



2026 WASHINGTON Youth Sports Associations

Exceptions to the Rules and Regulations.

Revised August 2025

Union/Washington (UWA) Youth Sports Rules Committee formed January 2025



This book is the Exceptions to the Rules found in the official USSSA Baseball and Softball rulebooks. (If not listed below – Rules default to USSSA Rulebooks)

Goals of Rec Softball

The main goal of rec softball is to provide a fun and safe environment for players to learn and enjoy the game. Recreational softball leagues may focus on developing basic skills or providing opportunities for players to play in a more relaxed environment.

CONTENTS

Universal Rules for All Divisions	1
Definition of Terms.....	4
Team Selection and Assignment	3
Coed T-Ball Division	5
Softball Division Rules	6
Pixie Division.....	6
Petite 1 Division	7
Petite 2 Division	8
Chic Division	8
Sophomore Division.....	8
Debutante Division.....	8
Umpires Rules and Regulations.....	9

DIVISIONS

PLEASE NOTE: Ages below are references. Players sign up by Age Range on sign-up form.

Coed T-Ball Division	4 years old
Pixie Division.....	5 & 6 years old
Petite 1 Division	7 & 8 years old
Petite 2 Division	9 & 10 years old
Chic Division	11 thru 13 years old
Sophomore/Debutante Division	14 – 18 years old

RAINOUT HOTLINES

MARTHASVILLE PARK..... (636)433-2204
HERMANN FIELD WYSA NOTIFICATIONS
DUTZOW FIELD..... (636)433-5656
ST. CLAIR FIELD WYSA NOTIFICATIONS
NEW HAVEN FIELD..... (573)237-2233
UNION FIELDS..... WYSA NOTIFICATIONS

WASHINGTON RAINOUT

Check “Field Status” on our homepage at washmosports.com We will post updates for all fields/all organizations on our website or check our Facebook page for updates

Washington Youth Sports Association

UNIVERSAL RULES FOR ALL DIVISIONS (EXCLUDING COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS)

1. All players must wear "closed toe" shoes. The shoes must be the type generally considered as safe, those without hooks or snaps, which can cause injuries. Molded athletic shoes are acceptable. Metal spikes or cleats are prohibited except in the Soph/Debutante Divisions. If an agreement cannot be reached, contact the respective division chief.
2. First team listed on the schedule will be the home team. It will be the home team's responsibility to keep an accurate count of the score.
3. Game times may vary. (Generally)
Game times will begin at 6:15pm and 7:30pm or 8:15pm during the week, and afternoon and evening times on the weekend. A new inning will not start if the time limit has been reached. If the last out in an inning is recorded prior to the time limit ending or the 80-minute mark, a new inning shall be started. A new inning shall be started even if a team cannot catch up. If the visiting team is behind and cannot catch up when the time limit is reached. Last batter can be called by the home umpire. If the home team is behind and cannot catch up, the bottom of the inning should still be played out. If the first game extends past the time listed, the second game will start as soon as possible after the end of the first game with no infield practice for either team. The time limit of all games will be 1 hour and 30 minutes from the beginning of each game. Exceptions: Pixie, and T-Ball games will have a 1-hour time limit,
4. Protests: A protest may be filed for Age, Pitching Violation, and rule interpretations only. Protests must be declared to the Umpire in Charge prior to the next pitch after the dispute and then shall be put in writing and given to the umpires before they leave the field. No protests will be allowed after the game is over unless the disputed call is the last play of the game. Then the protest must be declared as explained above. League officials will rule on the protest, and their decision will be final. A \$25 protest fee MUST be paid at the time the protest is filed and will be returned only if the protest is upheld.
5. Fielding Players & Subs: Each team is expected to field the normal number of players for their division at the scheduled time to play. The game will be allowed to start as an official game with 8 players. The 9th spot in the batting order WILL NOT be an automatic out. (T-Ball and Coach Pitch divisions may play with less than 8)

In the event a team cannot field 8 players within 5 minutes after the scheduled starting time of the game, the game will be a forfeit. (Does not apply to T-Ball/Coach Pitch)

No substitution of non-rostered players may be made after the game has started. If, for any reason, the number of players falls below the required number after the game has started, the game may be played.

If a player leaves the game due to injury or illness, his position in the batting order "may" be skipped and no out will be recorded. If the manager elects to skip the "at bat" with no recorded out, then the player is not allowed return in this game. (Changed 2018)

A team can select no more than 2 stand-in players from a "equal or lower" division to bring the team to the normal number of players. Example. **Stand in Players MUST from the same division or lower and from a roster within the same organization. Players that are not registered within the town's organization are not eligible to play.**

Exceptions: Pixie division's players must come from another team in their own division. (A player on your Roster can never sit out when you are using stand in players.)

INSURANCE WILL LIKELY NOT COVER PLAYERS WHO ARE NOT ON THEIR ORGANIZATION'S ROSTERS.

Example 1: A team that can play 10 players on the field only has 9 of their own players available. Only 1 stand-in player can be used.

Example 2: A team from WYSA is short one player but only has a sub from UGSA. The UGSA player cannot sub as they are not within the same organization and will not be covered with insurance.

Stand-in players are not allowed to pitch in any pitching division. Stand-in Players "are allowed" to play in more than 1 game per day.

It is the intent of the league to provide as much enjoyment as possible for the players. If an official game cannot be played in the scheduled time slot, an unofficial game can be played providing the opposing manager agrees and it does not interfere with subsequent scheduled games. Umpires are not required to work on an unofficial game.

A rostered player arriving late for the game will not be allowed to play, under any circumstances, if the third inning has started. The late rostered player will always bat last in the batting order unless a stand-in player is replaced. If a rostered player arrives late for a game and a stand-in player is being used, provided the preceding paragraph is not violated, the stand-in will always complete an inning once they officially appear in it. The rostered player will take the stand-in player's place in the batting order.

6. All players must bat consecutively in the order selected by the manager prior to the game. Both the opposing team's scorekeeper and the official scorekeeper (home team) will copy these on their score pad prior to the start of the game. Line up cards are optional.
7. Each rostered player must play a minimum of three innings per game. This rule may be waived at the manager's discretion for disciplinary purposes, i.e. not attending practice. (Does not apply in games when only 3 innings are played)
8. Free substitution is in effect on defense only in all divisions. Washington Youth Sports Association will use a continuous batting order in all divisions.
9. Courtesy runners are allowed ONLY for the catcher when there are two outs. (Exception: Atom & Pixie Divisions – a courtesy runner is not allowed for any other runner except for medical reasons.) The courtesy runner will be the first preceding batter not on base.
10. All team rosters are determined in accordance with the special section concerning team selection and assignment.
11. Numbers are mandatory on all league uniforms, 3 inches or larger. Managers, coaches, and players will keep their shirts tucked in once the game begins. The league does not supply uniform pants or socks, and these will not be required for players to play. League supplied uniform should be worn unless there are extenuating circumstances.
12. Catchers must wear a catcher's mask and helmet, chest protector, and shin guards for all practice sessions and games. (Exception: Atom and Pixie Divisions will wear helmet, face mask, and chest protector.) All umpires except for adult umpires will wear mask, chest protector, and shin guards during all practice sessions and games.
13. An individual must have been 18 years of age prior to January 1 of the current year to manage a team. An individual must have been 16 years of age prior to January 1 of the current year to officially coach a team. An individual meeting the 18 years of age criteria must be present at all team functions. These age requirements may be bypassed if authorized by the Washington Youth Sports Association Board of Directors.
14. Any game ending in a tie at the end of regulation play may continue within the time limits set forth. If the time limit is reached. A game ends in a tie.
15. If a team member is caught throwing or tossing a bat or helmet in an unsportsmanship-like fashion, the player and the team will be warned once and a second offense by the same player will result in ejection from the game.

Atom and Pixie players throwing or tossing the bat in an unsafe manner while batting will be given a warning the first time. The second time the same player is observed throwing the bat, the player will be called out if they reach base or warned again if they are out. The third time the player is observed throwing the bat, the player will be called out and will be required to sit on the bench for the rest of the game.
16. Alcoholic beverages and/or tobacco use is not allowed on the playing field or in the dugout during a game. A game includes warm-ups prior to the game, during the contest, and immediately afterwards during equipment gathering and team meetings. Anyone involved in the contest, i.e., the manager, coaches, and players will be warned once. If not immediately stopped once the warning is issued, the game will be forfeited to the opposing team. In the event both teams are involved, the game becomes a double forfeit.
17. The officers of the board will have primary responsibility for calling a game due to inclement weather. Lightning detection devices will be kept in the concession stands. If it reaches a postponement level, a horn blast will follow. In addition, the chief umpire with the aid of both team managers can make a swift decision concerning inclement weather as well. Games should be delayed or suspended as quickly as possible during inclement weather. (Example: high winds, lightning, and darkness when lights are not available.) Games that are rescheduled due to inclement weather shall resume play where the game was initially stopped. Any game that has completed a minimum of 1 hour of play or the requirements for a complete game have been met will be considered a complete game and will not be rescheduled.
18. 20. No new inning shall be started after 80 minutes of play in a 90-minute game. (Bantam and Petite divisions and up)

YEAR END TOURNAMENT

18. During the year-end tournament, special pitching regulations will be used. For softball, pitchers in Petite 2 and Chic divisions may pitch no more than 9 innings in any 2 consecutive games. There are no limits for pitching in Sophomore or Debutante Divisions.

19. Tournament Games with inclement weather: Any game scheduled for 6 Innings will be a complete game if 3 innings have been completed and the home team is ahead after 2 ½ innings, or if the home team scores to tie the game or take the lead in the bottom half of the 3rd inning. (4 innings for games scheduled for 7 innings)

After this point, if the home team is ahead when the game is called in any subsequent inning, the game is over. If the visiting team is ahead after this point, the score will revert to the last completed inning. (Example: After 4 innings the home team is ahead 4-3. The visiting team bats in the top of 5th and scores 2 runs to lead 5-4. With 1 out in the bottom of the 5th, the game is called because of rain. Because the 5th inning was not completed, the score reverts to the score after 4 completed innings and the home team won 4-3.

20. If a **Tournament game** is in a tie after time expires. The International Tiebreaker will be imposed. Last batted out will be placed at 2nd Base

DEFINITION OF TERMS

ROSTERED PLAYER:

A rostered player is a player whose name is listed on the master list of all teams in their respective division. The Division Chief maintains the master list with a copy kept in the concession stands. EACH MANAGER WILL HAVE A LISTING OF ALL ROSTERED PLAYERS ON HIS/HER TEAM WITH THEM AT ALL GAMES. It is available for review by the plate umpire. Opposing managers may request the plate umpire to check official rosters. The game is to be forfeited if a player is not listed on the official roster.

5 RUN RULE:

NO MORE than five (5) runs can be scored in an inning, when the fifth (5th) run scores, the inning is over.

7 RUN RULE:

NO MORE than seven (7) runs can be scored in an inning, when the seventh (7th) run scores, the inning is over.

STAND IN PLAYER:

A player listed on any team's roster who has been asked by a team manager to play a game due to the absence of a normal rostered player. The player must be a current player in the Washington Youth Sports Association. (Players from other leagues such as Marthasville etc. are not eligible for WYSA teams) Our insurance WILL NOT cover players who are not on the league rosters.

Stand-in players cannot begin after play commences in the first inning. One pitch to a batter constitutes commencement of an inning.

TEAM SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT

It is the responsibility of the respective division chief to conduct the player assignments for the teams of the Washington Youth Sports Association. The protected player assignments for teams playing out of Washington, Union, St. Clair, Hermann, Dutzow, Marthasville, and New Haven will be carried out by their respective organizations.

Each Manager may select up to two Assistant Coaches. The manager and his coaches may protect no more than 6 players. (Upper divisions may protect more players. This will include the Managers/Coaches children, or a combination with the Sponsor's children. The number of players that can be saved per division are listed below.

Pixie thru Chic – 9 players can be saved.

Debutante - 12 players can be saved.

The teams will be randomly selected by League Officials. A Blind draft is recommended.

1. There **will be no trading of players for any reason.** Any manager or coach who is caught trading players will be removed from their position with the league. Teams shall not be changed for any reason without prior approval from the Washington Youth Sports Association Board of Directors.

(Continued on next page)

T-Ball Division

1. All hitters will hit the ball from a batting tee. The tee will be adjusted to such a height the batter will be able to swing level. Base Distance will be 50' Feet.
2. All players must bat consecutively in the order selected by the manager prior to the game. Both the opposing team's scorekeeper and the official scorekeeper (home team) will copy these on their scorebook prior to the start of the game.
3. No bunting is allowed.
4. Pitcher should be in contact with the rubber which will be placed at 35 feet for this division.
5. Teams will bat the entire lineup each inning. The last batter of the inning, once reaching first base safely, must continue to circle the bases until he or she is either tagged out or scores, either of which will end the inning.
6. Batting helmets must be used at bat and when on base.
7. When the ball is hit, it must go at least 5 feet, which is shown by an arc drawn from foul line to foul line.
8. Three complete misses of the ball while batting constitutes a strikeout.
9. If a batter hits part of the ball and part of the rubber tee, it is a fair ball if it goes past the 5-foot arc. If a batter hits all rubber or the ball does not go past the 5-foot arc, it is a foul ball.
10. No stealing or leading off permitted.
11. A team may play a game with only 5 players.
12. A low impact ball will be used for this division. Game balls will be supplied to the coaches at the start of the season.

Fielding:

1. Only 10 players on the field at any one time.
2. Each player present must play a minimum of 2 innings defensively.
3. Two defensive coaches may be on the field of play, but they must position themselves behind the player's positions playing the outfield. The coach cannot intentionally contact the players when the ball is in play.

Game:

1. The time limit is 1 hour.
2. A regulation game will be 6 innings long if time permits.

SOFTBALL DIVISION RULES

(Spring Recreational League)

1. Fast pitch softball will be played. Exceptions: Pixie will be Coach Pitch; Petite 1 will be pitching machine.
2. The normal number of players the team is expected to field is 10.
3. Protective head gear with Facemask will be worn while batting and running the bases. Players are automatically out if this rule is not complied with, i.e., a pitch is thrown, and player is not wearing her helmet. No exceptions
4. Only one player other than the batter and baserunners may be out of the dugout at any time. This player must be in the on-deck circle.

PIXIE DIVISION

1. Coach pitch will be played in this division. The game ball will be supplied by the league.
2. The distance between bases is 60 feet.
3. The normal number of players the team is expected to field is 10.
4. A pitching rubber is not mandatory.
5. The 5-run rule is in effect.
6. The infield fly rule is not in effect.
7. Two defensive coaches may be on the field of play but must position themselves behind the outfield player positions. The coach cannot intentionally contact the players when the ball is in play.
8. A player may play a position only two (2) innings in a seven-inning game. Innings may be consecutive. The league recommends rotating the players each inning.
9. Catchers are required to wear helmet, face mask, and chest protector. Shin guards are not required in this division.
10. A defensive player will be in the pitcher's position.
11. Batter will hit the ball from a coach pitched ball:
 - a) Batter must be standing in the batter's box
 - b) Coach may pitch either over hand or under hand
 - c) Batter will be limited to no more than 6 pitches. If a fair ball has not been hit after the 6 pitches, the batter is called out. 3 strikes on the batter shall be considered an out. If the batter fouls a ball on the 6th pitch, he will be allowed another pitch.
 - d) Play will end on an infield play when an out is made or an attempt on an out is made. The runners will not be allowed to advance on an overthrow. No runner can advance beyond the next base on infield play.
If the batter hits the ball beyond the base path, it is considered in the "Outfield" and the runner may take more than one base if a play has not been made with the ball.
12. Base stealing is prohibited. The runner can advance only because of the batter hitting a ball that is in play. Runners leaving the base before the ball is hit will be called out. Each team will be given one warning before a runner is called out. A grace period will be observed at the beginning of the season, of which will end at the beginning of the 2nd week of June.
13. Stand in players must come from the Pixie Division. No more than 2 stand in players may be used. Stand in players must be rostered with the Washington Youth Sports Association.
14. A team may play with only 5 players.
15. WYSA does not use the Fair Ball Arc, Safety Arc, or Pitching Line or Circle.

16. To speed up play; An assistant coach or parent will stand behind catcher to retrieve pass balls to give back to coach pitching.

PETITE 1 DIVISION

1. Game balls will be supplied by the league and will be a 10-inch ball.
2. The normal number of players the team is expected to field is 11.
3. The 5-run rule is in effect.
4. The infield fly rule is not in effect.
5. A pitching machine will be used instead of a human pitcher. The machine will be placed such that its discharge point is 35 feet from the plate. The machine will be set in a 6-foot diameter circle for the defense. When the batted ball strikes the machine or the ball feeder, the ball is considered a dead ball. The batter is awarded first base. If a ball is touched by or thrown by a defensive player and the ball hits the machine, the ball is in play. The umpire can declare the ball dead to prevent dangerous play around the machine as necessary.
6. Umpire discretion is used to adjust the machine. The managers may request an adjustment after the completion of a half-inning. The machine will be checked after being hit by a batted ball. If at such time that the machine begins throwing consistently outside the strike zone and the umpire does not attempt to correct the problem after three pitches, the managers should call time out and confer with the umpire to correct the problem. (The object is for the batter to put the ball in play, there are no walks, thus more pitches will only delay the game and prevent the batter from putting the ball into play.) The suggested machine settings are: Micro: "3" Release Block: "3" Power Level: "3"
7. The manager, coach, or a designated person on the batting team will insert the ball into the pitching machine rather than the umpire. If the pitching machine malfunctions, the game will be called the same as if it were rained out.
8. A defensive player will be placed on each side of the pitching machine with their foot touching the player lines that extend from the circle itself.
9. Each batter will be limited to no more than "6" pitches. If a fair ball is not hit after 6 pitches, the batter is out. If the batter hits a foul ball on the 6th pitch, she will be allowed another pitch. Three strikes on the batter will be considered an out. If the batter fouls a ball on the 6th pitch, he will be allowed another pitch.
Any ball that hits the pitching machine or is called dead because it lands in the circle will not be counted as a pitch.
10. The batter is out on the third strike whether the catcher catches the ball or not.
11. Runners cannot leave the base until the bat contacts the ball. Runners leaving the base before the ball is hit will be called out. Each team will be given a warning for their first offense.
12. The ball feeder may coach the batter but may not coach the runners.
13. Players may play in the same position for only three innings.
14. A defensive coach may be on the outfield.
15. Batters must stop at 2nd base on a hit. Runners may advance only 2 bases on any hit. (Example runner on first may advance to third, runner on second may advance home)
16. To speed up play; An assistant coach or parent will stand behind catcher to retrieve pass balls to give back to coach who is pitching.

(Continued on next page)

PETITE 2 DIVISION

1. The normal number of players the team is expected to field is 10.
2. The 5-run rule is in effect.
3. This division will use live pitching and will have a pitching distance of 35 feet. The game ball will be an 11-inch ball and will be supplied by the league. The pitcher must have their pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate and their non-pivot foot in contact with or behind the pitcher's plate.
4. The batter is out on the third strike whether the catcher catches the ball or not.
5. Runners leaving the base too soon will be called out. Each team will be given a warning for the first offense. Runners cannot leave the base until the ball reaches the batter.
6. Stealing is not allowed. This includes advancing past first on a walk, wild pitches, passed balls, and catcher's overthrow back to the mound.
7. Players may play the same position for only three innings including pitcher.
8. The infield fly rule is not in effect.

CHIC DIVISION

1. The pitching distance is 40 feet. The game ball is a 12-inch ball and will be supplied by the league. The pitcher must have their pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate and their non-pivot foot in contact with or behind the pitcher's plate.
2. The 5-run rule is in effect.
3. A batter may run on a dropped third strike.
4. Runners may leave the base after the pitcher releases the ball. Any runner who leaves the base too soon will be called out.
5. The normal number of players a team is expected to field is 10.

DEBUTANTE DIVISION

1. The pitching distance will be 43 feet. The game ball will be a 12-inch ball and will be supplied by the league.
2. The 7-run rule is in effect. (Teams may only score 7 runs per inning)
3. The normal number of players a team is expected to field is 10.
4. Runners may leave the base after the pitcher releases the ball. Any runner that leaves the base too soon will be called out.

UMPIRE RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Training is mandatory for all umpires.
2. Two times missed without notification to the umpire Chief is grounds for dismissal. At least one-hour notification is required.
3. If there is a complaint about a manager or coach's behavior, the umpire is to note problem on the back of the game card.
4. If there is a complaint about an umpire, designate the problem on the back of the game card, or report problem directly to the division chief. The game card is to be signed by both teams. The score is to be recorded on the game card. The card must be signed by each umpire and score recorded or you will NOT be paid for that game!!!
5. Umpires are to arrive 1/2 hour before game time for the purpose of field preparation, which includes putting the bases at their proper location, as well as the pitching machine.
6. Just before the game begins, the home plate umpire will inform both coaches of the time at the start of the game and the time at which no new inning will begin. All games will observe the time limit rule.
7. It is the duty of the field umpire to remove the bases, pitching machine, and extension cord and place them in the storage area. The home plate umpire is to assist in this once his assignment is complete.
8. If the umpires need help in removing the pitching machine from the field, it is advised that they get help from the coaches or managers. Umpires will rechalk as needed between games.
9. Proper uniform for umpires in the Juvenile and Sophomore Division will be gray slacks, black belt, navy blue shirt, (button type with collar) black shoes and socks. All other umpires will wear a navy-blue shirt, button type with collar and khaki shorts. The umpire patch will be worn on the left sleeve. No short shorts or shorts with holes, patches, or tears will be permitted, likewise with jeans.

If a baseball cap is worn, the cap will not be worn backwards. The bill on the cap must be facing forward.
10. All umpires will bring with them a ball and strike indicator, a watch, and two-inch paint brush for the purpose of keeping home plate clean. Umpires are not allowed to text or use their Cell Phone during the Game!!! You may remove it momentarily to check for time limit but there will be no other exceptions!!!
11. The umpire(s) will place themselves in what they feel is the best location for them to call the game.

Washington Youth Sports Association reserves the right to dismiss anyone who has not conducted themselves in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth.