



## 8U (Coach Pitch) Rules

Age Limit: Players must be 8 or under as of May 1.  
Please have birth certificates available if requested.

Rosters can't be changed after the first game.

Score sheets will be maintained by the umpires and must be signed by both managers after the game.

### Rules

1. USSSA Baseball Rules and Regulations apply except where noted below.
2. **All bats must have the USSSA stamp or new USA stamp.**
3. 3 Coaches and 1 scorekeeper allowed in dugout
4. Game Times: Teams shall be ready to play 30 minutes prior to schedule game time.
5. Dugouts are NOT predetermined. First come, first serve.
6. Coin flip determines home team during pool play games. During bracket games the home team will be the team with the better seeding in the tournament.
7. Infield on your dugout side of the infield prior to the game will be allowed.
8. All players must wear baseball caps, shirts, and long pants. No shorts or metal cleats allowed.
9. There will be 10 defensive players allowed on the field. 4 must play in the outfield and only infield in normal positions may be played.
10. Teams have the option of using a (10) player line-up or a continuous lineup of all present uniform players. These lineup options will allow for free defensive rotations. Teams must declare before the game what lineup they are using.
11. If a player is injured or experiences an illness and leaves the game, he is NOT out when his turn at bat comes around. Coaches and umpires should be notified of injured or sick players. Injured or sick players who leave may not reenter the game.
12. If an injury or illness happens before the start of a game leaving a team without 10 players, the coaches can meet with the umpire before the start of the game to discuss how that missing player in the lineup will be handled throughout the game.
13. Teams may play with 9 players. What to do with the 10<sup>th</sup> batter in the order will be decided either before the game if it is known with the coaches and the umpires or as an injury/illness happens.
14. Courtesy runner for pitcher and catcher allowed (and encouraged) anytime. Runner must not be currently in the lineup. For teams using continuous batting, the runner is last official **batted out**.
15. All games will be Six (6) innings with 1:15 time limit. No inning shall begin after 1:15 hours. For this rule an inning begins "immediately" after the last out of the inning has been made. Championship game has no time limit.
16. Tie games in pool play at end of time are a tie. If all innings played and time permits, you will play one extra inning only. If game is tied after one extra inning the game ends in a tie. Bracket play games will play extra innings until a winner is determined.
17. Each Extra inning shall begin with last batted out on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, and 2-1 count on each hitter, and 1 out.
18. Mercy Rule: 15 after 3 innings, 10 after 4 innings, and 8 after 5 innings. 5 max run per inning – other than last inning (no max).
19. In the situation of adverse weather, a game may be stopped. If a game is stopped for any length of time due to adverse weather a complete game shall be innings (3) innings or 2.5 if the home team is ahead. If the game is not complete (i.e less than 3 innings or 2.5 innings if home team ahead), the game shall be suspended and resumed where the game was left.
20. Tie breaker for seeding: 1) head to head if only 2 teams have same record 2) fewest runs allowed 3) runs scored 4) coin toss. Max runs in pool play will be 15 per game. Max runs allowed will be 15 per game– seeding purposes only.
21. Bases are 60ft, Mound 40ft
22. Players designated as pitcher position, must stand within 3 feet of coach during pitch. Coaches must maintain 1 foot inside pitchers circle (12ft around rubber) and must leave field of play once the ball is hit by the batter.
23. 5 pitches per at bat. Bunting is NOT allowed. Umpire discretion of what is a bunt. Batter will have unlimited foul tips on the last pitch. If a batter does not swing on the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch, he will be out (unless ruled a "no" pitch by umpire. Common sense judgement if pitch is excessive out of zone by umpire will be used.

24. No dropped third strike.
25. No infield fly.
26. On a live ball situation (overthrows, balls hit to the outfield, play will only be stopped by the umpire, when **(1)** the lead runner has been stopped **or (2)** an infielder has possession of the ball inside the base path and calls for time, then time can be granted by the umpire. Outfielders can't run the ball into the infield: it must be in possession of an infielder for play to stop.
27. If the umpire feels that the runner was more than halfway when time was granted, the runner is awarded next base. **This can't be argued!**
28. If the umpire feels that the runner was less than halfway when time was granted, the runner must return to the previous base. **This can't be argued!**
29. If a play is made on any base/runner the play will continue.
30. The base runner is out for leaving the base before the ball is hit. Stealing is not allowed.
31. There is a NO mandatory slide rule at any base. If a player does not slide to avoid contact and if it is determined by an umpire that the play is ruled intentional or malicious the player will be ruled out. The umpire will decide if any additional measures should be taken in regards to that player.
32. Home team is official book. Winning team MUST report game results to umpire. Both teams should keep book and check after each inning confirming score.
33. Decisions by tournament director are final.