



## 2026 10u Rules

1. This is still a learning league. We will teach batting, fielding, throwing, pitching, catching, base running and good sportsmanship . Score will be kept to determine seeds for the tournament which will be *double elimination*.
2. **Home team is determined by a coin flip.** Game time shall begin at first warm up pitch. Game length shall be 5 innings or 1 hour and 15 minutes whichever comes first . The run rule shall be 15 runs after 3 innings or 10 after 4. Once the time limit is up the game will end unless the team who is losing has the last bat they will have the opportunity to complete their final at bat .
3. **Teams are allowed 5 runs per inning** or 3 outs whichever comes first but the final inning will be played out unless the 15 or 10 run rule have taken effect. The tie breaker rule will be used in league and tournament play. **Continuation Rule: If a team has 4 runs across the plate, and the ball is put in play, all runs will count until the play is stopped. To stop a play, a defensive player only needs to hold the ball in the baseline between third base and home plate, with arms raised.**

*For example: 4 runs have scored, bases loaded. Ball is hit to the outfield and 3 runs score on the play, all 7 runs for that inning will count.*

4. Pitching distance shall be 35 ft. and base distance shall be 60 ft. Umpires shall use an expanded strike zone.
5. As of our 2025 season, there is an enhancement to the pitching rules. A pitcher will pitch up to 5 pitches to the batter. There will be **NO WALKS**. If the hitter has not put the ball in play, or struck out during those 5 pitches, the coach of the team on offense, or hitting team will come out and pitch up to 3 pitches. **The coach MUST PITCH from within the Pitching Circle**. If the hitter fails to put the ball in play, it will be recorded as an out. (The batter may continue to hit a foul ball and remain at-bat.) Stealing home on passed balls remain in play.

**Dropped third strike has been removed. Runners will not be allowed to run if the ball is dropped on the 3rd strike.**

6. Bunting and stealing bases will be allowed.



7. Running home on an errant throw in the field is allowed. Coaches should work with batters on getting out of the way if there is a play at the plate or they could be called out for interference. Coaches should also work with base runners on sliding or getting down to avoid a crash on close plays at the plate or any base. Runners should not be called out just because they didn't slide but can be called out for interference or crashing into a fielder in possession of the ball. Fielders should not block the base if they don't have possession of the ball.
8. Coaches need to have lineups and positions figured out before game time and have catchers ready to go in their gear. All available players and subs should be listed on the lineup. A maximum of 9 players can play the field. A team must have 7 original roster players and 8 players total to start a legal game. If a team plays with only 8 players an out will be taken in the 9th spot. If you cannot field a team of 9 players due to an injury during the game an out will be taken in every spot in the lineup less than 9. You may borrow players from within this league or 8U during the regular season but they must play the outfield and bat last and must be replaced at the end of the inning if the original team member arrives and must have their coach's approval. If a team cannot field 8 players (7 of those being on their own roster) it will go as a forfeit and a loss however teams can still play as is but it's still a loss for the shorthanded team.

DO NOT GET SUBS FROM OTHER TEAMS AND BENCH YOUR OWN PLAYERS UNLESS THEY ARE INJURED!.

6. Metal cleats will **NOT** be allowed in this league. Other jewelry such as earrings or deemed dangerous by the umpire shall be removed unless it's for medical purposes but it must be taped. **PITCHERS MASKS WILL BE WORN BY ALL PITCHERS IN GAMES & PRACTICES.**
7. **FREE SUBSTITUTION WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.** Players can re-enter one time as long as they occupy their original spot in the lineup. Different subs should be used each night if you have more than 9 players and subs should not sit the bench more than one inning. Coach will notify the plate umpire when subs enter or re-enter who will notify the other coach or scorekeeper.
8. You may bat your entire roster. Players not starting on defense need to be listed as "EP" in the lineup. If a player is injured, and there are no subs available, you will NOT take an out or be penalized, skip over that player's spot in the lineup.

From USA Softball :



Rule 4, Section 1C [1c]: When batting up to all roster players, any additional batters shall be listed as an EP and may be listed anywhere in the batting order and may play defense at any position.

9. Players not involved in the game may serve as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher in that inning. If you only have 9 players and a base runner gets hurt you can use your last out but if she is not able to return to the game an out will be taken in that spot.
10. Pitchers will be allowed to pitch 3 of the first 5 innings but no more than **2** consecutive innings. If a pitcher enters at any point of an inning and throws one pitch that counts as one full inning. If the game exceeds 5 innings any pitcher may be used. Umpire should allow 5 warm up pitches for starting or new pitcher and a returning pitcher will be allowed 3 warmups. Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a catching helmet. Only a total of two defensive conferences/trips to the mound will be allowed in a 5 inning game. On the 3rd conference the pitcher will be pulled.
11. Base runners are allowed to steal the next base if open but can be called out leaving before the ball leaves the pitchers hand. No warnings will be given. If the runners are played on and the ball is overthrown and is still in live ball territory runners can advance to any base including home until the ball is controlled by the pitcher in the circle. If the overthrow goes into dead ball area the umpire shall award one base plus one from the time of the throw. If the runner is between bases once the ball is controlled by the pitcher they must advance one way or the other or could be called out for hesitating unless the pitcher plays on the runner.
12. No hitting balls into the fences per City of Gering. Helmets will be worn while batting and running bases at all practices and games. Coaches must remain in the coach 1 s box when acting as a base coach. All other coaches and players not on the field must remain in the dugout area and behind the fence. When on defense all coaches and players not in the game shall remain in the dugout area and behind the fence. Only one on deck batter in the circle at a time and they must wear a helmet. Keep all equipment behind the fence and out of play.
13. Coaches, umpires and board members will work together to call or postpone games due to darkness or weather. If there is lightning before or during your game pull the girls off the field and wait at least 30 minutes. If you are not able to finish the game that night note what time you stopped and all other information and a board member will notify



you when the game will be made up unless 2 ½ or 3 innings have been completed and the home team is ahead then it will be a complete game.

14. Umpire decision on all judgement calls such as balls and strikes, safe or out, fair or foul, whether it was interference or obstruction or not will be final. No protests can be made on these types of calls. Arguing judgement calls will not be tolerated. First offense will result in a warning by the umpire and after that you will be ejected. If you are ejected you will leave the field. If you do not leave the field your team will forfeit and you will appear in front of the board to be reinstated before your next game. Foul language towards the umpires will result in an ejection. The umpires are in charge of the game, you are not. Your job is to coach your team. Coaches need to help control parents if necessary. Umpires are human and they will make mistakes just like coaches and players. Please encourage the umpires and thank them so they keep coming back. Please show good sportsmanship and remember, it's only a game!

**CLEAN UP ALL TRASH AROUND YOUR DUGOUT AFTER THE GAME.**

**Be aware of signs and symptoms of concussions, heat stroke and heat exhaustion.  
When in doubt sit them out.**

**Tournament rules: Seeds will be determined based on league standings. All above rules will apply. NO changes will be made before the tournament and championship game (or during the regular season) without approval by the board.**