

8u SOFTBALL (ADDENDUM TO RULES)

- **Foul ball arc in front of home plate.** Place an arc 10 feet in front of home plate. Batted balls that do not get past the line are considered a foul ball. Balls that stop on the line are considered fair.
- **Coach Pitcher.** The pitcher should start each at bat with multiple balls (we recommend three). The catcher should not return balls back to the pitcher until the pitcher is out of balls. The purpose of this rule is to increase fun by maximizing the number of at-bats throughout the game.
- **Coach Catcher.** In order to speed up the game and increase batter instruction, the team that is batting may provide a coach to catch pitches. If there is no kid catcher, the coach catcher should cover home for plays at the plate and make a good faith effort to make an out. The coach catcher should not field ground balls or play any other defense.
- **Kid Catcher.** The defensive team may or may not provide a kid catcher that stands back and off to the side for pitches. The kid catcher becomes an active defender when the ball is hit for short ground balls, foul balls, plays at the plate, etc. When not providing a kid catcher, it's recommended that the defensive team reminds the coach catcher so they know it's their responsibility to cover home for plays at the plate.
- **Courtesy Runners.** No courtesy runners since our catchers are not using catching gear.
- **# of players required to play a game.** Teams with fewer than 6 players officially forfeit the game per the MVYSL rules; however, since the goal is to have fun, coaches are encouraged to still play an unofficial game or scrimmage by sharing players and/or playing with fewer than 6. Coaches should discuss and let umpire know what was decided prior to the first pitch.
- **Outfield clarification.** Outfielders must start each play in the outfield as defined in the MVYSL rulebook. If an outfielder fields a hit ball, they must throw (or hand) the ball to another player to make an out in the infield. In other words, an outfielder should not field a ground ball and then run to tag a baserunner or base to get an out all on their own. The goal of the rule is to encourage outfielders to throw the ball into the infield when they field a hit ball and not to act like an extra infielder.
- **Infield clarification.** The only defensive players permitted in the infield prior to the pitch crossing home plate are the pitcher, first baseman, second baseman, shortstop, third baseman, and kid catcher (if applicable, standing behind home plate and off to the side). Infielders should not play unreasonably close to the batter. The goal is to encourage defenders to play their position, not "crowd the batter", and not take advantage of exceptionally weak hitters. Additionally, infield shifts are not allowed (i.e., the shortstop and third baseman must be on the third base side of second base, and the second baseman and first baseman must be on the first base side).