



2025-2026 Playing Rules – 8 & Under (Coach Pitch)

The 2025 TCSA 8 & Under softball season will be conducted in accordance with 2025 Texas USA rules and policies with the following exceptions:

1. The distance between bases shall be sixty (60) feet.
2. The pitching distance will be thirty-five (35) feet.
3. A League-issued eleven (11) inch, softball approved by ASA shall be used.
4. Game time limit is one hour and ten minutes (70 minutes), finish the inning. A new inning shall not be started after 70 minutes of play.
5. Games may end in tie scores.
6. When batting and in addition to standard base coaches, each team will designate a coach who will be on the field to pitch to their team. The pitcher-coach who starts an inning must complete that inning except in cases of injury or illness. Teams may alternate pitcher-coaches at the beginning of any inning. The pitcher coach may talk to and verbally coach the batters but may not leave the pitcher's circle before the pitch.
7. Two defensive coaches are allowed – one in right field foul territory and one in left field foul territory. These coaches are allowed to talk to and verbally coach their defensive players but may not enter the field of play once play in an inning has begun. Both coaches should take a position in foul territory no closer than fifteen feet from the offensive base coaching box.
8. All players present shall be listed in the batting order. Any player who does not bat in their position for any reason other than illness/injury shall be called out. A player who misses an at bat because of illness/injury shall not return to play. A player called out for any other missed at bat shall return to play defense. The player shall be called out each time an at bat is missed.



9. There will be ten (10) players allowed on defense. The regulation number of infielders shall be used with the extra player placed as a rover in the outfield.
10. All players not playing defense in an inning must be placed in a defensive position the following inning. Three (3) consecutive outs shall constitute an inning for this rule. A minimum number of players necessary to start and/or continue play are seven (7), but an out will be counted in the 8th position in the batting order. Players may be “picked up” from other 8U teams but they must be a first year 8U player and cannot be older than 7 years of age. Pick up players are allowed to play in the outfield only and will be listed last in the batting order.
11. The DP will not be used in local league play.
12. Each batter shall be allowed five (5) pitches from a pitcher-coach, which she can swing at, foul off, or hit into fair territory. If after the allowed number of coach pitches the batter has not hit the ball into fair territory, she is declared out. If on the last allowed pitch, the ball is fouled off, the batter will continue to bat until the ball is hit into fair territory or the pitched ball is not hit at which time the batter shall be called out. If the 5th pitch is fouled off, she will get another pitch, if she fouls the 6th pitch, she will be given 7th pitch, and if it is fouled the batter is out. A batter can strike out conventionally.
13. The pitcher-coach must keep one foot inside the pitcher’s circle until the pitch has been released. If the pitch is hit, the pitcher-coach must move out of the field of play in a direction opposite that of the hit ball without obstructing any defensive players.
14. If the pitcher-coach is unintentionally hit by a batted ball or unintentionally obstructs a defensive player, it shall be declared a dead ball and the batter is awarded first base. Any runners already on base, if forced, are awarded one base. If the pitcher-coach intentionally makes contact with a hit ball or intentionally obstructs a defensive player,



dead ball is declared, the batter is out, no runners advance, and the coach is not allowed to return to pitch for the rest of the game.

15. The pitcher-player shall remain on the field as a defensive player but must stay in the pitcher's circle behind the pitcher's plate until the ball has been hit.
16. With the exception of the catcher, no player may be closer than 30 feet from the batter until the ball has been hit. The four outfielders must remain on the outfield grass behind the baseline until the ball has been hit.
17. A play is considered dead once the pitcher-player has control of the ball inside the pitcher's circle, unless making a play. Should the ball be hit directly back to the pitcher-player on the ground, and the pitcher chooses to hold the ball in the circle rather than make a play, all runners will be allowed to advance one base.
18. Base-runners may continue to run until 'dead-ball' is declared by the umpire. Base-runners advancing more than halfway to the next base will be allowed that next base including home and those who were less than halfway will be sent back to the previous base unless forced by the batter-runner.
19. The offensive team shall remain at bat until they have scored six (6) runs or made three (3) outs.
20. The catcher shall not be required to catch a called third strike or a third strike swing in order to call the batter out.
21. Base stealing shall not be allowed. A runner may leave the base when the ball leaves the pitchers hand, but must return if the ball is not hit. A runner is liable to be thrown out.
22. Intentional bunting, slap-bunting or slap-hitting is not allowed and any attempt to do so will result in the batter being out. It is the umpire's responsibility to determine intent.
23. Each team may be granted one warning per game when a base-runner leaves a base early. After the warning is issued any other runner leaving early may be called out.



24. The infield fly rule is not in effect in 8 & Under and base-runners are not allowed to tag up and advance on a caught fly ball.
25. Bat-slinging will not be allowed. A warning may or may not be issued by the umpire on the first incident in a game and further incidents of bat slinging by any player on the batting team will result in an out.

