

U17 – RULES AND REGULATIONS

The rules of “U17” follow the Softball Canada Official Rule Book with the following exceptions. Please note that if anything is not directly addressed within this document, the Softball Canada Official Rulebook applies.

A mandatory pre-game introduction is required between umpire(s) and head coaches. This will ensure all rules are understood and any special circumstances are discussed prior to the game.

Field Measurements

1. The ball that is used and is a requirement is of a twelve (12) inch circumference.
2. The base path distance is sixty (60) feet. The pitching path distance is forty-three (43) feet.

Equipment

3. All batters must wear a batting helmet with cage with the strap done up while at bat & on base.
4. **Defensive pitchers and infielders must wear protective equipment (pitching mask or face guard).**

Players

5. Minimum of seven (7) players and a maximum of nine (9) players on the field.
6. When playing with less than the maximum number of players, there are no automatic outs.
7. If a player arrives late, they may be added to the bottom of the line-up.
8. No player is to sit more than one (1) consecutive inning. Coaches will ensure that every player sits out one inning before any player sits out two (2) innings.
9. A player cannot play the same position more than three (3) innings per game.
10. Coaches are encouraged to play all players as equally as possible over the course of the season.

Games

11. Each inning rotates who is the first batter.
12. A new inning will not start after one (1) hour and thirty (45) minutes after the scheduled start time.
13. All games to start at 6:30 pm with a fifteen (15) grace period.
14. In case of weather or cancellation of a game by an official and when two (2) innings have been completed, the score of the game will revert to the last fully completed inning.
15. Five (5) run maximum/inning rule applies.
16. Three (3) out rule applies.

Substitutions

17. Unlimited defensive substitutions.

Runner

18. A coach may use a courtesy runner for the catcher to allow that catcher to suit up for the next half inning. The courtesy runner must be the last out.

Defensive Conferences

19. A team is permitted two (2) defensive conferences per inning. With the third conference, the pitcher must be removed from the pitcher position for the balance of the inning.

Pitcher

20. Pitchers are allowed to either pitch windmill or a modified pitch. (back then forward motion)

Walks

21. Walks are allowed however there are no intentional walks.

Stealing & Lead Offs

22. Base runners may steal on any legally pitched ball when it has **left the pitcher's hand.**

23. On a lead off, runners may leave the base when the ball has **left the pitcher's hand.** If they leave early, they will be called out.

Miscellaneous

24. Bunting is permitted.

25. Third Strike Rule is in effect. (can run on third strike)

26. Infield Fly Rule is in effect.

27. Sliding is allowed.

28. **Over-aged** players **may be** allowed upon special consideration. Written requests must be submitted for consideration -

a. but they cannot be a pitcher or a catcher.

b. all over-aged players must be marked on the score sheet prior to the game as "OA"