

Interlock Baseball and Softball Ground Rules – Spring 2018

Rules that apply to all leagues

- Unless otherwise noted Babe Ruth rules apply
- Last recorded batter/out can run for the catcher with two outs in an inning, no other special base runners
- Home team supplies game balls
- Both teams must play the entire game through to completion. Teams cannot leave a game early.
- **Bats:** USA Baseball marking required for baseball. 15U may use either USA Bat or BBCOR .50. Softball bats must be marked “Official Softball Bat” or “Official Fastpitch Bat.”
Bat rules are listed at: www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx
- No jewelry, **metal cleats (exception is 15U baseball AND 16U softball)**
- Helmet with ear flaps worn on field at all times while on offense
- Mercy rule is 20 after 2, 15 after 3, 10 after 4
- Warming up catchers – players must wear helmet. Coaches must wear masks if your league is using Babe Ruth offering insurance.
- Umpires will enforce quick warm ups to speed up play
- 12U and older, 2 umpires are required. 10U and younger, 1 umpire is required.
- During regular season, ALL games can end in tie. The game end is based on time limit.
- **Intentional walks for baseball ONLY do not require pitches be thrown. Coach instructs plate umpire.**
- **Intentional walks for softball, pitches must be thrown.**

BASEBALL

8U Baseball

- Bases at 60 feet.
- AB rule: 5 pitches per hitter or 3 strikes, whichever happens first. Third strike foul rules apply. If fifth pitch is fouled, at bat continues.
- Power setting: Start at 6, move to 7 on 4/2/2018, move to 8 on 4/23/2018
- Bunts are allowed beginning on 4/16/2018
- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams MUST bat the lineup
- One base on an overthrow. (Not automatic, player can still be thrown out taking the extra base)
- No dropped third strike
- No infield fly
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can play 4 outfielders. Team CANNOT play 5 infielders. Only 1 pitchers helper.

10U Baseball

- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitutions
- No dropped third strike
- No infield fly
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- UMPIRES: Slightly expand strike zone to encourage swinging
- Balks: If a pitcher is intentionally being deceiving, it is the umpire's discretion.
- Mound conferences limited to baseball rules

12U Baseball

- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitutions
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly rule is enforced
- Open bases apply, lead offs
- No new inning after 105 minutes or 6 innings
- UMPIRES: Slightly expand strike zone to encourage swinging
- Balks rule is enforced. First balk is a warning by the umpire. Subsequent balks are enforced at the umpire's discretion.
- Mound conferences limited to baseball rules

15U BB

- 7 runs/inning run rule
- Real Baseball Rules apply
- Teams are not required to bat the lineup. If they do bat the lineup, they can make free defensive substitutions
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly rule is enforced
- Open bases apply, lead offs
- No new inning after 120 minutes or 7 innings
- Balks rule is enforced. Balks are enforced at the umpires' discretion.
- Mound conferences limited to baseball rules
- Metal cleats are allowed

SOFTBALL

8U SB

- Bases at 60 feet.
- 6 foot radius foul arch in front of plate
- AB rule: 5 pitches per hitter or 3 strikes, whichever happens first. Third strike foul rules apply. If fifth pitch is fouled, at bat continues.
- Power setting: Start at 6, move to 7 on 4/2/2018, move to 8 on 4/23/2018
- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams MUST bat the lineup.
- One base on an overthrow.
- No slap bunting.
- Bunts are allowed beginning on 4/16/2018
- No dropped third strike
- No infield fly
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can play 4 outfielders. Team CANNOT play 5 infielders. Only 1 pitchers' helper.
- Pitchers helper must have one foot in the pitcher's circle

10U SB

- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitutions
- No dropped third strike
- No infield fly
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can only play 3 outfielders.
- UMPIRES: Slightly expand strike zone to encourage swinging
- Balks/Illegal Pitch: If a pitchers is intentionally being deceiving, it is the umpires' discretion.
- Mound conferences limited to softball rules

12U SB

- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitutions
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly is enforced
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can only play 3 outfielders
- Balks/Illegal Pitch rules apply
- Mound conferences limited to softball rules

16U SB

- 7 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are not required to bat the lineup. If they do bat the lineup, they can make free defensive substitutions
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly is enforced
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can only play 3 outfielders
- Balks/Illegal Pitch rules apply
- Mound conferences limited to softball rules
- Metal cleats are allowed