



2026 COACHES MEETING

U9 CATEGORY



INTRODUCTIONS

President: Julie Robicheau

Vice President: Colleen Allison

Treasurer: Sheila Wilson

Commissioner: David Brewer

Registrar:

Scheduler:

Secretary: Krista Maine

AGENDA



Objectives

The Basics

What to Expect on Game Day

May – June Pitching Rules

Base Running Rules

Score Sheet Cheat Sheet

Umpires

Weather/Standings

Finals

Other Information

Questions

OBJECTIVES OF THE U9 PROGRAM

- Creating a fun environment for youth to learn softball
- Developing sportsmanship, teamwork and a sense of fair play
- Increasing skill and understanding of the game of softball
- To Focus on the core skill Development and fundamentals of Softball



THE BASICS

- DIAMOND DIMENSIONS
 - Base path distance: 45 feet (63 feet from home to 2nd)
 - Pitching distance: 30 feet
- EQUIPMENT
 - 11" Softie ball
 - Glove and running shoes
 - Helmets with cage
 - Catcher's equipment, bats, balls, bases
 - Infielder masks



THE BASICS – PART 2

- GAME NIGHTS
 - May – Mondays or Wednesday
 - June – Some weeks may have games on Monday and Wednesday
 - Game Start time 6:30 PM
- Teams Size
 - Maximum of 10 players
 - Minimum of 6
 - All Players are to bat in order
- Game Play
 - Maximum 5 innings
 - 5 Runs per inning



WHAT TO EXPECT ON GAME DAY

- First Team to arrive has choice of dugout
- Check the field – Safety First
- Home team is responsible for diamond set up
 - Home team will be identified on the schedule.
- Line-up cards must be completed



RULES DURING MAY - PITCHING

- Pitching coach will pitch a maximum of 5 balls per batter
 - Encourage players to swing at 'good' pitches and leave the bad ones
- If the batter has not put the ball in play after the 5th pitch, a tee will be set up by the coach for the player to hit from



RULES DURING JUNE - PITCHING

- Player(s) will start to pitch this month, 'no walk' is the format of play:
- The batter receives 4 balls, based on the batters pitch count, the Batters Coach then pitches,
 - No strikes, coach gets up to 3 pitches
 - 1 strike, coach gets up to 2 pitches
 - 2 strikes, the coach will pitch 1 Pitch
- The batter must swing on the pitches the coach throws
 - The Player doesn't hit and the coach is out of pitches, they have struck out.



RULES – BASE RUNNING

- No Bunting
- No Walks
- Base advancement is restricted to hitting. No Stealing allowed.
- A ball is brought back into the infield, runner advancement stops
- Advancement is not to occur on an overthrow.
 - Example - ball is hit thru to left field, batter runs past 1st and makes it to 2nd, left field overthrows 3rd base, batter/runner must stop at 2nd



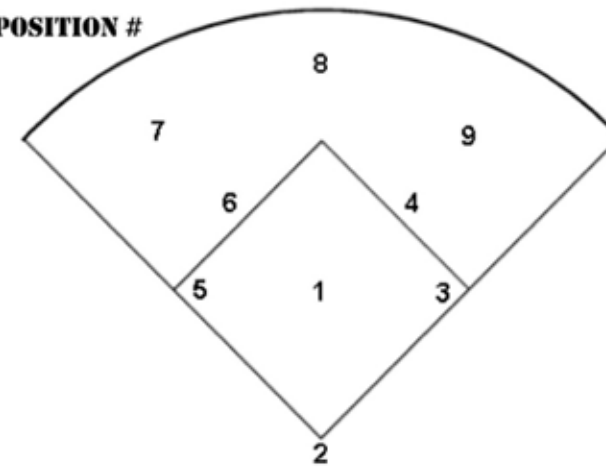
SCORE SHEET CHEAT SHEET

SCOREKEEPING CHEAT SHEET



LIST OF POSITIONS AND POSITION

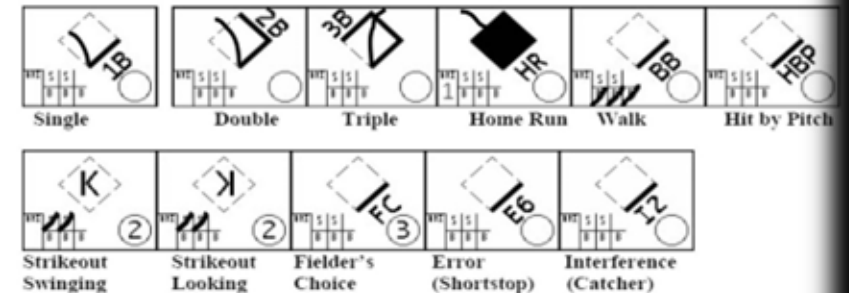
| | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Pitcher (P) |
| 2 | Catcher (C) |
| 3 | First base (1B) |
| 4 | Second Base (2B) |
| 5 | Third Base (3B) |
| 6 | ShortStop (SS) |
| 7 | Left Field (LF) |
| 8 | Center Field (CF) |
| 9 | Right Field (RF) |



| # | Player | Pos | 1 |
|----|------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 9 | Smith, J. | 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 29 | Lawson, A. | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17 | Henry, D. | 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 33 | Jones, T. | 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1B Single | B Balk |
| 2B Double | PB Passed Ball |
| 3B Triple | WP Wild Pitch |
| HR Home Run | GRD Ground Rule Double |
| K Strikeout Swinging | DP Double Play |
| X Strikeout Looking | FC Fielder's Choice |
| BB Base on Balls | IFR Infield Fly Rule |
| IBB Intentional Walk | I Interference |
| HBP Hit By Pitch | DI Defensive Indifference |
| SB Stolen Base | ! Great Play |
| CS Caught Stealing | E Error |

The Basic plays that occur in Softball are scored as follows;



Often, on a base hit, a scorekeeper will also draw a line to show where the ball was hit

UMPIRES

**Are NOT expected and will NOT be scheduled
by GEMSA for any U9 game**

- Expectations
 - Teams will provide a parent umpire –
 - Home teams to Provide plate umpire/Away team Base umpire
 - IF Switching each half inning (Home team umpire when their team is in the field/Visiting team while at bat)
 - The umpire is to take into consideration the level of play and promote a positive experience for ALL players



ARE WE PLAYING? WHAT ARE OUR STANDINGS?

- Diamonds
 - Games are on, unless diamonds are closed by city/county.
 - Be sure to check the appropriate city/community website.
- Scores are to be entered in RAMP – to track games played
 - DO NOT Check the rainout box
- There are NO league Standings in the U9 Category



2026 FINALS

- Location – Nisku & Leduc, Alberta
- Diamonds –
 - LEDE 1-7, ELKS 1-2, AILEEN FALHER 1-2, Nisku 1 - 4
 - We are working on additional diamonds
- Playoffs MAY start on Thursday June 18th, 2026.



OTHER INFO

- Schedules
 - Will be posted on-line - Coaches will receive an email Notification
- RAMP
 - UPDATE Coach/Contact Information
- Respect in Sport - Safe Sport Canada
 - One coach from each GEMSA team is required to complete either or of these courses online.



Questions?

