



8U Softball (Mini Girls) – Updated Rules

Common Division Rules

- Players are **not required** to have a face mask attached to their batting helmet.
- All players must play a **minimum of 3 complete innings per game**, except in cases of run-rule, shortened, delayed, or cancelled games.
- A team must field **at least 8 players** to start a game.
 - Teams may pull up to **3 players from the division below** to complete a 9-player defensive lineup.
 - Teams must have a **pitcher (or pitcher's helper) and a catcher**.
 - Pulled-up players **may not pitch or catch** and must **bat last in the lineup**.
- Players may be pulled across during the season only when necessary to fill a roster.
 - These players **may not pitch or catch** and must **bat last**.
- **Courtesy runners are not permitted**, except in the case of injury.
 - The runner will be the **last recorded out**.
 - With **2 outs**, the catcher on base may have a courtesy runner (last out).
- **Injured Player Rule:**
 - If a player is unable to bat due to injury, an **out will be recorded at their next at-bat only**.
 - No additional outs will be taken for that lineup spot.
 - The player must return at their next at-bat or be considered **out for the remainder of the game**.
- Teams will **bat their entire roster**.
 - Batting out of order:
 - If discovered during the at-bat → correct batter assumes the count.



- If discovered after a completed at-bat (before next pitch) → batter is **out**, runners return, and order resumes properly.
- **Team Warnings (1 per team, per game)** for:
 - Thrown bat
 - Helmet removal before entering dugout
 - Leaving base early

After a warning, any repeat offense results in a **dead ball out**.

- **Run Rule:** 10 runs after 4 innings.
- Each team is allowed **3 defensive timeouts per game**.
 - One additional timeout per extra inning.
 - A **second visit to the pitcher in the same inning requires removal** of that player.
- All bats must be **USSSA-approved softball bats**.
 - Illegal bat usage will follow **OHSAA rules**, including **ejection of the batter and head coach**.
- **Inclement Weather (per OHSAA):**
 - Play must stop immediately if lightning or thunder is observed.
 - A **30-minute delay** is required after the last occurrence before resuming play.

8U / Mini Girls Specific Rules

- **Base Paths:** 60 feet
- A **double first base** is required for safety.

Pitching

- Coach pitches from **25'–40'**.
- Both feet must start **on or behind the 25' line**.



Field Setup & Positioning

- A **40' arc line** will be marked in front of 1st and 3rd:
 - All infielders must remain **behind this line until contact**.
- Outfielders must remain **at least 20' behind bases** until contact.
- A **16' circle** is placed around the 40' pitching line:
 - Pitcher's helper must have **one foot inside the circle** and remain behind the 40' mark until the ball is hit.
- Halfway lines between bases will determine advancement after time is called.

Live Ball / Dead Ball

- The ball remains **live** until:
 - An infielder has control and requests time, or
 - The umpire determines play has stopped
- **Only the umpire may call time.**
- When time is called:
 - Runners **past halfway advance**
 - If the lead runner has not crossed halfway, **all runners return**

Batting

- Each batter receives **7 pitches**:
 - If the 7th pitch is fouled → batter continues
 - At-bat ends when:
 - Ball is hit fair
 - Batter swings and misses
 - Batter does not swing
- If a **batted ball hits the coach pitcher**, it is a **dead ball (no pitch)**.



Defense

- Teams may play **up to 11 defensive players**.
- **Coaches:**
 - One defensive coach is allowed in the outfield for instruction.
- **Safety Equipment:**
 - All infielders must wear a **face mask**
 - Outfield face masks are **optional**

Game Play

- **5 runs per inning OR 3 outs**, whichever comes first
- **5th inning is open (no run limit)**

Time Limits

- Regular season:
 - No new inning after **1 hour 30 minutes**
 - Open inning is **not required**
- Tournament play:
 - At **1 hour 30 minutes**, the **next full inning is the open inning (final inning)**