



## Softball Rules – Ages 7 and 8



1. A regulation game consists of 6 innings.
2. No new inning will be started after 1 hour 20 minutes or at any point in which mathematical elimination applies.
3. There will be a 5-run limit per inning or 3 outs, whichever comes first.
4. Each batter will be allowed 5 pitches. 3 strikes will constitute an out. If the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch is fouled off, the batter will continue batting.
5. Catching equipment is mandatory for catchers.
6. Base distance is 60 feet.
7. Coach will pitch to the batters. If pitch is illegal (per Dizzy Dean rules) it will be called a dead ball and counted against the batter as one of the five pitches.
  - a. There will be a twenty-foot arc in front of home plate. The ball must be on or past this line to be a fair ball (otherwise it is considered foul).
  - b. Pitching mound will be at 46 feet with a 10 foot, in diameter, circle.
  - c. A pitching line will be drawn from the 20-foot arc to the front of the 10-foot circle. The coach may pitch from any distance along this line.
  - d. One defensive coach will be added behind the catcher.
8. An 11" core 47 ball will be used.
9. Coach pitch with no arch on the ball – modified fast pitch
10. Dizzy Dean Fast Pitch softball rules will be followed. Rule books will be provided by recreation department.
11. Each player must play at least 2 full defensive innings by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning. Free defensive substitution after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning.
12. Each team will bat a continuous line-up with the exception of a player who cannot or will not participate because of injury or other reason.
13. Scorebooks will be provided for each team. The home team will be the official book. Visiting team will keep the scoreboard – person keeping scoreboard must be over the age of 16.
14. A maximum of 10 players are allowed to play on defense (4 must be positioned in the outfield). A team can play with 8 players; however, the 9<sup>th</sup> batter will be considered an out. Seven or less players constitute a forfeit.
15. Coaches are responsible for making sure that all rules are followed.



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16. The tie breaker rule will be used if a game is tied at the end of regulation play or time limit:
  - a. Visiting team will start the new inning with a base runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> base and will start with **2 outs**.
  - b. The base runner will be the last batter from the previous inning.
  - c. The home team will do the same in the bottom half of the inning.
  - d. This procedure will be followed in each inning until a winner is determined.
17. Championship is determined by the following:
  - a. Overall season record.
  - b. Head to head competition.
  - c. Runs Allowed - Determined by the sum of points during all regular season games.
  - d. Coin Flip – Both coaches must have the opportunity to be present.
18. Two unexcused absences from practice may result in the suspension of one game. Park will decide if the absence is excused or not.
19. If a youth sports player is not present before the start of his/her game, the coach will add him/her to the bottom of the lineup/roster and will only be required to play him/her one-half of the mandatory minimum for that sport.
20. All players, coaches, parents, and spectators should be familiar with the Park Rules, Playing Rules, Zero Tolerance Policy, and Parent Code of Ethics for all sports and activities in which they participate. Violations of any rules, policies, or code of ethics could result in ejection, fine, suspension, or any combination of the three.

**\*\*\*RULE VIOLATIONS MAY RESULT IN FORFEIT OF GAME\*\*\***

**ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED!!!**