



## 2026 18u Rules

1. Game length shall be 7 innings or 1 hour 30 minutes. Run rule shall be 15 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, or 8 runs after 5 innings. **MERCY RULE** - If a team bats through the lineup in an inning, that will result in an out. If that out is the third out, that will conclude that half of the inning and teams will switch sides.
2. Pitching distance shall be 43 ft. and base distance shall be 60 ft.
3. If the game is tied at the end of regulation use the tie breaker rule. At the start of the new inning, the player in lineup before the current batter, will be placed on 2nd base, **(e.g. If the current batter occupies spot 4 in the lineup, the player in spot 3 will be placed on 2nd base, not necessarily the last out from the previous inning).**
4. Infield fly and dropped 3rd strike rule will be used.
5. Metal cleats are allowed. All other jewelry such as earrings or deemed dangerous by the umpire shall be removed unless it's for medical purposes then it must be taped to the body. **PITCHERS MASKS MUST BE WORN BY ALL PITCHERS IN PRACTICES & GAMES.**
6. **FREE SUBSTITUTION WILL NOT BE USED.** Players may re-enter the game once as long as they occupy their original spot in the batting order. Different subs should be used each night if you have more than 9 players. Coach should notify plate umpire when subs enter or re-enter who will then notify the other coach or scorekeeper. **DO NOT GETS SUBS FROM OTHER TEAMS AND BENCH YOUR OWN PLAYERS UNLESS THEY ARE INJURED!** Players not involved in the game may serve as courtesy runners for the pitcher or catcher in that inning. If a base runner is injured and you only have 9 players you can use your last out to run for that runner. If she is not able to come back into the back an out will be taken in that spot.
7. 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 at least 9 players eligible to play defense, no penalty out will be taken. Skip over the injured player and continue.

However, if the injured player brings the total number of players below 9, an out will be taken.

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.

8. All players acting as base coaches must wear a batting helmet .
9. Games will start promptly unless delayed by weather. A coin toss by the umpire will decide home team. Game time will begin at first warm up pitch. If you are not able to field a team of 7 roster players and at least 8 players total it will be a forfeit. Both teams can still play as is but it's a loss for the shorthanded team. If a team plays with only 8 players an out will be taken in the 9th spot. If a team cannot field 9 players due to injury during the game an out will be taken for every spot in the lineup less than 9. You may borrow players from within this league or 13U during the regular season but they must play the outfield and must be replaced at the end of the inning if the original team member arrives and YOU MUST HAVE THEIR COACHES APPROVAL TO USE THEM AS A SUB. During tournament you can only borrow from 13U if you have less than 9 players.
9. Pitchers may pitch unlimited innings. Starting pitchers will be allowed 5 warm up pitches, returning pitchers will be allowed 3 warm ups.
10. If the city has the red flag flying behind the boys field the boys field there will be no games for that night. If there is lightning before or during your game pull the girls off the field and wait at least 30 minutes. Note what time you stopped and all other information and your game will resume from where is stopped unless 4 ½ or 5 innings have been completed and the home team is ahead then it will be considered a complete game.

Weather conditions will also be updated via TeamSnap, Facebook and our website <https://geringgirlssoftball.com>

11. Umpire decision is final on all judgement calls such as balls & strikes, fair or foul, safe or out and weather it was or was not infield fly, interference or obstruction. Arguing judgement calls will not be tolerated . First offense will result in a warning and after that you will be ejected and 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. 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. There umpires are human and will make mistakes just like players and coaches.

Please encourage them and thank them and remember, it's only a game!

**PICK UP ALL TRASH IN YOUR DUGOUT AFTER GAMES!**

**Tournament rules: All above rules and run rules will apply. NO changes will be made before the tournament or championship game (or during the regular season) unless approved by the commissioner and the board.**