

## BVGSL U10 RULES 2026

### General

1. All players must be registered members of the Douglas, Northbridge, Grafton, Uxbridge, Sutton, or Millbury Youth Softball Leagues.
2. Any rules not covered in league rules will automatically default to ASA/USA Umpire rulings.
3. All games should start at 6:00pm (or scheduled time - if night game or otherwise noted). **A team not fielding 8 players within fifteen minutes scheduled time shall forfeit the game.** Once a game has been forfeited, both teams can still play for fun, but the score and results will not count towards league play. **Umpire will be paid and can leave.**
4. The decision to call a game off due to weather/field conditions or will be **made by the head coach of the home team at least two hours prior to the starting time.** If a decision is not made to cancel two hours prior, all players should report to the field at the scheduled start time. The umpire will then determine whether to call the game at the field. Coaches should make every attempt to reschedule these games within a two-week time period. All games should be made up by the week before the playoffs. Failure to do so MAY result in a forfeit for one or both teams unwilling / unable to make up the game. The home team head coach must notify their umpire coordinator of the rescheduled date/time/field.
  - a. **WEATHER RELATED DELAYS/CANCELLATION: In the observation of lightning/thunder:** teams must wait 30 minutes of no thunder/lightning before continuing. This is an ASA/USA enforced ruling. Be safe.
5. In the event of scheduled game conflicts/cancellations due to reasons other than weather/field conditions, **BOTH** coaches must agree to reschedule the game.
6. **Regarding play time allotted, Refer to ASA/USA rules:** Six full innings define a complete game. *An official game has a minimum of 4 complete innings, 3 and a half if the home team is ahead.* In the event that a game needs to be continued/rescheduled (called by the umpire), teams will pick up where they left off to continue the game. Refer to ASA/USA guidelines.
  - a. We are following ASA Rules, 5 Section 10 (No new inning will be started after one hour and 40 minutes of game time).
  - b. Game time will be 1 hour and 20 minutes. At that time, you will finish the inning you are currently playing. The next inning will be your last inning. If you complete the game prior to the time limit the game will end. **Because the final inning is unlimited runs (within reason), the final inning must be determined and declared at the hour and 20 mark with both coaches and the umpire.**
  - c. Regular Season games may end in a tie.
7. The USA Softball Run Ahead Rule is 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, & 8 runs after 5 innings.
8. In the U10 Division each team will **only be able to score up to 4 runs an inning, except in the final**

inning, which is unlimited for runs.

9. A eleven (11) inch ball will be used as the standard for all games.
10. Each player can sit out **one (1) consecutive inning**. An injured player can sit out more than one consecutive inning.
11. Each team will field 9-10 players if available on defense, consisting of 3-4 outfielders. All outfielders must remain in the outfield area until the ball is live. The ball is considered live when the ball is hit. Teams are allowed to start with 8 players with no penalty. Players that arrive after scheduled start time will be added to the bottom of the batting order. Notify the coach of the opposing team.
12. The home team is responsible for paying (currently \$70) the umpire during regular season games. If an umpire is not present at the start of the game, the designated assistant coach for the home team will umpire.

### **Safety**

1. Catchers must wear catcher's equipment as provided by the league or equivalent, and wear personal protective equipment, as necessary, which is furnished by the player/team. This rule is in effect for both games and practices.
2. **Protective face guards must be worn by the pitcher.** It is HIGHLY recommended that it be worn by first and third base players as well. It is up to each town-league board to enforce this ruling
3. All players must wear uniforms. They must also wear rubber spikes or sneakers.
4. Bats must visibly display an ASA approved emblem to be used during games.
5. All Fields must have a double safety bag at first
6. Players must remain in the dugout or on the bench when not playing in the field. The on-deck batter may warm up. Pitchers may warm up between innings.
7. If an injured player in a continuous batting order is unable to play she will be skipped in the order. The opposing team will not get an automatic out. The player is allowed to return to the game at any time.
8. All injuries must be reported to the leagues of those participating in the game. All coaches will have on hand the emergency forms (registration forms) at all practices and games. Each team must have an emergency kit on hand with gloves, band aids, ice packs, gauze, etc.

### **Playoff Rule**

1. All players on your roster, must play in 50% of your scheduled BVL regular season games, to be eligible for the playoffs unless a documented injury or sickness precluded the player from participating. **Any team that uses a player (or players) in the playoffs that is not eligible will forfeit said playoff game(s).**

2. All teams must complete 90% on their scheduled games, to be playoff eligible.
3. In the event that teams are tied in standings at the end of the season, these criteria will be used to determine seeding for playoffs:
  1. Record
  2. Head-to-head record
  3. Best record in games involving all tied teams
  4. Runs scored
  5. Runs allowed
  6. Coin toss

### **Conduct**

1. Profanity, kicking equipment or other unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, players, or parents will cause the umpire to give the team a warning. Continuation of this behavior by the player or coach after the warning will result in ejection from the game. If a parent continues to display unacceptable behavior after being warned, the team for whom their daughter plays may be forced to forfeit the game at the umpire's discretion.
2. Coaches shall assume the responsibility for the conduct of his/her players. They will also be responsible for assisting the umpire in managing unacceptable behavior displayed by the parents of girls of his/her team.
3. Coaches should encourage their players to cheer for their teammates. Chanting and singing of limericks will be allowed as long as they are not derogatory or degrading to the other team. **Once the pitcher presents the ball, all chanting and singing stops.**

### **Pitching**

1. Pitching will be fast pitch regardless of the pitching motion utilized.
2. The starting pitcher once relieved, can return to pitch once during a game (provided that rule #3 has not occurred).
3. After three batters (3) are hit in a game, the pitcher must be removed from the mound. **The batter must make an attempt to move out of the way;** umpires discretion.
4. Prior to the pitch, the pitcher shall take a position with their pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate and their non-pivot foot in contact with or behind the pitcher's plate. All steps must be forward in motion.
5. The distance from the pitching rubber to home plate will be thirty-five feet (35'). A moveable mound is acceptable.
6. **There is a limit of 2 walks per inning.** If two walks have occurred in the inning, the next "ball 4" is

called and the coach of the team that is at bat will come in to pitch to his/her batter. The batter will keep the strike ball count she has. The batter can strike out on when coach pitches, the batter cannot walk. The umpire should be calling balls and strikes to keep the game moving when the coach pitches. When the next batter comes to the plate, the pitcher resumes pitching. This rule will stay in effect through the playoffs.

- a. When the coach comes on the field to pitch, the player who was pitching will stand to the side of the pitcher's plate
- b. The players MUST REMAIN IN the pitching circle and play defense.
- c. The coach can have one practice pitch per inning.
- d. Coach should stand on the plate and pitch the ball at a speed equivalent to the age and ability of play. When the next batter comes to the plate, the pitcher resumes pitching. This rule will stay in effect through the playoffs

**7. All U10 pitchers will be limited to a maximum of 3 innings per game.**

### **Base Running**

1. **Each team will be allowed unlimited steals of 2nd and 3rd base each inning.** Only one base may be advanced per pitch, per runner. No additional bases may be stolen in the event of overthrows. Base runners can only be batted or walked in.
2. **NO STEALING** will be allowed if the batting team is up by 10 runs.
3. The infield fly rule **WILL NOT** be in effect.
4. The dropped third strike rule **WILL NOT** be in effect.
5. If a ball is caught in the air, runners may tag up. (Fair or foul territory).
6. The advancing base runner may not collide with the person covering the base. An upright collision will result in an automatic out. Slide or avoid. Umpire will make this decision.
7. A ball is considered dead when it is returned to the pitcher in the circle following a play; runners may not advance after the ball has been returned to the pitcher in the pitcher's circle.
8. Base runners may leave the base upon release of the ball by the pitcher.
9. To speed up the game, catchers may be replaced by a pinch runner at any time. Pinch runner is the last recorded out.
10. A player that has walked **CANNOT** make an attempt to steal second base as a continuation play.

### **Batting:**

1. The batting order which is established prior to the game shall include all girls on the team that are present and shall remain unchanged for the duration of the game. If a player arrives late she shall be added to the end of the existing batting order. Batting out of order is an automatic out.

2. A batter hit by a pitch takes a base. **Batters must make every attempt to move out of the way (Umpire's discretion).** If at the umpire's discretion is that the batter made every attempt to move out of the way from being hit, then the batter will walk to first, and a runner will score if the bases are loaded.
3. Batters should be instructed not to throw their bats. If this occurs, one warning will be given to the team. If the infraction occurs again, the batter will be called out.
4. Batting helmets with cages must be worn while batting and running the bases. Chin straps are no longer mandatory.
5. Balls and strikes (with walks and strikeouts) will be called. A tipped third strike that goes directly into the catcher's mitt and is caught is considered an out.
6. **Bunting will be allowed, but slap or slash hitting will not be allowed.** Slap bunting is instead of taking a full swing, the slap hitter runs toward the pitcher and tries to make contact by bunting or slapping at the ball. A slash bunt is defined as a player showing bunt at any time during the pitch and then swinging at that same pitch.

Please remember the age of this group. Review and clarify rules with both coaches and umpires prior to the start of the game. Rules are slightly modified to help develop the girls with hitting, fielding and pitching in keeping with the spirit of the game.

Revised 3/11/2026