

## Champaign County League **8U Softball** Rules 2024

**Age Qualifications: 8U Softball ages are 6, 7 and 8 year olds. A player can't be 9 years old before January 1st. All 9-year-olds must move up to the 10U Softball League (No Exceptions).**

### A. UMPIRES:

1. 13u and Under umpires are not required to be sanctioned. Games may be called from behind the plate or at the pitcher's mound at the umpire's discretion. This could include coaches, parents or students. If the coach is to umpire as a last resort it should be the FIELDING team coach calling the game.
2. Home teams are responsible for making sure umpires are aware of county league rules.
3. All protests are to refer to OHSAA and Champaign County League rules and are to be resolved immediately. **The umpire's decision is final.**

### B. EQUIPMENT

1. The home team will provide (1) new and (1) good used ball for each home game.
2. Shoes are required equipment. Shoe sole or heel projection other than the standard shoe plate are prohibited. Metal cleats are prohibited with the exception of 15U baseball, 16U softball AND if allowed by the hosting ballpark.
3. Only official bats in good, playable condition shall be allowed. A team found using an illegal bat will be given 1 warning and told to change bats. On a second attempt to use an illegal bat, the team will be charged with an out, on a third attempt to use an illegal bat, the batter and coach will be removed from the game.
4. Batting helmets must be worn at all times by a batter and runners until they return to the dugout.
5. \*Batting helmets with face guards are mandatory.
6. Will use an 11" softball. (Yellow in color).
7. Defensive players in all infield positions must wear a face guard.
8. Non reflective visors are allowed in all age groups for pitchers only.

### C. GAME PLAY

9. Player Substitutions: Teams may borrow up to (3) players from a lower division. Teams need to have 6 original members to count as a game. If an area does not have a lower division, they may borrow from another Champaign County League lower division team. No borrowed player will be permitted to play if a full line up of roster players is present and able to play. Sub players will not play before an original player on the roster. Subs may play any position on the field.
10. **Must bat all available players** (roster bat/pegged batting order). Open substitutions will apply on defense. If a player gets injured or has to leave the game for any reason while using continuous batting order, that player is then skipped in the batting order with no out taken. This player may also reenter in a later inning. Anyone arriving late will be inserted at the bottom of the batting order. No penalty. This applies to all age groups.
11. 8U, 10U, and 12U/13U players cannot play more than **3 innings** in any one position. The exception is extra-inning games whereas coaches are allowed to field players as they see fit. Pitching limits still apply.
12. Games may be played with 8 players, without penalty. Games can be played with 7 players with a 1 out penalty for the 8th batter position. (Unless agreed to by both coaches prior to the start of the game)
13. A fifteen (15) minute grace period, after the scheduled starting time, will be granted prior to a forfeit being declared.
14. Games will consist of six innings. A complete game can be called after four innings. Only exception after 3 1/2 innings and the home team is ahead.
15. **Time Limit:** A new inning can't be started after one hour and forty-five minutes (1:45)
16. **Regular season games can end in a tie. Both coaches can agree to play one extra inning if time permits.**

17. Tournament Only: If the score is tied at the end of the 6th inning, extra inning will be played, and the international tiebreaker rule will be used. (The last batter from the previous inning will start the new inning on second base.)
18. **Official rosters** must contain: team name, age division, coaches name, phone number, players name, and player DOB. Rosters can be challenged, and players may only be on (1) Champaign County League Roster. Players may be added to a roster up to the 3rd game of the season by contacting the league president
19. Final rosters must contain a minimum of (8) players and a maximum of (15).
20. Play with 10 defensive players (4 outfielders). The 4 outfielders must be in a normal playing position. Depending on the size of the field it can be defined as the edge of the grass or an approximation of 20 ft. beyond the base paths.
21. No infielder can play more than ten feet in front of any base until after the ball has been pitched.
22. A player fielding in the defensive pitcher position must have at least 1 foot inside the circle until the ball has been pitched.
23. No infield warm-up is permitted after the first inning by coaches.
24. A team will be given one (1) warning for a player throwing a helmet or bat; additional incidence will result in an out, regardless of which player is guilty. A third incident will result in the ejection of the head coach.
25. An umpire can eject a player if he feels they intentionally tried to injure another player.
26. An umpire may call a player out for throwing the bat after one team warning.
27. Play will be stopped if a player is obviously injured and the umpire will place the runners to their respective bases. (Safety of the child comes first!)
28. Playing Field: Pitching: 35ft. from the back corner of home plate to front edge of the pitching rubber. Base Path: 60ft.
29. Eight (8) foot radius pitching circle rule WILL apply.
30. 30 foot lines in between the bases will be used.
31. 7 runs per inning limit. This includes the last inning. In the event that the final inning cannot result in a lead change, the winning team must complete the final defensive inning.
32. Run Rule: 15 runs after 4 innings and 12 runs after 5 innings. A game will be called and considered official if a team is ahead by fifteen(15) or more runs after three (3) complete innings (2 ½ innings with the home team leading) etc.
33. Each batter will receive seven pitches or three strikes. There will be no called strikes. A foul ball on the seventh pitch does not count as a pitch.
34. Full swings only. No bunting is allowed.
35. The infield fly rule does not apply.
36. No Stealing is permitted. Head first sliding is strictly prohibited and constitutes an automatic out. All runners must slide if a play is being made on them at a base. PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR PLAYERS TO START SLIDING.
37. The defensive team may place 2 coaches in the outfield. These coaches are for instructional purposes only and may not touch the ball or assist the fielder in any way.
38. To stop play and determine the runner's position, an infielder must be within the infield, have control of the ball AND attempting to throw it back to the player-pitcher OR the player-pitcher has control of the ball in the circle(when fielded by the player-pitcher or thrown from the outfield location). If the runner is past the 'halfway' line when the above occurs, the runner will be awarded the next base. If the runner has not reached the 'halfway' line, they will be directed back to the previous base in which they came from.
39. A runner may only advance one base on an overthrow. No additional bases will be given for an additional overthrow!
40. Chanting and singing will be permitted on the field and in the dugout. Team cannot direct singing or chanting towards the opposing team. Stomping on benches or banging on fences will not be permitted. Hanging onto or climbing the backstops or fences is strictly prohibited.

#### D. COACHES

1. Coaches must stay inside dugout, unless you are coaching a base or time is called (per OHSAA rule)
2. No manager or coach shall direct any remark to or call any opposing player by name for the purpose of distracting that player while the game is in progress.
3. Any manager, coach, umpire or team member creating a disturbance, using profane or insulting language, or displaying any other form of unsportsmanlike conduct during the warm-up, game, or immediately following a game, may be suspended from any further participation, in any capacity, for the year involved. This includes parents. Any suspension is subject to review by respective associations' boards.
4. Coach pitchers must keep one foot inside the circle while pitching.
5. The coach/pitcher must make every effort to remove him or herself from the field of play after the ball has been hit.
6. If a coach/pitcher interferes with a defensive player or comes in contact with a batted ball, a dead ball will be called, the pitch does not count, baserunners will return to their base, and a repitch will be made.
7. \*\*Any manager, coach, umpire or team member creating a disturbance, using profane or insulting language, or displaying any other form of unsportsmanlike conduct during the warm-up, game, or immediately following a game, may be suspended from any further participation, in any capacity, for the year involved. This includes parents. Any suspension is subject to review by respective associations' boards.

#### E. DELAYS/POSTPONEMENT

1. When games are postponed for any reason, attempts are typically made, but we may or may not finish or reschedule the game.
2. Games once started but suspended because of darkness or rain, prior to being an official game may be completed at a later date. Play will resume from the same point that play was suspended. The same line-ups will take the field as were in use at the time of suspension. The home team scorebook will be official in case of disputes.
3. An on duty board member of the host association will be the sole judge of whether a game will be postponed