

12 and Under League Rules

The rules of USA Softball will be followed with the following exceptions:

Our primary objective is to create an environment in which the participants have fun, learn good sportsmanship, & develop softball skills. **Coaches are responsible for ensuring that this objective is met and for the conduct of their players, parents & fans. The use of tobacco, alcohol or any other controlled substance by an umpire, coach or other volunteer during a softball game is prohibited.**

1. This is a physical sport & injury may result.
2. Play with 12" yellow optic/red stitching USA Softball. 375 lbs .470 core.
3. All games start at 6:15 p.m.
4. All games will be doubleheaders.
5. **75-minute time limit**, when time runs out you will play out the inning.
6. Umpires will be provided; all decisions made by the umpires are final.
7. **Zero Tolerance for arguing with any umpire. Coach or fan will be removed.**
8. Home team will be determined by a coin flip 5 minutes prior to the game's start.
9. **7 run rule per inning**. This includes last inning and games can end in a tie.
10. Uniform shirts must be worn & tucked in. No jewelry is allowed.
11. 40' pitching rubber, 60' base path.
12. Catchers must wear a mask, chest protector & shin guards.
13. All batters & base runners will wear batting helmets with chinstraps & facemasks.
14. Please have the catcher ready early to keep the game moving.
15. **All players bat**. Late arriving players will be added to the end of the line-up with no penalty.
16. All players are required to play 2 full innings per game.
17. Batters will be allowed to advance to first base after being hit by a pitch.
18. **Dropped third strike rule is in effect if 1st base is not occupied.**
19. **Stealing is allowed**. Runners may lead off after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. A play can be made on the runner leading off.
20. **Runners are encouraged to slide at home or any other base, if a play is being made there. If the runner chooses not to slide she may be called out.**
21. 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.
22. **Run rule limit – 12 after 3 innings, 8 after 5 innings (Mercy Rule).**
23. **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.**
24. Anyone under the age of 18 warming up a pitcher or being a base-coach must wear a helmet.
25. The infield should consist of a catcher, pitcher, a shortstop & three basemen.
26. The outfield will have 3 players. The outfielders may not set up in the infield. Coaches may not be in the field to help instruct their defensive players.
27. Open substitution. All players bat, batting order always stays the same, players can substitute to different defensive positions without notifying the umpire or other team.

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28. PITCHING – Pitchers must have at least one foot on the rubber. Pitchers can start with both feet on the rubber or one foot on the rubber and one off. If you start with both feet on the rubber the pitcher can step back with one foot and then stride forward. If they start with one foot and one foot off this is already considered the step back rule and the pitcher must stride forward.
29. 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.
30. All players must play a minimum of 2 complete innings.
31. The player up to bat & the on-deck player are the only two people that are allowed to swing the bat.
32. Players who are not batting or running bases should be seated on their bench. **Please do not allow players to sit on the back of the benches or hang on the fence.**
33. Games must stop if there is lightning. However, games will be played in the rain as long as it is just sprinkling.
34. **Each team is responsible for cleaning out their dugout.**