

## 8-10 Youth Softball Rules 2026

- Bases are 60 feet apart. Pitching rubber is 35 feet from home plate.
- Softball size is 11”
- Games will be 7 innings or a 1-hour time limit, whichever comes first. No new inning will begin with 5 minutes or less remaining in the time limit.
- If time limit is reached in the middle of an inning, the inning will be finished out.
- Each team can only score 5 runs per inning. Run rules are: 15 after 4 or 10 after 5 to end the game.
- If the score is tied at the end of regulation, the game will end in a tie. No extra innings will be played.
- There will be only 10 players on the field. If a team has less than 8 players, they will have to forfeit the game. There will be a 5-minute grace period for late players.
- Every player must play in the infield for at least 1 inning per game. All infield positions must be filled before the outfield.
- Outfielders must play at least 20 feet behind the bases.
- You may not bench a player for more than 2 consecutive innings except for injury or discipline.
- There will be no positional changes on the field, except for an injury.
- It is strongly recommended that all defensive players wear face protection (not provided by park district).
- Catching equipment must be worn while catching (provided by park district)
- This is a half coach and half player pitch age division. First 3 innings will be coach pitch, the rest will be player pitch. Offensive coaches must underhand pitch. Players can only pitch 2 innings. Pitchers must wear face protection, this is **MANDATORY**.
- 4 balls and 3 strikes per batter for coach and player pitch. We want to encourage the players to swing the bat. No dropped third strikes in this age group.
- No infield fly rule and intentional walks are allowed.
- There will be 3 outs played.
- No leadoffs or stealing.
- Runners must stay on bag until the ball crosses the plate. If the runner leaves early, it will be a dead ball, the pitch will not count, and the runner will be out.
- If the play is going to be close at home plate, the runner must try and slide to avoid a collision.
- Teams must bat every player in the batting order.
- All batters and runners must wear helmets with face masks (park district provided)

- Batters should not throw their bats after hitting the ball, for safety reasons, let's put an end to this right away if it becomes an issue.
- All players must stay in dugout when not playing.
- No metal spikes.
- No jewelry allowed.
- A courtesy runner is only allowed for a catcher with 2 outs remaining in the inning or an injured player.
- All umpire rulings are final. If there is a discretion about a call, the coach and umpire can discuss at home plate.
- All rain delays/cancellations will be determined by site manager and the site.
- Head coach is responsible for the conduct of their players and parents. Please be respectful to our umpires. If there are questions, please talk to them directly or the site manager.