



RANCHO BERNARDO GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE, INC.

Section 8 Rules

SECTION 8

Local 6U Rules

1. USA Rules will be followed except as defined as follows
2. Games will last the lesser of 4 innings or a maximum of 1:15 minute time limit.
3. An inning is complete when all players have had a turn at bat.
4. The first 2 games of the season, players will not be removed from a base when called out. Thereafter, a player returns to the dugout when called out.
5. Runners are limited to advancing one base per at bat until the last batter. Once the last batter hits, all runners on base at that time and the batter, run the bases to home plate. Once the last batter crosses home plate the 1/2 inning is over.
6. There is no limit to the number of players with which a defensive team may field. A maximum of 6 players may play in the infield (3 on the left side and 3 on the right side) with a 7th player positioned in the pitching circle.
7. No base stealing. Base runners may not leave their base until the ball is hit.
8. No infield fly rule is in effect.
9. With bases loaded and a ground ball to the pitcher, teams are strongly encouraged to work on getting outs at the bases as opposed to the pitcher running home and touching home plate for the force out.
10. The pitcher must keep both feet on the pitcher's rubber until the ball is hit.
11. A batter will get as many swings (within reason) to hit the ball off the tee.
12. A line will be drawn 5 feet in front of home plate and extended to the third and first base line. A hit ball must pass this line or it will be declared a foul ball.
13. The bat must hit the ball and not the tee. If the bat hits the tee only, a foul ball is declared.
14. Infielders cannot be a distance closer to home plate than 40 feet.
15. Bases will be set at 60 feet apart and the pitching rubber will be set at 30 feet when hitting off the tee.
16. Base runners and batters must wear batting helmets.
17. At a mid-season date as determined by the Division Representative the coaches will begin pitching to their players. If the batter has not hit the ball after 5 balls have been pitched, the ball will be placed on the tee. The coach pitches can be increased subject to the mutual agreement of the coaches in the instance where a girl is close to hitting the ball.
18. The batter must not throw the bat. A warning will be given the first time the bat is thrown. The second time, the batter will be called OUT.
19. Coaches are strongly encouraged to rotate players to as many positions as possible. No player shall play more than 3 innings in the infield per game.
20. 2 Coaches are allowed in the infield and 2 Coaches are allowed in the outfield to move players



or give instruction.

21. For safety reasons, no child will be permitted to play the catcher's position.
22. A 10" RIF "softie" softball will be used.
23. Only positive cheers are allowed during the season and should only be directed at your own team/players.
24. The first Home team scheduled to play on a field each day is responsible for setting up bases. The last home team to play each day is responsible for putting the bases away after the game. Home team coaches are responsible for preparing the field of play, including chalking the field, prior to the start of the game.

Local 8U Rules

1. USA Softball rules will be followed except as defined as follows
2. All teams are permitted to play 6 players. Less than 6 players will be a forfeit. Ten (10) is the maximum with 4 infielders, 4 outfielders (must be on the grass), 1 Catcher and 1 Pitcher.
3. There is a 2-inning minimum for all players on defense with all players present in the batting order. There is free substitution for all players. . Pitchers are only allowed to pitch a maximum of 2-innings in the first 4 innings.
4. Games are 5 innings or a maximum of 1 hour and 45 minutes, whichever occurs first. Once a game reaches a time of 1:20, the current inning will be finished, and one additional full inning completed to end the game. If a game cannot be completed in the maximum 1:45 time allowed or due to darkness, the game score will revert back to the prior full inning score to determine the winner.
5. Regular season games can end in a tie.
6. There is a limit of 3 runs per inning.
7. Stealing is allowed, even when coaches are pitching. Stealing is limited to one base per pitch and runners may not advance on overthrow/error. Stealing home is not allowed.
8. Infield fly rule is waived.
9. The batter must make an attempt to get out of the way of a pitched ball. Hit by pitch will be awarded as follows:
 - a. Open base – Player will be encouraged to continue the at bat. If a player declines to continue, they will be awarded 1st base with other baserunners advancing one base as appropriate.
 - b. Bases loaded – Player will be encouraged to continue. If a player declines to continue facing the opposing pitcher, coach pitch will be the available option with the hit by pitch being scored as a ball.
10. Coaches are not allowed on the field and must stay behind the line, except in the case of coach pitch.
11. The first Home team scheduled to play on a field each day is responsible for setting up bases. The last home team to play each day is responsible for putting the bases away after the game. Home team coaches are responsible for preparing the field of play, including chalking the field, prior to the start of the game.
12. There will be no pitching machines or batting tees used during the games.
13. Beginning season—There are no walks allowed. A pitcher continues each at bat until there are four called balls. If four called balls are thrown, a coach shall enter the game to pitch to his/her team. The strike count on the batter will remain the same and the coach pitcher will continue to pitch until the batter either: 1) hits the ball in fair territory; 2) strikes out swinging; 3) the coach pitcher pitches four balls. If the coach pitches four balls and the batter fails to hit the ball in fair territory, the batter will then be called out. When a coach is pitching, the catcher must throw the ball directly back to the pitcher who in turn hands it to the coach. The coach must pitch from the 30' pitchers rubber with one foot minimum on the rubber.
14. A batted ball that hits the coach pitch is live and in play. The coach must make every reasonable attempt to get out of the way. The coach must exit the field as soon as possible during the play.
15. At a mid-season date as determined by the Division Representative, the following rule adjustments will be enacted:



- a. Walks will be enforced;
 - b. There shall be no coach pitch, except when bases are loaded.
 - c. Bunting is permitted .
16. The pitching distance shall be 30' for the entire season.
 17. All players are strongly encouraged to wear a protective face mask.
 18. A 10" Worth softball will be used.
 19. Only positive cheers are allowed and should only be directed at your own team/players.
 20. At a point in the season designated by the Division Representative, Wins, Losses and Ties will be kept and points awarded as such; W=2pts, T=1pt, L=0pts. The winning Manager is responsible for communicating game results to the Division Representative The Division Rep is responsible for keeping a record of the outcome of all games and maintaining a record of points awarded to teams for purposes of seeding for the end of the year tournament. Seeding for the end of the tournament will be determined by the points acquired. (i.e....Team with the most points =Seed #1, Second most points = Seed #2, ct.) Playoff games will be a maximum of 5 innings, and follow the time limits defined herein. Championship game will be 5 innings with no time limit. Should games be called due to darkness, it will have to be completed the next day, prior to the originally scheduled game.

Local 10U Rules

1. USA Softball rules will be followed except as defined as follows
2. All teams are permitted to play 7 players. Less than 7 players will be a forfeit. Nine is the maximum with 3 outfielders (must be on the grass) and 4 infielders, 1 catcher and 1 pitcher. If a team starts a game with 7 players and 1 of the players is injured the game may continue. If a team is playing with less than 9 players, but at least 7 players, the opposing team's player who was the last out the previous inning (excluding catchers and pitchers) will play outfield for the team playing with less than 9 players. If the player who made the last out is a pitcher or catcher then the player who was the second to last out will take her place. A team will bat all players regardless if the players are playing in the field.
3. There is a 2-inning minimum for all players on defense with all players present in the batting order. Every player must play at least one inning in the infield per game (unless the coach deems a player playing infield to be a safety issue). There is free substitution for all players. Pitchers are only allowed to pitch a maximum of 3-innings in the first 4 innings. Pitchers are allowed to pitch a maximum of 4 innings per game.
4. Games are 6 innings or a maximum of 1 hour and 45 minutes, whichever occurs first. Once a game reaches a time of 1:20, the current inning will be finished, and one additional full inning completed to end the game. If a game cannot be completed in the maximum 1:45 time allowed or due to darkness, the game score will revert back to the prior full inning score to determine the winner.
5. Regular season games can end in a tie.
6. There is a limit of 4 runs per inning maximum.
7. The pitching distance shall be 35' for the entire season.
8. All players are strongly encouraged to wear a protective face mask.
9. Bunting and stealing will be permitted during all games. Players may steal home and there is no limit on how many bases can be stolen at a time. The infield fly and dropped third strike rule will be in effect all season. Play continues at all times until the ball is back in the pitcher's circle and circle violations will be enforced during the season according to the umpire's judgment.
10. The batter must make an attempt to get out of the way of a pitched ball. If an attempt is made to avoid the ball and the batter is hit, the batter is awarded 1st base. The determination is at the sole discretion of the home plate umpire.



11. On a play at home, the runner must slide or otherwise avoid contact, or will be called out according to the sole discretion of the home plate umpire.
12. The first Home team scheduled to play on a field each day is responsible for setting up bases. The last home team to play each day is responsible for putting the bases away after the game. Home team coaches are responsible for preparing the field of play, including chalking the field, prior to the start of the game.
13. Playoff games will be a maximum of 6 innings and follow the time limits defined herein. The 4-run limit per inning remains in effect until the last inning. In the last inning, there will be no run limit. There can be more than one "last inning". In the event the umpire identifies the last inning with the notion the remaining game time will be used up and it is, in fact, not used up, another "last inning" will begin. Championship games will be 6 innings with no time limit. The 6th inning will be an open inning with no run limit.

Local 12U Rules

1. USA Rules will be followed except as defined as follows
2. All teams MUST bat their entire line-up for the entire season. (NOTE: This includes the end of season tournament).
3. If short players, teams may borrow players from within their leagues to avoid forfeits. These players cannot pitch.
4. A courtesy runner shall be allowed only for the catcher after there are two outs. This is intended only to speed up the game.
5. Games are 7 innings or a maximum of 1 hour and 45 minutes, whichever occurs first. Once a game reaches a time of 1:20, the current inning will be finished, and one additional full inning completed to end the game. If a game cannot be completed in the maximum 1:45 time allowed or due to darkness, the game score will revert back to the prior full inning score to determine the winner.
6. Per inning run limit: 6.
7. Regular season games can end in a tie.
8. Playoffs use International Tie Breaker after time expires or 7 innings.
9. Championship game is 7 innings, with no time limit.
10. The first Home team scheduled to play on a field each day is responsible for setting up bases. The last home team to play each day is responsible for putting the bases away after the game. Home team coaches are responsible for preparing the field of play, including chalking the field, prior to the start of the game.

Local 14U Rules

There are no local rules as exceptions from standard USA rules.