

# 2026 NorCal Girls Softball

## 8u SPRING & FALL BALL PLAYING RULES UPDATE

### 8-UNDER

Purpose of this program is to maximize basic instruction for girls 7 and 8 by teaching fundamentals of softball. Developing pitching and fielding skills should be emphasized.

1. Ages 6, 7, 8.
2. Ball 10" RIF Level 1 – USA SOFTBALL Approved.
3. Base 60'.
4. Pitching 30'.
5. Team Size 10 to 15 players recommended.
6. Regulation game is 6 innings or time limit.
7. Game time 1 hour and 30 minutes. No new inning (Spring Only).
8. **5 run** rule per half inning. Half inning ends when the play is completed not when the **5th** run scores.
9. Run Rule is **15 runs after 3 innings**, 12 runs after 4 innings; and 8 runs after 5 innings.
10. Pitching Restrictions – No more than 2 innings per pitcher for the first 4 innings, with 1 additional inning after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning and open pitching after the 6<sup>th</sup> inning. Violation will result in an ineligible player.
11. Illegal pitch will not be called. However, the pitcher must make every attempt to pitch legally. If in the umpire's opinion the pitcher is gaining a gross advantage from an illegal pitch, then coach must correct or remove the pitcher.
12. Leadoff 15' maximum – Allowed on release of pitch - No stealing.
13. **A Team may start the game with 10 players on defense. Teams may compress lineups down to 9 without penalty. Once a team drops below 9 players to 8 players, an out will be charged to the team in the 9<sup>th</sup> position of the batting order. A team may start the game shorthanded with 8 players but when playing shorthanded, an out will be charged in the 9<sup>th</sup> position in the batting order. A game can never start or finish with less than 8 players and will result in a forfeit of the game.**
14. Bat the Roster. Play 10 defensively. Free defensive substitutions.
  - Outfielders must be 10' from natural baseline at time of swing.
  - Outfield is defined as a chalk line that is 10' beyond the natural baseline and continues to the fence line or dead ball territory.
  - Outfielders may not lineup as infielders – 6 infielders – 4 outfielders for 10 player team.
15. Any pitch that is not put into play by the batter will be a dead ball. No back picks on base runners.
16. Bunting or slap hitting is allowed. Exception: No bunting or slap hitting off coach-pitcher.
17. Runners can only advance one base on a batted ball being fielded in the infield that has not crossed the 10' outfield line.
18. Runners and batter/runner may advance extra bases while a hit ball remains in the outfield and must stop at the next base once the ball is in control in the infield. Control will be a ball caught in the glove or hand. **or an attempt catch and within reach.**
19. Runners and batter/runner may be put out if they advance beyond the base they are entitled. At the end of play, the umpire will return all runners to the base(s) they are entitled to if they have not been put out.
20. No walk, coach pitch at 4th ball.
  - Coach pitches the remainder of the strikes, each pitch is a strike unless fouled on 3rd strike.
  - Foul Ball is no strike 3: foul tip is active.
  - Coach-pitcher must pitch with one foot on the rubber.
  - If a batted ball strikes the coach-pitcher, the play is dead with the batter awarded first base and all other runners advance only if forced. At no time shall the coach-pitcher obstruct play and can NOT be a Base Coach during the play that he/she has pitched.
  - NO bunting or slap hitting off coach pitch.
  - Player-Pitcher must have at least one foot in the pitching circle during the pitch by coach-pitcher.
21. If hit by pitch by player-pitcher – batter must walk to first base (NO EXCEPTIONS).
  - If hit by coach pitcher's pitch, batter will receive another pitch (does not count).
  - A ball that hits the ground and then hits the batter will not be considered hit by pitch – it's a ball. Courtesy Runner: The Courtesy Runner Rule allows for a runner to replace **the pitcher or** catcher when on base. **Any player present at the game and in the lineup can be Courtesy Runner. If a player is on base as a Courtesy Runner and it becomes her turn to bat, she will be pulled off base to bat. The player for whom she is running for (pitcher/catcher), will be called out.**

22. No dropped third strike.
23. No infield fly rule.
24. Runners must be back on base at time of pitch or out is recorded, hesitation rule in effect.

## **FALL BALL SEASON RULES**

### **8-UNDER**

Rules established for Fall Ball season play are as follows: (Any rule not covered in the NorCal Rules of Play handbook, please refer to the current USA SOFTBALL rulebook. NorCal rules are exceptions to USA SOFTBALL rules and will be used if applicable.)

1. The Home and Visitor teams will be assigned on the schedule. The scheduled Home team shall provide a new game ball for that game.
2. ALL ADULTS MUST HAVE CURRENT YEAR CERTIFICATION STICKER TO BE ON FIELD OF PLAY.
3. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 20 minutes from the beginning of the game or 6 innings. Any new inning started shall be finished unless another rule applies. There will be a minimum 20-minute break between all games.
4. Run Rule is 15 runs after 3 innings; 12 runs after 4 innings; 8 runs after 5 innings
5. NorCal pitching regulations will be used and enforced.
6. One pitch to a batter constitutes an inning pitched.
7. The USA SOFTBALL short-handed rule applies. You may start with 8 players. The ninth and tenth batter is an out. If you drop below 8 players for whatever reason, the game is a forfeit.
8. Any game stopped before completion for any reason will start from the exact point at which it was stopped. Only players who were on the original line-up card will be allowed to complete the game. Unless an injury had occurred, no time will be added to the clock.
9. Illegal pitches will not be called. However, the pitcher must make every attempt to pitch legally. If in the umpire's opinion the pitcher is gaining a gross advantage from an illegal pitch, then coach must correct or remove the pitcher.
10. **No extra inning will be played, Game will end in a tie.**
11. When time expires, if trailing team can't tie or take the lead due to maximum runs, game will end. **Finish the batter.**
12. Both teams shall report scores no later than 8pm on the evening of the scheduled game.

## **FALL BALL TOURNAMENT RULES**

### **8-UNDER**

1. A time limit for each game will be announced prior to the tournament at the Managers meeting.
2. At the start of each game the umpire will flip for home team.
3. Run Rule is 15 runs after 3 innings; 12 runs after 4 innings; and 8 runs after 5 innings.
4. When time expires, if trailing team can't tie or take the lead due to maximum runs, game will end. Finish the batter.
1. Pitching Restrictions – No more than 2 innings per pitcher for the first 4 innings, with 1 additional inning after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning and open pitching after the 6<sup>th</sup> inning. Violation will result in an ineligible player.
2. Championship games will have NO pitching limitations.
3. The USA SOFTBALL short-handed rule applies. You may start with 8 players. The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> batter is an out. If you drop below 8 players for whatever reason, the game is a forfeit.
4. Home team will be the official scorekeeper. If home team is unable to provide official scorekeepers, visitor will have the official book.
5. In case of a tie at the end of the regulation game and/or time limit, a runner will be placed on second base at the start of each team's turn at bat in the extra innings. In first extra inning, the player scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning will start at 2<sup>nd</sup> base. If tie is not broken, the second extra inning and all succeeding innings, the last 2 players scheduled to bat last in that respective half inning shall start at 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
6. Courtesy Runner: The Courtesy Runner Rule allows for a runner to replace the catcher when on base with two outs only. The replacement runner shall be the last out.
7. You will provide your own scorebook.