

8U Transition



Field/Equipment

- Play with 11" yellow optic/red stitching USA Softball. 375 lbs .470 core.
 - Each team needs to provide 1 game ball.
- 30' pitching rubber, 60' base path.
- Catchers must wear a mask, chest protector & shin guards.
- Batters are required to wear a helmet with a facemask 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.

- ❖ 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. Play up to 60 minutes, then finish the inning.
- ❖ Open Substitution.
- ❖ **NO Stealing Allowed.**
- ❖ Leading off is permitted after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- ❖ Only 3 strikes per batter.
- ❖ **Cannot** run on drop 3rd strike.
- ❖ Infield Fly rule is **not** in effect.
- ❖ Only get 1 base on an overthrow.

- Players will pitch until the count reaches 3 balls. At this point, the coach will step in to pitch until the batter gets a hit or strikes out. No walks allowed. **Opposing Coach will call balls & strikes.**
- **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.
- 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.
- 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).
- Runners can advance 2 bases when a hit goes to the outfield. When the ball is thrown into the infield from the outfield, **runners must stop.**
- 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.
- Players who are not batting or running bases should be in the dugout.
- The player up to bat & the on-deck player are the only two people that are allowed to swing the bat.
- 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.
- 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.
- Courtesy runners allowed for an Injured player – must be last player that got out.
- The coaches are allowed on the field in the outfield and to back-up the pitcher and the catcher to keep the game moving. It is encouraged to gradually move off the field by the end of season.
- 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.**