

## 8U Softball By Laws

1. Standard Babe Ruth Softball rules will be followed with the following exceptions or points of emphasis:
2. All Players in good standing will be listed in the batting line up and will bat in that order. Good standing shall mean faithful attendance at practices and games unless the manager excuses the absence in advance.
3. All defensive players must be even with the Coach-Pitcher or farther back. No defensive player, except the catcher, can be closer to the batter than the Coach-Pitcher or pitching machine used to deliver the softball.
4. All players that are present at the start of a contest shall be required to play at a minimum, two innings defensively and have at the very minimum, one at bat. Should a player not be afforded these opportunities in a single contest, provided they were present at the beginning of the contest, they shall start the following game they are in attendance for and must still fulfill the 2 defensive, 1 offensive requirement.
5. Once the pitcher has possession of the ball, inside the batters circle, all play is halted. Any runner beyond the halfway to the next base shall be awarded that base, alternatively, any player who has not reached the halfway must return to the prior base.
6. Nine (9) players may play in the field at one time, but no less than six (6) are required to start and continue to play in a game.
7. A team may implement the option of listing all present players in the batting order and batting through the lineup.
8. All players shall bat in order whether playing in the field or not. Any player who must leave the game will NOT be called out each time she would have been at bat.
9. If a batter cannot bat because of injury, she will NOT be called out each time she is to be up to bat. An injured player may re-enter the game with the exception of possible head injury, safety of the player is top priority.
10. Any player arriving after her turn at bat can immediately be inserted at the end of the lineup and can take a position on the field.
11. Free substitutions are allowed defensively at any time.
12. No new inning may be started after 1 hour and 30 minutes from the actual game start time. The home team shall be responsible for declaring official start time of the game.
13. Incomplete games (rain, etc.) considered suspended are picked up where they left off.
14. Regular season games may end in a tie if time has expired at the end of the inning.

15. Extra innings may be started to break a tie if time has not expired. ITB rules shall apply.
16. A completed game is defined as four (4) innings of play (3 ½ if the home team is ahead) or expiration of the time limit prior to the start of the next inning, whichever occurs first.
17. The courtesy rule can be used for the catcher. The courtesy runner will be the batter who made the last out.
18. Home plate conference is held five (5) minutes before the beginning of every game.
19. League approved 11-inch game ball will be provided to the teams. The home team will provide a new ball; the visiting team a backup ball. If no new balls are available, the best available used balls from the teams will be used.
20. League provided batting helmets will be equipped with a face mask. Players choosing to use a personal batting helmet are required to use a face mask.
21. Base path length will be 60 feet.
22. A ten (10) run, Run-Ahead rule is in effect after the team with the lower score bats four (4) times.
23. A five (5) run scoring limit per inning for each team will be enforced through four (4) innings. Unlimited runs will occur from the start of the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) inning until the end of the game.
24. Sliding is optional.
25. A maximum of six (6) players can be positioned in the infield prior to the pitch. A player may play next to a Coach-Player in the pitching circle.
26. Bunting IS allowed in this division.
27. Base stealing is NOT allowed in this division.
28. The infield fly rule is NOT in effect in this division.
29. Dropped third strike rule does NOT apply in this division.
30. Up to two (2) coaches are authorized to be on the playing field on the outfield grass when their team is in the field. The coach will not interfere with either a player or a ball that is in play. Interference by a coach in the field will result in all runners/batter being declared safe and advancing at least one base. No coach can physically move a defensive player while the ball is in play. No coach can physically move an offensive player while the ball is in play.

31. The base runner is allowed to advance one base (maximum) per overthrow. However, the runner is not automatically awarded the next base; she is advancing at her own risk of being put out at the following base. If another overthrow situation ensues, the runner is allowed to advance one more base, again, at the risk of being put out. \*Definition of Overthrow\*: attempted play from the field with the ball to get the base runner out while the ball stays in live territory, (if ball enters dead ball territory from the first play, there is a one base award).

32. Coaches will pitch to their own team using the pitching machine and there will be no walks and no non swinging strikes will be called. The batter must swing and miss at the ball to get a strike call, or foul a ball off to get a strike call. A maximum of five (5) pitches will be allowed for each batter. A batter taking five (5) pitches without a hit will be called out, but she cannot strike out at the end of her bat on a foul ball.

33. If a batted ball hits the pitching machine or its operator, the ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base; only runners who are forced will be advanced.

34. If the designated coach that is operating the machine catches a hit batted ball, the ball is dead. All runners and the batter return and the pitch shall be repeated.

35. Coaches/managers shall conduct themselves in accordance with the Coaches Conduct Guidelines they read, agreed to, and signed prior to the start of the season. Failure to do so shall result in disciplinary action as deemed fit by the softball commissioner and or league president.

36. Coaches/managers shall be responsible for controlling the language and conduct of his/her players and spectators. Failure to attempt to control disruptive spectators may result in forfeiture to the opposing team. Should the conduct of both teams (this is to include but is not limited to: Coaches/Managers, Players, Parents & Spectators), during a game, become unruly; the game shall immediately end and both teams forfeit.

37. Only Babe Ruth League certified and Summit Point League approved managers/coaches shall be allowed on the field or in a dugout during an official league contest.