

2018 8U Softball Rules

The purpose of this league is to teach the fundamentals of softball and good sportsmanship. The Manager and Coaches are expected to conduct themselves accordingly.

General Rules:

1. Each team will field a maximum of ten players in the field, with 4 of those playing outfield. The outfield is determined to be “in the grass” and the positions are left field, left-center field, right-center field, and right field.
2. An infielder is a player playing an infield position. Not an outfielder who is in control of the ball in the infield.
3. Free substitution and continuous batting order (full roster bat).
4. Each outfielder must be in the grass at the release of the pitch.
5. At least 8 players must be present to start a game. If a team does not have 8 players to start, they must forfeit, though they are free to scrimmage.
6. An 11” ball will be used.
7. Fielders masks are recommended for the 3rd baseman, 1st baseman, and Pitcher, but not required.
8. If a team is winning by 10 or more runs after the 5th inning, the game will be called.

Participation:

9. Each player will play a minimum of 1 inning in the outfield and 1 inning in the infield, with no more than 2 consecutive innings in the same position
10. All players will play one infield position by the 5th inning.
11. Pitcher and Catcher are infield positions

Time limit:

12. A game will last 6 innings. No new inning will start after 90 minutes.
13. A new inning starts immediately after the third out of the previous inning.
14. When a game is called due to weather, dark, or time limit it will be considered a complete game if 3 full innings have been completed or 2½ if the home team is winning.

Tournament:

15. At the end of the regular season there will be a competitive single elimination tournament.
16. All regular season rules will apply for the tournament
17. All games will be completed. If a game is called due to inclement weather or darkness, the game will continue the next day with the exact time remaining in the game.

Coaching:

18. 1 coach is allowed in the outfield while his/her team is on defense.
19. 1 coach is allowed behind the catcher to instruct the child in their position as well as remove any bats from the area.

Designated pitcher:

20. The pitcher may be whomever the Manager designates, as long as it is an adult.

21. The designated pitcher will pitch from the midpoint of the pitching rubber (at 35') and the front of the circle. There will be a 8' radius circle chalked around the pitching rubber. The designated pitcher must keep both feet inside of the 8' radius when pitching the ball. A hit ball where the pitcher stepped outside of the circle is a deadball.
22. The designated pitcher must leave the playing area after the ball is hit, making every effort not to interfere with the ball, runners, or fielders and will remain off the field until play has stopped.
23. The pitching rubber will be set at 35' for this league. The base distance will be 60'.

Player-pitcher:

24. The player-pitcher must have one foot within the 8-foot circle when the ball is pitched by the designated pitcher.
25. The player-pitcher can play to the left, right, or behind the designated pitcher. They cannot play in front of the designated pitcher.

Batting:

26. The umpire will call swinging strikes. 3 strikes and the batter is out.
27. There will be no more than 6 pitches to the batter. If the ball is not put in play by the 6th pitch, the batter will be called out.
 - a. Exceptions:
 - i. A foul ball on the 3rd strike, if it is the 6th pitch
 - ii. A batted ball hits the designated pitcher, it will be ruled a dead ball; no pitch, no strike
28. On an infield hit, in the absence of an overthrow, the batter-runner must stop at first base and all runners can only advance 1 base
29. On an overthrown ball, any runners may advance one base in jeopardy of being put out. Only one overthrow per hit ball. An overthrow is considered an uncatchable ball to the base. The fielder must then leave their position to retrieve the ball. If the ball is a couple feet away from the bag and the fielder does not have to leave their position, it is not considered an overthrow. This is a judgement call for the umpire.
30. On a batted ball hit into the outfield the batter-runner may advance as far as she can until the ball is in the infield (within the base lines) and in possession of an infielder. Once the ball is in possession of an infielder all base runners must return to the previous base occupied, unless over halfway to the next base, which should be marked by a hash mark.
31. No walks
32. Infield fly rule will not apply
33. The batter cannot run on a dropped 3rd strike
34. No bunting. If the umpire judges the batter bunted, or attempted to bunt, the pitch will be called a strike.
35. There is a maximum run limit of **6 runs per inning**, with the exception of the last/open inning. Any time after the second inning an umpire may, at his/her discretion, due to inclement weather, darkness, or if he she deems that the upcoming inning will last beyond the 90 min. time limit, declare the upcoming inning to be the last/open inning. If none of the factors exist, the 6th inning will always be the last/open inning. If the 3rd, 4th, or 5th inning is declared to be the last/open inning then both coaches will be notified prior to the start of that inning. The open inning can and is expected to run over the 90-minute mark. During regular season play, no more innings will be played after the last/open inning, and the game may end in a tie.
36. Face masks and chinstraps are required on all batting helmets by all teams.
37. A slap hit is permitted; however, a slap bunt is not. If the batter is still within six pitchers, they will lose on at bat and have to try again.

38. If a catcher catches a foul ball, the batter is out. There is no height limit.

Base running:

39. No stealing.

40. A base runner can lead off (leave the base after the ball crosses home plate) but she cannot advance to the next base unless the ball is hit into play. If a base runner leaves early, a warning will be issued first. This warning will serve for both teams. If it occurs again for either team, then the runner will be called out.

41. Sliding is permitted.

Stopping play:

42. Each play is stopped when the ball is in control of an infielder, inside the base path.

Weather:

43. When playing in Tipp and Piqua, a board member will be present at all games and make the decision to stop play if necessary.

a. At the first sign of lightning or thunder, all players and families must leave the playing area and go to their cars. There is a 30-minute delay for lightning from the last view or the last clasp of thunder.

44. When playing at Vandalia, there is a Thorguard System (Lightning Prediction System) that will sound when lightning is detected in the area. All players and families must leave the fields and go to their cars. Once the system goes off 3 short horn blasts will sound and play will resume, if the system doesn't go turn off after 45 minutes, the games will be cancelled or postponed.