

# Playing Rules 8U

## Kansas USA Softball Fastpitch All Divisions



Revised 3/25/22

**Teams will use all USA Softball Fastpitch rules and regulations with the following exceptions or notes:**

**Official Ball:** Red-stitch ASA/USA Stamped 11" Optic Yellow .47 COR/375 Ball (No USSSA Blue-stitch balls will be used)

**Pitching Distance:** The pitching distance shall be 35 feet.

**Time Limit:** Pool & Bracket games will be 5 innings or 55 minutes, finish the inning. Game time begins with the 1<sup>st</sup> warm up pitch. Umpires on the field will keep the official time. **Pool games can end in a tie.**

**Official Game:** If a game cannot be completed, because of weather and has less than 15 minutes left, it will be considered an official game with the previous inning score being official.

**Runs Per Inning Limit:** 6 runs or 3 outs, whichever occurs 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Runs Ahead Rule:** The game is over at the **end of three (3) innings**, if one team is **ahead by fifteen (15) or more runs.**

The game is over at the **end of four (4) innings**, if one team is **ahead by seven (7) or more runs.**

**If time has expired** and the visitor's team is ahead **by at least 7 runs**, the game is over.

**Tiebreaker in Bracket Games: At the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning or after time expires for both teams:** The International Tie Breaker rule will be used to break tie games in bracket only. A base runner will start at 2<sup>nd</sup> base with no outs. The runner is the last batter to make an out in the previous inning.

**Batting Lineups:** 8's will bat their complete, full roster for all games, pool, and bracket.

**Players in the field and on defense:** 10 players will play on defense in the field, **with 4 of them positioned in the outfield.** The four outfielders will remain ten feet (10') behind baselines until the ball has been hit.

**Coach-Pitcher:** Shall be a member of the team's coaching staff and shall pitch the ball in an underhand motion to each batter of his/her team. At the umpire's discretion, he/she may allow the coach-pitcher to move forward from the pitching rubber to a position that will allow them to deliver a hittable ball to the batter. **If a batted ball hits either the coach-pitcher or player-pitcher, it is still a "live ball". Both are considered part of the "dirt".**

**Player-Pitcher:** The defensive player/pitcher must stand in the back half of the pitching circle.

**Batter:** There will be no walks. There will be no bunting. The batter will be called out after 5 pitches or 3 strikes. The batter is OUT on a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike. The batter CANNOT run or advance to 1<sup>st</sup> base on a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike. The umpire will give notification prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch. A batted foul ball on the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch will not count as one of the 5 pitches. The batter will continuously receive another pitch until the pitch is missed or put in play. A caught foul fly ball will be an out whenever it occurs.

**Base Runner:** Base runners may leave a base after the pitcher releases the ball. No stealing will be allowed. No Infield Fly Rule.

**Overthrow Rule: On a throw to 1<sup>st</sup> Base: No batter-runner can advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> Base, as a result of an errant throw to 1<sup>st</sup> Base.** All other base runners may only advance one (1) base past the base they are going to, during an errant throw to 1<sup>st</sup> Base, with liability of being put out, if the ball stays in live ball territory.

**On a throw to any other base:** If on a throw to any other base, an errant throw occurs, all runners and the batter-runner, may advance one (1) base past the base they are going to, with liability of being put out. **Umpire will call “Time” when in their judgement, the play has ended.**

**Defensive Coaches:** Two defensive coaches are allowed to stay on the field at all times, for the purpose of instruction and placement of players between plays. Coaches will have 15 seconds between plays to position players and offer instruction.

**Defensive Substitutions:** Players may be freely substituted on defense.

**Scorekeepers:** Home team will be the official scorebook. Visiting team will run the score board. Neither of these will apply if the Tournament provides an official scorekeeper.

**Protests:** The Home Plate Umpire and the Official Scorekeeper must be notified of a protest at the time of the infraction and prior to the next pitch, legal or illegal. No appeals will be heard after this point. Protests on an umpire’s judgement will not be heard. The Tournament Director and/or UIC shall give the final rule interpretation.

**Jewelry:** Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire, to be dangerous, will not be permitted and will be removed. Medical alert items are not considered jewelry. Medical alert items that are worn must be taped to the body so medical alert information remains visible.

**Bracket Seeding: After pool play is complete, bracket seeding will be set according to the Pool Standings.** The pool standings take into consideration; pool record, head-to-head, runs allowed, runs scored and any other tie factors between teams in the pool.

