

LCYO Softball 8U Division League Rules

updated 4/12/2022

ONLY coaches can be on the field at any time during a game. No parent is allowed to coach first or third base. You must be a coach that has been background checked by ASA this current year. Parents are also not allowed to help in the outfield when on defense. All coaches are required to wear their supplied coach shirts when on the field. EXCEPTION: The only parent allowed on the field during a game is a parent that can fill in to assume the role for 'coach pitch'. ONLY 1st & 3rd base coaches may approach the Jr. Umpire regarding a question of a call. Coaches CANNOT and WILL NOT persuade a Jr. Umpire to change a call. Coaches may ask for clarification of a call but not dispute a call. Concerns regarding fans from the other team need to be addressed with the Jr. Umpire and opposing teams coach. Jr. Umpire can eject a coach or call 'game' at any time and leave the field.

USA Softball rules will apply with the following exceptions:

(1) A complete game will be 5 innings or 1 hour and 30 minutes. Last batter called at 1 hour and 30 minutes. (2) All teams may use an "extra" fielder or "rover". This player must begin each inning in the outfield. (3) The outfielders will begin each play "in the grass".

(4) Round robin batting will apply, i.e., all players will bat in their assigned order throughout the game. If a player must leave before the end of the game, her spot will be skipped with no out recorded. If a player arrives late and her spot has already batted, she will be placed at the end of the batting order. If a player misses her spot due to a temporary injury, she may return to that spot without penalty.

(5) Players will pitch to batters each inning with the following: Pitchers may pitch a maximum of 2 innings of the first 4 innings, 3 of 5 innings. No base-on-balls (walks) will be allowed. If a pitcher issues four balls to a batter, the batter's coach or someone the coach chooses will enter the game and pitch up to three pitches to get the ball into play. The batter will "assume the count" which means she will only be pitched the remaining number of strikes before she is called out. All coach pitches are considered strikes. Foul balls on the last pitch are okay; the batter gets another pitch as long as she keeps fouling them off. The pitcher must pitch from the pitching plate. The spirit of these special rules is to put the ball in play.

(6) 8U Special Rules:

- a. Bunting is allowed EXCEPT off coach pitch.
 - b. Coach Pitch will automatically occur if a batter is hit by pitch.
 - c. Can only steal one base per batter.
 - d. No Stealing to home plate.
 - e. No infield fly rule.
 - f. No dropped third strike rule.
 - g. Ball becomes dead and play stops ONLY when the ball is in the pitcher's circle or there is an overthrow for a play at any base/pitcher (one base on an overthrow). Balls hit in play are live and multiple bases by the runner are allowed.
 - h. Base runners must NOT leave their base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand or will be called out. i.
- Division 8U uses a Worth 10" RIF 1 ball, pitching mounds are 30' from the plate.

(7) A batter hit-by-a-pitch will not necessarily take a base. If the batter is "injured" or "uncomfortable" with staying at bat, then let them take a base. If not, then the batter should stay at bat and coach pitch will occur.

(8) A maximum of four (4) runs per inning may be scored. When the fourth run scores, play stops regardless of the number of outs and the batting team takes the field. NOTE: Score is not kept to determine a winner during the season nor are there "standings". This is to encourage the instructional aspect of this division.

(9) For instructional purposes, 2 COACHES (not parents) may join their team when they take the field in the outfield. NOTE: At about the halfway point in the season (after Easter), the coaches are not allowed in the field.

LA COSTA YOUTH ORGANIZATION
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Coaches in the field are there to assist their players in learning the game of softball. Please refrain from outfield cheerleading.

(10) Every player must play an infield position a minimum of one inning per game. Assume most games will only last three (3) innings. Rover and catcher are considered infield positions for this purpose.

- (11) In case the scheduled umpire does not show, the batter's coach will call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher. They will also call any play made to a base in the field.
- (12) Sliding: A base runner must slide or avoid contact with a fielder making a play at their base WITH possession of the ball. If the base runner fails to do so, the base runner is out. However, a fielder WITHOUT possession of the ball may not block a base or home plate. If a fielder without possession of the ball blocks a base or home plate and the runner follows the slide or avoid rule, the runner is awarded that base or home plate.
- (13) Coaches must have their team lineup prepared in advance.
- (14) Get your catcher ready for the next inning as soon as possible as to not slow down the game.
- (15) During the season, strikes are called on all close pitches ("shin to chin" strike zone). The batters need to be encouraged to learn to hit off the pitchers.
- (16) The HOME team takes the 3rd base side, not the team that arrives first. The home team is responsible for dragging and chalking the field, putting out the bases, and furnishing a new game ball. The visiting team puts the bases away. Put all unaccounted for gear in the storage box at the field. Both teams need to pick up dugout and field trash before leaving.
- (17) Parent issues are the coaches' responsibility. Keep them positive. If you need assistance with any team issues, please contact your division director. Parents and fans need to stay in the stands or behind the designated sidelines. Parents and fans are not allowed on the field during the game except for an injury situation.
- (18) Coaches will ensure that all players are not left alone after a game or practice, i.e., if a parent is late in picking up a player, then the coach is asked to stay with the player until the parent arrives.

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