

8U EWCL Softball Rules – 2024

Equipment

- We will use an 11-inch ASA-approved Dudley softball
- Pitching will be handled by a blue Louisville Slugger Pitching Machine and set at 30-34 mph.
- These machines require routine maintenance. Visit www.ultimatepitchingmachine.com for more information.

Dimensions

- The pitching plate will be placed at 35 feet.
- Base distances will be 60 feet.

Game Play

- During the school year, teams will play one game on Wednesdays with a one-hour time limit or six innings, whichever comes first. The drop-dead rule would be in effect 1-hour from the game's start time.
 - Starting in June, when school is out, teams will play one 2-hour game, or six innings, whichever comes first. The drop-dead rule would be in effect 2-hours from the game's start time.
- EWCL games are played on Monday or Wednesday nights. The games can start at 6:00 pm or 7:00 pm.
- The home team will supply two game balls.
- On defense, teams can field 9-10 players but no less than 7.
 - If one team has fewer than 7 players, they may borrow players from the opposing team to allow the players there to play a game.
- It is strongly encouraged to rotate players in multiple positions during a game.
- Each batter gets 3 swings or 5 pitches unless the last pitch is a foul ball.
 - The at-bat will continue on a foul ball, just as with all other age groups
- Bunting is not allowed.
- The infield fly rule will not be applied.
- Runners will not be allowed to advance after a dropped third strike.
- Stealing is not allowed
- Designated Players will not be allowed
- Leading off is not allowed.
 - Runners may not leave their base until the ball makes contact with the bat.
- The pitcher must stay in the pitcher's circle and behind or on the coach's side until the ball contacts the bat.
- Before the pitch, the pitching coach (from the batting team) must verbalize and check that the defense is in the ready position and ready for play to begin.
- Outfielders must start the play standing in the grass at the edge of the infield.
 - If the infield is cut for baseball, create an arc 15 feet behind the bases, and the outfielders must start behind the arc.
 - Outfielders cannot move until the bat has made contact with the ball.
- Base runners will stop when;
 - The ball is fielded (controlled) by a player in the infield. If a batted ball does not leave the infield, the runners should stop at the next base when it is fielded. Only allowing one base in this situation encourages the infielder to throw the ball to the appropriate base without fear of runners advancing to the next base because of an overthrow.
 - A ball fielded on the dirt or inside the arc equals one (1) base per infield hit.

- A ball hit to the outfield:
 - If no outfielder has control of the ball, runners may continue to advance.
 - Once an outfielder gains control of the ball and throws it toward the infield, the runners will stop at the next base.
 - Even if the ball doesn't make it to the "dirt" on the throw, the act of throwing the ball into the infield is the attempt of making the correct play. Players must stop at the next base.
- Teams will bat the roster.
- Innings are complete after 3 outs or 5 runs.
- Run-ahead rule: 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, and 8 runs after 5 innings.
- Coaches allowed on the field:
 - Teams may have two (2) offensive, two (2) defensive, and one (1) pitching coaches on the field to help train and teach the game.
 - One of the defensive coaches must be behind the catcher to help the game move along. Coaches will control the blue flinger when their team is batting.
- Coaches are part of the field and are in play. Coaches on the field must make every effort to stay out of the players' way.
- The coach feeding the blue flinger should keep two softballs in their possession and not lay on the ground around the machine.
- Coaches need to operate the game with the highest amount of integrity. At all times, keep the kids' best interests in mind.
- Due to covid, there will be no end-of-the-game "handshake"; instead, each team lineup on a foul line and does a good game "wave."

End-of-year tournament tie rules:

- At the end of regulation time, 6:55 pm or 7:55 pm, if the game is tied,
- Each team will start with a runner on second base and one out.
- If neither team scores in that inning, all following innings, each team will begin with a runner on second base and two outs until a winner is determined.

League Rules Updated:

2-1-2023