

U8 MINI SOFTBALL RULES

1. To be eligible to play in the Mini Division, players must **be 6 or 7 years old** before December 31st of the previous year.
2. There will be ten (10) defensive players on the field. Any extra players must be an outfielder. **All outfielders must be on the outfield grass.**
3. Coaches must rotate players throughout the season, and give them an opportunity to play both infield and outfield. **Each player must play two full innings at an infield position (i.e. P, C, 1B, 2B, SS or 3B) in each game. No player "sits" for more than, two consecutive innings - rotate players during the game to achieve an even amount of playing time.**
4. Offensively, there will be **a continuous batting order**. Each player shall be given the opportunity to bat in the number 1, 2, 3 or 4 spot (from the start of the game), at least once during the regular season.
5. Bases are to be coached by adult coaches at the First and Third Base coaches' boxes; *however one adult coach should always remain in the dugout*. Coaches cannot assist base runners by pulling them back to base or pushing them towards the next one. Coaches on defense are permitted on the field for positioning and guiding players in the MINI Division. However, they cannot directly assist or interfere in any actual defensive play.
6. Pitching (Coach) Coaches should pitch from the rubber, which is located 35 feet from home plate. This rule is an enhancement to the 40' Little League rule. Bases shall remain at the 60' standard.
7. Pitching (Kid Pitch) - .The game will be set-up to allow coaches to pitch the 1st half of the game and the girls to pitch the last 1 or 2 inning.. If adequate pitching is not available coach pitch will prevail. All Players at this age should be encourage to pitch. Please agree with each manager before start of game. When kids are pitching – once they walk 2 batters (hit by pitch counts as a walk) in an inning and 3 balls on each batter after that – coach comes in to pitch.
8. The Team at bat can score a maximum of four (4) runs per inning. (if three outs or 4 runs does not happen in an inning, the inning ends with the last batter in the lineup)
9. Hit by Pitch (Coach) - First base is not awarded when a batter is hit by a coach,
10. Hit by Pitch (Kid Pitch) First base will be awarded when a batter is hit. The Hit by Pitch (HBP) will count towards the pitchers walk total. After the pitcher hits two (2) consecutive batters in an inning or three (3) for the game, the pitcher will need to be replaced.
11. Only one base is allowed on an overthrow that is ruled to be a dead ball. (NO bases on overthrows)
12. Stoppage in Play: A play is over when the ball returns to the area of the pitcher who is on the rubber. The pitcher does **NOT** have to have control of the ball. A runner can advance to the next base only if he or she is more than halfway there when the ball reaches the mound area.
13. Stealing will be allowed twice an inning for second and third base only (No stealing home).
 - Stealing can only take place when a player is pitching.
 - Base runners must wait for the ball to reach the plate.
 - The catcher must have control of the ball..
 - Runners can not advance on a pass ball,
 - Runners stealing a base cannot go to the next base on an overthrow
14. Doubles - Players can advance a single into a double when the ball is hit to the outfield grass.

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15. **Bunting will not be allowed .**
16. Base runners can tag up on fly balls. There is *NO* Infield Fly Rule.
17. **Runners may not begin their advance until the batter has made contact with the ball.**
18. **11” Softee Balls will be used.**
19. **No umpires at this level .**

Game Management:

Weeknight Games

No new inning will start after 7:30pm. Coaches should confer (before the start of a new inning) when approximately 105 minutes have elapsed since the first pitch was thrown to jointly decide, "This will be the last inning."

Weekend Games

Games should be limited to 120 minutes. Coaches should confer (before the start of a new inning) when approximately 90 minutes have elapsed to jointly decide, "This will be the last inning."