

THE BASICS

- NO sunflower seeds, chewing gum, tobacco, or alcohol products.
- NO bikes, hoover boards, scooters, roller blades, skateboards, etc.
- NO metal spiked shoes of any kind allowed on the turf.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

- For the 8U division, a child must not turn nine (9) prior to January 1, 2025.
- In the event a player's age is disputed, the player's parent or legal guardian will be required to present a birth certificate to the Kids, Incorporated office before the next date of play. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of any games in which the player was listed on the roster.

MISCELLANEOUS

- For insurance reasons, the dugouts are restricted to current team players and coaches with completed, up to date background checks. Absolutely no others will be allowed in the dugouts.
- Coaches will bring their own team into this league. Kids, Inc. will not place kids on teams. There are no guidelines on team formation in the fall season except for the age requirements.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- A batting helmet with a face mask is required for all batters and the catcher.
- Face masks are required for infield positions.
- 8U fast pitch will use the 11" ball

THE FIELD

- The pitching rubber will be set at 35' from home plate.

THE GAME

- All rules for OK Kids softball will be used with the following exceptions:
 - All league games will consist of 5 innings, time limit (60 minutes), or the run rule. A timer will be used to keep the time and will be started by the umpire in charge of the game.
 - No new inning after 55 minutes.
 - Each game will last until all innings are played, or the designated time has expired or the run rule has been met.
 - Run Rule
 - 13 after 3
 - 7 after 4

THE GAME CONT.

- The time limit CANNOT expire between innings.
 - For example: If the home team makes the third out before the time expires, regardless of how much time remains, the next inning will be played. No delay allowing the time to expire will be allowed.
- Each half inning will be played until there are three (3) outs or the team batting has scored six (6) runs.
- In the event of an injured player, the timer will be stopped and will be started again when play resumes.
- Only one defensive coach will be allowed on the field at a time and must stay within five (5) feet of the dugout.
 - Any defensive coach on the field must not impede the play of the game. If a defensive coach on the field interferes, intentionally, or unintentionally, with a player attempting to make a play on the batted down ball (regardless whether fair or foul), then the batter is awarded a single and will be placed at first base, and runners will advance one base from where they were at the time of the pitch. If it was a thrown ball, the runner(s) will be awarded the nearest base, plus one (treated as if the ball was thrown into the dead ball area).

BATTING

- Teams must bat entire roster in league play.
- There will be no walks in the 8U age division. The batter either hits or strikes out.
- No bunting will be allowed in 8U Coach pitch.
- Each batter will be given 5 pitches or 3 swings at the ball from the coach/pitcher.
 - A ball hit foul on the 3rd swing or 5th pitch does NOT count as one of the batter's 5 pitches and will receive another pitch.
 - All foul balls by the batter must be hit higher than the batters head and must be caught by the defense before hitting the ground or fence to be considered an out.
- No baseball bats allowed, only softball bats.
 - T-ball bats may be used in 8U.
- A base runner must have one foot on base once the ball is live and cannot leave the base until the batter has contacted the ball with the bat.

FIELDING

- Free substitutions for the defensive players will be allowed (LEAGUE PLAY ONLY).
- For safety precautions, all infielders must start out must remain no more than 5 ft in front of the base line prior to the ball crossing home plate.
- The player/pitcher must start out at least even with the coach/pitcher
 - After the ball leaves the coach/pitcher's hand, the player/pitcher is free to move about.
- All outfielders must start at least 15 ft behind the baseline, until the ball is hit.
- Teams may have 10 defensive players on the field.

PITCHING

- The coach/pitcher must have one (1) foot in contact with the pitching rubber when the ball is released to the batter.

PITCHING CONT.

- Penalty - Any pitch that does not follow this rule will count against the batter as a strike, and will be ruled a dead ball immediately and no runners will advance.
- If the offense occurs on the 5th pitch the batter is out.
- The pitching coach must exit fair territory after the ball is hit and/or avoid contact.
 - Penalty:
 - If the batted ball hits the pitching coach, intentionally or unintentionally, the play will result in a dead ball and the batter will be ruled out.
 - Runners return to the base they occupied as if it were a foul ball.
 - If a thrown ball hits the pitching coach, it is the same penalty.
 - Interfering with a player, intentionally or unintentionally, attempting to make a play results in the batter being out and no runners can advance.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- The Code of Conduct applies to parents, coaches/volunteers, spectators, parents, contracted employees, officials, and professional staff.
- Profane, obscene, abusive, degrading/threatening language, gestures and/or taunting in the presence of anyone attending a Kids, Incorporated event is prohibited.
- Do not handle a child/participant in an aggressive or abusive manner.
- Any act of violence is prohibited.
- Accept the decision of the game officials as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
- Do not knowingly permit an ineligible player to play in any game.
- Please use good sportsmanship.
- The use of drugs, alcohol, vaping, or tobacco in any form is not permitted while attending any Kids, Incorporated event.
- No firearms or weapons will be permitted at any Kids, Incorporated event.

AT ANY TIME, AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF KIDS, INCORPORATED, VIOLATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT IS SUBJECT TO SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION FROM OUR PROGRAM.

CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

Our commercial insurance carrier requires us to have a concussion protocol in place should an injury ever occur where a concussion is suspected or even a remote possibility. Here is our policy:

In the event that an injury occurs during a Kids, Incorporated sponsored activity, and where a possible head injury is involved, the Kids, Incorporated office should be notified immediately. Generally, our paid officials will contact our office should an event of this nature occur.

Kids, Incorporated will require a "Permission To Return" document from a licensed, medically-trained professional, before allowing the player to participate in future scheduled activities.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact our office at 580-374-4332.