

8U Baseball Rules

Pacific Youth Association • STLWEST • 8U Baseball (Ages 7–8) • 2026 Season

Game Format & Length

- 1 hour 40 minutes
- No new half-inning with 5 minutes or less remaining
- No mercy rule
- No forfeits if teams have a combined 16 players
- Maximum 7 runs per half inning

Field & Setup

- Bases: 55 ft • Machine pitch: 40 ft
- 8-foot pitching machine circle
- Orange safety base at first base

Pitching (Machine)

- Machine pitch only (no player pitching)
- A coach from the offensive team places the ball into the machine
- The coach feeding the machine is considered part of the machine
- No walks • No hit batters
- Managers agree on speed prior to game

Defensive Pitcher Positioning

- One defensive player may play pitcher
- Must be behind the pitching machine
- One foot must be inside the 8-foot circle when ball is pitched
- Pitcher may leave the circle after ball exits machine

Defense

- Up to 10 players: 4 infielders, 4 outfielders, pitcher, catcher
- Catcher must wear full protective gear

Batting

- Seven (7) pitches maximum per batter
- Foul ball on 7th pitch continues at-bat
- No bunting • No dropped third strike

Base Running

- No leading off or stealing
- Runners must keep foot on base until ball is hit
- Advance only on batted ball or forced award

Ball in Play / Dead Ball

- Dead ball if contact with machine, screen, or coach feeding machine
- Batter awarded first base; runners advance only if forced

Coaches on Field

- Only offensive coach feeding machine may be on field during live play

Not Allowed

- No bunting • No stealing • No walks • No hit batters
- No infield fly rule • No mercy rule • No metal spikes

Governing league rules provided by St. Louis West Athletic Association (STLWEST).