



NORTHWEST GIRLS SOFTBALL

8U Rules

UPDATED March 2023

USA Rules will be used with the following modifications:

GAME TIME BEGINS WITH FIRST WARM UP PITCH. Pitcher warm-up before the game and between innings is 5 pitches or 1 minute, whichever comes first.

ALL COACHES MUST BE ACE CERTIFIED. All coaching staff must wear their USA cards at practices and games. **An ACE certified female must be in the dugout or on the field at all times during games and practices.**

1. **No new inning after 1 hour 10 minutes. Innings begin with the last out. There will be a drop dead time limit on all games of 1 hour and 30 minutes. If a final full inning is not completed at 1 hour 30 minutes then the game score will revert back to the score from the previous fully completed inning. Player will complete at bat only if at bat can determine outcome of game.**
2. Forfeits will occur 5 minutes after game time unless prior game has run late.
3. A game will NOT be rescheduled unless it is called by the Umpire due to weather or safety issues.
4. A game that has completed three innings, or that has completed two and one-half innings with the home team ahead, will be an official game and not rescheduled if called by the umpire due to weather or safety issues.
5. Girls must be in full uniform with shirts tucked in. **Face masks are mandatory for any girl playing all infield positions.** If hats are worn, they must be "like" in color. **NO METAL CLEATS**
6. No jewelry or hard hair accessories. Sport rope necklaces are allowed.
7. Umpires and the opposing coach must have your lineup prior to the start of the game. **LINEUP CARDS MUST INCLUDE EACH PLAYER'S FIRST AND LAST NAME, JERSEY NUMBER, AND STARTING POSITION.** It is the responsibility of each team's scorekeeper to check the score with the umpire at the end of each half inning.
8. Umpires who have a conference with any player shall have a coach present.
9. Bat the bench. (All Players in attendance.)
10. Ten (10) players on the defensive playing field. The following positions will be used: pitcher, catcher, 1B, 2B, 3B, SS, R-field, R-center, L-center, L-field.

11. If there are only 8 players in attendance, the 9th position will take an out. This penalty is effective the entire game. Late arrival(s) may be inserted in the 9th position and beyond. A team may not play with 7 players.
12. Infield fly and dropped third strike rules do not apply.
13. There are no walks for the first five league games of the season. The coach of the team at bat will throw up to three pitches, depending on how many strikes are in the count when the opposing pitcher throws the fourth ball. At a 4-0 count, the coach throws up to three pitches, at 4-1 up to two pitches, and at 4-2 one pitch. If the ball is not put into play after all coach pitches are thrown, the batter is out. The coach may pitch from anywhere within the pitching circle (no closer to the plate than 8 feet in front of the pitching rubber). The pitcher may play anywhere in the pitching circle while the coach pitches, but not in front of the pitching rubber. After the first five league games, coaches no longer pitch, and batters may be walked.
14. Pitching distance is 30'.
15. Players may steal one base per pitch **with no advancement on an overthrow**. Players may not steal home.
16. Other than as stated in the immediately preceding rule, runners may advance one base on an overthrow.
17. A batter who fakes a bunt to swing will be called out.
18. A batter hit by a pitch in the air is treated as a dead ball, and the batter is awarded first base. A batter is not awarded first base if the ball hits the batter after first hitting the ground and the pitch will be called a ball, unless the batter swung.
19. Sliding is permitted and encouraged, but not mandatory.
20. Recording of Pitcher and Catcher Outs:
 - a. Pitchers and catchers may only pitch/catch 6 outs per game. This rule does not apply to tournament play. The week runs from Sunday to Saturday.
 - b. Special Rules for pitchers and catchers in an inning where the maximum runs are allowed but three outs are not recorded:
 - i. If the pitcher or catcher plays the entire inning, then each pitcher and catcher will be charged with three outs.

- ii. If the pitcher or catcher is relieved in the inning, then each pitcher and catcher is charged with the actual outs she records, but must be charged with at least one out each.
 - iii. If the pitcher or catcher is relieved in the inning and no outs are recorded, then each pitcher and catcher is charged with one out.
 - iv. If application of these rules results in a total of only two outs being assigned to all pitchers or all catchers in an inning, then the pitcher or catcher who pitched or caught the most pitches in the inning will be assigned an additional out. If the pitchers or catchers pitched or caught the same number of pitches, then the pitcher or catcher who started the inning will be assigned an additional out.
- c. Any team in violations of these rules will forfeit the game in question and the Manager will be suspended from the field for one full game.
 - d. Any pitcher or catcher who participates at those positions for 20 percent of her team's innings in a season will be labeled as such in the following season's draft.
21. Inning Run Limits: 1st inning, maximum 2 runs. 2nd inning, maximum 3 runs. 3rd and all subsequent innings, maximum 4 runs.
22. No Run Ahead Rule.
23. After game time expires, a game shall end if at any point a team cannot at least tie its opponent because of run cap rules.
24. Every girl must play two defensive innings. All substitutions must be made by the top of the 3rd inning. If any players were unable to play their 2 innings, those players must start the next game and complete any missed innings. It is the sole responsibility for the Head Coach to demonstrate proper use of players by either book or player card. A team in violation of this rule will have the Head Coach suspended from the field for one full game.
25. Commonly used softball chants by softball teams are permitted. Negative cheering that is felt to be excessive, or done to humiliate a player is not permitted, and should be brought to your Division Representative's attention to review. Any necessary disciplinary steps needed will be addressed by Vice President.

26. If the pitcher and/or catcher is on base you may utilize the courtesyrunner rule at any time, the last recorded out may run for the pitcher/catcher. If the pitcher/catcher are the last out, proceed to the next out. If there are no outs furthest away will be utilized. In the event that there are 0 outs in the first inning, the player in the lineup who is furthest away from batting may run for the pitcher/ catcher. In the top of the first inning, the pitcher and catcher are the players identified at that position on the lineup card. Thereafter, the pitcher and catcher are identified as the last players who physically played that position on defense.

27. If a pitcher hits 3 batters in an inning, the pitcher must be removed as pitcher but may pitch in another inning. If a pitcher hits 5 batters in a game, the pitcher may not continue to pitch in the game. In either case the pitcher may play any other defensive position.

28. Defense is allowed one coach in the outfield.

29. **NO ARTIFICIAL NOISEMAKERS.**