

General Rules and Regulations

1. The time/inning limit of the game is 50 minutes or 5 innings, whichever comes first. A minimum regulation game shall be 30 minutes or 3 innings after both teams have had equal opportunities at bat. No new inning shall begin once 5 minutes or less remain on the official game clock. Umpire will be in charge of official game time. If home team is winning; then the bottom half will not be played. If the game is tied after innings/time limit has been reached, the game will end in a tie. Game time begins at the conclusion of the pregame plate meeting.
2. There is a 5-run limit per inning. A mercy rule is implemented of the winning team being up by 11 runs at the completion of 3 innings, or up by 6 runs at the completion of 4 innings.
3. The field shall have 60-foot baselines, with the distance from back of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber as 35 feet.
4. Any rules not specifically covered in this rule set will default to USSSA; the league manager has the ability to modify these rules throughout the course of the season to provide for circumstances that may come up that have questionable effect on the league and game play.
5. **The goal of this division is allowing independence of players' ability on the field and the introduction of the concept and skill of tracking a moving ball while at bat.**

Player Eligibility

1. Male and female participants in this division shall be no less than 5 years old, and no more than 8 years old on January 1st (softball) / May 1st (baseball) of the calendar year.
2. If a team is below 9 players, the coaches may agree for the lending of players in defensive positions.

Batting

1. All players in the line-up will bat in continuous order. If a player is sick/injured, their spot may be skipped without penalty.
2. The batter shall be allowed a maximum of 5 pitches. If the ball is not batted fair after the 5th pitch, the batter shall be declared out. There is no bunting allowed, and will count against the pitch limit
3. There is no infield fly and no uncaught third strike in this division.
4. Slash bunting is not allowed. The player will be declared out on attempt.

Base Running

1. There is no leading or stealing in this division. There is no advancement on a passed ball. Runners must remain in contact with the base until the ball has been contacted by the batter.
2. A ball that is overthrown by a defensive fielder remains live for the first throw only. When an infielder has possession of the ball and is making no attempt to retire a runner, there is no advancement allowed beyond the base the runner is advancing to.
3. With 2 outs, if the catcher is on base, he is to be run for with a courtesy runner. This courtesy runner shall be the person who made the last out. **The purpose of this rule is to continue the pace of play of the game and maximize the amount of playing time for all involved.**
4. Slide or avoid interference, contact may occur between base runner and fielder, shall govern this division. It is the responsibility of the base runner to avoid interfering with a fielder in the process of making a play on the runner if the base runner chooses not to slide. Contact with the fielder alone does not make interference.

Defense

1. A team is allowed to have 10 defensive players (pitcher, catcher, 4 infield positions, 4 outfield positions; catcher must be equipped at all times).
2. The pitcher must be positioned with at least one foot inside the pitching circle, and no infielder shall be closer than the base path when the ball is struck at.

Participation and Role of Coaches

1. Two offensive base coaches are allowed to be positioned in foul territory at a distance no closer than the base to home plate. The nearest base coach to the dugout is responsible for players inside the dugout.
2. A third offensive coach is to deliver a pitcher from the front of the pitching circle. If the pitching coach is struck by a batted ball, the batter will be awarded first base, and no other runners are allowed to advance unless forced to be the actions of the batter acquiring first base. If contact is intentional, the batter is out and all runners must return to base at time of pitch.
3. Discussions with umpires over a call are allowed; however, only the head coach is allowed to talk with the umpire. No other coach is allowed to question an umpire's call. No judgment calls are to be discussed; only rulings that directly conflict with the rules are to be discussed.
4. A defensive coach may position themselves behind the catcher to assist with the retrieving of the balls.
5. Home and away is determined by schedule. The home team's book shall be the official book.