

Alabama ASA 8 & Under Girls' Softball Rules

1. All ASA and Alabama ASA rules prevail unless specified below:

2. Field:

- A. An arc stretching from foul line to foul line eight feet in front of the plate is drawn and used as an additional foul line. The ball must pass this line to be considered a fair batted ball.
- B. A circle with an 8 foot radius is drawn around the pitching rubber
- C. Base Distance is 55 feet. Pitching distance is 35 feet.
- D. Hash-Marks will be placed half-way between first and second base, second and third, third and home plate.
- E. The catcher will be required full catchers gear as outlined in the ASA Rules (Rule 2, Section 5). Even if the catcher is not behind the batter.

3. Pitching:

- A. Each coach pitches to their own batters, and the coach must be in contact with the pitching rubber until they release the ball.
- B. Defensive pitcher must have at least one foot in the circle around the pitching rubber. The defensive pitcher must be in line with the pitching rubber until the pitch leaves the coach's hand. Player must wear a face mask or helmet or a combination of the two when in the pitching position. Strongly recommend that ALL infielders wear a Nocsae approved face mask or helmet or a combination of the two.
- C. A batted ball striking the pitcher/coach will be declared a no pitch. The batter will return to the plate and the number of pitches will revert back to the number prior to the batted ball.
- D. The coach who is pitching can only coach the batter prior to the pitch.
- E. If the defensive pitcher fields the ball in the pitching circle and makes no attempt to make a play, all runners will advance one base if forced including the batter to first base.

4. Batting:

- A. Batter receives only 5 pitches to hit a fair batted ball. Pitches are not called balls or strikes, unless swung at by the batter. The batter is out if the fifth pitch is fouled, missed or taken or if the batter swings and misses any 3 pitches. A batter fouling a third strike, unless it is the fifth pitch, will receive another pitch.
- B. No walks and no bunting in this age group.
- C. If a batter fouls the fifth pitch, she is out.
- D. A team may bat 10 players in an inning or 3 outs, whichever occurs first. A team may use 10 or 11 players (EP) in the lineup, but only 10 may bat in any inning.
- E. No infield fly.

5. Base Running:

- A. Time is called when: the ball is returned to the **pitcher** who is stopped in the pitching circle. Time will be called and any base runner that has gained the hash-mark can continue to advance to the next base.
- B. Time is also called when the ball is returned to the infield and is in control of a defensive player and no one is attempting to advance.

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1. If the defensive player is in front of the lead runner, between the same two bases or in front of lead runner on a base, time is called. Any trailing runner is awarded bases according to position on field.
2. If a lead runner stops prior to reaching a base time is called and all runners awarded bases when time is called. Lead runner cannot stop prior to reaching base to allow following runners to continue.
- C. Any base runner that has not gained the hash-mark has to return to their previous base, unless forced by the batter becoming a base runner. Reaching the hash mark means with any part of the body.
- D. If the pitcher/coach interferes with a defensive play, the runner closest to home plate will be called out and no runners can advance.
- E. A base-runner that leaves the base before ball reaches the plate or is hit by the batter will be called out.

6. Equipment:

- A. Game is played with an 11 inch fast-pitch softball.
- B. It is strongly recommended that all Infielders wear a face mask or helmet and face mask.

7. Games:

- A. A complete game is 6 innings, expiration of a 75 minute time limit, or shortened by the ASA run rule for fast pitch, whichever comes first.
- B. In pool play, the 75 minute time limit is a drop dead time limit. Tie games will not be play out.
- C. In bracket play, no new inning will start after the time limit has expired.
- D. Tie games in bracket play will use the international tie breaker rule if the game is tie after the time limit has expired or 6 innings have been completed.

8. Defense

- A. Ten (10) players may play on defense at any one time.