



## 2026 8U TOURNAMENT RULES

*(Effective for the 2026 season and thereafter, until amended)*

### General:

1. All 8U C teams must be formed using approved guidelines.
2. Game Ball: 10" low compression softball. Dudley Protector Series recommended.
3. Base Distance: 60 Feet
4. Pitching Distance: 30 Feet
5. Game length: 6 Innings
6. For the first 3 innings, there will a 5 run per inning maximum. Open thereafter.
7. Run rule in effect – 10 runs after 4 innings, 8 after 5 innings.
8. **No** Coach pitch.

### Time Limit:

Time limit of seventy-five (75) minutes and finish the inning including championship game. **75 MINUTE MODIFIED DROP DEAD TIME LIMIT FOR POOL PLAY. TIME STARTS WITH FIRST PITCH. LEGAL OR ILLEGAL. IF AT EXPIRATION OF TIME, GAME IS OVER IF RUN DIFFERENCE IS 5 OR MORE. IF RUN DIFFERENCE IS 4 OR LESS COMPLETE THE INNING. On Saturday pool play, games can end in a tie.**

**75 MINUTE TIME LIMIT AND RUN RULES IN EFFECT THROUGHOUT THE PLAYOFFS. NO DROP DEAD IN PLAYOFFS. FINISH THE INNING AT 75 MINUTES.**

### Base Running:

1. Runners may steal one base per pitch. No advancement on an errant throw. No stealing home.
2. Lead off permitted on release.
3. Overthrows:
  - a. **On a throw to first base the following occurs.** No batter can advance to second base as a result of an errant throw to first base. All other runners may only advance one base past the base they are going to on an errant throw to first base with liability of being put out if the ball stays in live ball territory.
  - b. **On a throw to any other base or position.** If, on a throw to any other base an errant throw occurs, all runners and batter/runner may advance one base past the base they are going to with liability of being put out.
  - c. The umpire will only award a base to the runners if the ball has been thrown out of play. No bases will be awarded on errant throws when the ball stays in play.
  - d. Runner and batter/runner may be put out if they advance beyond the base they are entitled to on the errant throw. At the end of play the umpire will return all runners to the base they are entitled to if they have not been put out.

**Fielding:**

1. 10 players may be allowed on defense in the field at any one time, four of which must be outfielders. Outfielders must position themselves at least 10 feet behind the baseline.
2. No Infield Fly Rule.
3. Play stops when a ball, hit to outfield, gets in the control of the pitcher, who is in the infield.

**Batting:**

1. Everyone bats and free defensive substitutions.
2. No advancement on a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.