

8U Division Softball Rules

Revised 2/2014

Game Length: Games will be six (6) innings in length with no new inning to start after 1 hour

and 35 minutes with a drop dead at 1 hour and 45 minutes or while safe light conditions exist as determined by the umpire. At the drop dead time, the score reverts back to the last completed inning.

Rules: Playing rules will follow in order of precedent: Hemet Youth house rules, followed by PONY Softball rule book.

- Pitching distance will be set at 30'
- An 10" Safety softball shall be used for league play
- All players attending the game will bat. Players arriving after the start of the game will bat at the end of the line up.
- Player(s) leaving the game early due to injury or illness will receive an "out" the first time the players batting turn occurs. Any subsequent at-bats for the same player will be skipped with no penalty.
- Mandatory Play Rule: No player will sit in the dugout consecutively more than one defensive inning. Penalty: Manager ejected from game.
- Lead-offs are allowed only after the ball has left the pitcher's hand. Leaving the base prior to the ball leaving the pitcher's hand constitutes an out.
- Ball is DEAD when hit into foul territory.
- 3 minutes between inning and 5 warm up pitches.
- When changing a pitcher in the middle of an inning, the pitcher is allowed 2 minutes for warm ups and/or 5 warm up pitches.
- Pitchers can pitch two (2) innings a game, four (4) innings in a calendar week, with mandatory 48 hours rest in between games if two (2) innings are pitched in the prior game.
- No walks shall be allowed. After four balls have been issued to the batter or if batter is hit by "in the air" pitch, the coach of the batting team shall throw the remaining strike count to the batter. Each pitch thrown by the coach will be considered a strike regardless of the pitch location. The batter may stay "alive" by fouling off the last pitched ball.
- The "coach pitcher" will deliver the pitch (no kneeling) from the pitching rubber, or from the side even with the pitching rubber and should attempt to avoid obstructing the view of, or interfering with the defensive players. If struck by a hit ball, the "coach pitcher" is considered "in play." If coach remains an obstruction,

in the umpire's discretion, the coach will be removed and replaced for the remainder of the game.

- Hit Batter – if the batter is hit by the pitch in the air only, it is a dead ball and the batter will have the coach finish the remaining strike count.
- Batters are not permitted to bunt or swing bunt at the ball. The batter shall be called back to the plate, the swing shall count as a foul-strike, the ball is dead and no runners may advance. After three strikes the batter will be called out.
- Base-runners score and advance bases only on a hit ball. Any player attempting to advance from third base by any other means will be called out once the player has crossed home plate. **NO STEALING!!!**
- No substitute runners unless there is an injury.
- Coach conferences with team: If a manager or coach goes onto the playing field to talk to any player(s) more than twice in a half inning while the same player is pitching, a pitching change must be made. The only exception is when an injury occurs. The manager or coach may call a player to the baseline to talk in the event the other team has called a time-out, or some other significant delay has occurred. Only one offensive time out per half inning.
- Home team to keep official scorebook.
- No arguing with the umpire of judgment calls. Protest of rule interpretations will be directed to the umpire by the coach immediately following the rule infraction, once time is called. The coach must show the stated rule in the rule book within three minutes. The umpire will then render his/her decision. All protests cease at this point.
- Coaches must behave in a responsible manner and be a positive role model; no dissension towards umpires, opposing player or spectators will be tolerated. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of themselves, their players and their spectators.
- Coach and Team Parent: Please have your players clean up around the dugouts and field after each game.
- All players and coaches must be in full uniform while on the field during a game.