

## SGSL 8U Division – UPDATE March 2024

### Field Set-Up for 8U:

- **Base Distance – 50 Feet**
- **Pitcher's rubber – 30 Feet**
- **Outfield cones – 125 Feet from home plate**
- **Game Ball – 11" Safety Softball (TAG or RIF)**

### SGSL Zero Tolerance Policy:

SGSL has adopted a "zero tolerance" policy with regards to coach, player and spectator behavior. This applies to treatment of other coaches, all players and most importantly treatment of umpires. Abusive and obscene language, fighting (verbal and/or physical), and other behaviors detrimental to the sporting event will not be tolerated. ***It is the responsibility of EVERYONE present to support the presiding official.*** There is to be no arguing of judgement calls (balls, strikes, safe/out). If there is a question about an interpretation of the rules, ONLY the head coach may approach the umpire to ask the question.

1. This division will have at least 1 umpire per game. ***Beginning in 2024, "junior" umpires will be used in the 8U division. These are former SGSL players who are learning to umpire the game of softball. Even though these umpires are still in training, they are to be treated with the same curtesy and respect as any other official. Zero tolerance means there will be no warnings. These games will be supervised by members of the SGSL Board of Directors. If a parent or coach is found to be argumentative or is otherwise engaging in an inappropriate way with a junior umpire, they will be ejected from the fields. If it happens a second time, both the parent and their player will be removed from the field, and disciplinary action will be taken. Zero tolerance means zero tolerance.***

2. A coach for the team that is batting will pitch. **Each batter will be pitched a maximum of 6 pitches.** If still at the plate after the 6th pitch has been thrown, the batter will be declared out. Balls and strikes are not called, only the # of pitches thrown will be counted. A batter can strike out swinging. If the 6<sup>th</sup> pitch is fouled off, the batter is still out.

3. A safely hit ball to the infield will allow both the batter and all base runners to advance one base with the liability of being put out.

4. A safely hit ball to the outfield (but before the 125 ft mark), whether in the air, on the ground, or after being touched by a defensive player (ball must reach the outfield grass) allows both the batter and all base runners to advance 2 bases with the liability of being put out. They CAN advance two bases, but they don't HAVE TO advance two bases.

5. Cones will be installed in the outfield, 125 ft from home plate. If a ball is hit past this line in the air, on the ground, or after being touched by a defensive player, the batter and all base runners will be **allowed** to advance as many bases as they want to with the liability of being put out. At fields with fences of 125 feet or less, any ball hit off the fence will have the same effect. A ball that bounces over the fence will be a ground rule double.

6. A defensive player will occupy the pitcher's position on either side of the adult pitcher. Player must stay inside (both feet) the pitcher's circle until the ball is hit. If the chalk circle was not done for the game, the player occupying the pitcher's position should stay behind the coach pitcher until the ball is hit.

7. Any batted ball touching the adult pitcher will constitute play being halted and no pitch being declared. The batter will return to the plate and resume the previous count, all base runners will return to the bases previously occupied. The adult pitcher must immediately attempt to get out of the way of defensive players once the ball has been pitched and cannot impede a player from making a catch or throw.

8. Two coaches are allowed to be on the field to provide instruction when his/her team is on defense, one in the outfield, and one behind the infielders. **The coach in the outfield will also help monitor the cone line.** The coach in the infield must position him/herself behind the infielders. If a coach that is on the field with the defensive team is struck by a batted ball, the batter and all base runners will be awarded (2) bases.

9. Games will be 6 innings in length, unless shortened by the run ahead rule. No new inning will begin after 80 minutes. League games can end in a tie.

10. A maximum of 4 runs can be scored in all innings.

11. For obvious reasons, there will be no infield fly rule in this division.

12. The umpire will make all calls except for those involving whether or not a ball has passed the chalk/cone line that is installed in the outfield. One coach from each team will monitor the chalk line. If the ball passes the line, the coach raises his/her hand above his/her head. If there is a difference of opinion as to whether or not the ball crossed past the line, the home plate umpire will make the call.

13. A continuous batting order is to be used (all players bat). Should a player be unable to take her turn at bat for any reason, proceed to the next scheduled batter without penalty. The player that was unable to take her turn at bat is out of the lineup and cannot return to that game. There are free defensive substitutions.

14. All players must play a minimum of 3 innings on defense unless the game is shortened by the run rule.

15. Each player that throws the bat will be given one warning, the next time the same player throws the bat, an out will be recorded whether the ball was hit or not. If the ball was safely hit, all base runners will return to the base that they previously occupied.

16. Pitching distance will be 30 feet for this division. Base distance will be 50 ft

17. An 11" safety softball (TAG or any RIF) will be used.

18. **All players in the field MUST wear a face mask.** 10 defensive players in the field, 6 in the infield, 4 in the outfield. The four outfielders do not necessarily need to be on the outfield grass in order to be considered an outfielder; however, they must play behind the infielders, not alongside of them. Any player in the catcher position must wear full catching gear, including shin guards, a chest protector and a catcher's helmet.

19. There will be no tag up and advance on a pop fly caught by an infielder. A pop up or fly ball must be caught behind the infielders, by an outfielder in order for a runner to tag up and advance.

20. Only the head coach is allowed to speak to the umpire when it comes to interpretation of the 8U playing rules. The game will be stopped and then resumed after clarification of the rule in question is completed. When the game is stopped, the timer is stopped also. **THERE IS TO BE NO QUESTIONING OF JUDGEMENT CALLS.**

21. Courtesy Runners The last scheduled batter at the time when a courtesy runner is needed will be the runner for a player that requires a courtesy runner. The insertion of an incorrect courtesy runner discovered after the next pitch is thrown will result in an out. Should the incorrect runner be discovered prior to the next pitch being thrown, the correct runner is inserted without penalty.

*Example 1: The first batter of the inning pops out for the first out of the inning, the next batter gets a hit, and requires a courtesy runner. The courtesy runner is the batter that just made the first out of that inning.*

*Example 2: There are no outs in the inning when the first batter gets on base, the courtesy runner is the last scheduled batter in the lineup at that time*