

U11 GOLD RULES

GENERAL

- a) These Rules are to be read in conjunction with the Official Rules of Softball as issued by Softball Australia and adopted by Softball NSW.
- b) The ball is not pitched in U11's – instead it is batted off a Tee.
- c) For the purpose of U11's, unless otherwise stated in these Rules:
 - (i) a reference in the Official Rules of Softball to:
 - 1. *"the time of the pitch"* shall be read as *"at the time the batter hits the ball."*
 - 2. *"the next pitch"* shall be read as *"the batter's next swing at the ball whether hit or not"*.
 - 3. *"the batter swinging at the pitched ball"* shall be read as *"the batter swinging at the ball on the Tee"*.
 - (ii) the normal rules of Softball shall apply.
- d) No coach shall be allowed to coach on the field in defensive situations.

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **BASERUNNER** – Baserunners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit. Should a baserunner leave a base before the ball is hit, there shall be no penalty. The umpire shall call "Dead Ball" and the runner shall return to the base.
- 1.2. **BATTING OUT OF ORDER** – The scorer shall inform the umpire that a player has batted out of order. There shall be no penalty and that player shall not have another turn at bat, but shall resume the normal batting position next time up to bat. When a team has a full complement of players each player may only bat once each half innings.
- 1.3. **BUNTING** – **is not permitted**. The batter is not permitted to take a half swing. If the umpire feels the batter is not taking a full swing they may be called back to bat again. Should the batter again not take a full swing they will be called out.

- 1.4. FAIR BALL – Identical to Softball with one exception:
 - (a) The batter must hit the ball beyond the line of the 20ft (6.10m) arc.
- 1.5. FOUL BALL – Identical to Softball with two exceptions:
 - (a) The ball is foul if it travels less than 20ft (6.10m) from home plate in fair territory, and
 - (b) The ball is foul if the batter hit the Tee with the bat causing the ball to fall off the Tee.
- 1.6. INFIELD FLY – The infield fly rule does not apply in U11's.
- 1.7. OFFENSIVE & DEFENSIVE CONFERENCES – There shall be no limit to the number of offensive conferences the batting side is permitted with batters and/or baserunners in any one half inning. There shall be no limit to the number of defensive conferences the fielding side is permitted with fielders in any one half inning. However, the Plate Umpire shall have the authority to restrict these conferences if necessary.
- 1.8. PITCHER – The pitcher must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate with both feet until the ball is hit.
- 1.9. SIDE RETIRED – The offensive side is retired when three outs are made or when 7 runs have crossed the plate, whichever occurs first.
- 1.10. STRIKE OUT – A strike out shall only occur if after two strikes the batter swings and fails to make contact with the ball or the Tee.

2. THE PLAYING FIELD

- 2.1. The field shall be marked as for Softball except:
 - (a) The baserunner shall be 60ft (18.29m)
 - (b) The pitcher's plate shall be ~~40ft~~ (12.19m) from the apex of home plate.
 - (c) The pitcher's plate shall be in the centre of a circle of 6ft (1.8m) radius.
 - (d) An arc with a radius of 20ft (6.10m) from the apex of home plate shall be drawn on the infield from home/first baseline to home/third baseline.

3. EQUIPMENT

- 3.1. The ball shall be the Yellow EASTON Softcore U11's 10¹/₂ inches (267mm) in circumference.
- 3.2. The Tee:
 - (a) may be made of any suitable material;
 - (b) may be of any suitable construction and must be adjustable to suit the batter;
 - (c) must not have any sharp edges.
 - (d) must be light enough to be moved easily;
 - (e) must be placed with the stem over the centre of the front of home plate;
 - (f) must be removed by the umpire whenever necessary after the batter hits a fair ball.
- 3.3. A practice tee, with home plate as the base and the stem of the tee in the centre of the base, is not suitable to use.
- 3.4. A Kneepads and shin pads are required to be worn by the catcher. Chest Protectors are optional. The catcher must wear a mask or batting helmet and must not remove it during play. The catcher must position themselves at the back corner of the catcher's box beside the umpire on the opposite side of the batter and remain there until the ball is hit. Eg For a right handed batter the catcher will stand on the umpire's right hand side and for a left handed batter the catcher will stand of the umpire's left hand side.
- 3.5. A mask is optional for the Plate Umpire.
- 3.6. The minimum length of the safety grip on a bat less than 30 inches (76cm) shall be 8 inches (20cm).
- 3.7. An approved softball helmet with 2 ear flaps is to be worn by all batters.
- 3.8. All other equipment, including uniforms and footwear shall conform with the requirements of the Official Rules of Softball.

4. PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES

- 4.1. All players shall be under 11 years of age as at December 31 in the year the competition ends.
- 4.2. A team shall consist of twelve players.
- 4.3. All twelve players shall play on defence in every game, however, only nine players are permitted on the field at any one time. Failure of a coach to adhere to this rule may result in a forfeit to the offending team.
- 4.4. The re-entry rule shall not apply in U11's.

- 4.5. A designated player shall not be used in U11's.
- 4.6. There shall be no restrictions related to the type or number of defensive substitutions that may be made during a game but the batting order must remain the same for the duration of the game.
- 4.7. The minimum number of players required by a team to start or continue a game, shall be seven.

5. THE GAME

- 5.1. A regulation U11's game shall be one hour. As per By Law 21.3 "once an innings is started "Time and Game" cannot be called until completion of the innings unless the game continues 15 minutes beyond the scheduled time for completion. If there is a batter in the box, that batter shall be allowed to complete their turn at bat and when all play has ceased "Time and Game" shall then be declared by the Plate Umpire. A full innings is not to commence with five minutes or less remaining".
- 5.2. An inning is completed when either three out have been made or 7 runs across the plate whichever occurs first.
- 5.3. No runs shall score:
 - (a) after the 3rd out;
 - (b) after 7 runs have crossed the plate.
 - (c) as otherwise prescribed in Softball.

6. PITCHING

- 6.1. The ball is not pitched in U11's – instead it is batted off a Tee.
- 6.2. The pitcher must be in contact with the pitcher's plate with both feet until the ball is hit.

7. BATTING

- 7.1. The umpire shall ensure that the Tee is adjusted to the batter's satisfaction before calling "Play Ball."
- 7.2. The batter shall be permitted to have one practice swing. Should the ball fall off the Tee on the practice swing there shall be no penalty. An additional movement of the bat towards the ball after this practice swing shall be called a strike.
- 7.3. If the batter hits the ball before "Play Ball" is called, the ball is dead and no count is recorded on the batter.
- 7.4. The batter shall take a normal forceful swing when striking at the ball. Bunting is not permitted. If the umpire feels the batter is not taking a full

swing the batter may be called back to bat again. Should the batter again not take a full swing they will be called out.

- 7.5. Should the batter bat out of the batter's box, there shall be no penalty. "Foul Ball" will be called by the umpire.
- 7.6. A Strike is called:
 - (a) When the batter swings at the ball on the Tee and misses.
 - (b) When the batter swings and hits the Tee but not the ball. This is a foul ball. The first two foul balls shall be counted as strikes.
- 7.7. Until the ball is hit:
 - (a) The pitcher must have both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate.
 - (b) The catcher must position themselves at the back corner of the catcher's box beside the umpire on the opposite side of the batter and remain there until the ball is hit. Eg For a right handed batter the catcher will stand on the umpire's right hand side and for a left handed batter the catcher will stand on the umpire's left hand side.
 - (c) All other fielders must be stationed on fair territory.
 - (d) No fielder, other than the catcher, may be stationed within 40ft (12.19m) of home plate (pitching distance).
- 7.8. There shall be no penalty for violation of Rule 7.7. The umpire shall call "Time" and correct the situation.
- 7.9. If a batter is injured striking at the ball and cannot complete their turn at bat then their turn at bat will be cancelled.
- 7.10. The back and front feet of the batter must be parallel with the back and side line of the batter's box and only the front foot can move whilst swinging at the ball

8. BASERUNNING

- 8.1. A runner must wait until the ball is hit before leaving the base. The umpire shall call "Dead Ball" if a runner leaves the base before the batter hits the ball. There is no penalty, the runner simply returns to the base.
- 8.2. When the batter hits a fair ball, play proceeds until all runners held up on bases or no further play is possible.
- 8.3. "Time" shall be called when, the ball is controlled by an infielder or if the runners have stopped or when the pitcher, in the 6ft (1.8m) circle, has control of the ball. Any runner between bases when "Time" is called by the Plate Umpire shall return to the last legally held base unless forced to advance by the batter-runner.
- 8.4. Fielders shall not be permitted to block bases as prescribed in the Official Rules of Softball.
- 8.5. If a baserunner is injured while on base and cannot run then a team member who is not one of the next five at bat can run for the injured runner.

9. DEAD AND ALIVE

- 9.1. The ball shall be dead when the batter hits the Tee.

10. UMPIRES

- 10.1. The umpire will call "Play Ball" for each batter and after every strike, foul ball and dead ball. Also after "time" has been called.
- 10.2. The umpire shall ensure that the Tee is adjustable to the batter's satisfaction before placing the ball on the Tee and calling "Play Ball". The Tee must be position at the centre in front of home plate.
- 10.3. The Tee must be removed by the umpire whenever necessary so that players will not be obstructed or injured.
- 10.4. All interferences and obstructions will be played. Umpires shall apply all penalties pertaining to the violation of the rules in accordance with the Official Rules of Softball.
- 10.5. The umpire shall call "Time" in accordance to Rule 8.3. "

11. PROTESTS

- 11.1. There shall be no protests in U11 Gold.