8U USA Softball Rules 2026

OUTSIDE OF THESE RULES ALL OTHER USA RULES WILL BE IN EFFECT

a) All games 60 minutes finish the inning

b) 10 batters or until the defense records three - (3) outs, whichever occurs first. The batting order shall be a revolving batting order consisting of ten - (10), eleven - (11) with 1 EP, twelve - (12) batters with 2 EPs, or you may bat your entire roster. No matter the number of batters, you must maintain the integrity of the batting line up. When batting the entire roster, you have free defensive substitution. (Regular Season bat entire line-up).

c) Each batter will get 5 pitches, or 3 strikes. If the Batter fouls the 5th pitch, she will get another pitch until she hits the ball in fair territory or swings and misses the pitch. There are no intentional walks. - 7 runs per half inning limit to help the development of pitchers.

d) If a team does not have 10 players present, the 10th batting position will be an out every time the 10th batting position should come up to bat. If the 9th batter is the 3rd out of the inning, the next inning will start with one out. You cannot play with less than 9 players.

- DURING THE REGULAR SEASON IF THIS HAPPENS YOU WILL NOT TAKE AN OUT.

e) No stealing. If a player leaves the base before the ball reaches home plate, she will be called out.

f) A vertical line will be drawn 30 feet from home plate towards 1st base and from home plate towards 3rd base. No defensive player may play in front of this line before the ball is hit.

g) The defensive team shall have no more than 6 infielders. Up to four (4) players shall be positioned in the outfield at least 10 feet behind the baselines until the ball is batted. Only 10 players will play on defense at one time.

h) A 11" optic yellow leather softball (375# Compression, .47 core) will be used.

i) The player-pitcher shall stand with both feet inside the eight-foot radius circle even with or behind (but not in front) of the pitcher's plate (40 feet). The circle will be centered at 40' with a safety line at 40'. The defensive pitcher must be in the circle and behind the 40' line, or at least 10' directly behind second base before the Coach Pitcher pitches.

j) Mercy Rule – 22 after the 3rd inning, 15 after the 4th inning, 8 after the 5th inning.

- If there is 5/10 min left in the game they will play it out during the regular season DON'T CALL THE BALL GAME LET THEM PLAY.

k) The umpire shall call time when the defensive player has possession of the ball in front of the lead runner, or all play has stopped.

l) The coach pitcher must make every effort not to interfere with the defensive team. This includes, but not limited to, avoiding interfering with any ball put into play by either being hit by a batter or thrown by a defensive player. They should leave the field when the ball is in play, if they can do so without interfering with the play.

m) In the umpire's judgment if the Coach Pitcher interferes either verbally or physically with the play: 1st offense, it will be a dead ball and the lead runner will be called out, after that it will be a dead ball and the lead runner will be out and the coach ejected.

n) A catcher will be in full catcher's gear. The catcher shall wear a NOCSAE approved head protector (with dual earflaps), an approved mask with throat protector, a body chest protector and shin guards. If a hockey style NOCSAE approved catchers' helmet is used, a separate throat protector is not needed.

o) If a player catcher starts off from a squatted position in the catcher's box and a foul ball is caught it is an OUT.

p) All base runners must return to the last base they legally occupied. If, in the judgment of the umpire, a coach pitcher unintentionally interfered with the play then the ball is ruled dead, and the pitch replayed. NOTE: The coach pitcher shall only field the ball when it is being thrown to him/her in order to put the ball back in play.

q) The Coach Pitcher may talk to the batter until he/she releases the ball. If the Coach Pitcher talks to the batter after he/she releases the ball, then there will be a dead ball-strike called. On the 2nd offense the Coach will be removed from the pitching circle and another pitcher will be put in his/her place.

r) Coach Pitchers will pitch from 35 ft. with one (1) foot in contact with the rubber or pitching line. The pitching circle will have a 40 ft. center radius.

s) Bases will be 60' length in distance.

t) The defensive team may have two coaches on the field, one in left field foul territory and the second one in right field foul territory. These coaches must remain in foul territory in the outfield. A warning by the umpire will be given to any coach who during a pitch is in the playing field.

u) NO BUNTING (a drag BUNT is a BUNT). Slapping is NOT a BUNT.

v) NO SLASHING AND NO SLAPPING.

w) No DP/Flex allowed

x) No intentional walks