

CLCF Softball - 8U Rec Rules

FIELD SETUP

Bases - 50 feet

Pitcher's mound - 30 feet

Game Ball - 11" Safety Softball

Pitcher's circle - 8 foot radius/16 foot diameter

A 125 foot line must be installed using chalk, spray paint, and/or cones. If playing on Taft Field at Brayton, the fence is the 125 foot line.

OVERVIEW

Games will be six innings in length unless shortened by the run ahead rule. No new inning will begin after 80 minutes. Play to finish the inning.

Regular season games can end in a tie.

Playoffs only: If the game is tied at the end of the inning after the 80 minute mark, the teams shall play an additional tiebreaker inning until a winner is determined. Each tiebreaker half-inning starts with a runner on second-base (the last batter of the prior inning) and two outs.

A maximum of four runs can be scored in any half inning, including tiebreaker innings.

A continuous batting order is to be used (all players bat). Should a player be unable to take her turn at bat for any reason, proceed to the next scheduled batter without penalty. There are free defensive substitutions.

All players must play a minimum of 3 innings on defense unless the game is shortened by the run rule.

All players in the field **MUST** wear a face mask.

Any player in the catcher position must wear full catching gear, including shin guards, a chest protector and a catcher's helmet.

A defensive player will occupy the pitcher's position on either side of the adult pitcher. The player must stay inside (both feet) the pitcher's circle until the ball is hit. If the pitcher's circle was not done for the game, the player occupying the pitcher's position should stay behind the adult pitcher until the ball is hit.

10 defensive players are allowed in the field (six in the infield and four in the outfield), with reasonable exceptions allowed for rec. The four outfielders do not necessarily need to be on the outfield grass in order to be considered an outfielder; however, they must play behind the infielders, not alongside them. An outfielder cannot make a play in the infield unless the play is unassisted, (i.e. an outfielder cannot play over the second base bag and accept throws)

Two coaches are allowed to be on the field to provide instruction when his/her team is on defense, one in the outfield, and one behind the infielders. The coach in the outfield will also help monitor the 125 foot line. The coach in the infield must position him/herself behind the infielders. If a coach that is on the field with the defensive team is struck by a batted ball, the batter and all base runners will be awarded (2) bases.

Each player that throws the bat will be given one warning, the next time the same player throws the bat, an out will be recorded whether the ball was hit or not. If the ball was safely hit, all base runners will return to the base that they previously occupied.

Stealing/leading is not allowed. Base runners may not leave the base they occupy until the pitched ball crosses home plate or is hit.

GAME PLAY

There is no infield fly rule.

A coach for the team that is batting will pitch. Each batter will be pitched a maximum of 6 pitches. If still at the plate after the 6th pitch has been thrown, the batter will be declared out. While balls and strikes are not called, a batter can strike out on a swing and miss on the third strike. If the 6th pitch is fouled off, the batter is still out.

A safely hit ball to the infield allows the batter and all baserunners to advance one base with the liability of being put out

A safely hit ball to the outfield (ball must reach the outfield grass), but short of the 125 foot line, whether in the air, on the ground, or after being touched by a defensive player allows the batter and all base runners to advance up to two bases with the liability of being put out.

If a ball is hit past the 125 foot line in the air, on the ground, or after being touched by a defensive player, the batter and all base runners will be allowed to advance as many bases as they want with the liability of being put out. At fields with fences of 125 feet or less, any ball hit off the fence will have the same effect. A ball that bounces over the fence will be a ground rule double.

On a ball hit past the 125 foot line which enables the batter and all baserunners to advance more than two bases with the liability of being put out, once the ball comes into the infield and in the umpire's judgement is in control of an "infielder", baserunners that are in between bases may advance to the base they were going to with the liability of being put out. No further advancement is allowed.

One coach from each team will monitor the 125 foot line. If the ball passes the line (or hits the fence), the coach immediately raises his/her hand above his/her head. If there is a difference of opinion as to whether or not the ball crossed past the line, the home plate umpire will make the call.

Any batted ball touching the adult pitcher will constitute play being halted and no pitch being declared. The batter will return to the plate and resume the previous count, all base runners will return to the bases previously occupied. The adult pitcher must immediately attempt to get out of the way of defensive players once the ball has been pitched and cannot impede a player from making a catch or throw.

There will be no tag up and advance on a pop fly caught by an infielder. A pop up or fly ball must be caught behind the infielders, by an outfielder in order for a runner to tag up and advance.

Courtesy Runners: The last scheduled batter at the time when a courtesy runner is needed will be the runner for a player that requires a courtesy runner. The insertion of an incorrect courtesy runner discovered after the next pitch is thrown will result in an out. Should the incorrect runner be discovered prior to the next pitch being thrown, the correct runner is inserted without penalty.

Example 1: The first batter of the inning pops out for the first out of the inning, the next batter gets a hit, and requires a courtesy runner. The courtesy runner is the batter that just made the first out of that inning.

Example 2: There are no outs in the inning when the first batter gets on base, the courtesy runner is the last scheduled batter in the lineup at that time.