

12U, 14U, 16U, & 18U Softball By Laws

1. Standard Babe Ruth Softball rules will be followed with the following exceptions or points of emphasis:
2. All Players in good standing will be listed in the batting line up and will bat in that order. Good standing shall mean faithful attendance at practices and games unless the manager excuses the absence in advance.
3. All players that are present at the start of a contest shall be required to play at a minimum, two innings defensively and have at the very minimum, one at bat. Should a player not be afforded these opportunities in a single contest, provided they were present at the beginning of the contest, they shall start the following game they are in attendance for, and must still fulfill the 2 defensive, 1 offensive requirement.
4. Nine (9) players may play in the field at one time, but no less than eight (8) are required to start and continue to play in a game.
5. A team may implement the option of listing all present players in the batting order and batting through the lineup.
6. All players shall bat in order whether playing in the field or not. Any player who must leave the game will NOT be called out each time she would have been at bat.
7. If a batter cannot bat because of injury, she will NOT be called out each time she is to be up to bat. An injured player may re-enter the game with the exception of possible head injury, safety of the player is top priority.
8. Any player arriving after her turn at bat can immediately be inserted at the end of the lineup and can take a position on the field.
9. Free substitutions are allowed defensively at any time.
10. No new inning may be started after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the actual game start time. The umpire shall declare official game start time to the home team scorekeeper.
11. Incomplete games (rain, etc.) considered suspended are picked up where they left off.
12. Regular season games may end in a tie if time has expired at the end of the inning.
13. Extra innings may be started to break a tie if time has not expired. ITB rules shall apply.
14. A complete game is defined as four (4) innings of play (3 ½ if the home team is ahead) for the 12U division and five (5) innings (4 ½ if the home team is ahead) for 14U divisions and higher or expiration of the time limit prior to the start of the next inning, whichever occurs first.

15. The courtesy rule can be used for the catcher and/or pitcher. The courtesy runner will be the batter who made the last out.

16. Home plate conference is held five (5) minutes before the beginning of every game.

17. League approved 12-inch game balls will be provided to the teams. The home team will provide a new ball; the visiting team a backup ball. If no new balls are available, the best available used balls from the teams will be used.

18. League provided batting helmets will be equipped with a face mask. Players choosing to use a personal batting helmet are required to use a face mask.

19. Base path length will be 60 feet.

20. The pitching distance is 40 feet for 12U and 43 feet for 14U and above.

21. Pitchers are allowed five (5) warm up pitches when entering or re-entering the game.

22. A pitcher CANNOT pitch more than three (3) innings in a regulation six (6) inning game and no more than four (4) innings in a regulation seven (7) inning game. Any part of an inning on the mound as a pitcher, constitutes a complete inning pitched.

(a) 12U; A pitcher may pitch up to, but not to exceed, the maximum of ten (10) innings per a Monday thru Sunday calendar week.

(b) 14U and above has unlimited pitching.

23. The pitcher must take a position with both feet firmly on the ground and with both feet in contact with, but not off the side of the pitchers plate. The pitch starts when one hand is taken off the ball or the pitcher makes any motion that is part of the windup. In the act of delivering the ball, the pitcher shall not take more than one step, which must be forward, toward the batter, and simultaneous with the delivery of the ball to the batter.

24. The same player-pitcher is allowed to exit and re-enter the pitcher position ONCE in a game. Extra innings do not count for the number of innings pitched or for the player-pitchers re-entry rule.

25. A ten (10) run, Run-Ahead rule is in effect after the team with the lower score bats four (4) times.

26. A five (5) run scoring limit per inning for each team will be enforced through four (4) innings. Unlimited runs will occur from the start of the fifth (5th) inning until the end of the game.

27. If there is an attempted play at the plate, players **MUST** slide into home plate. Players that do not slide, if a play is being made at plate, shall be called out. This will be a judgment call made by the umpire and their call will not be disputed.

28. A base runner can leave the base upon release of the ball from the pitchers hand. Players that leave the base prior to the release of the ball from the pitchers hand shall be declared out by the umpire.

29. Stealing home on a passed ball is allowed from third base.
30. When a batter is called out on a 3rd strike, the base runner(s) may steal and advance to the next base at their own risk of being put out (like any other pitch).
31. The infield fly rule **IS** in effect for these divisions.
32. Dropped third strike rule is in effect for these divisions. The ball is live on a dropped third strike and the batter can attempt to advance to first base (if unoccupied with less than two (2) outs; occupied or unoccupied with two (2) outs).
33. Coaches/managers shall conduct themselves in accordance with the Coaches Conduct Guidelines they read, agreed to, and signed prior to the start of the season. Failure to do so shall result in disciplinary action as deemed fit by the softball commissioner and/or league president.
34. Coaches/managers shall be responsible for controlling the language and conduct of his/her players and spectators. Failure to attempt to control disruptive spectators may result in forfeiture to the opposing team. Should the conduct of both teams (this is to include but is not limited to: Coaches/Managers, Players, Parents & Spectators), during a game, become unruly; the game shall immediately end and both teams forfeit.
35. Only Babe Ruth League certified and Summit Point League approved managers/coaches shall be allowed on the field or in a dugout during an official league contest.