**USA Softball Rules**

**COSHOCTON COUNTY REC LEAGUE**

**8U Softball Coach Pitch 2023 Rules Exceptions**

1. Roster
   1. ALL players will bat, even if not playing in the field (roster-bat).
   2. If a child is injured or has to leave (i.e. restroom break), no out will be taken for her lineup spot. Skip to next player.
   3. 10 players play the field. Each player must play TWO complete innings. Directors have the right to check books at any time. Eight players must be present to play a game.
2. Game Length/run limit
   1. All games are five innings or 1 ½ hour time limit. When the time limit is reached, teams must finish the inning. Three (3) full innings will constitute a complete game.
   2. Six (6) run limit per inning.
   3. Mercy Rule: 7 runs after 4 innings
   4. Games may end in a tie if the 1 ½ hour time limit is up or after five (5) innings have been completed. A half-win will be awarded to each team.
3. Equipment
   1. An 11” ball will be used (375 compression).T-ball bats may be used.
   2. Infield masks SHALL be worn by all infielders.
   3. Catcher MUST wear proper equipment at all times when behind the plate.
4. Batting
   1. A batter may receive five (5) pitches – 3 swing strikes or 5 pitches will be an out.
   2. Foul balls do count as strikes except on the third strike, and do count as a pitch. If 5th pitch is foul, the batter receives another pitch until it is hit or a swinging strike.
5. Base runners
   1. No stealing, leading off, bunting, or infield fly allowed.
   2. Base runner cannot leave the base until the ball crosses the plate. Penalty: runner is out.
   3. If pitcher has possession of the ball in the circle, not making a play, and lead runner stops, the play is dead.
6. Overthrows
   1. One base permitted on an overthrow. This includes 2nd and 3rd base when throw enters the outfield.
7. Fielders
   1. Player pitcher must remain in circle until the pitch is released by the coach pitcher.
   2. Infielders must start behind the pitching rubber, and outfielders must start in the outfield grass.
8. Coaches
   1. Two coaches are permitted in the outfield. They must stay behind the outfielders.
   2. Coach pitcher must make every attempt to avoid being involved in any play once the ball is hit and retreat to the sideline.