

LEAGUE RULES FOR MACHINE PITCH (8U)

The intent of the 8U League is to provide a positive instructional environment in which the girls can both improve their softball skills while learning the rules of the game. The following rules have been developed to allow less experienced players a chance to develop their skills while challenging and instructing more accomplished players.

- 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 5 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 players ready to bat.
- 2) Batters will be limited to a total of 5 pitches or 3 strikes.
- 3) All players on each team will bat in the first inning of each game regardless of the number of outs recorded. However, clear the bases of all base runners after the 3rd out is made throughout the inning. The 3 out rule will be implemented in all remaining innings. If 3 outs are not made, the inning is over once the batting team has gone through their entire line up.
- 4) Teams with more than 10 girls may play additional outfielders. All kids will have an assigned place in the batting order.
- 5) The coach/pitcher should not leave the circle while the ball is in play and should be every effort to move out of the path of the ball. The defensive team may place coaches in the outfield for instructional purposes.
- 6) An overthrown ball to 1st or 3rd in to foul territory, will allow any or all runners to advance one base, at their own risk and then the play is dead.
- 7) On a ball hit to the outfield, base coaches should stop their runners once the ball is under control in the infield. Please remember that while we do want the girls to learn aggressive base running skills, the intent is to not be abusive of young players trying to learn fielding skills.
- 8) Coaches are required to rotate their players in the field each game, and each girl must play a minimum of one inning in the

infield every game. No player should be designated as an outfield player only, regardless of their skill level. It's not only important to the overall skill and knowledge develop of the less advanced player, but this also helps to educate the better players about the importance of personal sacrifice and team play. Under no circumstance should the same two girls alternate playing 1st and pitcher for an entire game.

- 9) Outfielders should be positioned no shallower than the edge of the grass.**
- 10) No infielder will be closer than 30 feet (halfway between home and 1st or 3rd), prior to the release of the ball by the coach/pitcher.**
- 11) Negative cheering or chatter is not allowed.**
- 12) Either Board approved softballs or Incredi-balls will be used for game play. If both coaches agree, the Incredi-ball can be used otherwise the official ball is a Board approved 11 inch softball.**
- 13) In the absence of a rule identified above, the games will be played according to USFA rules.**

Coaches, please inform your families of the league rules to help ensure a smooth season of play.