



SOFTBALL 10U RULES

1. Teams must recite the YMCA pledge before the first pitch.
2. For safety reasons, batters on-deck must warm up behind the dugout.
3. Coach's pitch in an underhand motion (coach's choice) minimum of 30 feet from home plate (umpire's discretion). Base length is 50'. The batter is considered out and runners do not advance if a ball is not hit into fair play. The batter receives 5 pitches or 3 strikes whichever occurs first, if the 5th pitch is hit foul, the batter must swing at each pitch thereafter until they either strike out or hit the ball into play. A batter cannot strike out on a foul ball. A batter can also use a batting tee after the 5th pitch if needed.
4. Limit of 6 batters per offensive turn; after 6 batters defense switches to offense (this is to ensure a consistent flow of the game) If a team is up by 12 runs at any time, the winning team will drop down to 3 batters per offensive turn. Once there is not a 12 run lead, the team can continue to have 6 batters per offensive turn
5. A half inning is complete after a team has 3 outs OR 6 batters have taken their turn
6. Every player must be included in the batting order and the batting order must stay consistent all game with the exception of injury or sickness. Every player must hit once before another can hit twice.
7. Once a play is complete and an infielder has the ball within the baseline the play is dead. No runners may advance on an overthrown ball after the umpire calls it a dead ball. Runners are sent to the next base if more than halfway between, or back to the previous base when the ball is ruled dead (umpire discretion). Infielder must hold the ball up and wait for umpire to call "Time".
8. A team consists of 6 infielders (catcher, pitcher, 1st, 2nd, 3rd baseman and a shortstop.) and 4 outfielders (Outfielders must be 10 feet outside of the baseline-umpire discretion-until the ball is hit). Catchers are optional, although we do encourage kids to try the position. A coach can cover home plate but cannot be involved in a play.
9. Players cannot play the same position for more than 2 consecutive innings.
10. Substitutions are unlimited as long as they are done to ensure 50% equal playing time.
11. One coach is allowed in the outfield during play to help direct players. One coach is allowed at both 1st and 3rd base to help coach.

12. A runner is considered out if the player runs out of the baseline in an effort to avoid being tagged (umpires discretion). All runners are given an extra base in the event of an overthrow.

13. Innings cannot start after 50 minutes of play. If the home team is ahead after the visiting team bats at the 60 minute mark, the game is over.

14. There will not be an official score taken after each game and there will be no standings

15. Intentional stalling of the game for the benefit of one team will not be tolerated and is grounds for removal and/or suspension. If an umpire suspects a team of stalling, the player or coach will be warned and if stalling continues the umpire has the authority to remove the player or coach from the game.

16. In the event of bad weather a game is official after 30 minutes of play or 2 complete innings.

17. Sliding is allowed, although not recommended except when dictated by the regular flow of the game.

18. Intentional blocking of ANY base, including home plate is NOT ALLOWED under any circumstances and is cause for removal from the game. If a player accidentally blocks or impedes a runner, the runner is given the extra base.

19. The umpire has the highest authority at all times during a game and has the ability to remove anyone that is disrupting the game or not acting in a sportsmanlike manner at ANY time.

STEALS AND LEAD OFFS: There are no steals or lead offs. The batter/runner or any other base runner may advance only on a batted ball. A base runner is out if they leave the base before the ball is hit.

INFIELD FLY RULE: **IN EFFECT;** If there are runners on 1st and 2nd, or bases loaded with less than 2 outs, the batter hits a routine easy to play pop-up to the infield, it is an automatic out. Therefore, the batter is out. If the infielder drops the ball, the base runners may, but are not forced to advance to the next base. The batter remains out even when it is dropped by the defensive player