

# Coach Pitch/8U Division Rules

## ALL GAMES WILL BE PLAYED WITH AN 11" SOFTEE SOFTBALL

- A coach of the team that is batting will pitch.
- Each batter will be pitched a maximum of 6 pitches. If still at the plate after the 6th pitch has been thrown, the batter will be declared out. Balls and strikes are not called, only the number of pitches thrown will be counted. A batter can strike out swinging.
- A safely hit ball to the infield will allow both the batter and all base runners to advance one base with the liability of being put out.
- A safely hit ball to the outfield, whether in the air, on the ground, or after being touched by a defensive player (ball must reach the outfield grass) allows both the batter and all base runners to advance 2 bases with the liability of being put out.
- A chalk line will be installed in the outfield, 125 ft from home plate. If a ball is hit past this line in the air, on the ground, or after being touched by a defensive player, the batter and all base runners will be allowed to advance as many bases as they want to with the liability of being put out. At fields with fences of 125 feet or less, any ball hit off the fence will have the same effect. A ball that bounces over the fence will be a ground rule double.
- A defensive player will occupy the pitcher's position on either side of the adult pitcher. Player must stay inside (both feet) the pitchers circle until the ball is hit.
- Any batted ball touching the adult pitcher will constitute play being halted and no pitch being declared. The batter will return to the plate and resume the previous count, all base runners will return to the bases previously occupied. The adult pitcher must immediately attempt to get out of the way of defensive players once the ball has been pitched, and cannot impede a player from making a catch or throw. If in the umpire's discretion it is believed that the adult pitcher has violated this rule, the batter will be called out and all base runners returned to the base that they previously occupied.
- Two coaches are allowed to be on the field to provide instruction when his/her team is on defense, one in the outfield, and one behind the infielders. The coach in the outfield will also help monitor the chalk line. The coach in the infield must position him/herself behind the infielders. If a coach that is on the field with the defensive team is struck by a batted ball, the batter and all base runners will be awarded (2) bases.
- Games will be 90 minutes in length, no new inning will begin after 90 minutes
- A maximum of 4 runs can be scored in all innings.
- For obvious reasons, there will be no infield fly rule in this division.
- The umpire will make all calls except for those involving whether or not a ball has passed the chalk line that is installed in the outfield. One coach from each team will monitor the chalk line. If the ball passes the line, the coach raises his/her hand above his/

her head. If there is a difference of opinion as to whether or not the ball crossed past the line, the home plate umpire will make the call.

- A continuous batting order is to be used (all players bat). Should a player be unable to take her turn at bat for any reason, proceed to the next scheduled batter without penalty. The player that was unable to take her turn at bat is out of the lineup, and cannot return to that game. Free defensive substitutions.
- All players must play a minimum of 2 innings on defense.
- Pitching distance will be 30 feet for this division. Base distance will be 50 ft
- 10 defensive players in the field, 6 in the infield, 4 in the outfield. The four outfielders do not necessarily need to be on the outfield grass in order to be considered an outfielder; however they must play behind the infielders, not along side of them. An outfielder cannot make a play in the infield unless the play is unassisted, (i.e. an outfielder cannot play over the second base bag and accept throws)
- A game may begin or finish with one less player than is required to start, (8). Failure to have the required number of players to start or continue a game will result in a forfeit. If a game is started with eight players, and the 9th player arrives late, this player can immediately be inserted in the game and will be placed last in the batting order.
- There will be no tag up and advance on a pop fly caught by an infielder. A pop up or fly ball must be caught behind the infielders, by an outfielder in order for a runner to tag up and advance.
- Team cheers will be positive in nature and should be designed to rally the team that is doing the cheering, not to razz the opponent.
- The sole purpose for creating this division was to provide a venue for younger players in which they can play and learn the game of softball free from any undo pressures placed upon them. The rules in this division were developed to ensure that is what takes place. With that being said, on a batted ball that goes past the 125 Ft line, I do not want to see a third base coach sending his/her runners when the ball is back into the infield and in possession of a fielder. This is not about taking advantage of young and developing players in order to score a run, it is about teaching them the fundamentals of the game. If a coach tried to advance that runner in the next age division, she would be thrown out at home plate