

Optimist Softball Rules

TIMBIT (Gender-Inclusive)

Ages 3-5

Stress that this is a developmental program – emphasis should be placed on learning the fundamentals, good sportsmanship, and having fun.

1. Honking bases (pressure activated) will be used.
2. There will be no forfeits – teams will share players to ensure a game.
3. Calling across other players from teams who are not playing is allowed and that player can wear their own team shirt.
4. All players will play offense and defence each inning.
5. All players bat each innings with the batting order being reversed each inning. Beginning with top to bottom in the first inning and going from bottom to top in the second innings and so on until the game is completed.
6. Only base runners may stand on the bases.
7. Only coaches or parent helpers may assist at batting and in the playing field.
8. The use of the tee is not mandatory. A player may receive a max of five pitches and then must use a tee. Balls and strikes will not be called.
9. Walks are not allowed; each player must bat. If the ball is called foul, the player will bat again until a fair ball is called.
10. Stealing bases is not allowed.
11. Base runners and batters may only advance one base on a hit ball, with the exception of the last batter being announced.
12. The last batter of the half inning will be announced to the opposing team. When the ball is put in play, the batter keeps running all the bases until making it home. The defensive team needs to throw the ball home. The play is over when the defensive team has the ball and is standing on home plate.
13. No inning is to begin after 1 hour.
14. Scores will not be kept.
15. When possible, the batting order should be alternating male/female.
16. Batting order should be maintained forward and backward.
17. A 10-foot dead ball zone will be utilized; a ball not clearing or passing through this zone will be considered a dead ball. No fielding players are to enter into this zone for safety reasons.
18. The catcher must wear all protective gear.

Ball: 9' soft core ball

Pitcher: No closer than the 10-foot dead ball zone

Dead Ball Zone: a circular arch measured from home plate to 10 feet out

Base Distance: 45 feet

Rain out games will not be rescheduled, there will not be a rain out week.