Catcher, 1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base, and Short Stop
 - **Outfield** positions are : Left field, Left Center field, Right Center field, and Right field
 - **Rover** position is NOT permitted
3. Teams **must** have **8** players to start and finish a game. If the 9th batter is not present at their at bat, the team will receive an out until present. Notify the scorekeeper of any changes. If the need arises, a player from the Rookie division may be called up to play.
4. A team may be granted a 5 minute "Grace Period", beginning at the scheduled start time of the game to allow for late arrivals. If after the "Grace Period", a team still does not have 8 Players to start the game, it will be declared a Forfeit. The score documented in the Official Score Book will be 7 - 0 for the winning team. In the event a game is forfeited, the 2 teams scheduled to play will be allowed to scrimmage for the remaining time.
5. Each team line-up (batting order) is to be submitted to the official scorekeeper before teams enter the dugout. This line-up should be complete with each Player's **Last Name, Number, and Position**. Substitute players will be listed at the bottom of the lineup card.
6. Every Player on the roster is **REQUIRED** to play at least 2 defensive innings.
7. Each game will be **6 innings**. Games will have a time curfew of 65 minutes. No new inning will be started after the expiration of time. An inning that has started prior to the curfew, will be played until completion. Extra innings are at the determination of the Managers of each team, the time curfew, and Umpires.
8. Regular season games **CAN** end in a tie.
9. A run limit of 5 runs per half inning has been set in place for this division.
10. Mercy rule will be in effect. If a team is leading by a score that is mathematically impossible for the opposing team to overcome, the game will be stopped and the team leading the game will be declared the winner.
11. Run Rules: 18 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4, or 6 runs after 5 innings.

12. The home team will occupy the 1st base dugout.
13. Home team is responsible for lining the fields before the game.
14. The home team is responsible for providing a book keeper for the game. The visiting team is responsible for providing someone to run the scoreboard. These individuals should sit together at the scorers table.

Uniform

15. No jewelry of any kind is allowed during a game.
16. Shirts are to be tucked in.
17. ONLY rubber/molded cleats are to be worn. **NO METAL SPIKES/CLEATS**
18. All defensive Players **must** wear a fielder's mask.

Batting and Base Running

19. Bases are to be set at **60 feet**. Pitching rubber set at **35 feet**.
20. Lead-offs and steals are **NOT** permitted in 8U Softball.
21. Base Runners must stay in contact with the base **UNTIL** the ball is hit.
 - If a Player leaves a base prior to the ball being hit, the Umpire shall call, "No Pitch", and all runners will return to their respective bases.
 - Each team will receive 1 warning for this violation per game.
 - Any violation after the team warning, the runner will be called out, and removed from the base.
22. Base Runners may obtain 1 base at the risk of being put out on an overthrown ball from the infield.
 - An overthrow from the outfield is a live ball and Base Runners may advance at will until the lead runner is stopped. Time will be called once the lead Base Runner has quit trying to advance.
23. A Manager may **NOT** touch a Base Runner at any time. If in an attempt to start a runner moving or to stop them from running, a Manager touches a runner, that runner will be called out. Managers will not be warned regarding this matter.
24. **NO** head first sliding except for returning to base. Players must slide at the home plate in the event of (possible) play. No running contact with catchers will be permitted.
25. Any team where a batter unintentionally throws a bat will be given one team warning. A second offense will result in the Player being called out. Any Player who intentionally throws a bat will be automatically called out. This action could also result in ejection from the game.

26. Batters are to wear a masked batting helmet **at all times** including on base paths.
27. Batters on deck **MUST** have helmets on.
28. A courtesy runner for the catcher will be allowed with 2 outs in the inning. The courtesy runner must be the Player who committed the second out. The Player receiving the courtesy runner must catch the next half inning.
29. All Players are to stay in the dugout when not in the game or at bat.
30. Bunting is **NOT** permitted in 8u Softball.
31. Slap hitting is **NOT** permitted.

Pitching

32. No hitting off a tee.
33. The Player in the Pitcher position **MUST** stand with at least **1 foot INSIDE** the circle. If safety becomes an issue, the Player may be moved back towards 2nd base, If agreed upon by both managers.
34. All pitching will be done by a Manager. There will be an 8 ft circle around the pitching rubber, that the Manager **MUST keep both feet in while pitching**.
35. Minimal verbal contact is allowed with the batter. If this becomes excessive, the Umpire may intervene and prohibit further communication.
36. The pitching Manager must exit the field of play after the ball is put into play. He/she may exit to either side of the field, but must take a position outside the foul lines. Each pitching Manager will receive one warning per game. On the second violation, the pitching Manager will be removed from the game, only as Pitcher.
37. If a pitching Manager is struck by a batted ball, the play shall be declared dead and no pitch. All runners must return to base and replay the pitch.
38. If a pitching Manager intentionally comes into contact with a batted ball, the batter will be called out and all Base Runners will return to their original bases.
39. Each Player will receive 5 pitches, to put the ball into play.
40. If a batter swings and misses 3 times, it **IS** a strikeout.
41. After the 5th pitch, if the ball is not put into play, the batter shall be called out. **REGARDLESS of whether the batter swung or not.**
42. No pitch from the pitching Manager will be deemed not able to hit. A ball or strike on the 5th pitch, if the batter swings and misses or watches it go by, they are out.

43. A foul ball on the 3rd pitch does keep the batter alive at the plate.
44. There are **NO WALKS** in 8U Softball.
45. Any Player playing the Pitcher's position **must** wear a face mask.

Defense

46. The infield fly rule is **NOT** in effect for 8U Softball.
47. Home run balls must clear the fence. A ball which hits the top of the fence and remains in play is a live ball.
48. Base Managers are to be adults. If necessary to use a player, the player must wear a batting helmet.
49. Catcher is to wear all catcher's gear, including leg guards, chest protector, and catcher's helmet while on the field or warming up.

Managers and Volunteers

50. All Managers are expected to remain inside the dugout once game play has begun. A Manager may walk out of the dugout to demonstrate or communicate something to a Player and return to the dugout. Time must be called prior to entering the field of play for any reason once the Umpire has declared "Play Ball". Managers may sit on a bucket near the field entrance of the dugout.
51. Only rostered Players, Managers, and approved volunteers may be in the dugout during the game. Parents of injured Players are permitted to enter to care for their child.
52. There shall be a maximum of 3 adults (1 Manager and 2 assistants) on the field for a team and one adult in the dugout during games.
53. There will be no protest at this level of play. Managers are not to question a judgment call made by the Umpire. If there is a question regarding a particular rule, the game should be momentarily stopped to consult with the Umpire regarding this matter. After consulting with the Umpire and resolving the issue, game play will resume. When the Umpire makes his decision as to the ruling, that decision is final.

Discipline

54. Deliberate action taken to delay a game is consider unsportsmanlike conduct and will be reported to the division VP. Repeated violations of this rule may result in a game suspension for the violating Manager.
55. In the event a Player or Manager is ejected from the game by an Umpire, the Player or Manager will not be eligible to participate in the next game played by their team. (The ejected individual will not be permitted to have any involvement with his/her team inside the fenced-in area of the playing field on the game day they are suspended for.) In the

event that a second ejection occurs involving the same individual during the season, that Player or Manager will not be eligible to participate again until he or she has been given permission by the JCYBS Board of Directors

56. Any individual ejected from a game or the park by an Umpire or League Official must leave the field area for the remainder of the day in which the ejection occurs. The individual must vacate all park facilities, including the parking lot. Failure to leave in a timely fashion or continued unsportsmanlike conduct may result in a forfeit of the game for the team affiliated with that person.
57. Any rule not covered here will be covered by the [Babe Ruth Cal Ripken League Rule Book](#) and/or ruled on by the game Umpire.