

12U Rules



Field/Equipment

- Play with 12" yellow optic/red stitching USA Softball. 375 lbs .470 core.
 - Each team needs to provide 1 game ball.
 - 40' pitching rubber, 60' base path.
 - Catchers must wear a mask, chest protector & shin guards.
 - All batters & base runners will wear batting helmets with chinstraps & facemasks while on the field.
 - Uniform shirts must be worn & tucked in. No jewelry is allowed.
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| ❖ Half innings end after 3 outs or 7 runs. The last inning is open (no run limit). | ❖ Home is Open . |
| ❖ 75 minutes & finish the inning. | ❖ 9 defensive players. |
| ❖ Games can end in a tie. | ❖ Stealing is allowed. Lead off as soon as the ball leaves the pitchers hand. |
| ❖ Open Substitution. | ❖ Can run on a drop 3 rd Strike. |
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- **All players bat.** Late arriving players will be added to the end of the line-up with no penalty.
 - Runners are encouraged to slide at home or any other base if a play is being made there. Runners must avoid interfering with defenders, as outlined in USA Softball rules.
 - Pitcher/catchers can only play three innings in those positions no more than 2 innings in a row.
 - Players are required to play 2 full innings.
 - Batters can advance to first base after being hit by a pitch only if she made an attempt to get out of the way – this is a judgement call by the umpire and his/her decision is final.
 - The look back rule is in effect.
 - A pitcher must start with the pivot foot on the rubber and their non-pivot foot in contact with or behind the rubber within 24". The pivot foot must always remain in contact with the pitcher's plate prior to the forward step. A backward step may be taken before, simultaneous with or after the hands are brought together.
 - Courtesy runners allowed for Catcher, Pitcher, or Injured player – must be last player that got out. Utilize this to speed up the game and have your catcher ready for the next inning. Can only be used once per inning.
 - Coaches **CANNOT** be on the field when their team is playing defense.
 - Run Rule Limit – 12 after 3 innings, 8 after 5 innings (Mercy Rule).
 - The infield-fly rule is in effect when first & second bases or all three bases are occupied with less than 2 outs. When it seems apparent that a batted fair ball (not including a line drive or an attempted bunt) can be caught by an infielder, pitcher, or catcher with ordinary effort, the umpire shall yell "in-field fly". The batter is out; the runners are not required to advance. However, if the runners do decide to advance, they must tag up first & then run the risk of being thrown out.
 - Teams can play with 8 players & no out 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 & play out the game. The umpires will still work the game.
 - **Zero Tolerance** for arguing with any umpire.
 - 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.**