

8U Supplemental Rules—2013

Changes from 2012 are highlighted.

The 8U league is an instructional league and therefore should be played to benefit the development of all of its participants.

Base Running Policies: A ball hit to the infield is a single unless an out is recorded. We want fielders to make the attempt to get the base runners out. No base runner should keep running when a ball is thrown to the base just as she is arriving.

Balls Hit Beyond the Infielders: For balls that are hit beyond the infield, base runners may continue to advance until either a play is made to any base (regardless of whether a runner is at that base), or until the ball enters the infield after being thrown in by a fielder (regardless of whether that throw is caught).

Once the ball enters the infield, time shall be called and runners must stop advancing. When time is called, runners that are halfway or more to a base may proceed to that base (unless they are behind a leading runner who cannot proceed). Runners less than half way to the next base must return to the previous base. (Exception—If a defensive throw from the outfield results in a potential play being made on a baserunner, time will not be called until that play is completed. In this situation, runners still may not advance, but they remain at risk of being tagged out until they reach or return to a base and time is called.)

Please be fair. Umpires will not always be able to track all runners.

Ball Thrown to Coach-Pitcher: Balls thrown from beyond the infield baselines may be stopped by the Coach-Pitcher, but should be stopped by one of the fielders. Coaches, please teach the girls to throw outfield balls to their own infielders to stop play.

Rotation of Players:

- 1.) During league play, no player may play the same position for more than 2 innings in a game. (Coaches are encouraged, but not required, to not have any player play the same position more than 1 inning in a game.)
- 2.) During league and tournament play, all players shall play an equal amount of time in the field. No player shall sit out their 2nd inning until all players on their team have sat one inning, and so on to the end of the game.
- 3.) **Infield positions--** *For the purposes of this rule, Catcher does not count as an infield position.* During league play, each player must play one inning in an infield position before any player plays a second inning in the infield, and so on to the end of the game.

Violations of player rotation rules should be reported to the league within 24 hours of the game, and may result in game forfeiture. Reasonable exceptions to the rotation rules will be allowed for reasons such as injuries, player absences, disciplinary issues, honest substitution errors, etc. However, coaches may not bench a player for quality of play, or deviate from player rotation rules in an attempt to gain competitive advantage.

Coaches are encouraged to regularly rotate all players through all ten defensive positions over the season during league play, to maximize their exposure to the positions.

Exceptions to all player rotation rules are allowed if certain positions present safety issues for some players.

Umpires: During league play, each team will furnish one Umpire, and they will rotate position between home plate and the infield each half inning. The Umpire from the defensive team will umpire behind home plate during each at bat. (Coaches and umpires may mutually agree on other umpiring arrangements prior to each game.) Coaches in the outfield and Coach-Pitchers may assist the umpires in any appropriate way, but final calls rest with the umpires in all situations.

Coaches in the outfield: One Coach is allowed in the outfield during league play. During the tournament no coaches are allowed in the outfield.

Coach- Pitchers: All coach pitchers must wear a glove. If the coach-pitcher is the first person to make contact (intentionally or unintentionally) with a batted ball, the ball is dead, and the play is ruled "no pitch". Baserunners must return to their original bases, and the pitch will not be counted against the batter's six-pitch limit.

Both coach-pitchers and defensive coaches in the outfield must make an effort to get out of the way of batted balls, moving players (both fielders and baserunners), and potential defensive throws. While it is understood that it is not always possible to get out of the way of all plays, intentionally remaining stationary as a standard approach to these situations is not allowed.

Pitching Arc: Coach-pitched pitches should be delivered at moderate speed, underhand (from below the hip) with a perceptible arc at least as high as the batter's head, before the ball reaches home plate.

Batting: Three-strikes or not putting the ball in play after 6 pitches constitutes an out. A courtesy foul on the third strike will be used if less than 6 pitches thrown, and a player can foul off up to 5 pitches. There will be no walks. A batter must hit the ball to advance to first base.

Infield Fly Rule: The Infield Fly Rule will NOT be in use in the 8U division.

Positioning of Fielders: The First, Second, Shortstop and Third base players can not be more than five feet in front of the base line when the ball is pitched. If runners are on base, the basemen and shortstop should not stand in the baseline unless said player is fielding or is in possession of the ball. All four outfielders must be at least ten feet behind the baseline at the start of each play.

Time Limit and game length: League games will start at 6:30. Prior to the mid-season tournament, no new inning can be started after 7:35. (The spirit of the rule is to complete games by 7:45.) After the mid-season tournament, no new inning can be started after 8:00. Games will be seven innings in length, unless the time limits above result in them being shortened. Extra innings to break ties will only be allowed if they can be played within the time constraints listed. Otherwise, ties will stand.

Behavior: Participants and fans should be reminded that only cheering is allowed. All families should be given the opportunity to umpire. They will learn very quickly how hard a job it is, and they will realize that some calls are very hard to see exactly what did happen. Umpires may be challenged only by a coach of a team, and that should be done by calling time-out. The head coach from each team shall then meet with both umpires. If after consideration has been given and both umpires have discussed the challenge, they may change the call or let it stand. That is then the end of the challenge. We do not want or condone negative yelling by anyone toward players, coaches or umpires.

Warm-up swings: Warm-up swings by on-deck batters are to be done only in designated areas, away from the main bench areas. Only one player is allowed to be taking warm-up swings at a time.

Dugouts: Only coaches, assistant coaches, players, and coach-designated parent assistants are allowed in the dugout/bench area. No other spectators (siblings, friends, pets, etc.) will be allowed in the area. Coaches should be aware of who should/should not be in the dugout and ask all non-players/coaches to return to the designated spectator areas before play is resumed.