

Foothills Athletic Association 2026

8U Coach Pitch Softball Rules

1. A full game consists of 6 innings. Each game will have a 1-hour time limit. No new inning will begin with under 5 minutes in the time limit. If the game ends in a tie, it will be recorded as such. Only exception is in a tournament game. In tournament play, the game will be played until there is a winner.
 - a) 3 innings will constitute a complete game in the event of inclement weather or lightning.
2. A maximum of 5 runs per inning for the offensive team. Once a team is mathematically eliminated, then the game will end.
3. Teams must have 8 players physically on the field to start a game. If a team only has 8 players than the 9th spot in the batting order will be an out each time it comes up. The team will forfeit if they only have 7 or less players by game time. In the event of a forfeit, a time limit of 1 hour will be established if both teams agree to play.
4. If a player is running late, they can be placed on a subline in the books with no penalty. When the player enters, they must immediately go into the defensive field, and will be substituted in at the bottom of the lineup.
5. Up to 10 players can be in the field at a time, and if there are 10 players present, it is required to play 10. One of these players must play the pitcher position and is required to have one foot in the circle at the start of each pitch. Must be 6 infield and 4 outfield.
6. Batting order will be continuous, meaning no matter who is in defensively, the batting order must be followed.
7. No player can sit on the bench for two (2) consecutive innings while the team is in the field.
8. A team can have a courtesy runner for the catcher at any time. A courtesy runner is mandatory with two (2) outs in the inning. The runner must be the player who recorded the last out.
9. No base stealing. No infield fly rule.
10. Each batter will be allowed 5 pitches or 3 swings per at bat. There is not a limit on the number of foul balls on the 5th pitch or 3rd swing.
11. The coach that is pitching must leave the field of play when the ball is put into play. The coach is not allowed to talk to base runners. They will receive one warning. If the coach

continues to talk to players after the warning, then the ball will be called dead and the runner will be called out.

12. Coaches must throw from the rubber.
13. Pitches must be thrown underhanded.
14. Time will be called when the lead runner has been stopped from advancing.
15. If a player is injured and cannot return to the game, they will be skipped in the batting lineup with no penalty. If a player leaves for any other reason than an injury, they will be called out at the next at bat only.
16. A coach or spectator who is thrown out of a game will be suspended for the next two scheduled games, and that includes spectating. Each department is responsible for letting the other departments know via text or email. If a coach is thrown out for a 2nd time in a season that coach will be suspended for the season. If a coach physically or verbally assaults and umpire or other staff member, they will be relieved of their coaching duties for the remainder of the season.
17. All other rules are governed by NC Tar Heel Rules and NCHSAA.
18. Facemasks are required for all infield players. If a player does not have a facemask they must play in the outfield.

Pitching Distance: 35' Base Distance: 60'

Bat Stamp: Official Softball/Youth Softball Ball Size: 11" Softball