

Summit Softball & Baseball League

Instructional League (Grades 1-2)

Playing Rules

Player development, sportsmanship, integrity and enjoyment of the game take priority to winning.

RULES: USA Softball / ASA playing rules for Fastpitch will be the standard set of rules with the following exceptions, modifications, and clarifications:

GAME:

1. Games are six (6) innings or time limit, whichever comes first. Time limit is no new innings after 1 hour 15 min. Umpires must state and agree on start time with coaches prior to game start. New inning begins with the final out of prior inning.
2. When playing a game, an inning is over after 3 outs or when 5 runs have been scored. In no case will a team continue their at bat if 3 outs have been recorded. Once / If 3 outs are recorded by the defensive team, the inning is over.
3. If the fielding team records an out, the runner being tagged or forced out leaves the field and returns to the bench.
4. The team in the field may use a maximum of 10 fielders. Four of these must be outfielders. Use of an extra infielder is not permitted. All four (4) outfielders must be positioned on the outfield grass.
5. The number of defensive coaches on the field should not exceed two.

PITCHING & BATTING:

1. Pitching: The 1/2 Instructional League is coach pitch with tee relief.
 - a. Coaches from the offensive team shall pitch to the batter. The coach pitcher must make every effort to avoid interfering with the defense on batted balls.
 - b. The player pitcher shall stand to the left or right side of the coach pitcher inside the pitcher's circle for fielding purposes.
 - c. Coaches are to pitch from 35' (standard 10U pitchers plate), however are permitted to pitch from as close as 20' at their discretion based on the ability of the batter.
 - d. If after 6 pitches the batter is unable to hit a pitched ball, a coach of the batting team shall place a stationary tee slightly in front of (not on top of) home plate and the batter will hit from the tee. In no case shall a coach pitch more than 6 pitches to any batter. The goal of allowing a closer pitching distance is to maximize batted balls off of live pitching and limit the use of a tee.
 - e. There will be no walks or strikeouts.
 - f. If a player is hitting from a stationary tee, the ball must travel 10' or it is a foul.

2. Bunting is not allowed.
3. A hit batter is not awarded first base.

BASERUNNING:

1. Infield Hit - Base runners are limited to one base on all batted balls hit in the infield. No advances are allowed for overthrows to any base.
2. Outfield Hit - Base runners may take additional bases on all batted balls hit into the outfield, as defined by any ball that goes 10 feet beyond the base path or any ball that is fielded by an outfielder. The umpire must carefully note where the runners are at the moment the ball has been returned to the infield and is controlled by an infielder. Runners remain in jeopardy of being put out. At the end of the play, the umpire will decide the proper position for the baserunners.
 - a. If the base runner is not at the halfway point between the bases once the ball is secured by an infielder, the runner will be sent back to the previous base.
 - b. If the runner is at the halfway point or beyond and the ball is secured by an infielder, the runner may advance, at the runner's risk of being put out.
 - c. If the runner is at the halfway point or beyond and the ball is secured by an infielder, and that infielder attempts to make a play on a base runner and the ball is overthrown, the runner cannot advance to the next base. (because it had been previously secured by an infielder).
3. In order to keep pace of play, catchers should be assisted by a coach of their team. A parent or coach of the defensive team should stand behind the catcher and umpire in the backstop to field passed balls and return them to the offensive pitcher either by throwing to the pitcher or giving to the catcher to have them throw to the pitcher.

UMPIRES: All games will be umpired by youth umpires from the 7/8 SSBL softball league. There will be a minimum of 1 umpire for each game. Coaches may ask umpires for rules clarifications, however any judgement call by the umpire stands as called and is not appealable by any coach. Coaches are reminded to show sportsmanship and integrity as teaching opportunities to their team members.

Revised: March, 2023