

## 8U DIVISION FIELD PLAYING RULES AND GUIDELINES

The playing rules utilized by South San Jose Softball – D Division – are the Official Rules of Softball as published by USA Softball, with such modifications as are contained herein.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**ASSISTANT COACH:** In addition to the head coach, an assistant coach, 21+ years (or a former league player of age 16+), who will function as a member of the managing staff.

**CHAPERONE:** An adult female who is a rostered managing staff member who will assist the Manager in keeping control and order among team members. She will attend all team functions; assist the other managing personnel as well as the players. And will protect the team from harm, which can result from the lack of adult supervision.

**HOME TEAM:** The home team is the first team on defense in all games and will use the 3rd base dugout. The home team is listed first in all League game schedules.

**MANAGER:** The adult responsible for the team member's actions on the field as well as at any event at which they are directed to remain together as a team. A Manager represents the team in communications with the opposing team, and in the event the Manager shall leave the field during a game, the Manager will designate a coach as "acting manager" and inform the chaperone. The Manager is to direct playing activities, training, discipline, and conduct of all team members.

**REGULATION GAME:** A league scheduled game is 75 minutes long, no new innings after 75 minutes.

**VISITING TEAM:** Is the first team on offense, and will use the 1st base dugout, the visiting team is listed second on all League game schedules.

### **Rule 1. The Playing Field**

1. The official diamond shall have 60' base distances, with either permanent or throw down bases.
2. The pitching mound shall be placed a 30' distance from home plate.
3. The field will be chalked and prepared for the game by the home team.
4. Upon completion of the game the visiting team will be responsible for picking up and disposing of any trash left behind. And if the last game of the day - to put away bases and return any stray equipment back to the shed

### **Rule 2. Equipment**

1. Any bat meeting the requirements of Rule 3, section 1. (in the USA Rule Book) is an official bat for League play, even if the bat is labeled "Little League".
2. This division will utilize a 10" safety (soft) ball.
3. All offensive players including batter, base runners and on deck hitter must wear a helmet.
4. League issued uniforms must be worn during all games. Shirts will be tucked in.
5. Long-sleeved sweatshirts may be of different colors.

### **Rule 3. Players**

1. Players must be born in 2008 or 2009 for the 2017 Season.
2. Each team will field ten (10) defensive players and continuous batting will be utilized.

3. If a team is short players, it may borrow players from the opposing team upon agreement with the opposing manager.
4. For personal safety, no jewelry will be worn and no gum will be chewed.

## Rule 4. The Game

**These rules are modified mid-season where it says: "Mid-Season." The commissioner will decide in consultation with the managers as to when to begin Mid-Season rules, usually around the sixth game. For 2017 Mid Season will begin starting the April 4<sup>th</sup> Games.**

## ALL SEASON RULES

**SCORING:** Score keeping may be kept all season long to promote competition, and to measure achievement. But standings are not maintained and there are no playoffs. Teams are required to record innings pitched online.

**Four-run-rule:** After four or more runs are scored, the half-inning is over. No more than four runs can be counted.

## DEFENSE:

1. All players will be allowed on defensive play.
2. Each player must play a minimum of one offensive inning, during each game.
3. Outfield players must be standing on the grass and may only enter dirt area of infield once the ball has been put into play. Infield will consist of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Shortstop, Pitcher, and Catcher. All other players will be outfielders.

**OUTS:** If there are three "outs" then the half-inning is over and the batting order will continue where it left off the next inning.

## BASE RUNNING:

1. Base runners that are declared "out" will leave the base and return to the bench.
2. Base runners may "lead off" once the ball leaves the pitcher's hand, but there is no stealing allowed at any time. Players will not be called out for leaving the base early, but should be given appropriate warning by an umpire.

## BASE RUNNING Mid-Season Rule

1. Runners may steal one base per pitch. No advancement on an errant throw. No stealing home
2. Lead off is permitted up on release. Players can be called out for leaving the base early.

## OVERTHROWS:

1. On a throw to first base the following occurs: No batter can advance to second base as a result of an errant throw to first base. All other runners and batter/runner may advance one base past the base they are going to with liability of being put out.
2. On a throw to any other base or position: if, on a throw to any other base an errant throw occurs, all runners and batter/runner may advance one base past the base they are going to with liability of being put out.
3. The umpire will only award a base to the runner if the ball has been thrown out of play. No bases will be awarded on errant throws when the ball stays in play.

4. Runner and batter/runner may be put out if they advance beyond the base they are entitled to on the errant throw. At the end of play the umpire will return all runners to the base they are entitled to if they have not been put out.

## **BUNTING:**

1. Bunting is allowed off of a player pitcher only – but player must attempt a bunt on the next pitch, once the bunt is shown while the pitcher is on the pitching rubber.
2. A ball bunted off of a coach pitch is a “dead ball” – the batter will be declared out.

## **INFIELD FLY**

1. There will be no enforcement of the infield fly rule.
2. Any ball hit on the fly into the outfield and is not caught or touched by a defensive player will allow all runners to advance to as many bases as possible. Play stops once the ball is returned to the pitcher within the baselines or thrown out of play on an error. Runners will be called out if physically tagged by the fielder during the primary play.
3. If the ball is touched by the defensive player while in the air, the resulting hit will be considered a “double” and is subject to the rules described above
4. Defensive players must avoid all runners as much as possible. Obstruction may be called if they hinder the advancement of base runners, with one base being awarded.
5. Defensive coaches are permitted in the outfield territory only during the first half of the season if agreed upon by both coaches prior to the start of the game.

## **PITCHING/BATTING:**

1. Two (2) inning limit for pitchers, plus 1 additional if the game goes more than 4 innings. One pitch in an inning constitutes a complete inning. The pitching week is from Sunday through Saturday. A pitcher cannot start two consecutive games during the week. The starting pitcher from the previous game is not allowed to pitch in the next game until the second inning.

## **COACH PITCH:**

1. Coaches will come in to pitch after the batter has 4 balls (no walks allowed).
2. Coach gets a maximum of three (3) pitched balls.
3. Foul tips will not count towards the allotment of maximum pitches.
4. Batted ball that hits the coach pitcher is a “dead ball” – the batter will be declared out.
5. Coach must start with both feet on rubber, and is allowed to take one step in the pitching motion towards home plate.

## **COACH PITCH Mid-Season rule:**

1. Coaches will come in to pitch after the batter has 4 balls (no walks allowed).
2. Coach pitcher will inherit the count from the pitcher and will get maximum three (3) three pitched balls. Three strikes mean the batter is out. If the third coach pitch is not swung at, the batter is out. If the third strike is a foul tip, then the batter keeps hitting, no batter will be out on a foul tip.
3. Batted ball that hits the coach pitcher is a “dead ball” – the batter will be declared out.
4. Coach must start with both feet on rubber, and is allowed to take one step in the pitching motion towards home plate.

## **HIT-BY-PITCH:**

1. If hit by pitch, the batter will be allowed three (3) pitches from the offensive coach. The coach inherits the count from the pitcher.
2. Upon the third batter hit, the pitcher will be removed from the mound for the duration of the game.

**CATCHIN:**

Two (2) inning limit for catchers, plus 1 additional if the game goes more than 4 innings.

**Rule 5. Umpires**

1. Umpires will be utilized for the entire season.
2. In the event that an umpire is not present at game time – the defensive team will provide a base umpire and the offensive team will provide the plate umpire. Both “parent” umpires will provide fair and impartial judgment while calling these positions.
3. Adult safety masks and chest protectors will be stored in the job boxes for the plate umpire.

**TEAM MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. One ACE Certified and Background cleared representative must be present at all practices and games.
2. Only rostered team members shall be allowed in the bench or dugout area during a game. News photographers with official identification, when authorized by a Board member and officers of the law will be allowed on the playing field.
3. Players shall remain on the bench under the supervision of the manager/chaperone for the entire game.
4. For the safety of everyone, managing personnel shall immediately remove from the field any rocks, pieces of glass, or any other debris.
5. It is forbidden to use alcohol, tobacco or illegal substances on or off the playing field, during League games, practice sessions, or during League activities which require attendance or participation of one or more players.
6. The removal of disruptive persons for profanity, or poor attitude, or upsetting behavior, which may be upsetting to the girls, is the responsibility of the Board of Directors through the use of civil authorities.

**ANNUAL RATIFICATION**

By action of the 8U Division Commissioner, these Field Playing Rules and Guidelines have been adopted and presented for discussion to the Board of Directors.

*David McNay*

*Katie Hahn*

*02/08/2017*

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President's Signature

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Secretary's Signature

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Date