

## 8U EHLL Baseball Rules

8U is still a basic level of play for our kids. There is one umpire at this age, and a score is kept. Play at this level is meant to encourage the kids of both teams and to make sure everyone is having fun

### Field Dimensions

- The bases will be 60 feet apart, mirroring the 10U & 12U field.
- The mound is 41 feet from the plate.

### Positions

- In the field, teams may elect to have a field of 10 or 9 players.
- If playing ten fielders, there must be 4 outfielders.
- The “shift” is not allowed. In the infield, there must be two infielders on each side of second base.
- All players must play in the infield at least two innings (this does not need to be consecutive).
- If a team has less than 9 players, they do not need to take an out for each missing person in the lineup.

### Baserunning Rules:

- There are no leadoffs. If a player is off the base before the pitch crosses home plate, the umpire shall give that player a warning. On the second offense, that player shall be out.
- There are no pickoffs.
- There are only steals during kid pitch, not coach pitch.
- A player may only “steal” a base after the pitch crosses home plate.
- The only base that may be stolen is third. There are no steals from first to second.

### Pitching/Field Dimensions

- Bases shall be 60 feet apart
- The mound/rubber shall be 41 feet from the plate.

### Games/Innings:

#### Prior to May 2, 2025:

- Games will consist of 6 innings, or a one hour forty-five time limit. No new inning shall begin after 1:45.
- Coaches will pitch innings 1-4. Kids will pitch innings 5/6.
- During Coach pitch, a Coach may pitch from a knee or upright, and may pitch from the rubber or off the rubber outside of 35 feet.
- There are no walks during coach pitch.
- During coach pitch, each batter shall have 3 swings, or 6 pitches to put the ball in play. Meaning, if the batter swings 3 times, and does not foul off the third swinging attempt, then the batter is out. If on the 6<sup>th</sup> pitch, the batter does not put the ball in play, then the batter is out. If the batter fouls off the 6<sup>th</sup> pitch, the batter is still alive.
- There are no “called” strikes by an umpire during coach pitch.
- To keep the pace of place, a coach should have multiple balls available to pitch, and should not have the any kid catcher attempt to throw the ball back to him.
- During Kid Pitch (Innings 5/6), an umpire shall call balls/strikes. This zone shall be generous.
- There are strikeouts.
- If there is ball four, a coach shall come in and finish the count, and if there is a swinging third strike, the batter is out.
- There are no walks.
- The kid-pitcher will remain in the game as a defensive player.
- If a batted ball hits a coach, one base is awarded.

#### After May 2, 2025:

- Games will consist of 6 innings, or a one hour forty-five time limit.
- Coaches will pitch innings 1-3. Kids will pitch innings 4/5/6.
- During Coach pitch, a Coach may pitch from a knee or upright, and may pitch from the rubber or off the rubber outside of 35 feet.
- There are no walks during coach pitch.
- There are no “called” strikes by an umpire during coach pitch.
- If a child swings 3 times, they are out.
- During coach pitch, each batter shall have 3 swings, or 6 pitches to put the ball in play. Meaning, if the batter swings 3 times, and does not foul off the third swinging attempt, then the batter is out. If on the 6<sup>th</sup> pitch, the batter does not put the ball in play, then the batter is out. If the batter fouls off the 6<sup>th</sup> pitch, the batter is still alive.
- During Kid Pitch (Innings 4/5/6), an umpire shall call balls/strikes.
- There are strikeouts.

- If there is ball four, a coach shall come in and finish the count, and if there is a swinging third strike, the batter is out.
- The kid-pitcher will remain in the game as a defensive player.
- If a batted ball hits a coach, one base is awarded.

#### Hit-Batter:

- If during kid pitch, a pitcher hits the batter with the ball, the batter may either:
  - Get 1<sup>st</sup> Base
  - Continue the at-bat.

#### Game Modifications:

- There is a 5 run limit per inning, except for the last inning.

#### Specific Equipment Rules

- All players must bat with a legal Little League Bat (marked with “USA Baseball”).
- All batters and baserunners must be wearing a helmet.

#### Playoff Rules

1. Games will consist of 6 innings, no time limit, but run rules of 12 after 3; 10 after 4; and 8 after 5.
2. May 2 after rules will apply.
3. There is still a 5 run limit per inning, until the final inning.

#### Fielding Rules:

- A ball hit into the infield, and an out is not made (but perhaps an overthrow, or something else), the batter-runner shall not be entitled to second base. Meaning, if there is an infield hit, and an infielder gets the ball, but the throw is off and goes over the fence, the batter-runner does not advance to second. They get a single.
- If a ball is hit into the outfield, player/runners may advance. However, once a fielder has the ball under control in the infield, runners may no longer advance.

- “Under control in the infield” means a player having the ball in either their bare hand, or glove hand, while standing in the infield.

#### Baserunning Rules:

- There shall be no stealing of second base.
- Upon a steal to third base, the catcher may attempt to put the baserunner out. If there is an overthrow/poor throw, the batter-runner shall not steal home.
- Stealing of Home is never permitted.
- Only stealing on kid pitch.
- On an infield hit, a player may not go from first to third.

#### Overall:

- There is no bunting allowed.
- There are no lead-offs
- There are no pick-offs
- There is no stealing of home allowed.
- There are no balks.
- There is no infield-fly rule.
- There is no Drop-Third Strike rule.

All other Little League Rules Apply (No Leadoffs, No pickoffs, etc.).