

## 2023 House Softball Rules

1. All coaches and umpires will adhere to rules for each division
2. Head Coaches must keep their assistant coaches and parents under control. Only the Head Coach should address the umpire, per the code of conduct that everyone has agreed to when registering
3. Game Information:

	8U	10U	12U
<b>Mound</b>	Coach Pitch @ 35 Ft	35 feet	40 feet
<b>Innings</b>	6	6	7
<b>In-Field Fly</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>Stealing</b>	No	Yes (*)	Yes (**)
<b>Lead Off</b>	No	No	Yes (**)
<b>Strike/Ball Count</b>	See rule below	See pitching modification rule below.	Start at 0 - 0
<b>Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> Strike</b>	Out	Out	Out
<b>Bunting</b>	Not Allowed	Allowed (+)	Allowed (+)
<b>Ball</b>	11" softies	11"	12"

\* *Stealing is permitted once the ball crosses the plate. Limit of 3 per inning. A passed ball counts as a steal. A double steal counts as 1. A runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> cannot advance to home unless there is a ball put in play, bases loaded walk, or bases loaded and batter is hit by pitch*

\*\* *Stealing/lead offs are allowed after the pitcher releases the ball to home. Limit of 3 per inning. A passed ball counts as a steal. A double steal counts as 1. A runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> cannot advance to home unless there is a ball put in play, bases loaded walk, or bases loaded and batter is hit by pitch*

+ *No Fake or Swinging Bunts. A batter will be called out for fake bunting.*

- a. Game time is first pitch. Umpire is the official timekeeper.
- b. All bases shall be 60 feet, 84-10.25 Ft to 2<sup>nd</sup>
- c. Scoring Limit – 5 runs per inning, unlimited in called last inning only
- d. Mercy Rule – 10U: 15 runs after three innings, 10 runs after four innings, 8 runs after five innings 12U: 15 runs after four innings, 10 runs after five innings, 8 runs after six innings
- e. Complete game is 4 Innings (3.5 if Home team is winning) constitutes a complete game.
- f. Field Time: players should play 2 Innings by the 4<sup>th</sup>. Minimum 3 innings total
- g. Game Time Limit – The start of the last inning will be called by the umpire and agreed to by both coaches at approximately 90 minutes after the first pitch. The goal is to complete a game within 2 hours after first pitch.
- h. Lightning-if spotted by the umpire, game will be delayed 15 minutes and clock will restart at each successive strike of lightning.
4. Uniforms:
  - a. Must use uniform provided by league, with jerseys tucked in. No metal spikes. No Jewelry to be worn at any level.
  - b. All players are required to wear a face mask at all infield positions during practice and games.
5. Batting:
  - a. Bat Rule – Barrel Size 2.25" Max, No weight drop limit
  - b. When bunting a foul ball on 3<sup>rd</sup> strike results in batter being called out (8U doesn't apply)
  - c. All batters must wear helmet with mask/cage
  - d. The batter shall immediately drop the bat upon making contact and running to the base. The first instance of throwing the bat will get one warning. Second occurrence will result in the batter being called out. Two separate players throwing the bat will result in a team warning. A third thrown bat will result in an out. All thrown bat calls are at the discretion of the umpire.
6. Pitching:
  - a. A pitcher is to be removed from the game if 3 batters are hit by a pitch.
  - b. Pitching limit is 3 innings per 6 inning game (do not have to be consecutive), extra innings are considered a new game
7. Runners must slide or give themselves up to avoid collision with fielder. **All base runners can be called out for failing to avoid contact.**
8. Coaches must keep their parents under control **per the code of conduct that everyone has agreed to when registering**
9. Coaches are responsible for their own make-ups due to schedule conflicts.
10. Players having to leave early may do so without penalty to team. Must notify other coach before game or as soon as possible

**10U Base running:** Base to base movement on batted balls unless the batted ball reaches the outfield. Maximum of 2B hit on balls that do not reach the outfield. Runners may continue to advance bases until the ball is returned to the infield. A runner may take one extra base on an overthrow (in jeopardy). Play is to be called dead by the umpire once the ball is under control of an infielder within the baselines.

### 10U Pitching Modification:

- 3 inning max per pitcher per game. A pitch to 1 batter in an inning counts as a complete inning. 1 mound visit per inning. Pitchers can be re-inserted so long as they do not exceed 3 innings. HBP gets 1B. 5 HBP per game, pitcher must be removed.
- Batters will begin with a 0-0 count, 3 strikes is a strikeout, 4 balls is not a walk. HBP gets 1B, though HBP is at the discretion of the umpire and may be called a ball if the batter makes no attempt to avoid the pitch.
- If a pitcher pitches 4 balls in an at-bat, it is not a walk, the batter's coach will complete the at-bat for the pitcher with called balls and strikes. The count will continue from the change from the player to coach pitcher. If the batter has not either put the ball in play or struck out after a maximum of 3 hittable coach pitches, then she is out except on a foul. Coach pitches within 5' of the mound, in umpire's sole discretion.

### 8U-Coach Pitch

- Coach pitches to their own batters
- 5 total swings/pitches (unless 5th pitch is fouled off, then batter gets another pitch, no strikeouts), No walks, Hit off a Batting Tee after swings/pitches
- Defensive team may have 10 players in field and defensive coaches may be in the outfield
- 2B maximum hit; no advancement on overthrows
- If a player is hit by pitch, the pitch is counted towards the 5 pitches and player is not awarded first base