

2023 BRSYSA 6U Softball Rules

GENERAL

- A. **Instructional League:** This is an instructional league only. No score or standings are kept.
- B. **Games per Week:** In general, we play one Saturday game, although there may be a weeknight game or two if there are an odd number of teams in the league. There are no official make-up games for rainouts, but the coaches may work with the division coordinator to schedule make-up games if they would like.
- C. **Practices per Week:** In general, the teams can practice one time per week, but there is no requirement for additional practices once the season begins.
- D. **Equipment:** 6U division players use a 10-inch "soft" safety ball. The league provides bats and balls. Players must provide their own gloves and batting helmets. We also recommend that players wear cleats for safety.
- E. **Pre-Game Warm-Up:** Teams should arrive 45 minutes prior to games to stretch, warm up, and hit wiffles/heavies. Players may warm up in the side areas along the 1st and 3rd base. Once the game before has concluded, teams may move to the outfield areas since there is grass. ANY BATTING WARM UPS REQUIRE THE PLAYERS TO WEAR HELMETS AT ALL TIMES. At no time shall players be swinging bats near other players who are not wearing batting helmets. Teams may not take infield practice before the game unless it is along the first or third base lines.
- F. **Game Length:** Teams play for 60 minutes with no additional innings started after 60 minutes. Teams may conclude the inning they are playing. Drop-dead is 75 minutes, at which time the teams must leave the field to make room for the next game. Once your game is over, please leave the field, and make room for other teams to use the space for warm-ups.
- G. **Home Team Dugout:** Home team shall use the 3rd base dugout.
- H. **Home Team Responsibilities:** Home team of the first game of the day shall be responsible for placing bases, batting tee, and any other

equipment on the field. Home team of the last game of the day shall be responsible for putting the bases, batting tee, and any other equipment into the storage area at the conclusion of the game. Home team shall be responsible for field preparation.

- I. Uniforms:** All players shall be in full uniform in order to participate in the game.
- J. Attendance of Adult Female:** A mother or other responsible adult female associated with the team shall be in attendance at all team practices, games, and meetings.

DIVISION PLAY

- A. Pitching and Catching:** Managers or coaches shall pitch to their respective teams. After four coach pitches, the batter must hit from the tee. There are no strikeouts or walks in this division. An adult, preferably a coach, may act as catcher for the team. *There are no youth catchers in this division and siblings or other children are not allowed to catch.*
- B. Balls:** The ball is the 10-inch "soft" practice ball for this division.
- C. Stealing:** No base stealing or lead-offs are allowed.
- D. Base Running and Scoring:** Base runner may only advance one base per hit. Base runners may advance to an additional base or score from 2nd base ONLY when a pitched ball is hit into the outfield by the batter. The final batter in each lineup shall be the "home run hitter" in which all base runners run to home to score.
- E. Stationing of Coaches, Managers and/or Parents:** Coaches, Managers, and/or Parents may be stationed at each base to help base runners while their team is at bat. Two Coaches, Managers, and/or Parents may be in the outfield to help the defense while their team is in the field.
- F. Stopping Game to Instruct:** Any coach may stop play during the game to explain or instruct.
- G. Base Running:** Players may advance one base on a ball hit to an infielder. Players may advance two bases on a ball hit to the outfield. Players always advance at their own risk and the defense may put them out.

- H. **Dead Ball:** The play has ended and the ball is dead when the ball has returned to the pitcher (coach) or an attempt has been made to get it there by the defense. A ball overthrown to first base is a dead ball and players may not take an extra base.
- I. **Rotation Batting:** Each team will bat all players every inning. Coaches are encouraged to rotate their order such that a different batter gets to be “home run hitter” each inning.
- J. **Umpires:** There are no official umpires at this age.
- K. **Batting Order:** Coaches should rotate batters in the order from game-to-game.
- L. **Infielders and Outfielders:** Each team may have a 1st base, 2nd base, shortstop, 3rd base, one rover, and a pitcher’s helper on defense. The remaining players must play in the outfield at least 10 feet behind the infield players. There are no youth catchers in the 6U division. An adult must catch.
- M. **Rotation of Players Between Infield and Outfield:** Coaches are encouraged to rotate their players through the infield and outfield positions.