

U9 Softball Rules 2023

11" training softball

Pitching distance (suggested) 30 feet

Bases distance 45 feet

- a) A maximum of nine players are on the field defensively. The "pitcher's helper" may play beside or behind the batting team's adult pitcher. Three outfielders must be stationed 10 feet outside the base paths. This is to eliminate stacking the infield and to encourage and instruct the children in positional play.
- b) Coaches are encouraged to allow players to play multiple defensive positions during each game.
- c) Pitching by players may be introduced at the discretion of the coaches, halfway through the season. This should be limited to 2nd year players moving up to U11 next year and/or players have taken pitching training. A helmet and mask are mandatory for the youth pitchers for safety reasons.
- d) Players are to be encouraged to throw and catch the ball. The excessive practice on the part of the player, especially the pitcher, of running the ball to first base or home or of rolling the ball will result in the runner being called safe.
- e) An inning is over when all the players on a team have batted once.
- f) The coach of the team at bat must announce when the last batter is up when they come to the plate. On the last play, the play at home is a forced play.
- g) If a batter does not hit a fair ball after five pitches they are out; this also pertains to the last batter.
- h) The children must be taught not to throw their bat after hitting the ball. A player who throws a bat should be warned the first time and the reasons for the rule explained. If the player throws the bat again during the game they are to be called out.
- i) The runner can only leave base when the ball is hit into play. A runner cannot lead off a base or steal a base.
- j) The ball is dead when a fielder attempts to return the ball to the infield. Runners can proceed to the base to which they were advancing at their own risk.
- k) A runner may not advance on any overthrown ball; it does not matter if the ball is in fair territory or out of play.
- l) The coaches of the defensive team shall be allowed on the playing field to instruct the players on all aspects of defensive softball.
- m) No umpires will be assigned. The coaches will determine when players are safe or out by consensus.