

# WAXAHACHIE YOUTH SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION RULES

## 6u Modified & 8u – Coach Pitch

The Waxahachie Youth Softball Association (WYSA) has adopted the rules outlined by USA Softball, except where stated otherwise by the WYSA governing body.

### Field Dimensions:

- Base Paths – 60 feet
- Pitcher's Plate – 35 feet
- Pitcher's Circle – 8-foot radius drawn from the front edge of the pitcher's plate.

### Equipment:

- Ball Type: 11-inch yellow USA stamped softball.
- Bat Type:
  - USA certified youth softball bats.
  - 6u – No big barrel Baseball Bats. May use tee-ball bat or Youth softball only.
- Fielding Masks are required for players playing pitcher, third base, and first base.
- Catcher's must wear a helmet (can be batting helmet) Shin guards and chest protector are not required but can be used.

### Game Length, Scoring & Lineups:

- Game Length: \*6u – 60 minutes.  
\*8u – 70 minutes.
- If a new inning has been started before the time expires, the inning will be completed. Unless it is not possible for the home team to win or tie.

### Scoring:

- Team Inning Run Rule: 6 Runs Per Inning
- Mercy Rule: 12 runs after 4 innings 7 runs after 5 innings.
- Ties: Are allowed
  - **EXCEPTION** – \*6u Championship Game – If the game ends after a tie when time has expired, the winner will be determined by total outs during that game. \*
  - 8u Championship Game – Game will continue until winner is determined
- The home team is responsible for keeping the official score book and working the scoreboard.

### Lineups:

- Lineups will be completed by each team's coach and exchanged before each game.
- Each team will be required to have at least seven (7) players to start the game.

**\*\*EXCEPTION:** 6 players are required for 6u. Any team that cannot field 6 players will result in a forfeit.

- One out will be assessed for any team that is playing shorthanded. The out will occur at the end of the batting line up until the team fields 9 players.
- Players that arrive late must be rostered at the end of the batting lineup.
- If a team cannot field seven (7) players, they will forfeit the game and be scored as a loss.
- Game time will not be delayed by more than five (5) minutes for late players.

#### Coach Pitch Batting & Base Running Rules

- Batting Order – All players will bat in a continuous batting order (all players will bat) and play under the free substitution rule.
- Batting order will remain the same unless a player is injured, then the player is scratched from the roster.
- Batting Pitch Count - A batter shall be declared out after failing to hit a fair ball after six (6) pitches or three (3) missed swing strikes occur. Whichever comes first.
  - 6u – Three (3) balls will be pitched by the coach. If the batter fails to hit a fair ball off the coach, the batter will have three (3) attempts from the tee. If the batter fails to hit a fair ball from the tee, they will be out.
  - A fair ball is any ball that is batted in the field of play, beyond the dotted line in front of the batter's box.
  - A batter hitting the tee would count as a foul ball.
- The at bat may continue past the six (6) pitch limit, if the final pitch fouled off. The at bat will then continue until a player makes no contact or hits a ball in play.
- Walks are not awarded in Coach Pitch
- Hit By Pitch is counted as a ball. If it is the final pitch the batter will be out.
- A batted ball striking the Coach Pitcher is a dead ball and is treated as a foul ball and a pitch for the batter.
- Base Running – No leadoffs or stealing is allowed in Coach Pitch. Runners can advance at their own risk on overthrows of hit balls.

#### Coach Pitch Defensive Rules:

- Defensive Alignment – No more than ten (10) defensive players may play the field on defense.
- Infield – Every infield position must be filled, and catcher must set up in the catcher's box no more than four (4) feet behind home plate.
- Infield – Infielders **MUST** be positioned behind the pitcher's plate. The pitcher's plate is set at 35 feet. This is a safety concern.
- Outfield – Four (4) outfielders must be used if ten (10) or more players are present at the game. Outfielders **MUST** be positioned behind the base path.
- Player Position Rules
  - No player can sit out defensively more than two (2) innings.
  - Pitcher must throw the ball to make the out at first and home.

## • Play Stoppage

- Play stoppage is at the umpire's discretion and is not subject to appeal.
- \*\*\*8U\*\*\* Play stops when the pitcher has secured the ball, in 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 that they are running to. If the runner has not made it halfway to the next base when the pitcher has secured the ball, they will stay at the current base and will not be awarded the next base.
- \*\*\*6U\*\*\* 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 that they are running to. If the runner has not made it halfway to the next base when the ball crosses into the pitching circle, they will stay at the current base and will not be awarded the next base.
- Overthrows will not result in any kind of stoppage.
  - \*EXCEPTION\* 6u – If the pitcher overthrows the ball to first, runners will be awarded the next base.
- 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.

## Coach Rules:

- Coaches: A total of four (4) coaches per team may be positioned inside the fence perimeter.
- Absolutely NO touching of the players during the game. Examples would be: Pushing the players towards a ball, stopping players from running bases, etc.
- Defensive Coaches – Two (2) coaches may be positioned behind the outfielders, the remaining two (2) coaches must remain in the dugout.
- Offensive Coaches –
  - 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 pitcher
  - One (1) dugout coach

## The Coach Pitcher:

- MUST pitch from the pitcher's circle and keep on foot inside the circle until the ball is thrown.
- MUST pitch from the standing position.
- 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 progress. Coach Pitcher may begin communications/coaching after play is ruled dead or stopped.
- 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.

- Failure to comply with this rule after one warning, will result in coach pitcher replacement.
- MUST not intentionally interfere in play. If it is determined intentional interference occurred, it will result in immediate replacement of the Coach Pitcher.

#### Player & Team Formation:

- Player Ages – Division is based off Age Chart determined by USA Softball.
  - Unless approved by an WYBA/WYSA Officer, all players will play within their proscribed age group.
  - Parents must request a waiver from a WYBA/WYSA Officer for any age group change.
  - Under no circumstances may a player play more than one age group above his own.
  - Spring Season:
    - Spring Evaluations – Each spring, players will be required to participate in evaluations. Players that do not participate in evaluations will be given the top available grade.
    - Spring Player Draft – In the Spring season, coaches will complete rostered teams by drafting all available players.
    - Summer & Fall Player Draft – In the Summer and Fall seasons, available players will be assigned to teams with open roster spots. Assignments will be made at the division director's discretion.
    - Select Teams – Select teams are welcome and will be placed in the highest division available.

#### Sportsmanship:

- All players, coaches and spectators will conduct themselves properly and with respect for all others at the Waxahachie Sports Complex
- All players, coaches and spectators will always abide by the rules of the Waxahachie Sports Complex while on the premises.
- Profanity, assault (whether verbal or physical) or any other abuse of any person by another at any WYBA/WYSA-sanctioned event is strictly prohibited.
- The Waxahachie Police Department will be immediately summoned should any player, coach or spectator become involved in a fight.
- All coaches must wear the badges they receive from the league. This is for the safety of the kids. Umpires and directors will know that if the coaches have their badges on, their background has been checked.