

SOUTHWESTERN OHIO GIRLS
FASTPITCH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
8 & UNDER RULES: 2002 (FINAL)

SOGFSA follows the U.S.S.A. rulebook for this division with the following exceptions:

1. Cutoff date for eligibility: Girls must still be 8 years of age as of January 1st of the season in question.
2. The pitching distance will be 30 feet.
3. Bases will be 50 feet apart.
4. The 8 & under division represents the beginning level of instruction. Umpires are instructed to be flexible on the pitching rules due to this being most of these pitchers first exposure to pitching fastpitch. We encourage umpires to discuss technical flaws in pitching mechanics with coaches AFTER the game, rather than holding up the game. Coaches are also advised not to hold up the games by nit-picking the technical flaws of the opposing team's pitcher.
 - A. Coaches will pitch the first half of the games. Coaches and players will pitch alternate innings in the second half of the season. Memorial Day will be considered the half way point.
 - B. There is an 8-pitch limit per batter. The 8 pitches must be hittable pitches (when the player is pitching). After 8 pitches, the batter is out, if the ball is not put into play.
 - C. There are strikeouts. However, there are no called strikes. A player can strike-out if they swing and miss three pitches, foul off two pitches and then miss the third, or any other way you could normally strike-out with the exception of being out on called strikes.
 - D. There are NO WALKS.
5. This age division must use an 11" softball. Balls should be yellow, have raised seams, and have a core of .47. These balls should be used as soon as possible, but will be mandatory starting with play in 2003.
6. The home team shall furnish an official scorekeeper, a NEW game ball, and a good used ball for a back up.
7. This age division will NOT use sanctioned umpires. Umpires will all be volunteers.
8. This age group will play 5 inning games.
9. This age group will allow teams to play up to 10 players in the field (6 infielders including pitcher & catcher, and 4 outfielders). Outfielders must maintain a position with a minimum of 20 ' between them and the infielders until the ball crosses home plate.
10. TIME LIMIT: No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 15 minutes.
11. This age bracket will use a RUN LIMIT per inning, instead of a batter limit. When a team scores 5 runs in an inning the inning ends IMMEDIATELY after the 5th run crosses the plate. Example: Team "A" has bases loaded, no outs, and the 5th run will be scored by the girl on third base. Even if the batter hits a grand slam home run, ONLY THE RUN ON THIRD BASE COUNTS. EXCEPTION: THE PER INNING RUN RULE WILL ONLY BE LIFTED IN THE 5TH INNING. It will remain in effect for all prior innings, even if a team is down by more than 5 runs and the game is about to end due to the Time Limit Rule # 10.
12. Batters will be declared out when the catcher drops a third strike. Base runners cannot advance in this situation.