

8U Fire On The Fox Tournament Rules

Players

- Teams are limited to 15 players that have not reached their 9th birthday as of September 1st of the previous year.
- Proof of age (birth certificate) must be available if requested by the tournament committee. Any games in which an ineligible player is used will be declared a forfeit.
- Teams may play up to 10 defensive players
- 9 players are required to start a game and 8 players are needed to complete a game
- The entire roster will bat with free substitutions on defense. Late arriving players will be added to the bottom of the line-up
- Injured players who can't continue the game and miss their batting spot will be out for the remainder of the game.)
- Final rosters and liability waivers must be turned into the concession stand at least 30 minutes prior to the team's 1st game

Games and Length

- All elimination games will be 7 innings or with a time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes. (No new inning after 75 minutes)
- All elimination games tied at the end of regulation innings or after time expires, the international tie-breaker (last out on 2nd base) will be used until a winner is declared.
 - **Pool Play Games** ends at 75 Minutes, (**Drop Dead Rule**).
 - If the batter is in the box (Umpire Discretion) she will be able to bat. Otherwise Game Over.
- The Championship game will be 6 innings with a time limit of 1 hour and 30 minutes
- The home team is decided by a coin flip for pool play. For bracket play the home team will be based off the higher seeded team.
- The official start time will be determined by the home plate umpire, acknowledged by both teams and recorded by the home team.
- A new inning begins when the last out of the previous inning is made
- No new inning will start after the time limit has expired
- Pool games tied at the end of the time limit will be declared a tie for seeding purposes
- All non-pool games tied at the end of regulation innings or after time expires, international tie-breaker (last out on 2nd base) will be used until a winner is declared
- A limit of 6 runs may be scored per inning in all innings in all games (including final inning)
- The Mercy Rules are as follows (15 Runs after 3, 12 Runs after 4, and 10 Runs after 5)
- Each team must exchange line up cards with the opposing team 15 minutes prior to the game. (Give additional copy to home plate umpire.

Pitching

- Live pitching with a USA Softball regulated 11-inch ball at a distance of 35 feet will be used for all games.
- Pitching Change is Allowed 5 "Warm Up" pitches while returning pitchers are allowed 3 "Warm Up" pitches
- Pitchers will be allowed to pitch a maximum of three innings per game. Those three innings do not need to be successive.
- USA Softball pitching rules will be used.
- All Pitchers must wear a face mask

Hitting

- There will be NO WALKS, "COACH PITCH" rule will be used after a batter has received four (4) balls.

- A coach will pitch a maximum of five (5) pitches per batter. After five (5) pitches, if the batter has not hit or struck out, the batter is out. Strikes will be called, (Umpire discretion)
- Unlimited Bases off Coach Pitch
- If the batter is hit by a pitch, the batter will be awarded 1st base (not a rolling pitch).
- No Bunting, No slapping on Coach Pitch

Base running

- Runners may lead off once the ball crosses the plate
- Stealing is not allowed at 8u Level
- Only one base is allowed on an overthrow
- Runners may advance bases until the infield has control of the ball and "Visually holds" runner/s on base prior to returning ball to pitcher
- Base runners are highly encouraged to slide into all bases (except 1st) when play is made upon them. It is the umpire's discretion to make the call. If the runner doesn't slide and makes contact with fielder and/or obstructs the play, that runner will be called out.
- Obstruction rules will be followed to minimize contact at the plate
 - Obstruction is the act of a defensive team member.
 - Who hinders or impedes a batter from striking at or hitting a pitched ball
 - Who impedes the progress of a runner or batter-runner who is legally running the bases unless the fielder is:
 - 1. In possession of the ball
 - 2. In the act of fielding a batted ball.
- b. Contact is not necessary to impede the progress of the runner
- A courtesy runner is allowed for the catcher on record. The courtesy runner will be the last out or last batter if no outs occurred

Fielding

- One defensive coach may stand in the outfield
- Infield fly rule is not in effect
- Metal spikes are not allowed

Additional Rules

- Any intentional stalling as deemed by the umpire will result in forfeiture of that game
- The umpire's decision is final
- Tie Breakers for seeding purposes are as follows:
 - A. Wins/Losses
 - B. Total pool play runs allowed
 - C. Total pool play runs scored
 - D. A coin flip
- In the event of inclement weather, games and/or tournament format may be adjusted at the sole discretion of the tournament Committee. If the remainder of the tournament needs to be cancelled, the final tournament standings will be determined as follows:
 - A. If Championship games have been started, the game will be decided by the score of the last full inning
 - B. If Championship games have not started, a complete inning hasn't been played, or tied, then bracket seeding will be final standings
- **Any rules not covered here are governed by USA rules.**

- The tournament committee reserves the right to change any rules listed above
- **Home team will hold the official book**
- Coaches and players are responsible for maintaining and cleaning the dugouts after each game.
- No alcoholic beverage carry ins. Smoking is prohibited Profanity
- Harassment, or intentional distractions by a coach, team member, or fan toward an opposing team or umpire will not be tolerated. Good sportsmanship is required. Unsportsmanlike conduct can lead to ejection without warning by a tournament member or umpire.
- Repeated or grievous offenses will result in the team being eliminated from the tournament. Parking on the grass is prohibited unless otherwise stated.