

8U SPRING Softball Machine Pitch Rules 2026

1. The machine is set at 35' and 35 mph, bases 60', no on-deck batters.
2. Pitchers MUST wear a helmet with a cage. Batters MUST wear a helmet with a cage. Fielding masks are not required but are highly encouraged.
3. 5 pitches per batter; if fouled on the 5th pitch, she gets a 6th pitch. If fouled off on the 6th, she gets a 7th. 7 pitches max. NO BUNTING, NO STEALING, NO LEAD-OFFS, NO INFIELD FLY.
4. a) 6-inning games.- or what time allows.
b) 5-run limit per half inning or 3 outs.
c) Time limit is 1 hour 45 minutes
d) No Mercy Rule.
e) Continuous batting order throughout the entire season
f) If a player arrives late and misses their spot (no out is awarded), she may be placed at the end of the lineup.
g) No player can play more than 4 innings at one position.
h) Every player must play at least 1 inning in the infield.
i) Sliding is allowed.
j) All plays must be made with a definite throw—no rolling of the ball to a base.
5. Umpires will call obstruction if a fielder is blocking the base and prevents the runner from advancing or reaching the base safely.
6. A batted ball that hits the machine or coach or goes through the legs of the machine is a dead ball. The batter is awarded 1st base.
7. Overthrows at 1st base only are awarded 2nd base. An overthrow is a ball thrown wildly out of play without being stopped or blocked by a player backing up the play.
8. On a well-hit ball into the outfield, 2nd, 3rd, or home can be earned, depending on the position of the ball. Once the ball reaches the infield baseline (by a throw or a player with the ball), runner advancement ceases. If they are halfway or closer to the next base, they may proceed. If not, they return to the previous base touched.
a) Running through the base is only allowed at 1st. If a runner turns toward 2nd, they may be tagged out.
9. Defensive Positioning: Infielders can start in the baseline only if they creep in on the pitch. Players must not start more than 3 feet in front of the baseline on the pitch. The pitcher may not be more than 3 feet in front of the pitching machine after creeping in.
10. If it is necessary for a player to miss an at-bat due to injury, bathroom, or other reasons, she can be skipped with no penalty. If she misses a 2nd time, no out is given, but she may not return to the game.
11. Only the team manager may approach the umpire to discuss a play. Umpire and both managers must meet at the pitching mound to discuss any calls or questions, away from fans behind the backstop. The umpire has the final say—no arguing at all!
12. Only 1 coach or team manager is allowed outside of the dugout while their team is on defense. An additional coach is allowed in the outfield if necessary with younger players. Discourage multiple coaches giving instruction during gameplay from the dugout.

13. NO dogs, NO drinking, and NO smoking allowed at any of the fields. Managers, please keep your coaching and parents under control!