

# LEAGUE RULES

## COACH PITCH (AGES 7-8)

1. Each game will have a time limit of one hour and ten minutes, (70 minutes). Games will be limited by either time or a maximum of five innings. Provide for five minutes between games for teams to gather belongings and vacate the dugout for the next game. (As the games are limited to the allotted time, please attempt to have lineups for fielding and hitting made in advance of the game and assign an adult to assist with having the kids ready to bat and dressed in the catcher's equipment in advance of taking the field.)
2. Score will not be kept in each game, as the importance of winning the game will not be prioritized over providing an enjoyable experience for all the kids involved. This should be stressed with the parents of each child prior to the start of the season.
3. All players on each team will bat in the first inning of each game regardless of the number of outs recorded. The three out rule will be implemented in all remaining innings played. However, outs will be observed in all innings played and the appropriate runners will be removed from base when an out is recorded.
4. Batters will be limited to a total of five pitches or three strikes. However, this rule may be amended by agreement between the coaches of the two participating teams. An amendment to the rule should not dismiss the three-strike rule and permit kids to swing until they hit. The five pitch maximum rule will stay in force throughout the season.
5. Teams with more than ten girls in attendance may play additional outfielders. All players will have an assigned place in the batting order.
6. The coach/pitcher is not required to pitch from the rubber. However, it is in the best interest of the kids that coaches to make an attempt to work their way back toward the rubber as the season progresses. At no time is the pitcher permitted to pitch from outside the pitching circle. Additionally, the coach/pitcher should not leave the circle while the ball is in play. The defensive team is permitted to place coaches in the outfield during play for instructional purposes.

7. Base runners will not be permitted to advance on an overthrow of any base. Also, on a ball hit into the outfield, base coaches should stop their runners once the ball is under control in the infield. If in route, the runner should be permitted to continue to advance to the base they were advancing to once control was obtained. Please remember, while we do want the kids to learn the skills of aggressive base running the intent is not to be abusive of young kids trying to learn fielding skills.
8. Coaches are required to rotate their kids in the field each game and each girl must play a minimum of one inning in the infield and outfield every game. No child should be designated as an outfield player only, regardless of skill level. It's not only important to the overall skill and knowledge development of the less talented players, but this also helps to educate the better players about the importance of personal sacrifice and team play. Under no circumstances should a team have the same two girls playing first base and/or pitcher for an entire game.
9. Outfielders should be positioned no shallower than on the grass edge. Infielders may not be positioned within 40 feet of the batter.
10. Negative cheering or chatter is not permitted. Positive cheering for teammates is accepted. However, chants or cheers that are intended to intimidate or demean their opponents are not acceptable.
11. Either official United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) approved softballs will be used for game play.
12. In the absence of a rule identified above, the games will be played according to the most recent United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) 12 & Under Fastpitch Softball Rules, which can be found at [www.ussa.com/sports](http://www.ussa.com/sports).