

AMA PONYTAIL SOFTBALL RULES & REGULATIONS

8U DIVISION

1. **RULES:** The umpire team is in full control of the game and will be umpiring the game within the rules set for in the current NSA Rule Book, with the following exceptions:
2. **Ages:** Must be 6, 7 or 8 years old - player age is determined by age ON December 31st of previous calendar year.
3. **General:**
 - i. The fields will be prepared for games by both teams that have the first game of the day. Designees are acceptable. Failure to comply could result in forfeiture. Bases will be set at 48' apart.
 - ii. Team listed 1st on schedule will occupy 3rd base dugout as the Home Team.
 - iii. Home team is responsible for scorebook.
 - iv. Home plate umpire will keep official time.
 - v. Only listed coaches or assistants with cleared background checks are allowed on the field.
4. **Players** – The defensive team shall consist of (10) players in the field, if available by both teams. Outfield players must begin on the grass.
5. **Substitutions** – Free substitutions will be allowed. If a player or substitution returns to the game, player or substitution must return to the original batting order. There will be no DH rule.
6. **The Game** – A game will consist of 7 innings. No team will be allowed to earn more than 5 runs **ahead** in one inning. Game duration will be 1 hour and 15 minutes. In case of rain or darkness, a game is considered complete at the end of 4 innings of play OR if any on team is ahead by 15 runs at the end of 5 innings. No new inning may begin after the time limit has elapsed. If the time limit expires during an “at-bat”, the batter will finish their “at-bat”. The winning score will revert to the score at the end of the last full inning.
7. **Pitching** – Will pitch from 30' and use an 11” ball
 - i. During coach pitch, the pitcher will be allowed (7) pitches to each batter. The batter will be out after (3) swinging strikes or the ball is put into play.
 - ii. When a player is pitching, the pitcher will be allowed (5) pitches to each batter. The batter will be out after (3) swinging strikes or the ball is put into play. If after (5) pitches the batter is still up, the offensive team coach will take over the count and deliver up to (3) additional pitches. If after the (3) coach pitches the ball is not put into play, the batter is out.
 - iii. During coach pitch the defensive pitcher/player is to be in the pitching circle with offensive coach.
 - iv. If the coach is hit by batter/runner, the ball will be dead.
 - v. Each ½ inning shall end with (3) outs or the complete line-up has had an at-bat. If the teams have different line-up numbers, then the greatest number of batters will decide the end of the ½ inning.
 - vi. If pitchers are not ready by the first game, then it is agreed upon that the coach will pitch the entire game.
8. **Batting** – Teams will be allowed to bat their entire roster. The team’s official roster will be reviewed by each team prior to the start of the game. Any change in the roster or batting order other than a substitution will result in an automatic out. Any player entering the game after the start of the game not listed on the roster batting order will only be allowed to enter as a substitute.
9. **Base Running**
 - i. During live play, a runner may NOT advance on an overthrow by any other player to the pitcher.
 - ii. During live play, runners may advance one base on an overthrow.
 - iii. On a hit to the outfield, all runners may advance two bases only.
10. **Base Stealing**
 - i. Base stealing is not permitted.
 - ii. The 8U Division does not play dropped third strike or infield fly rule.
11. **Sliding** – When there is a play at home plate, players must slide to avoid upright collision. If a player collides with a catcher in an upright position, the batter/runner will be called out.