



USA SOFTBALL OF SOUTH MISSISSIPPI
ALL-STAR RULES AND REGULATIONS
COACH PITCH (8-U)



Tournament is USA Softball sanctioned. All teams must be sanctioned with USA Softball. The Tournament Umpire-in-Chief and all tournament umpires must be USA Softball certified. All games shall be governed by the Official Rules of Softball issued by USA Softball except as amended below:

I. Eligibility

All players must be age eligible for the division in which they compete. A player's age as of August 31 determines the age in which the player is eligible to play the following year. For example, the 2024 Playing Age is based on age as of 8/31/2023. Proof of age and identification must be furnished upon request.

II. Pre-game

1. Bases will be at a distance of 60'. Pitcher's mound will be at a distance of 35' from home plate. A 16' diameter pitching circle shall be marked around the pitching rubber.
2. The Team Manager shall attend the Pre-Game meeting before the game. The umpire shall inform both coaches of the existing ground rules, dead ball areas and other specific rules. Only the Team Manager may question a rules interpretation or appeal any decision during the game.
3. The coin toss shall take place on the field. Home team will keep the official score book. It is the Managers responsibility to ensure agreement on an accurate score.
4. Game time is forfeit time. Games will consist of six (6) innings with no new inning starting after fifty-five minutes (0:55 hr). If time for a new inning has expired and Home Team cannot win, the game will be called.
5. One-half inning will consist of three (3) outs or five (5) runs, whichever comes first. A run rule of fifteen (15) after three (3) or ten (10) runs after five (5) innings will be used.

III. Equipment

1. Batters and base runners will wear batting helmets with a face guard. Chin straps are optional. Catchers will wear a helmet with a face guard. All infielders will wear a protective fielders mask. Regulation USA SOFTBALL 11" softballs will be used.
2. The bat must be on the USA Softball approved bat list and bear the ASA 2004 or USA Softball Certified bat stamp.
3. All offensive players must keep their helmet on while outside the dugouts. Helmets must fit and be worn properly. If a player removes her helmet on the field of play during a live ball situation, a warning will be issued to the coach and player. If the same player removes her helmet again during the game, she will be ejected.

IV. Batting Order

1. All rostered players on each team will be listed in the batting order. If teams have different numbers of rostered players, the team with more players may elect to play only the number of players as on the other team; then the remaining players may be substituted for the starting players. (Example: Team A has 12 rostered players and Team B has 14 rostered players- Team B may choose to play only 12 players; however, Team A must play their 12 players).
2. A team must have nine (9) players to start a game. The tenth (10) batting slot WILL NOT be an out. If a player arrives late to a game, they will be added to the bottom of the line-up and will bat at the proper time.
3. All players on the line-up must have participated in the league for which the team represents.

V. Playing Rules

1. Up to eleven (11) players may play defense, thus allowing five (5) outfielders. A catcher is a mandatory position.
2. The pitcher is a fielding position only. Pitcher must be parallel to the rubber on the left or right side of the coach pitcher with both feet within the 16' diameter pitching circle until the ball is hit.
3. Infielders will play no closer to the batter than a line from first (1st) base to third (3rd) base before the ball is hit. Any defensive player can make any play on any runner without regard to playing position. All Players must throw the ball (not roll), and attempt to make a valid play on each batter/base-runner.
4. Outfielders shall play no closer than 85' from home plate behind 1st and 3rd and 110' behind 2nd base.
5. Catchers shall take a position in the catcher's box behind home plate. The catcher will prepare to receive the pitch from the coach pitcher.
6. N/A
7. If a batted ball is fielded inside the pitcher's circle, the ball must be thrown to another fielder for an out to be recorded. If the ball is not thrown, time will be called and each runner will advance to the base they are going.
8. The umpire will call time when all play has ceased. Runners will not be allowed to "jockey" between bases; they must continue to the next base or return to the last base touched. When any fielder has control of the ball in front of the lead runner or the lead runner is stopped at a base, the umpire will declare the ball dead and play will stop. Umpire judgment is final and will not be questioned.
9. A coach will pitch to his own team from a distance of 35 feet and must keep in contact with the pitching rubber when the pitch is released. Failure to do so will result in an illegal pitch and a strike will be called on the batter.
10. The pitch may be without an arch, but with moderate speed. Pitches of excessive speed will result in a warning to the pitching coach. A second warning of pitches of excessive speed will result in the removal of the pitching coach from the pitching position.
11. The pitching coach cannot coach batters or base runners, but may verbally encourage the batter. This is especially important during a live ball play. The penalty is a warning the first time. A second offense will result in the runner being called out and the coach being removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.

12. Runners must remain on the base until the batter makes contact with the ball. When the batter hits the ball, the coach-pitcher must make a valid attempt to leave the field. The coach-pitcher should exit opposite the side the ball is hit if possible. If the doesn't make an attempt to leave the field or interferes with the defense, the batter will be considered out.
13. If a batted ball hits the pitching coach, the ball is declared dead and the pitch is replayed. If the umpire rules the pitching coach interferes with the batted ball intentionally, the batter is out and no runners can advance. If the pitching coach interferes in a defensive play, the ball becomes dead and the runner being played on will be declared out and all runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the interference.
14. There will be NO INFIELD FLY RULE. Base stealing will not be allowed.
15. A verbal warning will be given to the player for the first incident of slinging the bat. Any time thereafter, the umpire will call the batter out and the ball dead. Base runners will return to the base previously occupied.

VI. Batting

1. Each batter will receive a maximum of five (5) pitches or three (3) swinging strikes per bat. If a batter fouls the ball on the fifth (5th) pitch, the batter will be granted another pitch. The batter will continue to bat until one of the following occurs: (1) puts a ball in play, (2) swings and misses completely, or (3) does not swing at all.
2. No bunting is allowed. Penalty: The batter is out.
3. Any defensive player can make any play on any runner without regard to playing position.
4. N/A

VII. Managers and coaches

1. Only rostered players, two coaches, one manager, one scorekeeper and one bat person will be allowed in the dug-out.
2. Field assignments may vary according to weather conditions or other conditions. Team officials are responsible for staying in contact in the event of inclement weather or any unforeseen incident.
3. On defense, a team may place two coaches on the outfield grass for the purpose of coaching the defensive players only. The defensive coach may coach any of his defensive players in the same manner as he would coach from the dugout. If the defensive coach does not stay on the outfield grass, one would be removed from the position for the remainder of the game. If a coach is removed from the defensive coaching position, another one of the team's coaches will be allowed to become the defensive coach. All rules concerning interference or obstruction will apply to the defensive coach.
4. Coaches cannot touch players or ball while play is live.

VIII. Safety

1. All safety rules and equipment as listed in the USA SOFTBALL Rule Book are mandatory for all players. No jewelry will be allowed except for Medical Alert identifications.
2. A Zero Tolerance Policy is in effect for all games. Coaches will be responsible for the conduct of themselves, their team members and fans. There shall be no "ARGUING" with the umpires at any time by coaches. The penalty is automatic ejection from the playing area. If a coach is ejected, he/she will not be allowed to remain in view of the playing field. An ejection remains in effect for the rest of the tournament.
3. A player cannot return to the game after being removed for injury or sickness. There will be out called for the missing batter. The game can continue with one less player than at the start. A forfeit will be called in cases where a team is short two or more players.
4. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed inside the complex and no tobacco products allowed inside the playing area or dug-outs. Persons under the influence of alcohol and/or illegal drugs will be requested to leave the premises. Failure to depart promptly may result in being escorted off the premises or possibly team forfeiture.
5. Once the game is officially started, the umpire will have full control. No protest will be accepted on judgment calls. Official protest must be submitted to the umpire who in turn will notify the official scorekeeper and will be reviewed by the tournament protest committee. There will be a \$100.00 protest fee which will be refunded if the protest is valid. Protests will be handled in accordance with Rule 9, Sections 1 -7.

IX. Disclaimers

1. Players and Coaches will participate at their own risk. The USA Softball organization, USA Softball District Commissioner, or local league will not be held liable for any injuries or mishaps incurred while participating in this tournament.
2. These rules may be interpreted and/or modified at the sole discretion of the USA Softball District Commissioner or District Umpire-In-Chief to clarify confusion or promote the safety and well-being of the Players, Coaches and fans.
3. Team officials are responsible for staying in contact with tournament officials in the event of inclement weather or any unforeseen incident. Should we get ahead or behind scheduled game times due to weather or other reasons, be prepared to take the field for your games as time allows us to play them. It is the manager's responsibility to know when your games will be played.