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# 10U Rec Softball Rules


## Logistical

1. **Game balls:** Home team supplies a minimum of 2 new game balls; they should be genuine or premium leather balls. (Rawlings, Diamond and Wilson are a few of the better name brands.)
2. **Home Team:** Home team is listed second on the schedule
3. **Official Book:** The home team is the official book but teams must communicate & cooperate on subs and the overall score. Both teams will submit the score to M-60 Diamonds after the game is complete.
4. **Athlete Age:** Age is determined by actual age on August 31 of previous calendar year. Players in 10U must be 10 or younger
5. **Dugouts:** the host team has choice of dugout.

## Game Play

(Please note - The rules provided on this site are the exceptions to rules used by the MHSAA. The MHSAA uses the National Federation of State High School Associations softball rules. )



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- ⇒ 1. **Communication:** coaches are responsible to connect with each other prior to the away team traveling to the game
2. **Start Time:** games will start at 5:30
3. **Length of games:** games will be 6 complete innings
4. **Time Limit:** there will be a 1:30 hour time limit for games.
5. **Minimum Players to Start a Game:** teams may start a game with a minimum of 8 players; the ninth spot in the batting order is an out as long as there are only 8 players playing.
6. **Batting Lineup:** Every player is allowed to bat.
7. **Player Injury/Illness:** If a player stops playing due to injury or illness, it will not be an out on offense and the player cannot return to the game.
8. **Playing Time:** Playing time is the coach's discretion; it is encouraged that all players get playing time
9. **Complete Games:** If cut short due to time limit, darkness or weather, games are considered complete with 4 full innings
10. **Make-up Games:** any make-up games are resumed where they left off.
11. **Mercy Rules:** 15 runs after three complete innings, 12 runs after four complete innings and 8 runs after five complete innings.
12. **Run Limit:** The most runs a 10U team can score in any inning is 5 runs, except the 6th inning.
13. **Last inning Scoring:** teams may score unlimited runs in the 6th inning.
14. **Ties:** Regular season games may end in a tie at the end of regular play or due to a time limit

## Field of Play



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1. **Courtesy Runner:** a courtesy runner is always allowed for a pitcher and/or catcher of the previous inning regardless of the number of outs. The courtesy runner is the last batted out.
2. **Substitutions:** There are free substitutions among players in the batting lineup.
3. **Scoring From Third Base:** a runner from 3rd base can only score on a batted ball or a ball thrown by the catcher to a base. The runner cannot score on a wild pitch, passed ball or throwback to the pitcher. (*this is for 10U only*)
4. **Dropped Third Strike:** there is no advancement by the batter on a catcher's dropped or passed third strike (*this is for 10U only*)
5. **No Stealing:** there will be no stealing for 10U Rec softball.
6. **No Walks:** there will be no walks for 10U Rec softball.
7. **Coach Pitch:** after the pitcher's 4th ball on a batter, the batter's coach will pitch:
  - number of strikes is maintained
  - every coach pitch is a strike
  - player is out on third strike (total of pitcher's strikes plus coach's pitches), unless the final coach pitch is fouled batter gets one more pitch

## Defense

1. **Defensive Play:** there will only be 9 players in the field of play with a maximum of 3 players in the outfielders
2. **Defensive Lineup:** only players in the current batting lineup can play the field of play (there is no DH)
3. **Infield Fly:** is NOT in play (*this is for 10U only*)
4. **Substitutions:** If every player is allowed to bat, there is free substitution in the field

## Field Dimensions & Equipment



- ⇒  **Dimensions:** Home Baseball Leagues Softball Leagues Baseball Tournaments Softball Tournaments Contact
- **Pitching Mound:** 35 ft from home plate
  - **Bases:** 60 ft between bases
2. **Bats:** all bats are legal
  3. **Metal Cleats:** may not be worn
  4. **Softball Size:** use an 11" softball for 10U

## Sportsmanship

1. **Behavior:** Game play should be a positive learning experience for all players. As such:
  - Positive team cheering is encouraged
  - Negative chatter or disruptive actions are discouraged
  - Foul language is not appropriate or acceptable
2. **Ejection of a player:** If a player in the lineup is ejected:
  - His spot will remain in the lineup as an out.
  - He is ineligible for play the remainder of the day
3. **Ejection of a coach:** If a coach is ejected from a game, they are unable to coach the remainder of the day

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