

Waxahachie Youth Baseball/Softball Association

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Prepared by WYSA Board of Directors 2026



2026 Rules Instruction Manual

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PLEASE REMEMBER

- The Waxahachie Youth Softball Association (WYSA) has adopted the rules outlined by USA Softball, except where stated otherwise by the WYSA governing body.
- Programs listed are Softball: **6U Modified T-ball, 8U coach pitch, 10U, 12U and 14U/16U**
- For rule, regulation, and policy updates throughout the season visit <https://waxahachieyouthbaseball.org/downloads>
- Significant changes will be identified by this shaded background

WYSA REGULATIONS

REGULATION I – THE LEAGUE

WYBA/WYSA is made up of an 18-member Board of Directors, contact information can be found at the link attached below.

<https://waxahachieyouthbaseball.org/content/456/Board-of-Directors>

WYBA/WYSA screens every coach (18 and older) with a criminal background check before coaches are assigned to coach a team. [Background checks are rechecked every 2 years]

REGULATIONS II – THE TEAMS

If a medical professional determines that a player sustains a possible concussion, the player must at minimum be removed from the game and/or practice, and in turn not return to play or practice without medical release combined with acknowledgement from parent.

WYSA stands strongly behind the safety of every player. We encourage all parents, coaches and directors to not only comply and review the information and training materials on concussions that are available at no cost on the Center of Disease Control website, via the link listed below.

<https://search.cdc.gov/search/?query=concussion&page=1>

REGULATIONS III – THE PLAYERS

AGE AND TEAM FORMATION:

- a) 6u Modified T-Ball: Any player who will reach the age of 4 by September 1 and who will not reach the age of 8 before August 31 of the year in question are eligible to play in this division. (subject to ASA age requirements and WYSA Board of Directors)
- b) 8U Coach Pitch: Any player who will reach the age of 7 by September 1 and who will not reach the age of 10 before August 31 of the year in question are eligible to play in this division. (subject to ASA age requirements and WYSA Board of Directors)
- c) 10U: Any player who will reach the age of 9 by September 1 and who will not reach the age of 12 before August 31 of the year in question are eligible to play in this division. (subject to ASA age requirements and WYSA Board of Directors)
- d) 12U: Any player who will reach the age of 11 by September 1 and who will not reach the age of 14 before August 31 of the year in question are eligible to play in this division. (subject to ASA age requirements and WYSA Board of Directors)
- e) 14U/16U: Any player who will reach the age of 13 by September 1 and who will not reach the age of 17 before August 31 of the year in question are eligible to play in this division. (subject to ASA age requirements and WYSA Board of Directors)

NOTE: All players will play within their proscribed age group, unless approved by a WYBA/WYSA Board Member. [Players are not allowed to play below their age group and are not allowed to play more than one age group above their current age group]

NOTE: WYSA follows ASA Softball age cutoff rules, the cutoff date is August 31 of the prior year.

- a) Teams are NOT allowed to "borrow" or add a player to the game that are not on the current seasons roster for any reason. *Players will NOT be allowed to play if they do not have their team jersey UNLESS previously approved by the Softball Vice President, this will be a case by base, game by game exception* Any team caught breaking this rule will take an automatic forfeit.
- b) Each Spring season, players will be required to participate in evaluations. Players that do not participate in evaluations will be given the top available grade. 3
- c) In the Spring season coaches will complete rostered teams by drafting all available players

- c) In the Summer and Fall season available players will be assigned to teams with open roster spots. [assignments will be made at the division director's discretion]
- d) Select teams are welcome to join WYSA and will be placed in the highest division available.

REGULATIONS IV – GAME RULES

EQUIPMENT:

- a) Ball type:
 - *6U Modified T-ball, 8U, 10U – 11-inch yellow USA stamped softball
 - *12U, 14U/16U – 12-inch USA stamped softball
- b) Bat type: USA certified youth softball bats are required
 - *6U Modified T-ball – no big barrel baseball bats are allowed. T-ball or youth softball bat only
- c) FACE MASK/GUARDS: Any defensive player or offensive player may wear a face mask/guard. Face masks/guards that are cracked or deformed, or if padding has deteriorated or is missing, are prohibited. (2024 USA Softball Rules, page 39)
- d) Catchers gear is required for all players while playing catcher's position
 - *6U Modified T-ball and 8U – catchers must wear helmet (can be a batting helmet), shin guards and chest protectors are not required but can still be worn [this rule is by umpire's discretion]

SCORING:

- a) For all WYSA divisions: there is a 6 runs per inning rule. i.e. a team can not score more than 6 runs in a single inning
- b) For all WYSA divisions: The Mercy Rule of 12 runs after 3 innings and 7 runs after 4 innings is applied
- c) For all WYSA divisions: ties are allowed. EXCEPTION - Tournament Championship Games – *6U winner will be determined by the total number of outs during the game. *8U-14U/16U games will continue after time expiration until a winner is determined by score
- d) The home team is responsible for keeping the official score book and working the scoreboard

LINEUPS:

- a) Lineups are to be completed by each team and exchanged before the start of the game
- b) Each team is required to have 7 players to start the game [one out will be assessed for teams playing with 7 players] Coach's decision during league play but Tournament play will outs for 8th and 9th batters.
- c) If a team is unable to field 7 players, they are required to forfeit the game and it will be scored as a loss [if the teams have the desire to continue to play, scrimmage play is acceptable with the forfeiting team still taking the loss]
- d) Players that arrive late must be rostered at the end of the batting lineup [Game time will not be delayed by more than 5 minutes for late players]. Games will be normal time length even if started 5 minutes late.

GAME LENGTH:

- a) 6U Modified T-ball – 60 minutes
- b) 8U, 10U – 70 minutes
- c) 12U, 14U/16U – 80 minutes

COACH PITCH BATTING AND BASE RUNNING RULES:

- a) All players will bat in a continuous batting order (all players will bat) and play under the free substitution rule
- b) Batting order will remain the same unless a player is injured [the injured player is scratched from the roster]

- c) 8u-A batter shall be declared out after failing to hit a fair ball after 6 pitches or 3 missed swing strikes occur [whichever comes first] If batter fouls off 6th pitch, she continues batting until fair ball or missed pitch for strikeout.
6U – 3 balls will be pitched by the coach. If the batter fails to hit a fair ball off the coach, the batter will have 3 attempts from the tee. If the batter still fails to hit off of the tee, they will be counted out
- d) Walks are not awarded in coach pitch
- e) Hit by pitch is counted as a ball [if it is the final pitch the batter will be out]
- f) A batted ball striking the coach pitcher is considered a dead ball and is treated as a foul ball and a pitch for the batter
- g) No lead-offs or stealing is allowed in coach pitch. 8u can lead off after the pitch but cannot steal. Runners can advance at their own risk on overthrows of hit balls
- h) 6u If the ball is hit off pitcher(coach) and pitcher over throws 1st base, the batter and all runners on base can run until they stop or score or ball reaches the circle. If ball is hit off the tee and pitcher over throws the ball at 1st base, then the batter can only go to 2nd base if they choose with liability to put out but all other runners can advance until they stop or score or ball reaches the circle.
- i) 8U If the ball is over thrown to first, then the batter can progress bases until the ball is back inside the pitcher circle and/or play stoppage is called.

COACH PITCH DEFENSIVE RULES:

- a) No more than 10 defensive players may play the field on defense
- b) Every infield position must be filled
- c) Catchers must set up in the catcher's box no more than 4 feet behind home plate
- d) Infielders MUST be positioned behind the pitcher's plate [for safety, the pitcher's plate is set at 35 feet]
- e) 4 outfielders must be used if 10 or more players are present at the game. Outfielders MUST be positioned behind the base path
- f) NO player can sit out defensively more than 2 innings
- g) 6U & 8U - Pitcher must throw the ball to make the out at first and home

THE COACH PITCHER:

- a) MUST pitch from the pitcher's circle and keep one foot inside the circle until the ball is thrown.
- b) MUST pitch from the standing position
- c) MAY coach the players at any time before the pitch is thrown, including the coaching of the player at bat and coaching before the play is progressed. Coach pitcher may begin communications/coaching after play is ruled dead or stopped
- d) MUST leave the field of play immediately after the ball is batted. The coach pitcher must exit the OPPOSITE side from the batted ball. The coach pitcher must remain in foul territory on either the first or third base side until the play is over. The coach pitcher may not be positioned behind the plate in foul territory
- e) Failure to comply with these rules will result in the following:
 - a. after first warning > coach pitcher will be replaced
- f) MUCH not intentionally interfere with play. If it is determined intentional interference occurred, it will result in immediate replacement of the coach pitcher

BATTING AND BASE RUNNING RULE

- a) All players will bat in a continuous batting order (all players will bat) and play under the free substitution rule
- b) Batting order will remain the same unless a player is injured [the injured player will be scratched from the roster]
- c) If a batter is hit by the pitcher, it will be counted as an automatic first base
- d) If a pitcher hits more than 4 batters, in a single game, they must be pulled from pitching for the

remainder of the game. They may play other positions. [EXEMPTION OF 10U, 6 hit batter limit]

- e) Leadoffs and stealing bases are allowed once the pitcher releases the ball.
- f) Drop 3rd strike is when the catcher fails to catch the 3rd strike and the ball touches the ground [Fewer than two outs and first base is unoccupied at the time of the pitch or there are two outs]
- g) The look back rule – a runner may lead off the base or round a base, once the pitcher is within the circle the runner has seconds to decide whether to go back to their previous bag or steal the next base. If the runner is standing too long off the base and the pitcher has made no effort to attempt to throw the runner out, this is considered an out
- h) Sliding is acceptable if a play is being made at the base they are attempting to reach [EXCEPTION BEING RUNNING TO FIRST BASE]
- i) Batters running to first base must use the orange bag when running through

DEFENSIVE RULES [NOT COACH PITCH]:

- a) No more than 9 defensive players may play the field on defense
- b) Every infield position must be filled
- c) Catcher must set up in the catcher's box no more than 4 feet behind home plate
- d) No player can sit out defensively more than 2 innings
- e) Infielders MUST be positioned behind the pitchers' plate [for safety the pitcher's plate is set at 40 feet]

PLAY STOPPAGE:

- a) Play stoppage is at the umpire's discretion and is not subject to appeal
 - *6U Modified T-ball – play stops when the ball is thrown to the pitcher's circle. If the runners on base are running and they are more than halfway to the next base when the ball crosses the pitching circle, they will be awarded the base. If the runner has not made it halfway to the next base when the ball crosses into the pitching circle, they will be required to return to their current base.
 - *8U – Play stops when the pitcher has secured the ball inside the pitcher's circle. The ball MUST be in the glove and the pitcher STANDING in the circle. If the runners on base are running and they are more than halfway to the next base when the ball is secured, they will be awarded the base. If the runner has not made it halfway to the next base when the ball is secured, they will be required to return to their current base.
- b) Play stops when the defense has secured the ball OR the lead runner is not attempting to advance. *All age groups will follow this rule*
- c) Overthrows will not result in any kind of stoppage
 - *8U Coach Pitch, 10U, 12U, 14U/16U EXCEPTION – if the ball is thrown into a dugout or over the fence then the runner is awarded two bases at the time of the throw. (per book rule)

REGULATIONS V – COACH RULES

- a) A total of 4 coaches per team may be positioned inside the fence perimeter
- b) No more than 6 coaches are allowed to be on the roster at any time
- c) When the team is on the defensive, 2 coaches may be in arm's length away from the dugout, the remaining 2 coaches must remain in the dugout. Exception 6u and 8u can have 2 coaches in the outfielders behind the outfielders.
- d) 6U Modified T-ball and 8U offensive coach placements:
 - 1 coach down the right field foul line, or first base
 - 1 coach down the left field foul line, or the third base
 - 1 coach pitcher
 - 1 dugout coach
- e) Coaches are not allowed, at any time, to push or grab a player to direct them to make a play

f) All coaches are required to pass a background check (every 2 years) BEFORE they will be placed on a roster to coach. NO exceptions.

REGULATIONS VI – OBJECTIVES OF THE GAME/SPORTSMANSHIP

- a) WYSA strives to positively impact our youth and communities, teaching players the core principles of softball, while also to teach life lessons to build stronger youth
- b) All players, coaches and spectators will conduct themselves properly and with respect for all others and the Waxahachie Sports Complex
- c) All players, coaches and spectators will always abide by the rules of the Waxahachie Sports Complex while on the premises
- d) Profanity, assault (whether be verbal or physical) or any other abuse of any person by another at any WYBA/WYSA sanctioned event is strictly prohibited
- e) Any WYBA/WYSA Board Member has the authority to remove any person(s) from the premises f) The Waxahachie Police Department will be immediately summoned should any player, coach or spectator become involved in a fight

REGULATIONS V – FIELD SIZE/RULES

- a) Base paths are 60 feet
- b) Pitchers plates:
 - 6U Modified T-ball – 35 feet
 - 8U – 35 feet
 - 10U – 35 feet
 - 12U – 40 feet
 - 14U/16U – 43 feet
- c) Pitchers circle is set at 8-foot radius drawn from the front edge of the pitcher's plate
- d) All rules put in place by the Waxahachie Sports Complex are required to be followed at all times while on the premises. Rules can be viewed via the link below and selecting "Sports Complex Rules and Regulations"

https://www.waxahachie.com/visit_waxahachie/waxahachie_sports_complex/index.php

