

8u Machine Pitch

Rev. 2/12/2026

Machine Use

1. The Louisville Slugger Flame pitching machine will be used.
2. The pitching machine will be calibrated and tested prior to use in a game.
3. The machine placement will be behind the pitching rubber.
4. Registered coaches will operate the machine in game play.

Use of the pitching machine is intended to be transitional through the season. The following schedule outlines the transitional use of the pitching machine:

1. Start of season through 3/29/26 (3 weeks)
 - a. Pitching machine for the entire game as outlined in 8U Machine Pitch Rules.
2. 3/29/26 through 4/5/26 (2 weeks)
 - a. One (1) inning of player/coach pitch as outlined in current 8u USA Softball rules. Remainder of the game to be machine pitch.
3. 4/5/26 through 4/19/26 (2 weeks)
 - a. Two (2) innings of player/coach pitch as outlined in current 8u USA Softball rules. Remainder of the game to be machine pitch.
4. 4/19/26 through 5/3/26 (3 weeks)
 - a. Current and adopted rules for 8u as outlined by USA softball.

Specific rules when pitching machines are utilized.

1. Each batter will receive five (5) machine pitched balls. If after five unsuccessful attempts, the batter will be called out with the following exceptions:
 - a. If the 5th and subsequent machine pitched ball is fouled, the batter will receive additional pitches until the ball is placed into play or the batter strikes out.
 - b. If the catcher properly catches a foul tip on the 5th pitch or subsequent pitches, the batter will be out.
 - c. A foul ball caught by the fielder on any machine pitched balls, the batter will be called out.
2. A batted ball that hits the registered coach, the batter will be called out.
3. The player playing the defensive pitcher position, will start with at least one foot in the circle.
4. There are no limitations on bases on a successfully batted ball from the machine pitch.
5. Innings will be concluded either by five (5) scored runs or three outs. No continuation on runs.
6. If a machine pitched ball is hit and contacts the machine, the batter/runner will be awarded first base only. All runners will advance to the next base they started from.
7. All player/coach pitched innings will comply with current 8u softball guidelines.