

# Interlock Baseball and Softball Ground Rules – Spring 2019

## Rules that apply to all leagues

- Unless otherwise noted Babe Ruth rules apply
- Last recorded batter/out can run for the catcher with two outs in an inning, no other special base runners
- Home team supplies game balls
- Both teams must play the entire game through to completion. Teams cannot leave a game early.
- **Bats:** USA Baseball marking required for baseball. 15U may use either USA Bat or BBCOR .50.
- Softball bats must be marked “Official Softball Bat” or “Official Fastpitch Bat.”
- Bat rules are listed at: [www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx](http://www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx)
- No jewelry, **metal cleats (exception is 15U baseball AND 14U/16U softball)**
- Helmet with ear flaps worn on field at all times while on offense
- Mercy rule is 20 after 2, 15 after 3, 10 after 4
- Warming up catchers – players must wear helmet. Coaches must wear masks if your league is using Babe Ruth offering insurance.
- Umpires will enforce quick warm ups to speed up play
- 12U and older, 2 umpires are required. 10U and younger, 1 umpire is required.
- During regular season, ALL games can end in tie. The game end is based on time limit.
- 8U Baseball and 8U Softball will have a maximum of 4 pitches per at bat. Fouled balls on the fourth pitch will extend the at bat.
- **Intentional walks for baseball ONLY do not require pitches be thrown. Coach instructs plate umpire.**
- **Intentional walks for softball, pitches must be thrown.**

# BASEBALL

## 8U Baseball

- Bases at 60 feet.
- AB rule: 4 pitches per hitter or 3 strikes, whichever happens first. Third strike foul rules apply. If fourth pitch is fouled, at bat continues.
- Power setting: Start at 7 from Feb. 9 to March 18th, move to 8 on 3/19/2019, move to 9 on 4/1/2019
- Bunts are allowed
- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams MUST bat the lineup
- One base on an overthrow. (Not automatic, player can still be thrown out taking the extra base)
- No dropped third strike
- No infield fly
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can play 4 outfielders. Team CANNOT play 5 infielders. Only 1 pitchers helper.

## 10U Baseball

- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitutions
- No dropped third strike
- No infield fly
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- UMPIRES: Slightly expand strike zone to encourage swinging
- Balks: If a pitcher is intentionally being deceiving, it is the umpire's discretion.
- Mound conferences limited to baseball rules

## 12U Baseball

- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitutions
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly rule is enforced
- Open bases apply, lead offs
- No new inning after 105 minutes or 6 innings
- UMPIRES: Slightly expand strike zone to encourage swinging
- Balks rule is enforced. First balk is a warning by the umpire. Subsequent balks are enforced at the umpire's discretion.
- Mound conferences limited to baseball rules

## 15U BB

- 7 runs/inning run rule
- Real Baseball Rules apply
- Teams are not required to bat the lineup. If they do bat the lineup, they can make free defensive substitutions
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly rule is enforced
- Open bases apply, lead offs
- No new inning after 120 minutes or 7 innings
- Balks rule is enforced. Balks are enforced at the umpires' discretion.
- Mound conferences limited to baseball rules
- Metal cleats are allowed

# SOFTBALL

**Fielding masks must be worn in all age groups for pitchers, 1st Baseman, and 3rd basemen for all games.**

## 8U SB

- Bases at 60 feet.
- 6 foot radius foul arch in front of plate
- AB rule: 4 pitches per hitter or 3 strikes, whichever happens first. Third strike foul rules apply. If fourth pitch is fouled, at bat continues.
- Power setting: Start at 7 From Feb 9 - March 18th, move to 8 on 3/19/2019, move to 9 on 4/1/2019
- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams MUST bat the lineup.
- One base on an overthrow.
- No slap bunting.
- Bunts are allowed.
- No dropped third strike
- No infield fly
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can play 4 outfielders. Team CANNOT play 5 infielders. Only 1 pitchers' helper.
- Pitchers helper must have one foot in the pitcher's circle

## 10U SB

- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Bunts are allowed.
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitutions
- No dropped third strike
- No infield fly
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can only play 3 outfielders.
- UMPIRES: Slightly expand strike zone to encourage swinging
- Balks/Illegal Pitch: If a pitchers is intentionally being deceiving, it is the umpires' discretion.
- Mound conferences limited to softball rules

## 12U SB

- 5 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are REQUIRED to bat the lineup which allows for free defensive substitutions
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly is enforced
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can only play 3 outfielders
- Balks/Illegal Pitch rules apply
- Mound conferences limited to softball rules

## 14U / 16U SB

- 7 runs/inning run rule
- Teams are not required to bat the lineup. If they do bat the lineup, they can make free defensive substitutions
- Dropped third strike is enforced
- Infield fly is enforced
- No new inning after 90 minutes or 6 innings
- Teams can only play 3 outfielders
- Balks/Illegal Pitch rules apply
- Mound conferences limited to softball rules
- Metal cleats are allowed