12U Division Rules – 2026 Interleague Play

1. 70' bases and 50' pitcher's mound will be used in this division.
2. Teams must have a minimum of 8 players to start a game.
3. Teams will use **nine (9) players when on defense** (3 outfielders), with free substitution at the beginning of every half inning. No player will sit out more than 2 (two) innings per game.
4. All games will start per the agreed upon league schedule.
5. At least four (4) completed innings must be played to complete a game in case of rain or darkness (3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead at the time).
6. There shall be a maximum of **7 runs scored per inning** or 3 outs required to end an inning (except called last inning).
7. **Mercy Rule** in effect when a team is leading by **fifteen runs after three innings or ten runs after four completed innings**, and said team is declared the winner and the game ends. (Mercy rule does not apply in called last inning).
8. Umpire will establish the official start time of each game with coaches and scorekeepers from both teams.
9. Game timers shall be set for 75 minutes.
10. After 75 minutes of play, the current inning (regardless of at the top or bottom of the inning) becomes the last inning. The game will end upon the completion of that inning; no new inning is to begin.
11. If home team is ahead at bottom half of called last inning, game is over (home team does not bat) and home team is declared the winner.
12. If game is tied after top half of called last inning and home team scores go ahead run during their at bat, game is over and home team is declared winner.
13. If score is tied following conclusion of home team at bat (3 outs made) in the called last inning, the game is declared a tie. Game is over.
14. The official start of each inning shall be defined as the precise moment when the third out of the home half is made. If any time remains on the timer when the third out is made and prior to 75 minutes, the game will continue.
15. Coaches are not allowed to modify established rules.
16. Teams must bat their entire roster.
17. There will be a 15 minute recess between double header games.
18. Pitching Limits: 51-85 pitches require three (3) days minimum rest, 36-50 pitches requires minimum two (2) days rest; 21-35 pitches requires minimum one (1) day rest.
    a. Refer to http://m.mlb.com/pitchsmart for further explanation and guidelines.
19. A removed pitcher may return as a pitcher in the same inning without adding another official inning pitched if he has remained on the field in another defensive position. Defensive conferences with pitcher do not reset.
20. **Balks will be called as instructional only**.
21. **A pitcher shall be replaced if he/she hits 2 batters in a single inning or a total of 4 batters during their pitching sequence (game).** They will only be removed as a pitcher and may play in a different defensive capacity.
22. Only two defensive conferences will be allowed per inning. If a coach makes a 2nd visit to the mound in the same inning, for the same pitcher, that pitcher must be replaced at that time.
23. In an effort to avoid delays, warm up pitching restrictions in effect: NEW PITCHER to an inning = 6 warm up pitches allowed, pitcher RETURNING in consecutive innings = 4 warm up pitches allowed.
24. Batters must remain ready in the batter's box, unless there is a foul ball or passed ball. A strike may be called on a batter for delay of game. This is up to umpire discretion and one team warning will be given.
25. The Infield Fly Rule is **not** in effect
26. Bunting is allowed.
27. Batted ball that hits home plate and remains in fair territory is a fair ball.

28. Runners may lead off 4' from the base (base to left foot). Runners may advance (steal) at their own risk (including HOME) after the ball is released by the pitcher. **Runners leaving before the ball is released by the pitcher will be called OUT**, and the ball will become a "DEAD BALL" and a "no pitch" will be called.
29. A base runner must slide at any base where there is a play being made (except at first base – runner may slide). The intent of this rule is to avoid injury. The umpire may declare a "penalty out" if the runner does not slide and the umpire judges the play at the base close enough to warrant a slide. Any action during such a play, by either the base runner or the fielder, judged by the umpire to be malicious in nature, shall be cause for being called out or safe, and/or immediate ejection of the player from the game. Ejected players are to be by-passed in the batting order. No automatic outs are to be called on the ejected player when his turn to bat comes up.
30. A **dropped 3rd strike** will remain a "LIVE BALL" when: with less than two outs, 1st base is unoccupied. If two outs, the dropped 3rd strike is always "LIVE". When a dropped 3rd strike is "LIVE", it will remain "LIVE" until the batter is "putout" or the batter removes himself from the field of play (i.e., enters the dugout).
31. When on defense, coaches must remain in their dugouts, unless to have a defensive conference or to address an Umpire, in which "TIME" must be called to do so.
32. Coaches will exchange lineups with player's names, numbers and starting positions prior to game time.
33. Steel Cleats are prohibited.
34. All jewelry shall be removed before playing a game (watches, necklaces, earrings, etc.).
35. Catchers must wear a catcher's helmet and all remaining catcher gear. A protective cup is recommended.
36. Team shirts and long pants must be worn.
37. It is mandatory for all "on deck batters", players in the coaching boxes, runners, retired runners and non adult bat/ball shaggers to wear helmets while in live ball territory. Failure to comply will result in ejection from the game. One team warning will be given.
38. Face shields are not mandatory in this division, but are strongly suggested.
39. **Bats must carry the USSSA 1.15 BPF rating. Bats must not exceed 2 3/4" diameter and a minus 10 (-10) rating**. 2 1/4" bats do not have any weight to length restrictions.
40. A courtesy runner will be allowed for the catcher when he is on base with two outs. The courtesy runner used must have been the last offensive out.
41. Calls by the umpire are FINAL. There will be NO protests allowed. This is a recreational league.
42. Unsportsmanlike conduct by players or coaches will not be tolerated. Taunting of umpires, players or coaches will not be tolerated. Coaches are responsible for their spectators. If a spectator is asked to leave the premises and does not comply, the affected team will be forced to forfeit the game (one warning will be given).
43. With respect to facilities, schedules and weather, if you are unable to play or complete a scheduled game, it is the responsibility of BOTH head coaches to find a mutually agreed upon makeup date and time.
44. When you are the hosting facility, field preparation, required equipment (including minimum of two game balls), and umpire scheduling are your responsibilities.