

Hastings Parks and Recreation Department 2026 Girls Softball League

8U REC LEAGUE RULES

The Hastings Parks and Recreation Softball Leagues will be governed by USA rules with any modifications listed below.

- Scoring/Standings
 - 8U Not Kept
- Innings
 - 8U – 5 innings
- End of inning (speed up the game)
 - 8U – bat through entire lineup or 3 outs whichever comes first
- Time Limit
 - 8U – 60 min – inning will drop dead after 55 minutes has elapsed
- Run Limit
 - 8U - after 5 innings.
- Softballs
 - 8U – RIF 1 safety balls
- Pitching Distance/Base Distance
 - 8U – 35’/60’
- Number of Players
 - 8 players (lenient in Rec league)
 - Each player must be given opportunity to play in at least 2 complete innings and 1 chance to bat.
 - Teams can play up to 10 on defense (four outfielders)
- Metal Cleats not allowed
- Leading off
 - 8U – Lead offs NOT allowed.
- Base Stealing
 - 8U – Not allowed
- Bunting
 - 8U – Not allowed
- Dropped 3rd strike
 - 8U – Batters CANNOT advance on dropped 3rd strike. Batter is out.
- Running bases
 - 8U – Runners may advance one base (per at bat) on an overthrow to a base and be put out.
- Pitching
 - 8U – The coach of hitting team will pitch to players. A player may not walk. Limit of 8 pitches thrown to each player by her coach then batter is out. A coach may pitch in front part of chalked circle. If deemed necessary the coach can move closer.
- Defense – Only 6 players may play “infield”, all remaining players (outfielders) must play on or near the grass when opponent is batting.
 - 8U – 2 coaches may help on the field as long as they are not interfering
- Offense - Coaches will have the option of a continuous batting order. A team must bat all defensive players and have the option of batting any or all players from the bench. If the manager uses a continuous batting order, they may substitute freely from the bench players who are included in the continuous batting order. New players are treated as subs and are subject to substitute re-entry rules with the player in the order for whom they entered. Should a player need to leave a contest for any reason, their place in the batting order is skipped with no penalty. When a team begins with a continuous batting order; they must finish with a continuous batting order.