



## 2025 SOFTBALL RULES SUMMARIES

### BEGINNER DIVISIONS

- **5U SOFTBALL: Beginner T-Ball**
  - **Bases:** 55' (OK to play 60' if necessary); Softball: 10"
  - **Pitching Plate:** 30' (from front of plate to back corner of home plate); 10' diameter circle
  - **Equipment:** Defensive face guards required for all infielders
  - **Positive Cheers Only – never directed at an opposing player**
  - **Defense limit:** Please rotate as much as possible, even swapping infield and outfield mid-inning
  - **Game length:** 3 innings, OR 1:00 "drop dead"
  - **Stealing/Outs/Score:** No
  - **Gameplay:** Everyone bats every inning, & lineup adjusted each inning so different player is "home run hitter" each inning. Use tee until VP gives permission to coach pitch, one base per hit except "Home run hitter", no headfirst sliding.
  
- **6U SOFTBALL: Transitional T-Ball / Coach Pitch**
  - **Bases:** 55' (OK to play 60' if necessary); Softball: 10"
  - **Pitching Plate:** 30' (from front of plate to back corner of home plate); 10' diameter circle
  - **Equipment:** Defensive face guards required for all infielders
  - **Positive Cheers Only – never directed at an opposing player**
  - **Defense limit:** 1 inning per game per position; no set positions; keep rotating fairly for everyone; no one may sit back to back innings; everyone must play 1 inning on infield minimum per game
  - **Pace of Play –** 2 min in between innings, okay to start without catcher ready
  - **Game length:** 4 innings OR 1:00 "no new," 1:15 "drop dead"
  - **Run limit:** 4 runs per inning
  - **Outs/score:** Yes
  - **Hitting:** All players in lineup. Have 2-3 balls ready for Coach pitch: 3 swinging strikes or 5 pitches max, unless the ball last pitch is fouled. No tee, except early season if a player "strikes out." No stealing. Runner may lead off as soon as ball put into play.
  - **Gameplay:** Hashmark between bases, 15" home plate arc. No limit on batted ball except 1 base on each overthrow and **Play is dead when ball crosses pitchers circle (doesn't have to be secure, just has to cross the circle)** and home plate is closed. No dropped third strike, no bunting, no infield fly, no headfirst sliding, no bunting, no stealing.



## SPRING 2024 SOFTBALL RULES SUMMARIES

### INTERMEDIATE DIVISIONS

#### 7U SOFTBALL: Machine Pitch

- **Bases:** 55' (OK to play 60' if necessary); Softball: 11" dimpled, or 10" regular if coach pitch
- **Pitching Plate:** 30' (from front of plate to back corner of home plate); 10' diameter circle
- **Equipment:** Defensive face guards required for all infielders
- **Positive Cheers Only – never directed at an opposing player**
- **Defense limit:** 2 innings per game per position; no one may sit back to back innings; everyone must play 1 inning on infield minimum per game.
- **Pace of Play –** 2 min in between innings, okay to start without catcher ready
- **Game length:** 5 innings, OR 1:15 "no new," 1:30 "drop dead"
- **Run limit:** 4 runs per inning
- **Stealing:** Yes – lead on release, "steal" if goes to backstop
- **Hitting:** All players in lineup. Machine pitch: 3 swinging strikes or 6 pitches max, unless the ball last pitch is fouled. No tee, except early season if a player "strikes out." No stealing.
- **Gameplay:** Have 5-6 game balls ready. Machine pitch with JUGS starting at 30mph; no limit off machine or coach pitch, except 1 base on each overthrow and play is dead when ball crosses pitchers circle (P doesn't have to have possession). No dropped third strike, no bunting.

#### 8U SOFTBALL: Kid Pitch with modified rules

- **Bases:** 55' (OK to play 60' if necessary); Softball: 10"
- **Pitching Plate:** 30' (from front of plate to back corner of home plate); 10' diameter circle
- **Equipment:** Defensive face guards required for all infielders
- **Positive Cheers Only – never directed at an opposing player**
- **Defense limit:** 2 innings per game per position, except 3 for P if game enters 5<sup>th</sup> inning; no one may sit back to back innings. For pitching limits, 1 pitch thrown equals 1 inning pitched. Everyone must play at least 1 inning on the infield per game.
- **Pace of Play –** 2 min in between innings, get catcher ready fast!
- **Game length:** 5 innings, OR 1:30 "no new," 1:50 "drop dead"
- **Run limit:** 4 runs first three innings, open 4<sup>th</sup> and on
- **Stealing:** Yes. No headfirst sliding, unless returning to a base. No metal cleats.
- **Gameplay:** Everyone bats. Walks allowed, unless the bases are loaded. If bases loaded walk, coach pitch: assumes the count, ball is live with no restriction. Runners may advance if ball not secure in pitcher's hand in circle, home plate closed all season, no dropped third strike, no bunting, no infield fly, players should hit if they can if hit by pitch.



## 2025 SOFTBALL RULES SUMMARIES

### ADVANCED DIVISIONS

- **10U SOFTBALL: Full Softball Rules**
  - **Bases:** 60'; Softball: 11"
  - **Pitcher's Plate:** 35' (front of pitcher's plate to back corner of home); **16' diameter circle**
  - **Equipment:** **Defensive face guards required on infield**
  - **Positive Cheers Only – never directed at an opposing player**
  - **Defense limit:** 3 innings per game per position, except 4 for P if game enters 6<sup>th</sup> inning; no one may sit back to back innings. For pitching limits, 1 pitch thrown equals 1 inning. Everyone must play 1 inning on the infield per game.
  - **Pace of Play** – 2 min in between innings, get catcher ready fast!
  - **Game length:** 6 innings; OR 1:30 "no new," 1:50 drop
  - **Run limit:** 5 runs per inning for first three innings, then open 4<sup>th</sup> and on
  - **Batting:** Everyone hits; no metal cleats; no headfirst sliding unless sliding back to base.
  - **Borrowing players:** only allowed if necessary to reach 8 players; borrowed player must be from 8U if possible and must have consent from their manager and your opposing manager and division VP **in advance**, and they must bat last and play OF only.
- **12U SOFTBALL: Full Softball Rules**
  - **Bases:** 60'; Softball: 12"
  - **Pitcher's Plate:** 40' (front of pitcher's plate to back corner of home); **16' diameter circle**
  - **Equipment:** **Defensive face guards required on infield**
  - **Positive Cheers Only – never directed at an opposing player**
  - **Defense limit:** 4 innings per game per position, except 5 for P if game enters 7<sup>th</sup> inning; no one may sit back to back innings. For pitching limits, 1 pitch thrown equals 1 inning.
  - **Pace of Play** – 2 min in between innings, get catcher ready fast!
  - **Game length:** 7 innings; OR 1:30 "no new," 1:50 drop
  - **Run limit:** 5 runs per inning for first three innings, then open 4<sup>th</sup> and on
  - **Batting:** Everyone hits; no metal cleats; no headfirst sliding unless sliding back to base
  - **Borrowing players:** only allowed if necessary to reach 8 players; borrowed player must be from 10U if possible and must have consent from their manager and your opposing manager and division VP **in advance**, and they must bat last and play OF only.
- **14U SOFTBALL: LA/SB Interleague Rules**
  - **Bases:** 60', Softball: 12", **Pitcher's Plate:** 43'; **16' diameter circle**; Metal cleats OK
  - **Equipment:** **Defensive face guards required for P, 3B, and 1B; recommended for 2B, SS**
  - **Game length:** 7 innings **Pitching limits:**; None; Runs: 6 runs per inning for first three innings, then unlimited 4<sup>th</sup> and on; **Batting:** Everyone hits; **Time limit:** 1:30 "no new," 2:00 "drop dead"