Rules

8 and Under

Our 8 & UNDER league is designed for girls age 7 or 8 with a few 6's and some 9's. A coach does all the pitching during the games. The coaches stress the basic skills of playing softball: throwing, catching, hitting, and running the bases. Also at this age the girls are taught more about playing a specific position and to play together as a team.

Local Rules

1. All players on each team will be listed on the batting order. All players will play defense.
2. No composite bats of any kind may be used. No half & half, no 1 piece, no composite bats period.
3. Each batter will receive five (5) pitches from the coach. Strikes will be called on missed swings and foul balls only. A missed third swing will result in an out. A fouled 5th pitch extends the time at bat until the batter either hits the ball or strikes out. Walks and bunts will not be allowed. If the batter fails to hit the ball after five (5) pitches, she will be called out.
4. A hit ball must go eight (8) feet from home plate to be considered a fair ball. The umpire will declare if a ball is a FOUL BALL only.
5. The offense coach will pitch to his or her team from a distance of thirty (30) feet. The umpire and both coaches will count off thirty (30) feet from home plate. This spot will be agreed upon by the umpire and both coaches. If the batted ball hits the pitching coach, the ball is declared dead and the pitch is replayed with no penalty to the batter. If the umpire rules that the pitching coach interfered with the batted ball intentionally, the batter will be ruled out and no runners will advance. If the pitching coach interferes with a defense play, the ball is ruled dead, and the runner involved with play will be declared out and all other runners must return to the base occupied at the time of interference. The offense coach must exit the field of play once a ball is hit in fair territory by the batter. A warning will be issued for failure to exit the field of play and the second occurrence the umpire will ask the offense coach to leave the pitching circle and another offense coach must perform the pitching.
6. On defense, a team is allowed two (2) coaches in the outfield.
7. Infielders must play no closer to the batter than 35 feet, with one 1) player in the pitcher's circle when the ball is hit. Only six (6) players, including the pitcher and catcher, are allowed in the infield area prior to the ball being hit. All other players must be in the designated outfield area.
8. The Infield Fly Rule is not in effect.

<u>The biggest confusion in the 8U league is when play ceases (ASA Rule 9)</u>

9. Play does not automatically cease IF there is a base runner attempting to run bases, behind the lead runner, and does NOT completely stop between bases, the runner must go back or keep on with the risk of getting out.

By the call of the umpire play shall cease IF there is a base runner attempting to run base, behind the lead runner, and stops between bases. In the judgment of the umpire, the umpire will allow the runner to the next base or tell the runner to return to the previous base.

From a defensive coach's perspective – have your player STOP the lead runner by being in between the runner and the next bag and tag them out or, if it's a force, throw them out.

From an offensive coach's perspective – keep your runners advancing. The umpire will send them back to the previous base or advance them to the next base.

10. General League Rules apply except as noted for this league.
11. Games will be 60 minutes with no inning started after 50 minutes with home team winning.

IF NO LEAGUE RULE EXISTS, THEN ASA RULES APPLY