

<b>In Field Fly Rule</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Mercy Rule</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Ties Allowed</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Intentional Walks</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Balks Called</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Helmets must have face mask and chin strap</b>
<b>Base Running/Lead Off</b>	<b>No stealing. Ball must be in play to advance. Tight base rules apply</b>
<b>Score Kept</b>	<b>Yes – By Home Team</b>
<b>Team Formation Method</b>	<b>Coach Return, Director Approval, &amp; Draft</b>
<b>Equal Playtime Rule</b>	<b>Yes – See below for details.</b>

### **Other 8u softball Division Details**

- **All players who attend the game will bat in a continuous batting order (all players will bat) and play under the free substitution rule. Batting roster will remain same unless player is injured, then the player is scratched from roster and cannot return.**
- **Game length is 1:10 or six (6) innings, whichever comes first.**
  - **No inning will be started after the time limit is reached.**
  - **The next inning begins as soon as the home team makes the final out in the previous inning.**
- **The “mercy rule” for the 7U/8U divisions is:**
  - **13 run lead after the 4th inning.**
  - **7 run lead after the 5th inning.**
  - **If the home team is leading by the mercy rule run amount going into the bottom half of the inning, the game is over.**
  - **No more than six (6) runs per inning.**
- **The defensive player in the pitcher position will take his position to the left or right of the coach pitcher and must keep one foot in the chalk circle of the mound until the ball is hit. The defensive player must be positioned even with pitching plate of further behind it. No pitching players in front of Coach Pitcher.**
- **The coach pitcher**
  - **Must pitch from the Rubber unless the rubber is set at 40ft then coach may pitch at front of circle.**
  - **Rubber is set at 35ft typically.**
  - **Must pitch from a standing position.**
- **The coach pitcher may coach the players before the pitch is released and may not become vocal until the ball is declared dead, then the coach pitcher may return to responsibilities, including coaching of the player at bat but not coaching while play is in progress. The coach pitcher is nothing more than a pitching machine during the play.**
- **The coach pitcher must leave the field of play immediately after the ball is batted. The coach pitcher must remain in foul territory on either the first base or third base side until the play is over. The coach pitcher may not be behind the plate in foul territory. Failure to remove coach pitcher from field of play will result, after one warning, in coach pitcher replacement.**
- **A batted ball**
  - **Striking the coach pitcher is a dead ball and is treated as a foul ball and a pitch for the batter.**
- **A thrown ball hitting the coach pitcher anywhere on the field (whether in fair or foul territory) results in a call of interference and the batter will be out and dead ball declared.**
- **If the coach pitcher interferes with the fielding or throwing of a ball in fair or foul territory, interference will be called and the batter will be out, and dead ball**

- declared
- Intentional interference of coach pitcher will result in replacement coach pitcher.
- A pitch hitting a batter
  - Is treated as a pitch and first base is not awarded
  - The final pitch, the batter is out.
- A batter shall be declared out after
  - Failing to hit a fair ball after six (6) pitches or three (3) missed swings occur whichever comes first.
  - There is allowance for foul balls on the final pitch, as may continue batting until player makes no contact on ball or hits ball in play.
- Total of four (4) adult coaches per team may be positioned inside fence perimeter.
- Two (2) Defensive Coaches can be arm length away from dugout, remaining Two (2) must remain in dugout.
- Offensive Coaches may have
  - One (1) coach down the left field foul line, or third base coach
  - One (1) coach down the right field foul line, or first base coach
  - One (1) coach pitching
  - One (1) remaining in the dugout.
- No player can sit out defensively more than two consecutive (2) innings.
  -
- Runners advance at their own risk on overthrows, however there is no stealing.
- There will be no half way marks. Player must reach base or go back to last base established.
- Play will stop with lead runner stopping.
- Play will stop when ball is controlled in the pitching circle. If ball is fielded by pitcher in circle then pitch must exit circle and then re enter to declare play stopped. An attempted play is the goal of this rule.
- Play stoppage is at the umpire's discretion and is not subject to appeal.
- No more than three (3) scheduled activities per week, 2 prior to the start of the season.
- Every infield position must be filled, and catcher must set up in catcher's box no more than four feet behind home plate.
- Must have seven(7) to start game, one out will be accessed until team rosters eight(8) players in game, less than seven will result in forfeit, and scored as loss for short team. A scrimmage may take place upon declaration of forfeit.
- Late players must be rostered at end of batting lineup.
- No more than ten (10) defensive players may play the field on defense.
  - Four (4) outfielders must be used if ten (10) or more players are present at the game.
  - Outfielder must play twenty (20) feet beyond base paths.
  - A force out will *NOT* be awarded to the defensive team if the ball is fielded by an outfielder who was lined up within twenty (20) feet of the base path prior to the batter's swing.
- Game scores need to be texted to league officials.
- Absolutely NO Non-Rostered individuals in fenced playing perimeter.
- Bats must be ASA approved. No Tee Ball, Coach Pitch ,or Big Barrel bats allowed
- Not metal cleats allowed.
- Players may not wear any loose jewelry, ear rings are allowed if they do not hang below the ear lobe.

### **Sportsmanship:**

- **All players, coaches and spectators will conduct themselves properly and with respect for all others at the Optimist Fields/Waxahachie Sports Complex.**
- **All players, coaches and spectators will abide by the rules of the Optimist Fields at all times while on the premises.**
- **Profanity, assault (whether verbal or physical) or any other abuse of any person by another at any WYBA-sanctioned event is strictly prohibited.**
- **The Waxahachie Police Department will be immediately summoned should any player, coaches or spectators become involved in a fight.**
- **A duly elected member of the WYBA Board may eject any spectator that is exhibiting disruptive behavior. An ejected spectator must leave the park immediately. In the case of a parent who is ejected, must leave the field immediately and wait for the end of the game at their car.**

### **Ejections**

- **Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game must leave the field immediately, including the immediate vicinity of the field on which the game is being played. Any ejected party may have no impact on the game from that point forward.**
- **Should a coach or player be ejected from a game, this also carries an automatic one-game suspension. The determination date of the one-game suspension will be served will be at the discretion of the WYBA Sportsmanship Committee.**
- **Additional discipline may be applied as determined by the WYBA Sportsmanship Committee.**
- **Players may be ejected for deliberately attempting to injure another player through rough play or deliberately throwing equipment. These decisions will be made by the umpires in their sole discretion.**

### **Player Age Group Determination**

- **Unless approved by a WYBA Officer Director (President, Vice President, League Director, Treasurer, Secretary), all players will play within their age group as outlined under ASA rules.**
- **Parents must request a waiver from a WYBA Officer Director for any age group change.**
- **Sibling situations are always considered, but under no circumstance may a player play more than one age group above his own.**

### **"Tournament" or "Select" Players Playing in the Recreational League**

- **"Select" players are welcome to play in the WYBA recreational league.**

### **Cancellation of Games / Inclement Weather Policy**

- **In its sole discretion, the WYBA or the Waxahachie Sports Complex may cancel games for any reason.**
- **The WYBA will attempt, subject to field availability and subject to its contract with the Waxahachie Sports Complex, to reschedule all games lost due to cancellation.**
- **Depending on when cancellations occur, there may not be enough time in**

- the season to reschedule cancelled games.
- The WYBA will attempt to reschedule games, but cannot guarantee rescheduled game times or dates will be convenient for coaches and team members.
  - The WYBA and the Waxahachie Sports Complex utilize a lightning detection device. If the system detects a storm in the vicinity, officials will be notified.
    - After notification, all players, coaches and spectators must leave the baseball fields in an orderly and immediate manner. Absolutely no one is allowed to remain on the playing fields or sit in the dug outs or stands or stand in the open spaces or green belts around the playing fields and concession stand.. Players, coaches and spectators are to remain in the parking lot at their cars until either the "all clear" is given or their team's Head Coach has informed the parents of their team that they have received "official" confirmation that their game has been canceled. Head Coaches who dismiss their teams prior to receiving "official" confirmation that the game has been canceled may be subject to receiving a forfeit for dismissing their teams prematurely.
    - The "all clear" signal indicates the threat has passed and play may resume, subject to field conditions.
    - Once the lightning detection system indicates danger, coaches and/or umpires may not independently decide to continue play, and play may not resume until the "all clear" signal has been given by the lighting detection system.
  - The "official" determination of game cancellation based on field conditions will be made in the following line of succession (based on availability) by one or two (in consultation if possible) of WYBA Board Members: President, Director of Umpires, Vice President and League Commissioner. One or two of these members shall make themselves available for consultation, (by phone if not in attendance) to any duly elected Board Member to render the "official" determination regarding game cancellations.
    - Please note that if field conditions are deemed acceptable for play for the reasons noted above, while rain is falling at the time of the start or the game, the game will be started and the responsibility for determining whether field conditions are safe for play will be transferred to the game umpires.
    - Saturday games which are suspended in process due to weather or by the sounding of the lightning detector will not be completed that day if the delay ends after the scheduled time has expired for those games. If the delay ends after the time allotted for the game which was suspended, the next game to start will be the game that has the start time closest to the end of the delay. Delayed games will be considered complete if the games meet the following criteria for a complete game; 5U through 11/12U age groups are considered completed if 2 1/2 innings are played and the home team is ahead. 2) 13/14U age group is considered completed if 3 1/2 innings are played and the home team is ahead. 3) Incomplete games will be scheduled at the discretion of the WYBA based on available dates, times and field space. The home team's scorekeeper will be responsible for asking the Umpire for the time remaining and for noting it on the official scorebook to determine how much time is remaining, the number of outs and the runners on base should the suspended game be allowed to be completed at a later date.
    - Week night games which are suspended in process due to

**weather or the sounding of the lightning detector will be suspended with the remaining time noted by the home scorekeeper and the teams will wait for up to an hour until either the Umpires determine the field is safe to play or the "all clear" signal is given. Play will only resume, provided there is not a game scheduled after the delayed game on that field. Should there be a game scheduled after the first game "Saturday" rules will apply to both games.**

- **Call the WYBA/Sports Complex Rain-Out Line or check [www.wybonline.org](http://www.wybonline.org) for updated field playability information. When inclement weather occurs prior to or after games have commenced the WYBA will attempt to update the Rain-Out Line and the WYBA Web site as rapidly as possible. If rain is in the forecast on the day or evening of a scheduled game, please check both forms of communication as often as possible to determine the status of your game prior to leaving for the fields.**