



South Huntington Beach Girls Fastpitch Softball 2019 Rules Deviations

These rules are not all encompassing. The current "Official Rules of Softball" USA Code shall govern any rules not listed below.

Section 1: Ground and League Rules

1. The **Home Team** will be responsible for the **Official Scorebook**. Each team must provide their own scorekeeper, who will not be permitted on the field or in the dugout, but must remain in proximity to the official plate umpire.
2. The **Home Team** will be responsible for the field equipment and/or field maintenance, which will be returned to the equipment box at the conclusion of the day's game(s).
3. In keeping with the rules of USA Softball and HBCSD, possession of alcoholic beverages or smoking on the game or practice fields is strictly prohibited. **School property is a tobacco free area.**

Section 2: Playing Rules

1. Games may be cancelled by the game umpire or Umpire-in-Chief if the playing fields are not deemed safe or in reasonable playing condition and cannot be put into safe and playable condition in a short period of time.
2. Game time limits:
14U – 1:50 (No new inning after One Hour and Fifty minutes)
12U – 1:40 (No new inning after One Hour and Forty minutes)
10U – 1:30 (No new inning after One Hour and Thirty minutes)
8U – 1:20 (No new inning after One Hour and Twenty minutes)
6U – 1:15 Each team will bat 5 players or half their batting order per inning. Teams should have an equal # of at bats.
3. 14U, 12U, and 10U will have a mercy rule in place for all games, as specified below.

Mercy Rule:
15 runs after 3 innings
12 runs after 4 innings
8 runs after 5 innings
4. **8U & 6U** will use ten (10) defensive players in the field and four (4) of those players will be positioned on the outfield grass. **12U & 10U** will use nine (9) defensive players in the field and three (3) of those players will be positioned on the outfield grass.
5. **10U** shall use a 5 run limit, and **8U** shall use a 4 run limit for the first 3 innings. When the 5th (**10U**) or 4th (**8U**) run of the first three innings is scored, the umpire will declare that inning completed, and no additional runs will be awarded. There is unlimited scoring potential after the 3rd inning. Any inning after the 3rd inning should be declared as "open".
6. **10U, 8U, & 6U** players must play in the infield for a minimum of one (1) inning per game.
7. **6U** teams do not record wins or losses. There are no standings.
8. **6U's** will bat 5 players or half of their batting order each inning. Then change sides.
9. Pitching restrictions.
 - A. Pitchers will be limited to the following outs per game:
14U - No pitching restrictions
12U - Pitchers may not pitch more than 12 outs per game

10U - Pitchers may not pitch more than 9 outs per game

8U - Pitchers may not pitch more than 6 outs per game for first half of season (Feb-Mar).

Pitchers may not pitch more than 9 outs per game for second half of season (April-May).

B. Pitchers will be limited to the following number of appearances per game

14U - No pitching restrictions

12U - Pitchers are limited to no more than 3 appearances per game

10U - Pitchers are limited to no more than 3 appearances per game

8U - Pitchers are limited to no more than 3 appearances per game (unless removed by an umpire)

10. **8U** Deviations.

First half of the season (February - March)

A. **FIRST HALF** of the season: If a batter receives four (4) balls from the opposing pitcher; the batter's coach shall pitch to the batter. The coach/batter will assume the strike count and continue to pitch to the batter (up to four (4) pitches max). The umpire will rule on each pitch utilizing the strike zone. The batter may hit or strike out; she may not walk. If the maximum 4 pitches are thrown without the batter hitting, batter is called out. This out is recorded as a strike out. If the 4th pitch results in a foul ball, the coach will continue to pitch until the batter strikes out or hits the ball in play. No tee shall be used.

B. During the **FIRST HALF** of the season, each pitcher is limited to no more than 3 appearances per game (unless removed by an umpire) and may not pitch more than **6 outs** per game.

C. If the coach-pitcher is struck by a batted ball, it will be counted as a dead ball and the batter will assume the prior pitch count. All base runners must return to their previous base.

D. **SECOND HALF** of the Season (April-May): If a batter receives four (4) balls from the opposing pitcher, the batter will be awarded first base. Once the bases have become loaded from walks, hits, or HBP, the player/pitcher will continue pitching to the next batter. If the batter is hit by the pitch with the bases loaded, the batter is awarded first base and the run scores. If four (4) balls are delivered from the pitcher, the batter's coach shall pitch to the batter. The coach/batter will assume the strike count and continue to pitch to the batter (up to four (4) pitches max). The umpire will rule on each pitch utilizing the strike zone. The batter may hit or strike out; she may not walk. If the maximum 4 pitches are thrown without the batter hitting, batter is called out. This out is recorded as a strike out. If the 4th pitch results in a foul ball, the coach will continue to pitch until the batter strikes out or hits the ball in play. A batter may strike out against the coach on called strikes. No tee shall be used.

E. During the **SECOND HALF** of the season, each pitcher is limited to no more than 3 appearances per game (unless removed by an umpire) and may not pitch more than **9 outs** per game.

F. 8u Spring League end of year tournament games, player-pitch only, no coach pitch. All pitching limits are in effect for each pitcher (**9 outs per game and 3 appearances per game**). Exception: The tournament games and final championship game format and pitching rules are subject to BOD review and approval for each season.

11. **8U** – If a ball pitched by the opposing pitcher hits the batter, the batter will be awarded first base. If a ball pitched by a coach hits the batter, the batter must continue at bat.

12. **8U** – The coach must pitch the ball from the pitchers mound (30 feet).

6U – The coach must pitch from inside the pitching circle.

13. **6U** – COACH pitched for the entire game. The coach will pitch three (3) pitches per child. If the player does not hit the ball within three (3) pitches, the player will then use a tee until she hits the ball. The coach may allow a player to hit off the batting tee without any pitches being thrown.

14. **10U** and **8U** may steal bases and must avoid a collision with an opposing player.

A. **8U** cannot steal home base on a wild pitch or passed ball. **8U** runners can only steal one base on each passed ball. Overthrows by the catcher do not result in additional bases being awarded to runners. **8U** will not use the dropped third strike rule; players will be called out and cannot advance to first base.

B. **10U** will use the dropped third strike rule, infield fly rule, and may steal bases at will, including home plate.

15. **8U** base runners may not leave the base until the pitched ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
16. **8U** – No bunting or stealing during coach pitch.
17. **6U** teams must have four defensive players on the outfield grass until the ball is hit or a play is made on a base runner.
18. If the ball gets caught in the **BACKSTOP** at any time, it will be considered a Dead Ball. Base runners will be awarded one base.
19. A player who is ejected from the game for a playing rule infraction shall be ejected for the remainder of the game. A player ejected for misconduct will also be suspended from the next regularly scheduled league game.
20. If a player is injured or becomes ill during a game and she cannot continue, an out **will not** be charged for each subsequent at bat. If a player leaves the game for any other reason, an out **will** be charged only the first time the at bat is missed.
21. A player who has a previous injury may inform the umpire prior to the game and will be allowed a pinch runner after she reaches first base. A player injured during the game will be allowed a pinch runner after she reaches first base.
22. **International Tie Break Rule** – At the end of seven innings or time, the “at bat” team will place the last batter of the previous innings at second base. The tiebreak inning will then begin. Each succeeding “at bat” will start as above. The game will continue until the tie is broken. *This applies to playoff tournament games only. Regular season games may end in a tie.*
23. **Short Handed Rule** – Starting game with less than prescribed number.
 - A. **Regular Season** – No outs shall be assessed to teams having vacant spots in the order.
 - B. **End of Season Tourney** – Applies to 8U and above. Only one out, one time, will be declared the first time when a team has vacant spot(s) in the order due to playing shorthanded. It is declared when the first vacant spot is due to bat. An inning may end on this out.