

Bucs League I Softball Rules

10 and under

All games @ 6:30pm

1. **Tobacco usage:** chewing, smoking or any other use of tobacco use will not be allowed and could result in forfeit of game.
2. **Stealing:** Stealing is not allowed.
3. **Dropped 3rd Strike:** Batters may not advance to 1st base on a dropped 3rd strike.
4. **Bunting:** Bunting is not allowed.
5. **Players/Substitution:** Teams can play with up to 10 players on defense. Teams forfeit the game if they have fewer than 8 players to start. Teams that start the game with 8 players but lose one or more players during the game may continue. If the number of player's drops below 8, an out is recorded each time a missing player's turn to bat occurs. All players will be included in the batting order and must play at least 2 innings in the field. Free defensive substitution of all players is allowed. A courtesy runner for the catcher is recommended when there are 2 outs. The player making the last out will be the runner.
6. **Infield:** No more than 6 players may begin a play in the infield. All outfielders (4, if 10 players are on defense) must be on the outfield grass when the ball is pitched
7. **Time Limit:** Games will consist of up to 5 innings. A new inning may not start after 2 hours. An inning is started immediately after the 3rd out is registered on the home team. If the score is tied at the end of 5 innings or at the time limit, the game is a tie. If both coaches and the umpire agree on play the game can be played.
8. **Batting:** all players will bat.
9. **Runs Scored:** A maximum of 5 runs can be scored per half inning.
10. **Base paths:** The game will be played on 50' base paths.

11. **Sliding:** On close plays at 2nd base, 3rd base or home plate, the runner is required to slide or to avoid collision with a defensive player who has the ball while located within the batter's box area or within the vicinity of another base. If a contact is made and the runner did not slide, the umpire shall call the runner out for offensive interference. A defensive player without the ball who impedes a runner, whether intentionally or unintentionally, or who fakes a tag, will be penalized for defensive obstruction. The umpire will award the runner the base or bases they are attempting to reach. No headfirst sliding is allowed. Players should be taught and encouraged to slide properly.

12. **Hit Batters:** A batter will be awarded first base when hit by a pitch unless the ball is called a strike or the umpire decides an attempt should have been made to avoid the ball. The ball is dead immediately on hitting the batter and only runners forced to advance, will advance.

13. **Play Stoppage:** Play stops when the pitcher has control of the ball in the mound area, approximately a 10-foot circle centered by the pitching rubber. The umpire will return runners that are not in stride and more than halfway to the next base to the preceding base.

14. **Pitching/walks:** Pitching distance will be 35 feet. Any underhand style pitching motion is allowed. There are no walks. Pitchers will pitch until there are 5 balls, or the ball has been hit into fair Territory or the batter strikes out. If 5 balls are pitched, a coach from the batting team will pitch to the batter. The coach must pitch from the designated pitching rubber and the defensive player that was the pitcher must have one foot in the pitching circle. Strikes carry over from the original count. The umpire should call coaches' pitches in the strike zone strikes. A ball that hits the coach inadvertently remains in play. If a coach intentionally touches a ball in play, the batter is out and runners are returned to their bases.

15. **Ball:** 11-inch yellow ball.

16. **Infield fly rule:** There is no infield fly rule.

17. **Inning Switch:** Coaches are encouraged to hustle players on and off the field.

18. **Bat throwing:** A player will receive one warning each game for inappropriately throwing the bat. For any subsequent instance of throwing the bat in that same game the player will be called out. The warning and out can be on the same at bat. If a hitter is called out for throwing the bat the ball will be dead and any runners must return the base, which he/she occupied prior to the pitch. Note: this rule applies to accidental bat throwing, not to bat throwing in anger or protest.

