



## House League Softball Division Specific Rules

U14, U15 & U16+

<b>Distance between bases</b>	60 ft.
<b>Distance to pitching rubber</b>	U14/U15: 40 ft. U16+: 43 ft.
<b>Length of game</b>	Seven (7) innings
<b>Mercy rule per inning</b>	Innings 1-4: five (5) runs Inning 5+: seven (7) runs
<b>Minimum # of players required to play any game</b>	6
<b>Allowable bats</b>	Any fastpitch bat is allowed. No Slo-Pitch bats are allowed.

1. Any serious violation of the Code of Conduct will result in an in-person hearing. Please refer to the [Code of Conduct and Zero Tolerance policy](#) in the General House League rules.
2. Every division will have a double-elimination playoff.
3. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE ANY RULE CHANGES ALLOWED. COACHES MAY NOT AGREE TO ANY MODIFICATIONS BEFORE OR DURING A GAME AT ANY TIME.
4. In any game:
  - 4.1. Each player must play an infield position once every 3 innings.
  - 4.2. No player may sit on the bench twice until every player has sat on the bench once.
  - 4.3. No player can play the same position twice in any 3 consecutive innings.
5. A pitcher may pitch a total of 3 innings per game; but only two of them may be consecutive.
6. A pitcher must face a minimum of 3 batters before replacement is allowed.
7. A pitch is deemed “illegal” if during the attempted delivery of the pitch (defined as any time after the ‘pause’), the pitcher does not pitch the ball or drops the ball or directs the ball other than towards home plate. The ball does not have to exit the pitcher’s circle for an “illegal pitch” to be called. For each illegal pitch, a called “Ball” is awarded to the batter.
  - 7.1. Prior to July 1, pitchers are to be given a warning for any illegal pitches and the reason why the pitch was illegal to enable the pitchers to make corrections. From July 1 and thereafter, illegal pitches will be called and enforced.
8. If in any inning a pitcher hits two batters in the same inning, then the Umpire shall call time and require the coach to take a charged conference and visit the pitcher. If a third batter is hit in the same inning by the same pitcher, then that pitcher must be removed as pitcher and may not return as pitcher for the remainder of the game. If in a subsequent inning a pitcher who has already hit two batters in one inning hits another two batters in an inning, then that pitcher must be removed as pitcher and may not return as pitcher for the remainder of the game.

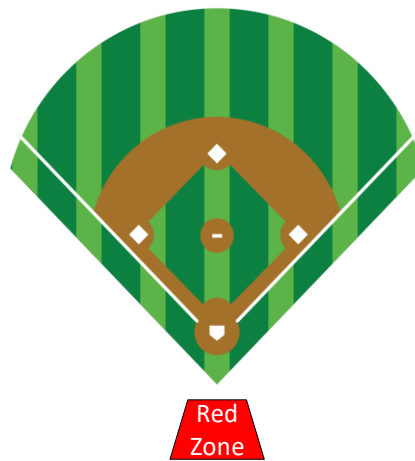


9. An Umpire may at any time, whether a batter has been hit or not, require a team to remove a pitcher if in the Umpire's sole judgement, the pitcher is a safety hazard due to inadequate control of the ball. This judgement may not be appealed.
10. There are no "lead-offs", baserunners are able to "steal" once the pitched ball is released. If an infraction occurs, one (1) warning will be issued and for any further infractions thereafter the runner will be called out. Each team to receive one (1) warning. Runners are not allowed to steal a base once the pitcher has the ball within the pitching circle, otherwise the runner will be called out as a lead-off, however if the ball leaves the pitcher's hand/or circle, the baserunner is able to steal, and the ball is still live.
11. When a ball is hit to any defensive player, the player must "make a play" to a base, and when that play attempt concludes, and the ball is in the control of an infielder in the fair area of the infield, then and only then can "time" be called. The "fair area of the infield" is defined as the fair area within the boundaries of home, first, second and third bases.
12. The Umpire is the only one who can call "time" to stop play. Players can only request a stoppage in play or do nothing with ball in hand to get the Umpire to call "time".
13. Once time has been called, it is up to the Umpire to decide whether a baserunner was more than halfway to the next base, if not then the runner must return to the last base attained/occupied, unless a "force" dictates otherwise.
14. The infield fly rule is in effect.
15. The defensive team will consist of:
  - 15.1. U14: one catcher, one pitcher, one 1B, one 2B, one 3B, one SS, and up to four OF: ten players in total.
  - 15.2. U15/U16+: The defensive team will consist of one catcher, one pitcher, one 1B, one 2B, one 3B, one SS, and up to three OF: **nine** players in total.
16. See General House League Rules as all General Rules also apply.
17. **NEW RULE** 24-hour rule: players/parents/coaches and spectators are instructed to wait 24 hours before contacting a Convener or executive member for any grievance that does not involve the safety of any party. After 24 hours, it should be brought to the attention of the appropriate person. Under the contacts section of our website, a form is available to ask a question, make a comment, or file a grievance.
18. **NEW RULE** No person(s) other than the players, coaches (one head coach and two assistant coaches or parents filling in for these coaches) or officials are ever allowed on the playing field and in the dugout except for injury. An automatic one (1) game suspension will be levied against the offending individual (parent, spectator, etc.). Upon review of the incident from the disciplinary committee, a harsher penalty may be issued.



For 5-Pitch, Rally Cap and 8U, 9U, one additional person may be permitted to assist in the dugout only. For Tee Ball, additional parent volunteers are permitted on the field.

19. **NEW RULE** In addition to a parent or spectator receiving a suspension or other disciplinary action, the player they represent, and their coach, may also face disciplinary measures.
20. **NEW RULE** There will be **ZERO TOLERANCE** for any: unsportsmanlike behaviour, misconduct of any kind, unruliness of any sort, use of foul or profane language, attack of any kind (either verbal or physical) towards any Umpire, coach, player, or spectator.
21. **NEW RULE RED ZONE RULE:** no spectator, parent, player, or coach is permitted to view a game directly behind the backstop at any diamond. This will help eliminate any conflicts with Umpires and will also help the players field of view. An Umpire will provide a warning and then has the discretion to eject any person(s) from the park after that.



22. **NEW RULE** For all divisions, if a game is called for weather it is considered official if at least 2.5 innings have been played.
23. **NEW RULE** Coaches are **REQUIRED** to place players in different slots in the batting order from game to game so that players receive similar numbers of at bats throughout the course of the season.