

## **SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES 2017 GIRLS 8U PITCHING MACHINE**

1. MAKE SURE THAT ALL OF YOUR COACHES AND UMPIRES ARE PLAYING BY THESE RULES FIRST, AND THEN REFER TO THE IHSAA RULES FOR FAST PITCH. NO TOWN MAY PLAY BY THEIR HOMETOWN RULES.

2. Age limits: a girl's league age for the next season is determined by whatever age she is on December 31. If your birthday is December 31, the age you become on that day will be your league age the next season. 8U are from 8years old and under, and if a girl turns 9 on December 31, she cannot play as an 8-year-old.

3. During league or tourney play, if a team will be short players for a game, a lower age division player may move up a division. The lower division player's first commitment is to the roster she is on. If her team has a game at the same time as the upper division, she must play with her own lower division team. As long as no conflicts occur, enough girls can move up a division to make a maximum of 11 players for the game. The players moving up must be registered on a league team and on a roster in the community they are playing for. After the game, the players can return to their original team to play ball. The opposing coach must be notified at the start of the game, when players are moving up for a game. If at any time, a girl makes a permanent move to an upper division, with no intention of playing in her original division, the league commissioner must be notified, and a girl cannot return to her age division. If a team starts with less than 10 players and a player comes late, she can play and make a full team. If players show up late to make more than 10 players, refer to rule #10 and #11, and all the playing requirements must be met.

4. There will be 10 players on the field, with a minimum of 7 players to start the game. EACH TEAM MUST BAT ALL ROSTERED PLAYERS PRESENT. THERE ARE NO OFFENSIVE SUBSTITUTIONS. HOWEVER, A COURTESY RUNNER MAY BE USED FOR PITCHERS, CATCHERS, OR ANY PLAYER DEEMED AS INJURED AND THE OPPOSING COACH WAS NOTIFIED PRIOR TO THE GAME. The injured player, pitcher, or catcher must have made it onto base safely and the play has stopped, at that point a runner may be substituted.

5. There is no automatic out if a team is short on players. All participants must play 1 inning in the field and have at least 1 time at bat in a completed game. This rule will be true for all divisions. Failure to meet these rules will cause a forfeit. If a player is on the bench for disciplinary reasons, the opposing coach must be notified before the start of the game. If a maximum amount of players are present, they must play. If there are no substitutes available, no automatic out due to injury will be called.

6. Fast pitch will play 6 innings. All games will have a 15-minute grace period to start before a forfeit can be called. If the game ends in a tie, it will be the umpire's discretion whether to continue or call because of darkness. If the game is called because of darkness, it will be rescheduled at the earliest convenient time for completion. Umpires are to give a 15-minute warning to both teams before time limit is to expire. All innings in process (even if started with 2 minutes left) shall be completed but cannot start another inning after time limit is met.

7. In 8U fast pitch there will be 6 runs per inning limit. 8U fast pitch will have a 75 min. game time limit in reg. season and no time limit in tournament.

8. Pitching machine distance is 35ft. and set at 30 mph.

9. There is no infield fly rule in 8U fast pitch. There will be 4 outfielders and no rover. Leading off a base is not permitted. Base runners may NOT steal. Base runners are permitted to run once the bat has made contact with the ball. Any base runner leaving before the ball makes contact with the bat will be called out. Dropped 3rd strikes are NOT allowed. If there is an infield play at home plate, the runner must slide or is called out.

10. Defenders must have possession of the ball in order to block the runner's access to the base. Blocking without possession will result in the affected runner being awarded the next base.

11. The home team scorebook is the official scorebook, providing there are no signs of the book being tampered with.

12. We will not use the part in the rulebook about an ejected player or an injured player being an out. It will not count as an out when that player comes to bat in the batting order. Once a player has been removed for injury, they cannot re-enter the game.

13. A player showing up but before the third inning and is on the lineup card, she can play as a sub. If she reports after the beginning of the third inning, she cannot play. Coaches can only bring up enough players to have 10 in fast pitch. Any girls brought up will remain in the game even if a late player enters the game.

14. It is mandatory that catchers wear full gear in fast pitch. Batting helmets are mandatory when the player is at bat or on the base paths or the on deck circle. It is also required that chinstraps are attached to the batting helmets and worn securely under the chin. Face masks on the batting helmets are required. Face protection is required for the pitcher, first baseman, second baseman, shortstop and third baseman. Heart Protector is required for the pitcher.

15. The 8U fast pitch league will use an 11-inch ball. The balls will say Max 375 lbs. & Core .47 on the. Each home team will furnish two softballs for its games. One will be new and the other a used one, but in good condition. This includes tourney games.

16. Bunting, slapping or any variations of the "short game" is permitted.

17. Any base runner that comes into contact with a batted ball is out, however if the batted ball either touches a defensive player (other than the pitcher) or the defensive player makes a reasonable attempt at the ball then the runner is not out and can advance at their own risk. If a batter comes into contact with the ball she has just hit and is out of the batter's box and is in fair territory, she too will be called out.

18. All teams playing with less than 10 players will not be penalized when the missing players would have come up to bat and no out will be given.

19. Fast pitch follows IHSA rule book for a lag sun unless over written by "our league."

20. Only games cancelled due to rain will be rescheduled. Games must be rescheduled within 7 days and are to be played before the tournament. Failure of the home team coach to contact the opposing coach within 7 days is an automatic forfeit. Contact the league commissioner if unable to contact the opposing coach within 7 days. All other reschedules must be approved.

21. In case of rain, less than 4 complete innings-game starts over. 4 complete innings will be considered a complete game provided the home team has gotten their final bottom half of the 4th or 5th inning. Unless they were already leading.

22. All ties for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the league for all age groups must be played off before their tournaments.

23. Games not made up before tournament play will be a loss for both teams.

24. In case of bleeding due to an injury, the player must be taken out and cleaned up and have any open wounds covered up. If blood is on clothing, it must be changed. If no longer bleeding the player may re-enter at the umpire's discretion. The game can be held up for the player to get ready.

25. Absolutely no jewelry or metal barrettes are to be worn. This includes earrings, necklaces, bracelets (ankle & wrist), rings, watches, pins, or bobby pins. No cell phones will be allowed in dug out except for coaching staff.

26. There will be no swearing by players, coaches, or commissioners on the playing field. If caught, the umpire or commissioner will remove them from the game. If a coach or player is removed from the game there will be a mandatory 1 game suspension (this will be your next game). The commissioners reserve the right to over-rule the umpire's decision on a case to case basis. If you are ejected and want to dispute this before your next game, contact your commissioner.

27. Players will remain in the dugout during the game for safety.

28. No regular league games will be rescheduled during the week before the tournament. All regular games have to be played before the tourney.

29. Thrown bats: There will be one warning per team. The next girl who throws her bat is called out, and she does not get a warning. If the bat throwing is from unsportsmanlike conduct, no first warning is needed and she is automatically out. Second offense is ejection for the rest of the game.

30. All bats that are illegal & banned by ASA & NFHSA will be BANNED IN THIS LEAGUE AS WELL. NO TOWN IN THE LEAGUE CAN BAN A BAT IN THEIR OWN TOWN IF IT

IS NOT ON THE ASA OR NFHSA BANNED BAT LIST.

31. All umpires in 8U play DO NOT need to be patched umpires.
32. No commissioner can umpire during any league tourney.
33. All leagues will keep score.
34. Base lines for all of fast pitch are 60'.
35. In case of a tie game, each team will start next inning with runner on 2nd with 1 out.
36. PROTEST FEE IS \$100.00 CASH PAID TO THE COMMISSIONER OF THE TOWN THE PROTEST IS IN. ALL PROTESTS MUST BE DONE BEFORE LEAVING THE BALL DIAMOND AND HOME PLATE UMPIRE MUST BE NOTIFIED OF PROTEST. In tournament play only, protests will be handled before the game can continue. You will pay the umpire and the girls will go to their respective dugouts until the available commissioners handle the protest.
37. ALL TOWNS WILL FOLLOW THIS SET OF RULES ALONG WITH THE RULEBOOKS FOR SLOW AND FAST PITCH SOFTBALL. NO TOWN MAY MAKE THEIR OWN SET OF RULES TO PLAY BY WHEN PLAYING IN THIS SOFTBALL LEAGUE. THE 1ST OFFENSE WILL BE A VERBAL WARNING. THE 2ND OFFENSE WILL BE WRITTEN WARNING. THE 3RD OFFENSE WILL BE BROUGHT IN FRONT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR PENALTY. (ie: PROBATION FOR ONE YEAR AND OR FINE. DOLLAR AMOUNT TO BE DECIDED BY BOARD.)
38. The player at the pitcher position must have at least one foot in the pitching circle when the ball is pitched.
39. In the event of an overthrow base runners are allowed only one base advancement. They cannot continue to run additional bases unless the ball is picked up and again overthrown.
40. The play is dead once the ball is given to the pitcher and is within the circle.
41. Each batter will be given 5 pitches once the 5 pitches have been given and for example there are 2 strikes and 3 balls there will be an additional pitch given for every foul ball after that or once the 3rd and final strike has been issued or a batter puts the ball into play.
42. The following ISHAA rule will apply to ALL boys and girls teams for **LIGHTNING OR THUNDER DISTURBANCES:**

- a. **Suspension of play criteria:** when thunder is heard or lightning in any form (cloud-to-ground, cloud-to-cloud, etc.) is seen, which means that the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning, the suspension of play at contests and at practices is warranted and the execution of your school's emergency/severe weather action plan, including the taking of shelter immediately, is recommended.

- b. **Return to play criteria (thirty-minute rule):** once play in a contest or practice has been suspended, resumption of play, if warranted, should not occur until at least thirty (30) minutes has passed since the last thunder was heard or the last flash of lightning was witnessed. Note that any thunder heard or lightning seen after the beginning of the 30- minute count resets the clock and another thirty (30) minute count begins.