



## 2024 Softball 8U Rules of Play

### Game Length:

1. 6 Inning Maximum
2. No new inning after 1 hr 30 mins. Drop dead at 1 hr 45 mins.
3. 5 run max allowed per batting team, each inning. Applies to all innings. No continuation of play.

### Pitching:

1. Player pitching begins on Game 1. Upon called Ball 4, the batting team's coach assumes pitching responsibilities at the prevailing pitch count (strike count carries over to coach's assumption of pitching count).
2. No Walks
3. Size 11 softball used
4. Game ball must be new and unopened at start of game.
5. Batter begins plate appearance with a count of 0-0.
6. Pitcher may not pitch more than 2 consecutive innings.
7. Pitcher may not re-enter the game as a pitcher, in later innings.
8. Pitching facemask optional.
9. Head coach may call for time to speak with pitcher once. On second call for time to speak with pitcher, pitcher must be replaced.
  - If injury concern, coach can visit pitcher without counting towards official visit (ex – ball hit back up middle, coach checks on player to ensure they are not hurt)

### Batters/Runners:

1. USA Little League does not have bat stipulations on Softball. Therefore, all composite and aluminum bats are allowed. No wooden or cork bats allowed.
2. Stealing is only allowed once the ball hits the backstop. One base per steal. No advancing on overthrows.
3. Stealing of home is prohibited.
3. Runners can leave base upon ball reaching the batter.
4. Runner one base advancement on an overthrow (except when stealing)
5. Batted ball must travel at least 10 feet. No bunting.
6. All batters and runners wear helmets.
7. No on deck hitters. All players not batting, in dugout.
8. Runners cannot advance further once position players attempt a throw to the pitcher, naturally ending the current play. Pitcher does not need to catch the ball for play to be declared over & dead.

### Defense:

1. 10 players Max, on defense (P, C, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, LF, LC, RC, RF)
2. If a team does not have 9 players, other teams can "loan" players.

### Coaching:

1. Batting – Coach in or just outside dugout unless pitching. 1st Base Coach, 3rd Base Coach and Coach assisting the opposing team catcher. No other coaches from Batting team on field of play.
  - a. Head coach &/or 3<sup>rd</sup> Base Coach may call for time to speak with batters.
  - b. All other coaches and assisting parents, in dugout. Max of 4 total coaches.
2. Defensive Coaches – Coach in or just outside Dugout unless pitching. One assistant coach may be on each side of foul line (two coaches) outside of play & a coach in the outfield (3 defensive coaches in total on field at once).
3. Bench Coach required at all times
4. Report any safety or rules issues to respective league's Softball Commissioner or Vice President
5. If not outlined within the above, the Little League Softball rulebook will apply



## **2024 Softball 6U Rules of Play**

### **Game Length**

1. 4 innings max
2. No new inning after 1 hour
3. Game must end at 1 hour 30 minutes with no new inning at 1 hour and 15 minutes
4. No mercy or run limit; no scores kept

### **Pitching**

1. Coach pitch the entire season
2. No Counts, No walks, No strikeouts
3. 10 inch Softball used
4. After 4 pitches if hitter does not put ball in play, or fouls the pitch, then batter needs to hit off the tee
5. Should a batter foul off a pitch, the batter receives another pitched ball – until batter misses 4 total swings – then they need to hit off a tee

### **Batters/Runners**

1. Bat Around the whole lineup per inning during entire season
2. Runners may not leave base until pitch is hit
3. Runners run one base at a time, regardless of being tagged out
4. No runner advancement on an overthrow
5. Batted Ball must travel at least 10 feet; no bunting
6. Last Batter is automatic home run – no tag allowed
7. Wait for home run hitter to score before leaving field
8. No on deck hitters, all hitters and runners wear helmets (green book rule)

### **Defense:**

1. 12 players max on defense
2. Typical 5 players (P, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B) playing infield
3. Catcher is optional, but encouraged
4. Remainder of players in Outfield
5. Rotate players at positions – cannot play same position in successive innings
6. If a team does not have 8 players, other team can “loan” fielder

### **Coaching**

1. Three defensive coaches: LF, CF & RF zones
2. Four offensive coaches: hitting coach, pitching (second half), 1B & 3B coaches
3. Bench coach required at all times
4. Report any safety or rules issues to the Division Commissioner

### **1<sup>st</sup> Half of the Season (10 game season – first 4 games)**

1. No field outs in the first half of the season, meaning if a batter/runner is put out on basepaths, they continue on base during first half of season

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Half of Season (10 game season – last 6 games)**

1. Field outs count (runner returns to the dugout upon putout); Everyone still bats every inning. If 3 outs are made, continue inning – simply clear the bases at time of 3<sup>rd</sup> out. If another 3 outs are made, similarly continue inning until all players bat – clear bases at time of 3<sup>rd</sup> out.