

# DHYS SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES FOR 6U

REVISED AND UPDATED JANUARY 2016

ASA 8u are the official rules with the below modifications

**Sportsmanship Statement:** For good sportsmanship to prevail, coaches, players and fans must display respect, fairness, honesty and responsibility before, during and after games. We encourage everyone to enthusiastically support their team, recognize outstanding performance of opponents, and always exhibit good sportsmanship in their words and actions.

## Playing Field

1. Bases are fifty (50) feet apart.
2. Safety base is used at first base.
3. Pitchers plate/rubber is thirty-five (35) feet from back of home plate
4. Pitcher's circle is an eight (8) foot radius from the back of the rubber.
5. INFIELD FOUL LINE: A ten (10) foot arc from the back edge of home plate that demarcates infield from foul territory.

## Game Duration

1. A complete game is four complete innings or one hour and fifteen (15) minutes.
2. An inning will be three (3) outs or five (5) runs.
3. The next inning will start the moment the third out is made, or the moment the fifth run has scored.
4. Teams must be ready to take the field when the umpire has the coaches meeting at the plate. Game clock begins when the umpire starts the game timer at the end of the coaches meeting.
5. There will be no new inning after one hour five (5) minutes.
6. Games shortened by weather conditions will be complete games after three (3) innings or two and one-half (2 1/2) innings if the home team is ahead. Incomplete games will be replayed completely at a later date.
7. The home team is the official scorekeeper.

## Players

1. Each team will field a minimum number of players required to field an infield.
2. All players play in the field defensively. Because the teams have different numbers of available players, the following defensive positioning should be used for different rosters. There is no catcher position.
  - 5 players: P, 1B, 2B, SS and 3B
  - 6 players: P, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B and SF (Short Field – in front of 2B)
  - 7 players: P, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, LF and RF
  - 8 players: P, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, LF, CF and RF
  - 9 players: P, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, LF, LCF, RCF and RF
  - 10 players: P, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, SF, LF, LCF, RCF and RF

3. Outfield players are to be positioned in the grass and equally spaced.
4. No more than four (4) players will be on either half of the infield as defined by a line between home and second base.
5. No player will be positioned closer to the plate than the halfway lines between first and third.
6. Pitcher: The fielder playing the pitcher position must have both feet must be inside the pitchers' circle at the start of each pitch and can only leave the circle when the batter makes contact with the ball.
7. Coach Pitcher: A team will use a coach/parent pitcher to pitch to any player on their own team. Coach pitchers may pitch from the rubber, from the front of the 8' circle or from a point reasonably closer to the plate to best teach batters to hit a pitched ball, while not using the closer positioning to competitive advantage. (i.e. Any player who can hit a pitched ball from the rubber should be pitched to from the rubber.) The coach pitcher is not required to leave fair territory after the ball is put into play but must attempt not to interfere with the play or any defensive players.
8. Each player must play at least one (1) inning in the infield
9. Any player fielding the "pitcher" position must wear a face protection mask.

### **Batting**

1. The batting order will consist of the entire roster of players present.
2. No strike outs.
3. If the ball fails to travel past the infield foul line, (ten (10) foot arc in front of the home plate), it will be called a foul.
4. Coach Pitcher will throw 3 pitches If the batter does not put the ball in play in 3 pitches, then a tee must be used for the remainder of that at-bat until the ball is put into play.
5. Batters and base runners must wear helmets with a face protector.
6. If a batting tee is used as soon as the batter hits the ball, the tee coach removes the tee from the plate so that it will not obstruct a play at the plate.
7. Bunts are not permitted
8. The batter "on-deck" must wear a helmet with a face protector.

### **Coaching**

1. On offense, each team may provide a first and third base coach for each at-bat.
2. Each team may place defensive coaches in foul territory in the outfield grass: one on each side of the field.
3. Judgment calls by the umpires are not to be questioned.
4. Rule discussions will occur after play has stopped. Discussions will be attended by the opposing managers.
5. Dugout coaches/parents – at least 1 adult must be in the dugout at all times, but no more than 2 adults other than coaches may be in the dugout at one time.
6. The coach pitcher is allowed to coach the batter before the pitch, but may not coach any runner once the ball is in play.
7. If the coach pitcher is hit by a batted ball, the batter automatically advances to first base. Any on-base runners automatically advance one base. If the coach pitcher interferes with the

defensive play in any other manner, the batter-runner is out and no other runner shall advance past the base to which they were running.

### **Base Running / Stop the Play**

1. No runner may leave a base until the ball is hit. If a runner leaves too soon, all runners must return to their original base, and the batter will bat again. This is a dead-ball infraction.
2. Any overthrow to first base is a dead ball, and runners may not advance. Runners may advance one base on overthrows to second or third base at their own risk.
3. Base running for infield hits is station to station. Batters can run on outfield hits (in the grass) until the play is considered to be contained. If a team cannot field enough players to play any outfield players, then balls hit to the outfield against that team will be considered a ground rule double.
4. Containment is considered to be when the ball returns to the infield on an outfield hit. Baserunners must stop at the base to which they were running when the ball reaches the infield.

### **Miscellaneous**

1. In the case where there is no umpire available then base coaches will call outs on the bases. The first base coach is responsible for calls at first base and home plate. The third base coach is responsible for calls at second and third base.
2. Pace: Dugout coaches are encouraged to ensure the batters are ready for their turn at bat.
3. Good sportsmanship should be displayed by coaches and players at all times. No one (including spectators) will be allowed to use cheers that taunt or insult the opposing team.
4. Coaches are responsible for the cleanup of the area immediately after games. Ask your parents in the stands to help with this. All trash must be picked up and placed in the appropriate receptacle.
5. Softball: an 11" Reduced Injury (RIF) 10 softball will be used.