

U9 SOFTBALL- RULES AND REGULATIONS

The rules of “U9” follow the rules of softball with the following exceptions. Please note that if anything is not directly addressed within this document, the Softball Canada Official Rulebook for 2023-24 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 Set Up

1. The ball that is used and is a requirement in 2023 is a soft touch Incrediball (soft “COR” ball) of a 11-inch circumference. If these are not available, a similar soft “COR” ball will be accepted.
2. The base path distance is forty-five (45) feet. The pitching path distance is thirty (30) feet (Pitching distance can be adjusted within reason between each teams coaches and witch safety in mind.)

Players

3. Teams should have a minimum of seven (7) players with a maximum of six (6) infield (including the catcher) and the remaining outfield.

Equipment

4. All batters must wear a batting helmet with cage with the strap done up while at bat & on base.
5. If a child is beside a coach that is pitching (to learn), they should be wearing a pitching mask.
6. All infielders are recommended to wear a face mask.
7. Pitching machines are not permitted during games.

Games

8. Each batter will receive five (5) pitches from their own coach. If the batter is unable to hit within the five (5) pitches, they are out. Any forward hit in fair territory, regardless of distance, will be considered a fair ball. If the ball lands fair but rolls foul, this will be considered a fair ball. Foul tips are not a fair ball.
9. Ball games are scheduled for 6:30pm start, and last approximately one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes.
10. Three (3) out rule applies.
11. Five (5) run maximum/inning rule applies.
12. For safety reasons, a player cannot throw their bat. A batter is given one warning and if this is repeated, the batter may be ruled out, at the discretion of the umpire.
13. Base running is allowed only when a hit takes place. No base stealing. Runners leading off may only leave the base when the ball has left the pitcher’s hand. If they leave early, they will be warned.
14. When the ball crosses in from outfield to infield, it’s a dead ball. This includes when a ball lands in the infield but is not in the fielding teams possession. Runners do not advance on an overthrow. Runners that have left a base may only proceed as far as the next base, but no further, or return to the one they left from. If they haven’t left a base, they cannot proceed.
15. The winner is determined by who has the greatest number of runs.

Coaches

16. Offensive and defensive coaches are permitted on the playing field.

Substitutions

17. Unlimited substitutions.