

# 8U Coach Pitch



## Field/Equipment

- Play with 11” yellow optic/red stitching USA Softball. 375 lbs .470 core.
  - 30’ pitching rubber, 60’ base path.
  - Catchers must wear a mask, chest protector & shin guards.
  - Batters are required to wear a helmet the entire time they are offensively on the field (batting, running bases, in the on-deck circle, etc.).
  - Uniform shirts must be worn & tucked in. No jewelry is allowed.
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- ❖ Half innings end after 3 outs or 5 runs. This includes last inning.
  - ❖ Games can end in a tie.
  - ❖ Strike outs are allowed.
  - ❖ 60 minute time limit or 5 innings.
  - ❖ Open Substitution.
  - ❖ Coaches pitch all innings, 6 pitches per batter.
  - ❖ **NO** advancing on an overthrow.
- ❖ If the ball is not hit in 6 pitches the batter is out.
  - ❖ If the final pitch is a foul ball, the player will get another pitch.
  - ❖ **NO** stealing of bases.
  - ❖ Leading off is not allowed.
  - ❖ Coaches are allowed in the outfield to instruct.
  - ❖ Infield fly rule is NOT in effect.
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- **All players bat.** Late arriving players will be added to the end of the line-up with no penalty.
  - **Up to 12 players may play defense.** The infield should consist of a catcher, pitcher, shortstop, and three basemen. The outfielders may not set up in the infield. Coaches may be in the field to help instruct their defensive players but must be positioned in grass in the outfield behind or next to the outfielders.
  - Runners can advance 2 bases when a hit goes to the outfield, this includes if it rolls/bounces to the outfield. When the ball is thrown into the infield from the outfield, **runners must stop.**
  - Runners are encouraged to slide if close play at home
  - A player cannot play the same position for more than 2 innings in a row. A player cannot play in the outfield for more than 2 innings in a row.
  - The player up to bat & the on-deck player are the only two people that are allowed to swing the bat. Players who are not batting or running bases should be seated on their bench.
  - Courtesy runners allowed for an Injured player – must be last player that got out.
  - Anyone under the age of 18 warming up a pitcher or being a base-coach must wear a catcher’s helmet or a batting helmet.
  - Games must stop if there is lightning. However, games will be played in the rain as long as it is just sprinkling. (See Lightening Rules)
  - Our primary objective is to create an environment in which the participants have fun, learn good sportsmanship, and develop softball skills. **Coaches are responsible for ensuring that this objective is met and for the conduct of their players, parents, and fans. The use of tobacco, alcohol, or any other controlled substance by an umpire, coach, or other volunteer during a softball game or tournament is prohibited.**