

O & S U10 Softball Rules (based off USSSA Rule Book)

General

- The fields will use 60ft bases with the pitching rubber set at 35ft (Rule 1.04)
- 11in softball will be used
- No metal spikes (Rule 1.11)
- There is no penalty for a player who leave the game due to illness or injury
- Players may be freely substituted
- Games will be no more than 6 innings in length
- No new inning may start after 4 innings (or after 3 ½ innings for the home team) if one team has 15 or more runs than the other team. No new inning may start after 5 innings (or 4 ½ innings for the home team) if one team has 10 or more runs than the other team
- No new inning may start after 100 minutes of playing time has elapsed. No new inning may start 20 minutes before the start of the next scheduled game.
- Any game called because of time is complete regardless of the number of innings played.

Batting

- Bats may be made of wood or metal and must not be more than 34 inches in length and 38 ounces in weight, or have a barrel in excess of 2 ¼ inches (Rule 1.10). Bats must have the USSSA stamp to be used in O & S leagues.
- All players will be listed in the batting order (position changes do not alter the batting order)
- The batter is out on the third strike, regardless of the catcher catching the ball
- The side is out once the batting team has scored 7 runs, even if 3 defensive outs have NOT been made. This is in effect for all innings.

Baserunning

- Stealing is not permitted
- A courtesy runner is **required** for the catcher in the event the catcher is on base and there are two outs. The pinch runner in this situation must be the last batter to make an out.
- Whenever a tag play is evident, a runner must slide or seek to avoid unnecessary contact with the fielder/catcher. Attempting to jump, leap, or dive over the fielder/catcher is not interpreted as seeking to avoid contact. It is up to the umpire to decide the runner's intent. If the runner makes unnecessary contact, they will be automatically out.

Fielding

- Four outfielders may be used (no "short" fielders)

Pitching

- Pitchers can pitch a maximum of 6 innings per calendar week (Monday-Sunday). If a pitcher throws one pitch in an inning, it is considered an inning pitched. A pitcher must have at least two-calendar days rest between appearances if they pitch more than two innings in any game. All innings pitched in a single game are considered on assignment (Rule 0.06)
- The 3rd hit batter hit by a pitch in the same innings by the same pitcher shall automatically result in the removal of that pitcher from the game as pitcher only. The fourth batter hit by a pitch in the same game by the pitcher shall automatically result in the removal of that pitcher from the game as pitcher only.
- If a single pitcher walks 4 batters in one inning, the batting teams coach is allowed to come in and pitch the remainder of the inning. The player will remain in the game to field the position. The coach cannot walk his own players. A new pitcher must be selected to pitch the next inning
- Pitchers cannot be re-entered into the game as pitcher

Personal Conduct Policy

- On any conduct problem concerning coaches, players and/or spectators, umpires are instructed to deal only with coaches, who are responsible for correcting the problem. If the problem persists, a forfeit will result.
- No manager, player, coach, or spectator may charge, threaten, or abuse an umpire before, during, or after a game. Such behavior will result in ejection from the league.
- All spectators not directly involved in the game must stay more than 10ft outside of the foul territory.
- If a discipline problem with a player arises during a game, and a coach wished to remove a problem player, he/she shall notify the opposing coach and the umpire in order to adjust the batting order. If the discipline issue persists, the coach must notify O'Fallon Parks and Recreation to explain the situation.
- Players must remain in the designated bench area during the game
- There shall be no heckling of an opposing team by anyone, nor shall any spectator or player verbally or physically attempt to distract an opposing player. Violations of this rule will result in ejection of the offending player(s)/spectators and/or forfeit of the game.
- The coach is responsible for the conduct of his or her spectators, parents, and players on the field and bench. **COACHES, SPECTATORS, AND PLAYERS SHALL NOT DISPUTE CALLS MADE BY THE UMPIRE.** Coaches, players, or spectators who are verbally abusive to the umpires, players, or each other may be ejected by the official or field supervisor and must leave the field immediately.