

USA Softball of South Dakota 8U Area Tournaments

GENERAL

- Slowpitch and fastpitch teams are both invited to play.
- Teams will play a one day tournament. . Each team will play up to 3 games.
- The tournaments will be hosted by area leagues and USA Softball South Dakota. There are multiple regions to keep drive time and costs down.
- The regional event fee per team will be \$150, which include spectator gate fee. Teams and players may only play in one area event per year.
- Payments to USA Softball SD may be made on-line or mailed in before the deadline.
- Eligible Players: A player is defined as any youth of *U eligible age as of 9/1/2023.
- We will use one umpire per game during tournament play.
- Youth umpires will be used at the Tournaments, if available.

WEB SITE HOST

- The 8-Under Area events will be hosted @ www.usasoftballsouthdakota.com for your team registration, bracketing, and scoring.
- Each team may have their own team page.
- Winning team coach may update scores on line or report to headquarters.

EQUIPMENT

- We will use an eleven (11) inch softball, Champro Safe-T-Soft Softballs CSB63 or equivalent.
- Helmets will be required for all batters.
- Facemask are encourage on defense.

DIMENSIONS

- The pitching plate will be placed at 35 feet.
- Base distances will be 60 feet.

GAME PLAY

- Games will be played on a Saturday or a Sunday, depending on numbers. (Yankton considering Friday play. Games may start at 9:00 am.
- Defense will have a minimum of 9 and a max of 10 (4 outfielders if 10) players on the field per inning.
- Each batter may receive 5 pitches or when hit a fair ball, whichever comes first, unless last pitch is a foul ball. The at bat will continue when foul balls are hit just as with all other age groups.
- Batters may strike out.
- If no hit after 5 pitches, that batter will be consider out.
- Pitching will be by the offensive coach.
- There will not be any base on balls.
- Bunting is not allowed.

- The Infield Fly Rule will not be applied.
- Runners will not be allowed to advance after a dropped third strike.
- Stealing is not allowed.
- Designated players (DP) will not be allowed. (Open Sub, everyone bats)
- Leading off is not allowed. Runners may not leave their base until ball contact with the bat.
- The child pitcher position must stay in the pitcher's circle and behind or on the side of the coach until ball contacts the bat. For clarification, a line be drawn at the 35' mark across entire circle and use that line for the pitcher to stand behind. The pitcher may lineup on either side of the adult pitching. However, absolutely no movement can be made by the pitcher which places them in front of the adult pitcher prior to the pitch.
- Prior to the 1st pitch the adult pitching must verbalize and check that the defense is in the ready position and ready for play to begin.
- Outfielders must start the play standing on the grass at the edge of the infield. If the infield is cut for baseball, create an arc 15 feet behind the bases and the outfielders must start behind that. They can't move until the bat has made contact with the ball.
- Players and runners will stop when:
 1. A ball that never leaves the infield: If no fielder has control of the ball the runners may continue to advance. However, once a fielder has control of the ball the runners should stop at the next base. This encourages the infielder to throw the ball to the appropriate base without the fear of runners advancing to the next base because of an overthrow.
 2. A ball hit to the outfield: If no outfielder has control of the ball the runners may continue to advance. Once the outfielder gains control of the ball and throws (releases) it toward the infield the runners will stop at the next base, even if the ball doesn't make it to the "dirt" on the throw. Exception, the outfielder can carry the ball to the infield to make an out. The runners can keep advancing in this situation.
- Teams will bat the roster. (Open substitution, everyone bats)
- Half Innings are complete after 3 outs or 4 runs
- Run ahead rule: 12 after 3, 10 after 4,
- Games will be 5 innings with a 60-minute time limit. No new inning after 55 minutes. There will be a no longer than 10-minute break between games. Be prepared to play after the ending of the game before unless waiting for a team to change diamonds.

Coaches allowed on the field:

- Coaches need to operate the game with the highest amount of integrity. At all times keep the kid's best interest in mind
- The defense will have three (3) coaches. Two (2) coaches can assist on the field. One (1) will assist the catcher with returning balls to the pitching coach.
- The offense will have three (3) coaches. Two (2) will be base coaches. One (1) will be the adult pitcher.
- The coach assisting the catcher may comment to their batter but should make any comments short and quick in nature.
- The point of the extra offensive and defensive coach is to move the game along quickly.
- The new defensive coach should wear a glove to protect against foul ball and stay to the back of the batter.

- Coaches are part of the field and are in play and need to make every effort to stay out of the player's way.
- The coach pitching may keep a maximum of two (2) softballs in his/her possession, but not laying on the ground.

8-UNDER TOURNAMENT RULES

- Games cannot end in a tie. 8U will use the tie breaker rule and start the inning with a runner on 2nd base with 1 out.
- After one inning of playing the tie breaker rule a coin flip will be done to determine a winner.
- There may be youth umpires for the Tournament games. Calls will not be disputed. If there is a concern, talk to the tournament director.
- Teams are not allowed to add players to their roster for tournament play if they are already rostered on another team.

Attention All 8-Under Coaches

- You must be background check and have completed the federal mandated SafeSport program.
- Background check link. There is a cost of \$18.00 per coach. Background check must be submitted and cleared before the tournament, This can take up to 3 days.

<https://registerusasoftball.com>

- You may take the SafeSport course before your background has cleared. You will find the link on your Register USA Softball home plate.
- You will need to create an account for SafeSport also. Make sure you fill in all the blanks. Your organization # is your USA Softball membership number. The last line, name of your sport or organization needs to read USA Softball.
- Make sure you do the course that is marked SafeSport Trained **NGBI**. If already have done that one then you will do the next one which could 1, 2, or 3 of the Refresher **NGBI** courses. Never pay for a SS course and only do one a year.

If enough interest we may play a State Tournament in July with the USA Softball South Dakota Youth Rec in Sioux Falls. The Champion and possible 2nd place team in each bracket at the area events would be invited. We would need a minimum of 8 team for the state tournament to be considered on July

Sites and dates at this time with maybe one or 2 more sites added are:

Madison Saturday June 8th and Sunday June 9th

Yankton Friday June 14th (Possible Brookings or Watertown Saturday or Sunday)

Parkston Saturday June 22nd

Winner Sunday June 23rd

Sturgis Saturday June 29th and Sunday June 30th