

8U Tournament Rules – 2026



1. All Pool Play Games will be 65 minutes with the game clock starting immediately after the pregame plate meeting and first warm-up pitch. Bracket Play games will be 75 minutes. 15-run rule after 3 innings, 12 after 4 and 9 after 5.

Championship Game will be 6 innings – NO time limit.

2. Maximum of 5 runs allowed per inning, with exception in 6th inning, **8 runs will be allowed in 6th inning.**

3. No limit to number of players on **team** roster; awards will be limited to 15. All players must be rostered for the entirety of the tournament with the possibility of exception for injuries. **All players must be 8 or under as of August 31st, 2025.**

4. Shoes with metal spikes are not allowed.

5. All players must play at least one inning in the field. The round robin batting order will be used. If a girl is injured and misses her turn at bat, she cannot return in that game (no out taken). Ten players with four outfielders on the grass will be used in the field. A game may be started or continued with a minimum of 8 players. Unlimited defensive substitution.

6. NO infield fly rule.

7. No bunting is allowed.

8. NO stealing is allowed. Runners may leave the base once the ball crosses the plate. Runners may advance one base per overthrow to any base on a batted ball in play.

9. Pitching will be done by a spring-release pitching machine (Louisville Slugger Blue Flame). The pitching machine will be set up at approximately 35'. Settings will be: Pitch height (3), Speed (4), Release block (3) Batting team coach releasing the pitch must ensure everyone is ready before starting the ball in play. If the ball hits the coach or machine the play is dead. Any runners will return to the base they were at. Batter will get an additional pitch. Batters will receive 5 pitches, unless he/she strikes out swinging (3 swings and misses.) NO TEES WILL BE USED. If after 5 pitches the batter has not hit the ball, she will be considered out. If the batter fouls off the 5th pitch it will be considered a foul ball and he/she will get another pitch from the machine. If the batter hits a foul ball on the 3rd swing or 5th pitch; it will not be considered a strikeout. The batter will get an additional pitch until either the ball is put in play, or the batter swings and misses (for the 3rd time). The batter must swing at all pitches after the 5th pitch.

10. Final team roster must be turned in to the Concessions Stand 30 minutes before 1st game. No changes will be made to roster after that time. Proof of age needs to be available

should a question arise. It is the responsibility of the coach to provide this information should they be asked. Line-ups should be shared with opposing team 10 minutes before game time.

11. Home team is decided by a coin flip. **Home team is official scorebook.**

12. **Visiting team will control the scoreboard.** The scoreboard is controlled by a remote which will be located inside the Concession Stand – please designate one parent to get the remote after the coin flip.

13. Aside from the above exceptions, refer to most current USA Softball rule book.

14. **Profanity or harassment by a team member, coach or fans toward an opposing team, umpire or official of the tournament will NOT be tolerated. This type of activity can lead to ejection of said team member, coach or fan, without warning, by a tournament official or umpire.**

15. Positive Team Conduct Required

Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to support their own team in a positive and respectful manner. Organized chants, cheers, or verbal taunts directed at opposing players, teams, coaches, or spectators are strictly prohibited at all times.

MYGS is committed to providing a positive and sportsmanlike environment for all participants. Behavior that is intended to intimidate, distract, mock, or negatively target an opposing team is not consistent with the values of this tournament and will not be tolerated.

Violations will result in one warning to the team's head coach. Any subsequent violation, regardless of who participates, will result in the ejection of the offending team from the game and a forfeit will be recorded. Tournament officials reserve the right to remove any player, coach, or spectator whose conduct is deemed unsportsmanlike. All rulings are final and are not subject to protest or appeal.

This policy will be enforced consistently throughout the tournament.

16. The tournament director reserves the right to change any of the rules previously listed.

17. Placing tie breakers are as follows:

- i. Head-to-head competition
- ii. Runs allowed.
- iii. Run differential (runs scored – runs allowed, 10 run per game max)
- iv. Runs scored. (teams will only be credited with a maximum of 10 runs more than they gave up for tiebreaker purposes)
- v. Coin flip.

MVP “GOAT” Award

At the conclusion of each game, one player from each team will be recognized as the **MVP “GOAT” (Greatest of All Time)**. This award is given to the player who demonstrated outstanding all-around performance, including effort, sportsmanship, and impact on the game.

The MVP “GOAT” will be selected by the **opposing team** to encourage respect and recognition across teams.

Awards will be presented on the field immediately following the game, and recipients may be featured on the MYGS Facebook page.