2026 Competitive Softball League Rules

	8U Coach Pitch	10U	12U	14U
Max innings or time limit (no new inn. after time expires, new inn. begins after 3rd out)	7 or 1:20	7 or 1:20	7 or 1:20	7 or 1:20
Pitching distance	35	35	40	43
Base distance	60	60	60	60
Teams allowed 3 conferences per game. Pitcher is removed after 4th.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
*Max runs per half inning	6	6	6	6
Mercy/run rule (15, 12, or 8 runs after 3, 4, or 5 innings)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Players on defense	10 (4 OF)	9	9	9
Game ball (2 new/2 used per game, supplied by JC Parks, retrieve foul ball on your side)	11 inch	11 inch	12 inch	12 inch
Coaches allowed on field for defense (OK for coaches to be just outside the dugout)	No	No	No	No
Bat the roster & free substitution	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
If player does not bat due to injury, sick, or no sub, she is out unless opposing coach waives	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Minimum players to play a game (9th batter is an out each inn.)	8	8	8	8
Courtesy Runner allowed **(see new rule for 2025 below)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Score & standings kept (verify with umpire & scorekeepers each inn.)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Official game if played 3.5 innings if home team leads or 45 minutes played	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
League games end in a tie	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Infield fly rule	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lead off when the ball leaves the pitchers hand & steal	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dropped 3rd strike rule	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intentional walk (no pitches, Head Coach just notifies umpire)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Metal cleats allowed	No	No	No	Yes
Mandatory slide rule (but if umpire rules malicious, player is out & ejected for the game)	No	No	No	No
Bats must have USA or ASA stamp	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

All players must be on the online roster and cannot play for 2 teams in the same age group. Rosters are frozen when they are due.
Per USA Softball, starting Sept. 1, 2023 a player's age as of Aug. 31 will determine their age for the next season.
Head Coaches must show birth certificates if questioned.
*If the home team cannot win the game, due to the max runs per half inning rule, the game is over. We will not play, or let the home team bat, the last half inning.
****Once per inning for the pitcher and one position player. Same player may be the courtesy runner for both in the same half inning.**
8U: Batter receives a max of 6 pitches or 3 swinging strikes (the bat is extended if the last pitch is hit foul). No walks or bunting.
8U: Runners can't advance on passed ball. Player in pitcher position starts beside Coach-Pitcher. 3 outs per inning, not bat the entire lineup.
8U: Runners can leave base when ball is hit. When infileder has ball, time is called & runners stop advancing.
If not mentioned in rules above, USA Softball rules will govern play.