

# 8U SOFTBALL

## League Structure:

Divisions	Age Eligibility	Game Nights	Game Ball Specifications	League Fee Resident/Non
8U Softball	Ages 8 & under, as of January 1, 2026	Tues/Thurs	11" Softball	\$350/\$375

### Registration:

March 23 – April 19, 2026 (Team registration is open until filled)

### League Begins:

Week of May 11, 2026

### Player Eligibility:

The players age as of January 1, 2026 is the age level they must play in, however players are permitted to play up an age division, but not down an age division.

**All registrations are taken online!** Visit [recdesk.republicparks.com](https://recdesk.republicparks.com) to login or create your account. For coaches who are registering their team, please select the appropriate division and be sure to click the "Coaches Only" portal. Coaches are welcome to bring in a full team of participants or register and have additional players added to round out their roster. For individual participants registration, please select the appropriate division and ensure to click the "Individual Sign-up portal". Each individual participant must be registered by their parent/guardian, to be eligible. Players will NOT be allowed to participate in games until their parent or guardian has completed this step. Coaches, please direct all parents/players of your team to complete their online registration.

### Coaches Background Screening:

All coaches and co-head-coaches are required to pass a background check (no cost to the coach) before they will be allowed to coach. Information regarding background checks is available at [republicmo.com](https://republicmo.com). Background checks are good for two years at which point a new submission will be required.

### Coaches Meeting:

All coaches' meetings will be held on **May 5<sup>th</sup>**; 3U – 8U Divisions will be held at 6:00pm at the Republic Community Center; 9U – 14U divisions will be held at 7:00pm at the Republic Community Center. Streaming options will be available for both meetings. Links to view a recording of the meeting will be posted online, in the days following the meeting.

### Equipment Requirements:

Batters, baserunners, and on deck batters must wear protective helmets. It is recommended that all players within the player-pitch leagues (9U – 14U) use a batting helmet that has a facemask or a C-flap. Any player behind Homeplate (the catcher) must wear a minimum of helmet and mask, during gameplay. Shoes with metal cleats or spikes are not permitted by any player. Exterior jewelry is not permitted on players.

**Game Schedules:**

Schedules can be reviewed during the coaches meeting and will be released online the following day. Online schedules can be found at [teamsideline.com/republicmo](https://teamsideline.com/republicmo). 6U and older divisions will receive a schedule for the first half of the season. Results from the first half will be used to help provide appropriate competition levels for the second half schedule that will be released throughout the weeks of June 1 and June 8. Any game reschedule may be rescheduled to an upcoming Saturday morning. Teams will play a total of 8 games.

**Practice:**

Teams are welcome to utilize Republic Parks & Recreation facilities or any additional facilities. Teams may sign up for a practice time beginning Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Practices will begin the week of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Teams can keep their practice time until the season starts; once season has begun the practice availability will depend on the availability of the ballfields. Weekends will act as primary practice dates, during the season, but still have limited field availability due to scheduled tournaments.

## 8 & UNDER COACH PITCH – 2026

**Rules of Play:**

1. Games will last 5 innings or 55 minutes (whichever comes first). No new inning shall be started after 55 minutes of play.
2. The umpire will call a captains meeting prior to gametime; coaches should exchange batting lineups and complete the coin-toss to determine home team.
3. Score will be kept by the umpire. Any discrepancies should be cleared up before the start of a new inning. After a new inning has been started, the score from a previous inning will not be changed.
4. In Coach Pitch, all players will be in the batting order. Batting ends after 3 outs are made or 5 runs are scored (5 runs per inning maximum, per team). Batters are permitted 3 strikes (a strike is called when a player swings at a pitched ball). Each batter is allowed only 5 pitches (a batter can get additional pitches if the ball is hit foul until the ball is hit in fair territory).
5. During the act of baserunning, the ball is considered dead when in possession of the pitcher, or player within the pitching circle, or when it is determined that a fielder intentionally throws the ball to the pitcher (regardless of whether the pitcher catches the ball). If a runner is more than halfway to a base before the ball enters the circle, then the runner can finish running to the base.
6. During the act of baserunning, the ball is considered dead when in possession of the pitcher, or player within the pitching circle, or when it is determined that a fielder intentionally throws the ball to the pitcher (regardless of whether the pitcher catches the ball). If a runner is more than halfway to a base before the ball enters the circle, then the runner can finish running to the base.
7. The adult pitcher can pitch from either the pitching rubber or the front of the circle. The adult pitcher is also allowed to pitch from a knee. The kid pitcher must stand to the side of the adult pitcher and in the circle. The adult pitcher is not allowed to field the ball. If the adult pitcher fields the ball the batter will be called out and the base runners must return to where they started. The adult pitcher is only allowed to defend him/herself and is expected to move out of the way if possible. The coach pitch pitchers can pitch either overhand or underhand.
8. Coach Pitch Games that are tied after 5 innings or the 55 minute time limit will go into extra innings. One additional inning will be played to break tie games. If the game is still tied after one extra inning, that game will end in a tie.



26. No protests are allowed on judgement calls of the officials. The official score sheet will be final. Concerns about officials must be made to the recreation supervisor. All protests must be filed by the head coach or the assistant coach at the Activity Center within twenty-four hours of the violation.
27. Coaches are prohibited from coaching more than two teams in the same league.
28. Coaches and participants are required to express post-game acknowledgements and "good games" to the opposing team, as an act of displaying good sportsmanship.
29. Each team will be given 2 coaches passes for free entry into the ballpark. All other persons, excluding players, over the age of 12 and under the age of 65 must pay a \$3.00 entry fee and 65 and older must pay \$2.00.
30. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. If a coach, player, or fan is ejected from a game, they must leave the park immediately. If the same person is ejected from another game, they will be suspended indefinitely from the Republic Parks & Recreation programs pending a meeting with the Recreation Supervisor and/or the Community Services Director. Further problems from the team may result in a forfeit of the game.
31. The Coaches Code of Ethics must be signed by the head coach and the assistant coach online or at the coaches meeting, prior to the season beginning.
32. The Recreation Supervisor reserves the right to make final determination on any rules or interpretations that may arise throughout the season.

**Lightning/Weather Policy:** During outdoor athletics events, if lightning is detected with a 0-8 mile radius of the facility, all games in progress will be shut-down. If lightning has not yet approached the 8-mile-radius, the site-supervisor reserves the right to shut-down games if there is a storm inbound. There will be no delaying games. At the time of shutdown, all participants and spectators must exit the facility.

- **If a game is shutdown during gameplay, prior to the halfway point of the game:** The game will be replayed on a different date, completely restarting the game with a score of 0-0.
- **If a game is shutdown during gameplay, at or after the halfway point of the game:** The game will be marked as completed, with a final score of whatever the score is at the time of shutdown.
- **Resuming play for upcoming games in the day:** The remaining teams participating in the day, will be able to enter the facility once a 20-minute period without lightning has passed. The Site-Supervisor will be closing off the facility entrances with signage, once the facility becomes closed due to weather.
- The Site-Supervisor reserves the right to shutdown games, for the safety of all participants and spectators.

**All players in the 3U – 8U divisions will receive medals at the completion of a terrific season!**

\*Coaches, parents, and participants should be mindful of good sportsmanship. and set a good example! Thank you and let's have a great season!