



Fall Softball Rules



GENERAL INFORMATION

Pre-Season Practice

The head coach of your child's team will conduct practices during the days following team assignments and prior to the start of regular season play. Each head coach will have a practice schedule and you should assist your child in maintaining regular attendance. The players' skill, development and playing positions may depend upon this period of instruction.

League Play and Practice

During the WAA Fall season, each team will play 1 game each week on Sunday. In addition, practices will be scheduled during the week **at the discretion of the head coach but limited to 1 per week**. Many head coaches could use some help at practice, please offer your assistance. Parents who have some knowledge of the game of baseball and softball will find some modifications in the rules as played by WAA. Rules and strategy are altered for reasons of safety, size of the playing field, the size of the children and their ability. All rules are contained in this booklet.

Canceling Games and Rainouts

- **Rainouts** – In the event of inclement weather OR poor field conditions, **the ONLY way game or field cancellations will be communicated is via our website at www.waasports.org**. Please go to the home page of the WAA website. www.waasports.org. Under "Quick Links", the first link is the "WAA Rainout Line". Click on the link and it will take you to all the field locations WAA is using. Scroll through the list to find your field. Green means "It's a GO, Yellow means "pending", Red means "Cancelled".

Our goal is to update the status of game fields by **4:30pm** weekdays, **9am** on Saturday or as soon as we know about the playability of the field. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE WAA OFFICE. We update the status as soon as crews contact us. Typically, we will not cancel games due to a weather forecast. Please note that all coaches and parents may download the free Rainout Line App, or sign up for email or text alerts for your team's specific fields. Sign up is easy and located on the left side of the Rainout Line status page. After 4:30 PM, continue to check the Rainout Line, but in most cases cancellations after 4:30, will be based on a game time decision at the field by the umpires and coaches

Uniforms

All players must be in full uniform or they will not be permitted to play. A full uniform consists of the following:

1. Team jersey, and socks will be provided by WAA for:
 - ♦ All Softball Rec levels: 1st/2nd, 3rd/4th, 5th/6th, 7th/8th Grades
2. Players need to provide plain white/gray baseball pants or softball shorts. A decision can wait on color until after team decides so they look uniform.
3. Players must provide a glove.
4. **NEW in 2022, ALL Infield players will be REQUIRED to provide and wear a protective fielding mask.**



3rd & 4th GRADE SOFTBALL RULES **(Player and Coach Pitch)**

A. Field Dimensions

- ♦ The diamond will have sixty (60) foot base lines.
- ♦ The pitcher's plate will be thirty-five (35) feet from home plate.

B. Equipment

- ♦ **NEW in 2022, ALL Infield players will be REQUIRED to provide and wear a protective fielding mask.**
- ♦ Each player must furnish her own glove.
- ♦ No metal or screw on cleats allowed.
- ♦ WAA will provide the players shirt and socks.
- ♦ Teams can decide on their own pant/shorts color so they look uniform.
- ♦ All shirts must be tied at the waist or tucked in.
- ♦ Batting helmets must worn by players while in the on-deck circle, batting, running the bases and the coach's box.
- ♦ ASA / USSA approved fast pitch softball bats only.
- ♦ The home team will supply an (11) inch "Hard" yellow softball as provided by WAA.
- ♦ The home team will supply the bases and pitching plate.
- ♦ The catcher must wear a mask, shin guards, chest protector with a protective flap, and a catcher's helmet as provided by WAA.

C. Games

- ♦ Games will be 1:45 in length. No inning will start after the 1:45 time limit has been reached.
- ♦ All games will be scheduled for six (6) innings.
- ♦ Each half inning will consist of three (3) outs or four (4) runs whichever occurs first.
- ♦ The score will be kept, but standings will not be maintained.
- ♦ The home team will always occupy the dug out on the 3rd base side of the field.
- ♦ Rescheduling games can be done by contacting the WAA office. Every attempt should be made to play the game as scheduled.

D. Positions

- ♦ A team on the field will consist of ten (10) players. First baseman, second baseman, shortstop, third baseman, pitcher, catcher, and four (4) outfielders (left, left center, right center, right).
- ♦ A game can be played with as few as eight (8) players. If either team has less than 8 players, an attempt should be made to balance the teams so the game may be played.
- ♦ Each player must play at least three (3) innings in the field and must bat as scheduled within the lineup prepared before the game.
 - *Each player is given a batting position regardless if she plays in the field or sits out an inning.*
 - *Each player must have an opportunity to play infield and outfield in every game.*
- ♦ Except for the pitcher, a player may not play the same position for more than two (2) innings in a game.
- ♦ Fielders must play in their designated position until the ball is hit. Over loading fielders to one side of the field is not allowed.
- ♦ Outfielders must all play in standard outfield positions (on the grass where applicable) and are not allowed to cover a base to gain a force out.

E. Batting

- ♦ A batter will be called out if she throws the bat. The umpire's decision is final.
- ♦ There are NO walks.



- ♦ Bunting is allowed.
- ♦ A batter is awarded 1st base when hit by a pitched ball.
- ♦ On deck batter must be in the batter's box behind the hitter. If a left-handed hitter is up, on deck batter must be on first base side.

F. Base Running

- ♦ All bases must be held until the ball reaches the plate.
- ♦ Base runners may steal when the pitched ball reaches the plate.
- ♦ There will be no stealing home.
- ♦ The infield fly rule will not apply.
- ♦ On any infield overthrow the base runner may only advance one base and the ball will be considered dead.
- ♦ Sliding is encouraged to avoid injury.
- ♦ The umpire can rule the play dead if the ball comes in from the field and is then within a six foot radius of the pitching mound.

G. Pitching

- ♦ Players will pitch each inning, until batter has reached 4 balls, at which point the coach of the team at bat will finish pitching to the batter. Strikes will carry over, and NO WALKS will be issued. Once batter has finished her "at bat", coach will allow player to begin pitching to next batter.
- ♦ There are NO walks.
- ♦ No individual player will pitch more than 3 innings per game.
- ♦ A coach or assistant coach will pitch to his/her own team.
- ♦ The player at the pitching position, when the coach is pitching will stand within 2 steps to the side of the coach. Right-handed player to the right, left handed player to the left.
- ♦ The coach, when pitching, will wear a glove for protection.
- ♦ The coach will pitch underhand and at approximately the same speed as that of the players.
- ♦ The catcher will be encouraged to throw the ball back to the player at the pitching position.
- ♦ The batter must either hit the ball into play or strike out in this situation.
- ♦ Any ball touched by the adult pitcher is live and "in play".

H. Modified Pitching

- ♦ Pitchers will take a position with both feet on the ground and in contact with the pitchers plate.
- ♦ The pitcher may use any windup desired, provided:
 - She does not continue to wind up after releasing the ball.
 - She does not pitch behind their back or between their legs.
 - It is a continuous motion.
 - No sling shot deliveries.
 - Windmill is permitted.

I. Coaching

- ♦ The batting team is allowed a 1st base coach, 3rd base coach and an on deck coach.
- ♦ The fielding team is allowed one coach on the field for the first 3 games. All other coaches must remain within the dugout area and supervise the remaining players.
- ♦ The head coach is responsible for maintaining order on the sideline and keeping equipment and players seated behind the bench lines (dug out).
- ♦ All coaching must be positive and instructional, not vulgar, critical or demeaning. Coaches who are abusive to players must be reported to the Softball Director. Abusive behavior will not be tolerated.
- ♦ Set a good example of sportsmanship in all game situations.
- ♦ Any coaches who will not adhere to WAA rules, policies and philosophy will be asked to step aside for the remainder of the season.
- ♦ Coaches are not permitted to smoke or chew tobacco products during games or practices.



J. Umpire

- ♦ One umpire will be scheduled and provided by the league.
- ♦ The umpires' decision is final. THERE WILL BE NO PROTESTS.
- ♦ Softball rules for modified play will prevail where not previously stated or replaced herein.
- ♦ If league umpires are not present each team will furnish one adult umpire. The field and plate umpires will alternate positions after 3 field innings. In this situation the plate umpire will call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher.



5th & 6th GRADE SOFTBALL RULES

A. Field Dimensions

- ♦ The distance between bases will be sixty (60) feet going from home to first and so on.
- ♦ The pitchers plate will be forty (40) feet from home plate.

B. Equipment

- ♦ **NEW in 2022, ALL Infield players will be REQUIRED to provide and wear a protective fielding mask.**
- ♦ Each player must furnish her own glove.
- ♦ No metal or screw on cleats allowed.
- ♦ WAA will provide the players shirt and socks.
- ♦ Teams can decide on their own pants/shorts color so they all look uniform.
- ♦ All shirts must be tied at the waist or tucked in.
- ♦ Batting helmets must worn by players while in the on-deck circle, batting, running the bases and the coach's box.
- ♦ ASA / USSA approved fast pitch softball bats only.
- ♦ The home team will supply a twelve (12) inch "Hard" yellow softball as provided by WAA.
- ♦ The home team will supply the bases and pitching plate.
- ♦ The catcher must wear a mask, shin guards, chest protector with a protective flap, and a catcher's helmet as provided by WAA.

C. Games

- ♦ Games will be 1:45 in length. No inning will start after the 1:45 time limit has been reached.
- ♦ All games will be scheduled for six (6) innings. A seventh (7th) inning can be played if the game is tied after six (6) innings and the overall time limit has not been exceeded.
- ♦ Each half inning will consist of three (3) outs or five (5) runs whichever occurs first.
- ♦ The score will be kept, but standings will not be maintained.
- ♦ The home team will always occupy the dug out on the 3rd base side of the field.
- ♦ Rescheduling games can be done by contacting the WAA office. Every attempt should be made to play the game as scheduled.

D. Positions

- ♦ A team on the field will consist of nine (9) players: First baseman, second baseman, shortstop, third baseman, pitcher, catcher, and three (3) outfielders (left, center, right).
- ♦ A game can be played with as few as eight (8) players. If either team has less than 8 players, an attempt should be made to balance the teams so the game may be played.
- ♦ Each player must play at least three (3) innings in the field and must bat as scheduled within the lineup prepared before the game.
 - *Note: Each player is given a batting position regardless if she plays in the field or sits out an inning.*
 - *Each player must have an opportunity to play infield and outfield in every game.*
- ♦ Except for the pitcher, a player may not play the same position for more than two (2) innings in a game.
- ♦ Fielders must play in their designated position until the ball is hit. Over loading fielders to one side of the field is not allowed.
- ♦ Outfielders must all play in standard outfield positions (on the grass where applicable) and are not allowed to cover a base to gain a force out.

E. Pitching

- ♦ Coach pitch is left to the coach's discretion, and will be used ONLY when a team has exhausted all player pitching options.



- ♦ No individual player will pitch more than four (4) innings per game. The adult pitcher cannot walk in a run with the bases loaded. The batter must either hit the ball into play or strike out in this situation.
- ♦ The adult pitcher cannot walk 2 batters in a row, regardless of the number of runners on base. The batter must either hit the ball into play or strike out in this situation.
- ♦ Any ball touched by the adult pitcher is live and "in play".

F. Modified Pitching

- ♦ Pitchers will take a position with both feet on the ground and in contact with the pitchers plate.
- ♦ The pitcher may use any windup desired, provided:
 - She does not continue to wind up after releasing the ball.
 - She does not pitch behind their back or between their legs.
 - It is a continuous motion.
 - No sling shot deliveries.
 - Windmill is permitted.

G. Batting

- ♦ A batter will be called out if she throws the bat. The umpire's decision is final.
- ♦ Bunting is allowed.
- ♦ A batter is awarded 1st base when hit by a pitched ball.
- ♦ A dropped 3rd strike rule is not in effect.
- ♦ The infield fly rule will be in effect.
- ♦ On deck batter must be in the batter's box behind the hitter. If a left-handed hitter is up, on deck batter must be on first base side.

H. Base Running

- ♦ All bases must be held until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- ♦ Runners may advance on a passed ball. Only one base can be advanced on each passed ball.
- ♦ When attempting to steal, the runner cannot leave the base they occupy until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- ♦ The infield fly rule will apply.
- ♦ On any infield overthrow the base runner may only advance one base and the ball will be considered dead.
- ♦ Sliding is encouraged to avoid injury. A base runner shall be called out for failing to slide and causing a collision.
- ♦ Runner may steal home on a passed ball.

I. Coaching

- ♦ The batting team is allowed a 1st base coach, 3rd base coach and an on-deck coach.
- ♦ All coaching must be positive and instructional, not vulgar, critical or demeaning. Coaches who are abusive to players must be reported to the Softball Director. Abusive behavior will not be tolerated.
- ♦ Set a good example of sportsmanship in all game situations.
- ♦ Any coaches who will not adhere to WAA rules, policies and philosophy will be asked to step aside for the remainder of the season.
- ♦ Coaches are not permitted to smoke or chew tobacco products during games or practices.

J. Umpire

- ♦ Umpires will be scheduled and provided by the league.
- ♦ The umpire is responsible for:
 - ♦ Determining when each play has ended and when the ball is dead.
 - ♦ Calling fair and foul balls.
 - ♦ Calling all outs.



- ♦ Calling balls and strikes.
- ♦ Determining base runner movement.
- ♦ Rules interpretation, are not to be argued on the field. The umpire has the final say. A review process will be set up post season to make corrective actions for the future.
- ♦ If league umpires are not present, each team will furnish one adult umpire. The field and plate umpire will alternate after 3 full innings. In this situation, balls and strikes will be called from behind the pitcher.



7th & 8th GRADE SOFTBALL RULES

All rules will follow the current USA Softball fast pitch rule book unless noted. (Rule book in packet)

7-8 Grade Softball will USA Softball Rules for 14U with noted exceptions:

- Metal cleats are NOT allowed
- 40' pitcher's mound
- Full roster batting order
- Open substitution
- Courtesy runner for the catcher

General Rules

1. **NEW in 2022, ALL Infield players will be REQUIRED to provide and wear a protective fielding mask.**
2. A team shall field nine (9) players, but may play with eight (8). Any team not able to field eight (8) players within 15 minutes of the scheduled game time shall forfeit the game. A team playing with eight (8) players will record an out when the 9th position in the batting order comes to bat.
3. The first team listed on the schedule is the HOME team and will occupy the 3rd base dugout.
4. The HOME team is responsible for placing all bases and pitchers' plate on the field. They shall also be responsible for putting them back in the equipment box and ensuring the ball field/dugouts are clear of any debris.
5. Pitching distance is forty (40) feet.
6. No inning will start after the 1:45 time limit has been reached.
7. If after 7 innings and the score is tied, extra innings may be played within the time limit. If the time limit expires and the score is tied, the game will be recorded as a tie.
8. Players arriving after the game has begun will be added to the end of the batting order.
9. Every player must play at least one (1) innings in the field for a four (4) inning or less game.
10. Every player must play at least three (3) innings in the field.
11. Teams are limited to five (5) runs per inning.
12. Pitchers may not pitch more than five (5) innings in a game.

Managers shall be responsible for keeping their coaches, players and spectators from shouting or making derogatory comments to players on both teams and umpires. Use of profane language by anyone associated with the team will not be tolerated!



Each participating program has a Code of Conduct for players, coaches and parents. The Code of Conduct rules are to be enforced by the team's parent program.