

# Tri-Village Softball By-Laws

## 8U League

Playing Rules follow USA Softball Rulebook with the following exceptions/explanations:

1. All present players will be listed in the batting order (whether in the field or not); Teams will bat through the order continuously throughout the game.
2. No Base Stealing allowed. Base runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit.
3. Overthrows Infield and Outfield – No Advancement on overthrows.
4. Once a ball is thrown by the defense, base runners are to stop at the base they are advancing to. The ball is considered live until the runner reaches the base they are advancing to and can be thrown out.
5. Games are 5 innings or 90 minutes. In the case of a tie (at the end of 5 innings or 90 minutes), a single inning will be played in attempts to break the tie.
6. When a game is called by an umpire due to weather before 3 complete innings, the game will resume exactly at the point it was called. A game is considered complete after 3 complete innings. An attempt will be made to finish the game within 2 weeks.
7. Unlimited Substitutions.
8. Playing field shall consist of 10 players with the 10 player as a rover in the outfield.
9. A team may start with **eight** players. The ninth batter is an automatic out. If a player shows up late, they can be added to the bottom of the order. If a situation arises where there are only seven players are left, the game is forfeited by that team.
10. No batting/lineup penalty for a player being removed from the game for medical reasons or injury. The batting order will skip the missing or injured player.
11. Outfielders must start each pitch at least on the edge of the outfield grass. (Judgment based on grass depth in field)
12. The defensive player must stay no closer to home plate than the pitcher's rubber until the ball crosses the plate (no encroachment on the batter's box).
13. Bases are set at 60 feet.
14. 5 run maximum until 5<sup>th</sup> inning which is unlimited runs. The umpire shall announce the last inning.

Bylaws approved by two-thirds motion on 3/19/25.

15. Official 11" yellow softball with raised red stitching will be used.
16. Facemasks and chinstraps on batting helmets are mandatory. Facemasks are mandatory for infielders and advised for outfielders.
17. USA/ASA Bat – players must use a bat certified with the USA/ASA Bat licensing stamp on the bat per PONY. TBall bats are excluded from use for any age group other than TBall. Any play caught using a non-USA/ASA Bat or TBall bat will be called out and that player and coach will be ejected for the remaining game and the next game. The ump must enforce this rule as a safety concern.
18. Coaches will instruct players not to throw the bat. After an Umpire's warning has been given to a player from each team, the next offense will be an out.
19. Batters get 6 pitches. Foul balls on or after sixth pitch is **not** an out. Batter can continue over 6 pitches if fouls continue until either a fair ball is hit or batter strikes out.
20. Hitting pitching machine; hits machine OR Coach unintentionally, LIVE ball. If hits machine or coach and goes foul without touching a player, counts as foul/strike.
21. Coach Pitcher location – must remain behind the machine during inning or until the ball is hit. Coach Pitcher can only address batter as to direction within the box however, cannot leave the mound to speak to the batter or "coach" between pitches.
22. The Blue Louisville Slugger pitching machine will be used. The machine will be 32 feet from the back of home plate (back of the plate, at the point, as reference). The following machine settings will be used for all games:
  1. A NEW SPIRING WILL BE PLACED BY APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> EVERY SEASON
  2. Power Foot lever set on pin 3
  3. Release block set at Lower pitch on Pin 3
  4. Microadjust should be set at Pin 2
  5. Screw 1/4 out for ball placement (adjusted as needed through the game)
  6. Place ball in feeder the same for each pitch
23. Metal cleats are not allowed.

Coach's expectations:

1. Umpires will be at least 16 years old.
2. Umpires should be aware of by-laws; home team coach is responsible for reviewing.
3. Batting practice on the field must be completed 15 minutes prior to game time
4. Time between innings should be approximately 90 seconds. Coach must have player positions organized prior to the upcoming inning
5. Remind players about good sportsmanship and cheers