

Berks County Girls Softball League
8U Division Rules
www.leaguelineup.com/berkscgsl

Home team coach- please offer a copy of these rules to the plate umpire before the game begins.

This age group was established to be fundamental and instructional. The main goal is to teach the girls how the sport is played and to keep their interest.

Age: Teams shall consist of girls as defined by the 8U ASA classification: A player who is 8 years of age or under as of January 1 of the current year.

All infielders will be required to wear facemasks. All helmets are required to have chin straps.

The 11" yellow Incredible is the **official game and practice ball**.

1. **Default Rules-** the ASA official rules of girls fastpitch softball shall apply to the general features of the game, except where amended herein.
2. **Number of players-** The defensive team may field no more than 10 players, no matter how many players attend the game. A team may use a maximum of 4 outfielders and a maximum of 6 infielders. A team must have at least 6 players present at the start of the game however all efforts should be made to play the game (and not forfeit).
3. **Score keeping-** THERE WILL BE NO SCORE KEEPING.
4. **Number of pitches-** The batter receives a maximum of 5 pitches to either put the ball into play or to strike out.
 - a. For A LEVEL – an ‘at bat’ can not end on a foul tip / ball
 - b. For B LEVEL – 5 pitches allowed before “T” is brought out. Player is allowed 2 strikes from the “T” and then they are out.
6. **Pitching**
 - c. Pitching will be done ENTIRELY by coaches. The team coach, manager, or someone else designated by the coach will pitch to her/his team and will play the role described in these rules as the “coach-pitcher”.
 - d. While the coach-pitcher pitches the ball to her/his own players, a player from the defensive team is responsible for fielding the ball at the pitcher location. This player should be stationed to one side of the pitching rubber where she can see what is happening with the pitches.
 - e. The coach pitcher is expected to get out of the way of the defensive team whenever a ball is batted into play.
 - f. If the coach pitcher is accidentally hit by a batted ball while making an effort to get out of the way, the batter takes first base and all runners advance only 1 base. A dead ball is called.
7. **Distance of pitching and bases-** Player-pitchers must be no closer than 30’ to the home plate. Coach pitchers can pitch from any safe distance. Bases shall be 60’ apart.
8. **Ball in play-** Any fair ball is in play; the ball need not travel a certain distance.

9. **Batting order-**
 - a. One fixed batting order per team, to include all present players, is used for the entire game. Late arrivals should be added to the end of the batting order.
 - b. Since there is no substitution in the batting line-up, no automatic out will be given for players who are officially taken out of the line-up (players who are injured or leave early.)
10. **Bunting-** bunting is not allowed.
11. **Ending of an inning-** A 1/2 inning ends at 5 runs or 3 outs.
12. **Base stealing-** stealing is not allowed.
13. **Base running-** Runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball crosses the plate. Runners **will not** advance on a dropped 3rd strike, a passed ball, or a wild pitch. There will be no advancement on overthrows to any base.
14. **Infield fly-** The infield fly rule shall not apply.
15. **Catching-** One of the purposes of this division is to teach the catching position. One of the defensive players must be a catcher, dressed in the proper equipment and stationed in the normal catcher's position. Defensive coaches can back up the catcher.
16. **Ending the play-** The play ends when the ball crosses the infield/outfield plane. No advancement. Instruct the players to get the ball back to the pitcher. This is what they must do at the next level. The play is 'dead' when the ball crosses the plane.
17. **Minimum playing time and player rotation-** Managers must rotate their players so that all players get a chance to try several positions. No player shall play defense (in the field) for less than half of every game.
18. **Player substitution-** In the defensive part of the inning, there is open substitution.
19. **Coaches on the field**
 - a. The offensive team (at bat) is allowed a base coach stationed at first and at third base.
 - b. The coach pitcher is expected to give instructions to the hitter while she is hitting, and may stop play to reposition a batter; the base coaches do the instruction once the ball is hit into play.
 - c. The defensive team can have 2 coaches on the field.
20. **Game length-** Games will be 6 innings or an hour and 45 minute time limit.
21. **Umpires-** There are no official umpires for the 8U division. Coaches should mutually enforce these rules and keep the official time.