

PARAGOULD YOUTH SOFTBALL
PLAYING RULES
8u COACH PITCH

GENERAL RULES

1. All players must be 7 years old by January 1 and must not turn 9 years old before January 1 of the current season.
2. Metal cleats are not permitted in 12u and younger.
3. Crowd control is the responsibility of first, the coach, secondly, the umpires, and thirdly, the league president. Fans demonstrating disruptive behavior will be asked to leave. Police may be called in an effort to restore a family-friendly environment at Rotary Park.
4. Teams who cannot field a minimum of 8 players will forfeit.

8u COACH PITCH

1. **Time Limit:** One hour (1:00) or six (6) innings, whichever comes first.
2. **Run Rule:** 11 after 4, 6 after 5.
3. **Batting Order:** All players on the roster and present will be in the batting lineup the entire game. If a player arrives after the start of the game, the player must be inserted at the bottom of the batting order.
4. **Defense:** Ten (10) defensive players with one additional outfielder. All four (4) outfielders must be in the outfield grass until the ball is pitched. Teams may freely insert defensive players into their lineup. Players on the infield should be in their standard positions; no shifts, extra players on or around the mound, etc.
5. **Runs per Inning:** Five (5) runs per half inning. Upon scoring the limited number of runs, the umpire will declare side out.
6. **Contact Rule:** If a player attempting to reach home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate, the runner will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. The objective of this rule is to penalize the offensive team for deliberate, unwarranted, unsportsmanlike action by the runner for the obvious purpose of crashing the defensive player, rather than trying to reach home plate. Obviously, this is an umpire's judgement call.
7. **Pitching Coach:** The pitching coach shall remain silent while on the mound and may not give hand signals nor make body movements that may be considered a coaching signal. The pitching coach must start with both feet on the 35' rubber. The pitching coach must make an attempt to get out of the defensive player's way when fielding or throwing. If the pitching coach forces a player to throw over the pitching coach or intentionally hinders the player fielding or throwing the ball, interference may be called and a penalty applied.
8. **Pitching Position:** The player fielding the pitching position must take a defensive position in line with, or slightly behind the pitching rubber and within the 8' radius pitching circle.
9. **The Batter:** Each batter will have three (3) swinging strikes or a maximum of six (6) pitches. There are no called balls or strikes on the batter. If the batter fails to put the ball in play after six (6) pitches, the batter is out. If the 6th pitch, or successive pitches, is hit foul the at bat will continue until the batter is retired or reaches base.
10. **Stealing:** Not permitted. Baserunner must maintain contact with the base until the pitched ball reaches the plate.
11. **Infield Fly Rule:** Not in effect.
12. **Bases:** Will be 60' apart.
13. **Ball:** 11" ball will be used.

Rainout information will be posted by 3:00pm on the day of inclement weather

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