

Darlings Softball (8U)

Updated: Spring 2018

Coaches:

Three adults will be allowed on the playing field at one time (two base coaches and one coach-pitcher). A fourth adult must remain in the dugout at all times to watch the players. During regular season play, a coach may be in the outfield behind all players when his/her team is on defense. He/she may coach the players, but he cannot interfere with the game.

General Rules:

1. A Maximum of 12 players will be allowed to play at one time with up to 6 outfielders allowed to play at once. Outfielders may play no closer than 20 feet from the baseline.
2. Run limit per inning: five (5).
3. A team can start with no less than (8) players, there will be no forfeit if the coach wants to play the game. However, there will be an automatic out each time the ninth player would have come to bat.
4. Time limit: No new inning will start after 1 hour. An inning starts when the last out is made in the bottom of the preceding inning. Once the last inning has begun, it will be played to its completion. A complete game will be five (5) innings. A game can end if a team is mathematically eliminated by the max run per inning rule as stated in #2.
5. Batting Rules: Each team will bat a continuous lineup. If a player has to be removed from a game due to illness or injury, no penalty shall be assessed & this player will be skipped in the lineup. However, once the player is skipped due to injury or illness, he shall not re-enter the game in any fashion. If a player arrives after the continuous batting order has been completed, the player shall be added to the end of the lineup. If the player arrives after the 3rd inning has begun, the player shall not participate in the game.
6. Infield fly rule does not apply.
7. The coach-pitcher cannot coach any runner. After the first warning, on the second occurrence this coach will be removed from pitching. The removed coach can become a base coach.
8. The player in the pitcher position must have one foot inside the designated 16 foot diameter circle and not any closer to the batter than even with the 40 foot line, and shall not leave the circle until the ball is hit. Center of the pitching circle is 40 feet from the back edge of the home plate.
9. The preferred pitching distance is 30 feet from the back of home plate
10. No play is not dead until the player pitcher has control of the ball inside the circle.

11. Number of Pitches: 5 pitches will be allowed or 3 strikes for each batter whichever comes first. There are no walks. If a pitch hits a batter it counts as a pitch. If the batter does not hit one of the 5 pitches, the batter is out except on the 5th pitch; if the ball is batted foul and not caught (a foul ball or foul tip caught by the catcher is an out.) The batter shall continue batting until the batter (a) swings and misses the ball (b) is put out (c) is called out by the umpire.
12. All teams will bat in the same rotation order. Players arriving late will be entered at the end of the batting order. A player that gets sick and goes back into the game will bat in the same place in the batting order as when they left the game. All players will play All defensive outs unless injured, ill or per coaches definition unable to continue.
13. After the first warning to a player for slinging a bat, on the second occurrence, the player will be out.
14. No base stealing is allowed.
15. No intentional walks are allowed.
16. Players are not allowed to bunt. A Batted ball must go beyond the 9 ft. arc from home plate.
17. Overthrows to 1st base and/or 3rd base are not considered dead balls. Runner may advance one base on an overthrow.
18. If the game is tied after regulation time or regulation innings, the game will end in a tie. For tournament play, the international tie-breaker rule will be in effect.