

U11 Softball Rules 2023

11" training softball

Pitching distance 35 feet

Bases distance 45 feet

- a) The coaches of the defensive team shall be allowed on the playing field to instruct the players on all aspects of defensive softball.
- b) Coaches are encouraged to allow players to play multiple defensive positions during each game. No player should sit out a second inning defensively until all players have sat one inning.
- c) Three outfielders are employed. These players must be stationed 10 feet outside the base paths. This is to eliminate stacking the infield and to encourage and instruct the children in position play.
- d) The pitcher may use a windmill providing he/she can control the delivery of the ball to avoid injury to other players.
- e) There is no stealing.
- f) Base runners may leave their base when the ball crosses the plate. They may only advance to the next base on a ball hit in fair territory.
- g) The batter is automatically out on a dropped third strike.
- h) The infield fly rule does not apply.
- i) A player may not pitch more than two innings during a single game, and they may not be consecutive.
- j) Softball Canada pitching rule applies.
- k) The ball is dead when returned to the infield, inside the base paths. Runners can proceed to the base to which they were advancing at their own risk.
- l) A runner may not advance on any overthrown ball; it does not matter if the ball is in fair territory or out of play.
- m) Umpires are to regard the plate with a width of 21" (as opposed to the standard 17"). A stripe or line may be added to the field to acknowledge the larger "plate".
- n) If the catcher for the next inning is on the bases, he/she can be substituted at any time with another runner to speed up the equipment change.
- o) Bunting shall not be permitted.
- p) There are no walks. After a 4th ball, the batter will have a count against him/her. It will either be 4 balls (0 strikes 4-0), 4-1 or 4-2. The hitter's coach or designate for the offensive team will now come in to pitch to his/her own batter and carry on the count. The batter will either bat the ball in play or strike out. Foul balls when the coach is pitching are treated as in regular softball (i.e. if a batter fouls off a "4-2" pitch, he or she is not out).
- q) Any pitcher who hits two batters in an inning shall be removed and replaced with another pitcher. (Note: this only applies if the umpire judges that it was not possible for the batter to avoid being hit.) Players hit by a pitch do not advance to first – it shall be considered a "ball" for the batter's count.
- r) Batting per inning:
 - i. For the first four weeks of games, the inning is over when all the players on a team have batted once.
 - ii. For the final three weeks and the year end "fun day", an inning shall be completed when three outs are made by the defensive team, or all players on team have batted.
- s) The coach of the team at bat must announce when the last batter of the inning is up when they come to the plate. On the last play, the play at home is a forced play.
- t) Standings will not be kept in the U11 division, and the season will conclude with a "fun day".