



SOUTHWEST REGIONAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT RULES 7 and 8 year old Coach Pitch or Machine Pitch



The Southwest Region 8U Coach Pitch or Machine Pitch REGIONAL TOURNAMENT Rules will be played as listed in “Babe Ruth League, Inc. 2020 Softball Rules and Regulations” (pages 54-55 shown below) with the exception of the following Modifications.

11.07 B - There will be 5 runs per inning Limit – No open 6th inning.

11.07 C and D – 9 players are the min required to play - A 4th outfielder will be allowed making 10 defensive players and the team may still have the EP if they choose. Making 11 possible in the batting lineup.

Note rule on pg. 52. The team’s lineup must start the game and end the game with the same number of players.

11.07 N – The pitching machine shall be the Blue or Black flame sling arm pitching machine with the back heel of the machine against the front of the pitching plate set at 35 mph +/- 2 mph.

NOTE: These rules are for the Regional Tournament. Check with State Commissioner for any variances at state tournament level.

Comment: Regional Champions will get special uniforms provided for the World Series. Any other team that participates at regional, including those that played coach pitch, can attend the World Series as an invitational team with Regional Commissioners approval. The World Series is exclusively machine pitch playing the rules as described in the rule book.

11.07-8U COACH PITCH OR PITCHING MACHINE SECTION

All Babe Ruth Softball 8 & Under post-season tournament rules and regulations shall comply with applicable Babe Ruth 12&U Division rules and regulations AND the 10&U tournament rules, as approved the clarification/addition of the following:

- A. Game is played to completion, time rule or mercy rule.
- B. There will be a five (5) runs per inning limit with an open 6th inning.
- C. Team composition shall consist of nine (9) players as follows: Pitcher, Catcher, 1st Baseman, 2nd Baseman, 3rd Baseman, Shortstop, Leftfielder, Centerfielder, and Right fielder. The team may select to use an extra player (EP).
(See the extra player rule explanation 11.05 #10 on page 52.)
- D. If the Extra Player option is used, there may be ten (10) batters listed in the batting order for tournament games.
- E. Tournament teams who use Coach pitch. The Coach pitcher shall remain silent while on the mound and may not give hand signals nor make body movements that may be considered a coaching signal. The Coach pitcher must start with both feet on the 35 ft. rubber. The Coach pitcher must make an attempt to get out of the defensive player’s way when fielding or throwing.
- F. If the Coach pitcher, by standing straight up or not moving out of the field of play, forces a player to throw over the coach or intentionally hinders the player fielding or throwing the ball, interference may be called, and a penalty applied.
- G. Even though the team will utilize Coach pitch, the player fielding the pitching position must take a defensive position in line with, or slightly behind the pitching rubber and within the pitching circle.

- H. Each batter will have three (3) swinging strikes or a maximum of six (6) pitches. There are no called balls or strikes on the batter. (An out will be recorded if the batter fails to put the ball in play after six (6) pitches.) If the 6th pitch is hit foul (or successive pitch(es) fouled off), the batter will receive another pitch.
- I. Although the tournament team composition recommended a minimum of 12 or a maximum of 15 players, Manager and three (3) Coaches, the team's scorekeeper may set up at the outside of the dug-out and assist with control of the team players while the Coach pitcher is on the mound and the other two in the coaching boxes.
- J. There is no "stealing" at the 8&U level, therefore, the baserunner(s) must maintain contact with the base until the pitched ball reaches the plate.
- K. The playing field shall be as described in Rule 1.04 with the following exception: the pitching rubber will be set at thirty-five (35) feet.
- L. Rawlings 11" softballs, properly stamped "Official Babe Ruth Softball" must be used for all tournament competitions.
- M. No infield fly rule.

NOTE: World Series play will use spring loaded pitching machine operated by the umpire. Also the World Series will play with the 10th fielder option also.