

**EFFINGHAM COUNTY RECREATION & SPORTS MANAGEMENT**  
**2021 8U GIRLS SOFTBALL RULES**  
**REVISED (1/25/2021)**

**Game Play Rules:**

**1. Coach Pitching**

a. Coach pitch is now an option in 8U softball. If you would like to pitch the ball to your players instead of using the machine you may.

**2. Pitching Distance & Speed of Machine**

a. 40 feet & 34 MPH on the dial

**2. Base Distance.**

a. 55 feet

**3. Infield Fly:**

Infield fly rule will be effect during regular season and also for all stars at the end of the season

**4. Length of Game:**

1 hour and 15 minutes or 5 innings (All-Star competition will play 6 innings with no time limit)

**5. Home team:**

Home team is the official scorebook. Protests against the score will not be allowed unless the scorekeepers are sitting together. Home team is the second team listed on the schedule.

**6. Tied game:**

For a game that is tied at the end of regulation or time limit, we will play one full inning to break the tie. We will use the international tie breaker rule for all games (placing a runner on second base to start all extra innings). This runner will be the last person scheduled to bat in the lineup that inning. If there is still a tie after that inning, each team will be credited with ½ win and ½ loss.

**7. Run Rule:**

8 runs after 4 innings; 12 runs after 3 innings and 20 runs after 2 innings

**8. Official game:**

At the end of the third inning it is declared an official ball game. If the home team is ahead after 2 ½ innings, this is also an official game.

**9. Stopped game:**

Games stopped at least ½ complete or more will be considered a completed game. Games stopped less than ½ complete will be played from that point at a later time. (umpire must sign both score books at stopping point).

**10. Adjusting machine:**

Will be done only by the umpires

11. **Machine set incorrectly:**

If a pitching machine is set incorrectly to start the game and is not discovered until mid-point of an inning; then the complete inning must be played that way.

12. **Free Substitution:**

Free substitution may be made at all positions. Ten players will be on defense. Four players will be in the outfield (See Rule 36).

13. **Protest games:** The action must be filed on the field with the umpire at the time of the protest and before any more action takes place.

A. Must pay \$50.00 to ECRSM staff person before the protest will be considered.

B. Protest fee will be returned if the protest is upheld.

C. No one, including game official or umpire, can deny a coach the right to protest.

D. Written report explaining the situation will be due in ECRSM office within 48 hours, weekend does not count.

14. **Playing short:**

You may play with 1 less player than required, with no penalty. If you play with 2 less players then the **9<sup>th</sup> batter will be an automatic out.** You must play with a catcher and pitcher at all times.

**Player Injury:**

If there is an injury and the umpire thinks it is serious, he has the authority to call time out at that moment, and award appropriate bases later, before further play. If a player is injured during a game and cannot bat. **RULING: IF YOU STILL HAVE 9 OR 10 PLAYERS, YOU WILL NOT BE PENALIZED.** Just skip those slots. If you have less than 9 players, then that place in the batting order is an out.

15. **Player's conduct:**

Player ejected for the following reasons will not be required to sit out the next game:

A. Failure to report as a sub.

B. Removal of helmet after a warning.

C. Carelessly slinging a bat after a warning.

An ejection will result when a player throws or slings a bat in frustration and will result in suspension for the rest of that game and three innings in the next game.

16. **Coaches ' code of ethics:**

A. All coaches must act in accordance with NYSCA code of ethics and ECRSM code of ethics.

B. Any coach acting in an unsportsmanlike manner or in conduct that could prove detrimental to the league, players, umpires or spectators will be subject to disciplinary action by the Effingham county recreation and parks.

C. Disciplinary action:

I. Language unbecoming to the league (suspended one game)

II. Un-sportsman like conduct at an athletic event (suspended one game)

III. Thrown out of a game (suspended next game and must leave the park immediately and cannot re-enter the park that day or night).

IV. Damage to recreation property (suspended indefinitely).\*\*

V. Fighting (suspended for one year from date of incident and must leave park immediately and not return that day).\*\*

VI. Touching or striking an official or staff member (suspended indefinitely). \*\*

**\*\* Police may be called**

17. **Awards:**

We will award trophies or medals to the first and second place teams in the league. If two teams tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place, we will have co-champions with no second place team. If we have a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place we will have co-second place teams. We will not decide first and second place by using head to head record and there will be no playoff games.

**Batting Rules:**

18. **All players will bat:**

All players present and eligible to play will be listed in the batting line up. Late players must be added to the bottom of the batting order.

19. **Bunting:** bunting is not allowed.

20. **Helmet Rule:**

You must wear your helmet with a **MASK (Chin Straps** is optional) at all times while hitting, base running, or on deck. **PENALTY:** Team gets 2 warnings, and then the player is called out. If a player makes an out then takes the helmet off, you will get another out. **NOTE:** The penalty must

have happened during a “Live ball” situation. It cannot be enforced on a dead ball situation.

**All Helmets Must have Masks.**

21. **Adults in dugout:**

***We will only allow three adults in the dugout during the game.***

22. **10 Batter rule:**

10 batters or 3 outs will constitute an inning. The inning will end after the umpire has stopped play after the ball becomes dead and the umpire calls time.

23. **10 batters last inning:**

Ten batters per innings **will be waived** for the **fifth inning only** in the 8U division.

24. **Slinging the Bat:**

The umpire can do one of three things: 1. Warn the batter. 2. Call the batter out. 3. Eject the player (the bat must endanger the safety of others to warrant ejection for the first time).

**AFTER THE 2<sup>ND</sup> WARNING AN OUT WILL BE CALLED.**

25. **Bat Rules:**

There are no restrictions on any labeled softball bats. Tee ball bats are legal.

26. **Batted Ball hits Pitching Machine:**

When a batted ball hit a pitching machine or the extension cord off the ground, it is considered a “DEAD BALL SINGLE” and batter/runner will be awarded first base with all runners moving forward if forced. If the 10<sup>th</sup> batter hits the pitching machine, pitching machine cord, or the ball comes to rest around or under the pitching machine, it will be a dead ball single and an eleventh batter will come to bat. No more than 11 batters in an inning.

27. **Bunting:**

**No bunting or fake bunting will be allowed. If a batter shows bunt and then swings an out will be called.**

28. **Umpire Will Call Strikes - Batter cannot strike out looking.**

**BATTER WILL GET A MAXIMUM OF 5 (FIVE) PITCHES.** If the fifth pitch is fouled off the batter will get one additional pitch. No base on balls allowed except one intentional walk per player per game.

**Base Running:**

29. **Overthrows \*NEW 2020**

Runners can only advance one base (the base they are going to plus one more) on an overthrow, no matter what base the overthrow occurs at. Runners advance at their own risk.

30. **Missing a Base:**

Runner missing a base will be called out by an umpire.

31. **Base Runners:**

Base runner is out if they lead off the base before the pitch has been hit.

**No base stealing.**

32. **Courtesy runner:** in order to speed up the game, we will use a courtesy runner for the catcher only. The courtesy runner will be the last person to make an out in the lineup.

33. **Stopping Runner:**

Playing regular baseball

**Playing in the Field:**

34. **MUST PLAY:**

All players must play two innings on defense and coaches must notify the umpire when making defensive substitutions.

35. **Free substitution:**

Any player present can play defense at anytime and coaches must notify the umpire upon making a change.

36. **Catcher's equipment:**

Catcher mask/helmet, throat protector, shin guards and chest protector are required. Violations are treated as illegal equipment.

37. **Outfielders:**

The 4 (Four) Outfielders must be 10' behind the baseline.

38. **Thrown Ball hits Pitching Machine:**

***If a thrown ball hits the pitching machine or the extension cord off the ground, it is considered a "DEAD BALL" and played as if thrown out of bounds. The runner is awarded one extra base.***

38. **12'x8' Box for Pitcher**

A 12 foot wide by 8 foot deep rectangle box centered on the pitching plate in which the player in the pitching position must remain until the pitch is delivered.

39. **Pitcher's Equipment**

Any player playing the pitchers position is now required to wear a protective facemask. A player may purchase their own or wear the one provided by ECRP. No Exceptions.

**ALL OTHER RULES NOT COVERED IN THIS MANUAL WILL FALL UNDER GRPA, GHSA, AND ASA.**