



WRYSA SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

INSTRUCTIONAL SOFTBALL AGES 6-8
Supplement to the WRYSA By-Laws & Policies

Sportsmanship and Conduct

Each team will be given a WRYSA Coaches packet which they are to use as a guide to achieve consistent handling of routine and occasional situations. If you have questions, please discuss with your league coordinator.

Sportsmanship and conduct are the primary concern of the coaches and assistants. This includes conduct of coaches, players, and fans of your team. Coaches will be required to sign the Coaches Code of Conduct which outlines the approved behavior for all WRYSA coaches. Proper youth sportsmanship attitudes must be instilled and maintained on every team. Encourage positive cheering by everyone. This is an instructional league with parents and coaches encouraged to be on the field behind the players as instructors. Players should run on and off the field and be attentive. Placing a parent behind the catcher is an excellent way to keep the game moving.

Schedules

Games will begin at 5:30 and 7:00 with no inning to begin after 6:45 and 8:15 respectively (1 hour and 15 minutes of play).

Coaches, parents and on field instructors will double as umpires. No WRYSA Umpires will be scheduled for this league.

Rain Delays and Canceled Games

Valid warning sirens will result in stoppage of play. Lightning or thunder will result in stoppage of play. When a game is suspended a decision will be made within 15 minutes to continue play or cancel the game.

When a game is canceled, 4 innings constitute a complete game and is not to be continued or rescheduled. When teams have had one hour of playing time the game will be considered complete and is not to be rescheduled. The League coordinator or Team staff can reschedule canceled games. Schedule make-up games and practices with the WRYSA Field Scheduler (Name and phone number is posted in the concession stands and in the WRYSA Coaches packet).

General Rules

1. An 11-inch safety softball will be used.
2. Games will be 6 innings in length with time restrictions above. Base paths are 60 feet.
3. A tie game at the end of 6 innings or the time limit will be stopped as tie games.
4. A game may be started or continued with a minimum of 6 players. If there are fewer than 6 players at any time, the game reverts to a practice game.
5. The infield fly rule will not be called.
6. There will be no walks.
7. No dropped 3rd strike.
8. Bunting is not allowed.
9. Wearing gray shorts and sliding pad is permitted within Babe Ruth league rules.
10. Base coaches may be managers, coaches, or other assistants.
11. Normal infield positions will be filled, and all remaining players will be used in the outfield. Outfield being on the grass and at least 15 feet behind the base lines or infield players. Moving an outfielder to provide an extra infielder is prohibited.
12. Players must be rotated, and every player must play at least 2 innings in the infield and 2 innings in the outfield every game. It is not acceptable to form a "line" of your three best players at first, pitcher and third and then rotate the same three players in the same three positions. However, it is necessary to recognize the need for certain skills to prevent injury at first base, catching, etc.

Remember, this is an instructional league!



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Base Running

1. There is no stealing. Runners may leave the base when the ball leaves the pitchers hand and cannot advance unless there is a hit. The ball is dead except when hit.
2. Once the ball is hit runners can advance, as long as the ball remains in the outfield. Overthrows or going out of play, once the ball has reached the infield, will not allow runners to advance. Once the ball is returned to the infield after being hit, runners can advance at their own risk no farther than the next base. Hits not passing the infielders will allow each runner to advance a maximum of one base, at their own risk.
3. A missed base or leaving a base early is to be called to the runner's attention by instructors. Only if the infraction is repeated, intentional and disruptive will a warning or out call be made, and then by both coaches' agreement.
4. The base running rules are intended to foster conservative base running keeping force plays available for the defense.
5. Coaches should teach sliding to avoid being hit by incoming throws and increase the runner's chance of avoiding the tag. Learning how and when to slide is important for this age group. Players will be called out for failing to slide or causing interference on close plays.

Pitching Rules

1. Girls 7/8 league will be used as a developmental step in pitching and all girls will be given the opportunity to pitch if interested. Coaches should provide opportunities for interested pitchers throughout the season.
2. The pitching distance will be 35 feet and go as follows. (1) 5 pitches from the player, (2) 3 pitches coach pitch, strike count remains the same when coach takes over. (3) Hit off tee as necessary. Coach can use discretion on distance to pitch from when they pitch their players and whether it is appropriate to use a tee following coach pitch. Player skill level will vary, less developed players may benefit from using a tee. Batter can not strike out nor walk. During coach pitch, player must stay in the pitching circle until ball is hit.
3. If a batter is hit by player pitching, they will NOT take first base; instead, there will be an automatic transition to coach pitch. A player hit by coach pitch does NOT get first base.
4. Pitching motion can be windmill or slingshot.

The rules for this league will be the Official regulations and playing rules of Babe Ruth Fast Pitch Softball. Any rules not specifically stated or modified above, will be governed by the Babe Ruth League rules.

Revised March 2016 (CW) Jan 2019 (AC), Revised March 2024 (Brendan Norris), Revised April 2025 (NW)