

General Playing Rules-All Divisions

1. Time Limit

Pool games will consist of 1 hour (60 minutes). Bracket games will consist of 1 hour and 10 minutes. Game start time will be 1 minute after pre-game is over.

Note: If time has expired and the visitors' team is ahead by runs per inning + 1, the game is official.

2. Run Limit/Spreads

A. 10U - 5 runs scored in an inning will end that inning.

B. 08U, 12U, 14U and 18U - 7 runs scored in an inning will end that inning.

B. Run spreads are 12 after 3, 10 after 4 and 8 after 5.

3. Players:

All Divisions will field ten players, or that number less than ten available. A team must have no less than seven players to start and/or finish a game. When fielding 10 players, defense must use 4 outfielders and, in the umpire's opinion, positioned in the outfield. All players **must** bat. Players not in the dugout when play begins will be added to the bottom of the batting order when the player checks in with the Official Scorekeeper. A player that leaves the game for any reason may not return and no out is charged to the team when her turn-at-bat comes due.

4. Injured Player(s)

A player who has been in the game, but removed by substitution, may return to the game in the same position of the injured player, if all substitutions have been made. If an injured player is unable to continue batting, she will be skipped in the batting order without penalty of an out.

5. Free Substitution

Players may be freely substituted.

7. Scorekeepers.

The home team will furnish the official scorekeeper.

8. Protests:

The Home Plate Umpire and the Official Scorekeeper must be notified of a protest at the time of the infraction and prior to the next pitch, legal or illegal. Tournament UIC will give final rule interpretation.

9. Managers:

Managers are responsible for good sportsmanship by their players, coaches and fans. Failure to show good sportsmanship by those individuals may result in the ejection of the manager. Profanity by a Manager, Coach, Parent, or follower of the team will result in the immediate ejection of that individual from the game. The **manager** is responsible for **all** persons associated with their team. The Manager of each team will see that their dugout area is policed properly after each game.

10. Alcoholic and tobacco:

The use of alcoholic beverages by Managers, Coaches, Parents, or followers while coaching, watching, or practicing will result in that person being barred from further participation in the tournament. Managers and Coaches will refrain from using tobacco products or smoking while on the field or in the vicinity of the dugout and in the fans viewing areas.

11. Participation of Players

Players not in the dugout when play begins will be added to the bottom of the batting order when the player checks in with the Official Scorekeeper.

12. Tie Breaker

At the end of time limit and/or seven innings in **bracket play**, International Tie Breaker Rule goes into effect.

13. An accidentally thrown bat shall constitute a team warning. Further thrown bats shall constitute a dead ball out for that team. An intentionally thrown bat shall constitute an out and **ejection**.

14. Metal spikes not allowed in any division.

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Additional 10U Rules:

1. No infield fly rule.
2. Players are allowed to steal second and/or third but may not steal home. 1 stolen base per pitch allowed.
3. **Strike Zone:**
The strike zone shall be enlarged, when the player is in a natural stance, to include the top of the shoulders to mid-shin. The strike zone shall also be enlarged to include the width of a softball on each side of home plate.
4. On a base on balls, batter is awarded 1st base and can not advance further than 1st base on the walk.

Coach Pitch Division Rules (08U)

1. **Defensive Coaches:**
Two defensive coaches are allowed to stay on the field at all times, for the purpose of instruction and placement between plays. The coach will have fifteen seconds between plays to position players and offer instructions.
2. **Pitching Distance:**
The pitching distance shall be 35 feet.
3. **Player/Pitcher Rules (PP):**
 - A. The player must be in the pitcher's circle when the ball is delivered.
 - B. The player must be STATIONARY, not forward of the pitching rubber when the ball is released. (violation: first warning, second time, the PP is to be removed from the PP position for the remainder of the game.)
4. **Batters:**
 - A. There will be no walks.
 - B. A batter will be called out after five (5) pitches. The umpire will give notification prior to the fifth pitch.
 - C. Strikes will not be called. After 5 pitches, batter is called out unless the fifth pitch is fouled, a sixth and a final pitch is allowed.
 - D. No bunting will be allowed.
5. **Base Running:**
 - A. No stealing.
 - B. Base runners cannot leave a base until **after** the ball has passed home plate. (Violation: runner is out)
 - C. No Infield Fly Rule.
 - D. Once the ball is in the control of a fielder located in the infield, the play is over and the batter and base runners must stop at the base they are on or the base they are running to. If the base runner has rounded the base and her back foot has left that base, then she is deemed to be running to the next base and may advance with liability to be put out.
 - E. One base max on all overthrows, regardless of where the ball goes. When the ball is live, the runner has liability to be put out. The goal is to permit the defense to attempt to make the play without penalty.
 - F. An infielder must have possession of the ball on the infield to stop play.