

MISS FLORIDA SOFTBALL
Eight & Under Coach Pitch Rules 2006

Adopted by Miss Florida Softball Board of Directors on Sunday, May 2, 2004.

USSA Eight & Under Coach Pitch rules will be followed unless superceded by one of the following Miss Florida Softball rules for Eight & Under Coach Pitch.

1. **OFFICIAL SOFTBALL** will be the 11” Optic Yellow Softball.
2. **THE GAME** – The game shall consist of seven innings or a time limit established for the game.
3. **DEFENSIVE PLAYERS** – All defensive players must play by position. Outfielders must be positioned on the outfield grass or behind a line 10’ outside the base path, if marked.
4. **DEFENSIVE COACHES** – One (1) defensive coach will be allowed on the field and must be positioned behind the outfielders. Defensive coach will be allowed to give continual instructions to defense.
5. **BATTING** – The batter will be allowed five (5) pitches or three (3) strikes to hit the ball into fair territory. If the fifth pitch or 3rd strike is fouled the batter may continue to bat until there is a strike out or the ball is hit into fair territory.
6. **OFFENSIVE COACHES** – The offensive team will be allowed three (3) coaches as follows: One first base coach, one third base coach, one coach serving as pitcher.
 - (a) The pitcher/coach will pitch from a thirty-five (35) foot pitching rubber. The pitcher/coach may receive the ball from the player positioned as pitcher or catcher **ONLY**. *The batter/coach can, in a timely manner, help the batter in the batters box. The pitcher/coach shall NOT give base running instructions to the batter/base runner or any other base runner.*

Eight & Under Coach Pitch Rules 2006 (Cont'd)

PENALTY: First offense – warning. Second offense – Ejection of the offending coach.

(b) The pitcher/coach must make every effort to avoid interfering with the defensive players. PENALTY: If, in the judgment of the umpire, no effort is made the batter will be called out and all runners will return to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch. First offense draws a warning or ejection, based on the severity. Second offense draws an automatic ejection of the offending coach.

7. BASERUNNING – The base runners must be in contact with the base until a legally pitched ball is hit. PENALTY: “No Pitch” will be called and the runner will be declared out.

8. CATCHERS – The catcher may be positioned anywhere from the catcher’s box to the backstop screen.

If the catcher is positioned within the catcher’s box, she must be properly equipped with shin guards, chest protector, and wear a NOCSAE approved helmet with protective mask.

If the catcher is positioned outside the catcher’s box, (between the catcher’s box and the backstop screen) she must wear a NOCSAE approved helmet with facemask.

9. *There is a two (2) step rule in effect for all players. The ball must be thrown to first, second, third, home, or pitcher. Exception: If the ball is fielded by the designated player who covers 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, that player may advance to their designated base if they field the batted ball. If the two step rule is violated – the offensive player being played on will be declared safe.*