

Junior Division Rules

Emphasis will be placed upon the instructional aspects of the game (sportsmanship, rules and technique). Any player using profanity or unsportsmanlike conduct will be warned by her manager, coach, or the umpire. A second time...she must be removed from the game. If this problem continues, the league director must be notified and the player may face suspension.

Babe Ruth Softball rules for fast-pitch softball will be followed, modified by the league and the following:

The defensive team may consist of ten players. The minimum team size is eight players. Managers that knowingly expect to field less than 8 players must contact the division director to arrange for "Substitute Players" to avoid forfeiting the game. "Substitute Players" will only be allowed to supplement the roster to the point where a team has enough players to play the game. "Substitute Players" are only allowed to play the outfield positions (unless the number of substitute players exceeds four) and will be placed at the bottom of the batting order. A substitute pitcher will **only** be allowed upon approval of opposing manager, and with the consent of the division director, and when the team has absolutely no pitchers the day of the game. The substitute pitcher cannot be her team's #1 pitcher. "Substitute Players" will continue to play the entire game should additional players arrive late. These players will play less innings than those available at the beginning of the game.

All batting helmets **MUST** have a face mask and chin strap.

Placement of defensive players will consist of a Catcher, 5 infielders (Pitcher, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and SS), and up to 4 Outfielders. Outfielders must remain on the grass area of the outfield until the ball reaches the plate.

The pitching distance will be 40 feet. A 12-inch softball will be used. Intentional walks are prohibited. A pitcher may in one week pitch a maximum of 10 innings (or fractions of innings, one pitch in any inning counts as an entire inning). All innings pitched in a game must be consecutive. A week is defined as Monday through Sunday. A pitcher cannot go more than 4 innings in a game.

Exception: If a 4th game is played in one week; four additional innings may be pitched by that pitcher. If a pitcher pitches more than 10 innings in a 3-game week, the game in which the infraction takes place will be forfeited to the opposing team regardless of the score. Each manager must write down in his/her score book the name of the opposing pitchers and how many innings that they pitched. This information must also be relayed to the division director after each game. The managers will sign each other's score book to acknowledge that the others book is correct. Failure to do so may result in awarding a protested game to the opponent.

Pitcher must wear a face mask.

A batter may advance on a dropped third strike except when there are less than two outs and first base is occupied. If there is a runner on second and/or third base at the time, that runner may advance at their own risk.

Batting order will be on a "round robin" basis and include all players present. Players arriving after play has started will be added to the bottom of the batting order.

The game will be 6 innings long. An official game is four innings. No inning may start after 1 hour 45 minutes. A half inning is described as follows: A maximum of 5 runs may be scored in a half inning. When 5 runs are scored, the half inning is over.

Last inning is unlimited runs.....

Mercy Rule: If one team is winning by 12 runs or more after 4 complete innings, the game is over.

Stealing or leading off base is not permitted until the ball crosses home plate. Base runners in violation will be declared out.

A Manager or Coach may only cross the first/third base lines into the field of play once per inning without being penalized. If the Manager or Coach crosses a second time in the same inning, his/her pitcher must be removed from the mound. The pitcher may play another position but she cannot return to the mound for the rest of that game. That will also be considered an entire inning pitched by that pitcher even if only one pitch was thrown.

Helmets coming off: If the same base runner's helmet comes off twice in one game, it is totally up to the umpire to determine whether it was intentional or not. If intentional, the Umpire may then call that base runner out. Chin straps will be provided and **MUST** be worn and used.

Hit by Pitch: If a pitcher hits 3 batters, she must be removed from the mound. If a pitcher hits a batter but the Umpire has determined that the batter did not make an attempt to avoid getting hit, then the Umpire may call that pitch a strike (or call that batter out). In that instance, that batter **WILL NOT** be considered hit by that particular pitch.

Illegal pitching: The umpires should be calling illegal pitches because it's to the pitcher's advantage to break out of bad habits before advancing to higher divisions.

Players must wear full uniforms assigned by the league in order to be eligible to play. Any player "out of Uniform" must be removed from the playing field. Any player wearing a travel team's uniform will be considered "Out of Uniform". No jewelry whatsoever is allowed to be worn during the game.

Exception: School team uniforms. Players may play in school uniforms only if coming directly from a school game.

All girls available at the beginning of the game must play 3 innings in the field.

Report ALL safety issues to Division Director and President.

Managers and coaches please remember these young ladies. We are here to teach and have fun. Winning is secondary. Managers or coaches displaying inappropriate behavior with players, parents, peers, or umpires will be subject to reprimand and dismissal.

Managers and Coaches are also responsible for the conduct of their parents. Problems will result in their removal from the field. Please contact the Division Director and President regarding any issues.

Thank you for your cooperation.