

2025 NISA 8U Division Rules

Northern Illinois Softball Association (NISA)

Age Division: 6–8 years old (as of 12/31/2024)

Roster & Eligibility

Recreational Only

- No tryouts or cuts allowed.
- Full-time travel players are not eligible for 8U.

Tournament/Part-Time Players (within rec program)

- Players participating on tournament or part-time teams through the rec program are eligible to play.
 - These players must be evenly distributed across all teams in the division to promote fairness.
 - Coaches and league administrators must coordinate this distribution before team formation or draft.
 - Teams cannot have a competitive edge due to an unequal number of advanced players.
 - In cases of imbalance, leagues should rotate assignments each season.
 - Tournament/part-time players must be identified on rosters; misrepresentation may result in forfeits or coach suspension.
 - All part-time/tournament players must play spring rec ball for their organization. Fall is optional.
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Player Participation & Lineup

- No player may sit more than 2 innings per game. Equal playing time is encouraged.
- No player may play the same defensive position more than 3 innings per game.
- Courtesy runner is allowed for the catcher at any time (last batted out).
- Continuous batting order is required — all players bat.
- Late arrivals: added to the end of the batting lineup.
- Players leaving due to injury or family reasons are skipped (no out recorded).
- If a player is injured during an at-bat and cannot continue, the last batted out may complete the at-bat.
- Ejected players: automatic out in the lineup.

- Ejected coaches: suspended for the next game. Coaching while suspended results in team forfeit.
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Game Format

- **Length:** 6 innings or 1:30 time limit.
 - No new inning after 1:30; drop dead at 1:45.
 - **Official Game (weather):** 3 innings (2½ if home team leads).
 - **Run Limit:** 5-run limit per inning (all innings).
 - **Defense:** Max 10 players (4 outfielders, 4 infielders, pitcher, catcher).
 - Outfielders must start on the grass or behind the baseline for larger fields.
 - Short center can cover 2nd base; other outfielders may only cover empty bases or back up plays.
 - Pitcher (when coach is pitching) must stay within or behind the pitching circle.
 - If a batted ball hits the coach pitcher, the ball remains live.
 - Infield Fly Rule: **Not in effect.**
 - Bunting: **Not allowed.**
 - Bases: 60 feet.
 - Two defensive coaches allowed on the field behind the baseline for instruction.
 - Umpires: should be used when available; if not, a coach/parent may umpire if both teams agree.
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Pitching Rules

- **Distance:** 30 feet.
 - Max 3 innings per pitcher per game (one pitch = one inning).
 - Warm-ups: 5 pitches before 1st inning; 3 pitches each inning thereafter.
 - No hit-by-pitch awards (pitch ruled a ball, at-bat continues).
 - No walks: after 4 balls, batter keeps strike count and coach pitches (max 3 pitches).
 - Coach pitcher must pitch from the mound.
 - No restrictions on substitutions within the 3-inning limit.
 - IHSA pitching mechanics should be taught (hands apart on mound, one hand-to-glove motion).
 - No illegal pitches will be called.
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Base Running

- Must slide to avoid contact.

- NFHS Slide Rule 8-6 applies for illegal or malicious contact.
 - **When ball is hit infield:** runners advance 1 base only; batter awarded a single.
 - **When ball is hit to outfield:** play stops when ball enters the infield and pitcher has possession; runners advance to base they are going to.
 - No extra bases on overthrows or passed balls.
 - Stealing: allowed only after the ball crosses the plate; 1 base per pitch; no stealing home.
 - Lead-offs allowed after ball crosses the plate; leaving early results in a warning.
 - Look-Back Rule: **Not in effect.**
 - **No stealing during coach pitching.**
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Equipment Requirements

- **Facemasks:** Required for all fielders.
 - **Helmets:** Must include full face mask.
 - **Bats:** Must have USSSA 1.20 BPF or USA Softball stamp.
 - **Cleats:** No metal cleats allowed.
 - **Uniforms:**
 - Softball pants required in games.
 - Leggings or shorts are not allowed in place of pants.
 - Pants encouraged for practice as well.
 - Shorts are not allowed in games.
 - **Safety:**
 - On-deck batter must stand behind the current batter.
 - All players must stay behind the fence in the dugout while batting.
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Tournament Rules

Fall Tournament

- Must play 6+ games to be seeded.
- **Championship Game:**
 - 8U start time will be 9AM on Field 2
 - October 18, 2025 – Indian Prairie Park, Crystal Lake.
 - 6 innings, no time limit.
 - Ties resolved by International Tie Breaker (ITB):
 - Last batted out on 2nd base; count starts at 0–0.