

8U Division - 2025 Executive Summary of the Rules

The sole purpose for creating this division was to provide a venue for younger players in which they can play and learn the game of softball free from any pressure. The rules in this division were developed to ensure that is what takes place. This Rule set is meant as a ***guideline*** more than hard and fast rules. The coaches can adapt these rules to fit the situation, as long as there is agreement.

1. **The Field:** All games will be played at the back **Doyle** field. (behind the Doyle School on Paul Ave)
2. An **11” Softie** softball will be used.
3. **Games: start at 5:30.** Shooting for 6 innings in length, depending on daylight. No new inning will begin after **7:00** or earlier if it appears that there wont be adequate light to finish the inning (both teams batting) safely.
4. **The Season** is 6 weeks with a 7th week for makeup games if needed. During the season, expect your team to get together at least 3 times/week- 2-3 games and +/-1 practice.
5. **Innings** will be defined as 3 outs or 4 runs.
6. **Coach Pitch** (Weeks 1, 2+3): 6 pitches then if no hit, bring out the Tee.
7. **Calling balls and Strikes-** (coach pitch and/or kid pitch) Beginning Week **4**, Batters can hit, walk or strike out.(batter must choose what to swing for)
8. **Kid pitch w/ Coach Backup** - May begin Week **4** *If a team has a player(s) who demonstrate an ability to pitch hittable pitches* - “Kid pitch” is for highly motivated players who will practice pitching at home. It is encouraged but optional.
9. **No Minimum number of players:** If both teams have less than (6) players, coaches determine if they have enough to play a game. Coaches will try to have a game (blending teams if necessary) so we don’t need to make up the game later.
10. **Fielding Masks:** use is *encouraged* at all IF positions, but *Required* at **P, C and 1B**
11. **Parent Notes:** Between games/practices, an adult or older sibling should play catch with your player at home. Try to do it with some regularity but keep it fun and not long. 5 minutes is enough to start *unless they want* to play longer. The key here is you get them Out there, but let them control how long each session goes.
12. If your daughter is interested in pitching, someone will need to work with her practicing at home between games/practices. It takes a lot of practice to be able to pitch and team practices do not provide adequate time for a player to learn how to pitch. As with playing catch, keep it light and fun.
13. Kids grow up fast and there is an old softball saying that you will never be as close to your daughter as you are when you are 20 ft apart playing catch!