



8U League Rules for Wasco Softball

Summary of League

The 8U league is for players in **First & Second Grade**. The 8U league is **non-competitive and is a 100% Coach-Pitch league**. Formal scorekeeping of league games and league standings will not be kept.

Player Registration

Players in first & second grade (Spring Season) or who will be going into first or second grade (Fall Season), will be assigned to the 8U Softball league. Any exceptions to this rule, will need to be presented to the 8U Commissioner. Exceptions are extremely unlikely.

Game Rules

Game/Inning/Time Limit: A complete game shall consist of five (5) innings OR a 90 minute time limit, whichever comes first. No new inning shall be started after 75 minutes. The length of each inning will be either 3 outs or after every player has batted once, whichever happens first.

Softball: Games will be played with a 10" hard softball provided by Wasco.

Umpires: The team batting will supply a Coach, who has the responsibility to call balls and strikes, as well as outs in the field. The umpire must not involve himself/herself in any play of the ball. Managers, coaches and parents will NOT argue calls made by the umpires. All on-field umpire decisions are final.

Base Coaches: Adults will coach 1st base and 3rd base, with one adult in the dugout. Two adults may be allowed to coach in the outfield area while the team is on defense. These Coaches must be registered, rostered and approved by the Wasco Athletics Board of Directors.

Uniforms: Uniforms are conventional, with long-legged pants (no shorts) and player-provided sneakers or compositional baseball shoes (no steel spiked shoes permitted). The league provides a jersey and softball pants to each player. Each player is responsible for wearing their entire uniforms on gameday (with all shirts "tucked in"). Jerseys are to be worn to games only. No jewelry is permitted at games or practices. Players need to make every effort to wear their uniform, so it is visible. Managers/Parents have the discretion to deviate from this in cases of inclement weather and/or the health of a child.

Rainouts / Suspended Games / Make-Up Games / Rescheduled Games: The Home team manager is responsible for checking the fields to determine if a game should start due to rain or threatening weather. If the Home team manager determines that the field or conditions are unplayable, they should contact the Visiting Manager as soon as possible. Managers are encouraged to make an effort to reschedule the game if possible.

Heat / Cold / Lightning Policies: Please refer to the Policies section of the Wasco Athletics website:
<https://www.wascoathletics.com/policies>

Field Dimensions

Distance between bases: The distance from the back of home plate (the point) to the outfield side of the middle of the bases at 1st and 3rd is 50 feet. The distance from the back of home plate (the point) to the center of 2nd base is 70 feet and 8.5 inches.

Pitching rubber distance: The Coach pitching should be set up approximately 30 feet from home plate.

Offense

Lineup: All players will always be in the lineup and will bat in consecutive order.

Coaching: Coaches can “catch” and support the hitter as they are being pitched to.

Inning Limit: A “3 outs or nine-batters” rule will apply. When the ninth batter comes to the plate in that inning, there will automatically be two outs. When the ninth batter hits the ball, a play must be attempted to record an out. A play must be attempted to retire a batter/runner or prohibit further advancement before returning the ball to the pitcher. The inning ends after this completed turn by the ninth batter, or if three outs have been recorded by the defense – whichever comes first.

Bat Information: Bats that are acceptable are:

- 2-1/4" diameter barrel with either a USA Softball (formerly ASA) stamp.
- USSSA Stamps are not allowed.

Batting Order: Continuous batting order shall be used.

Bunting: Bunting is not allowed.

Thrown Bat Rule: The manager or coach at home plate shall warn batters who throw their bat. If after having been warned once, the same player throws their bat a second time, the player shall be declared out and the ball ruled dead.

Helmets: Batting helmets shall be worn in all practice and game situations whenever a player is preparing to bat or is batting. Helmets are to include a face mask and chin strap.

Base Running

Basestealing: There are no steals. Runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit. When the ball is hit, the runner/runners may run until out or safe at a base. THERE WILL BE NO ADVANCING ON OVERTHROWS AND THE RUNNERS WILL STOP ONCE THE INFIELD HAS THE BALL.

Sliding: Sliding into any base, except 1st, is permitted. The runner must slide at home plate if there is a play. There is no sliding headfirst into a base. Diving headfirst while retreating to a base is allowed.

Running out of the Baseline: Runners must stay in the base line. While running to 1st base, a runner can run to the right or left of the line, as long as there is no deliberate move toward 2nd base. Children should be taught, however, to over-run 1st base toward the right side of the base or straight-ahead.

Baserunner Interference: If a runner interferes with a fielder while the fielder is fielding the ball, the runner is out. Runners can run in front of the fielder as long as they don't touch the fielder. If the fielder has the ball in the base line, the runner cannot try to go around the fielder to avoid the tag or the runner will be out. The runner may run out of the base line in order to avoid interference, but not when a play is being made on the runner.

Play is Dead: When the ball reaches the infield (to any player in the infield) from the outfield, all runners will be considered at the base they are currently closest to. Thus, the infielder controlling the ball is the signal that the play is “dead” and the runners remain at the bases they are currently at. Base coaches are encouraged to hold their runners while the ball is in the infield attempting to be brought under control. We are not trying to run up the score or teach bad habits.

Defense

All players present for a game must play (unless not in uniform, which is the manager’s discretion).

Number of Fielders: There will be 10 players on the field at one time. It is recommended that each player be allowed to play all positions during the season.

Inning Minimums: All players will play a minimum of 4 innings in the field. No fielder is permitted to play the same defensive position for more than two innings.

Positions: The field positions are: Pitcher, 1B-2B-SS-3B,LF-LC-RC-RF

Outfielders: Outfielders must play at least 20 feet beyond the base path. Further, managers should not allow the right fielder to attempt to throw out a runner at first base on a ground ball to the outfield – the proper throw to instruct is to second base for the right fielder.

Infield Fly: There is no infield fly rule.

Outfield Fence: Where no outfield fence exists, any ball hit to the outfield will remain in play until actual interference with the fielder’s ability to pursue the ball occurs. Outfielders shall be encouraged to consider the ball “in play” until the umpire declares it dead.

Chase Rule: A fielder may not run all over the field to tag out a runner. The defensive player should defend only the base at their position. For example, a first baseman may not run across the infield to tag a runner along the base line between 2nd and 3rd base.

Catchers: All participants in any practice or game situation when playing the catcher position, shall wear the catcher gear (helmet, chest protector, knee pads).

Pitching

The Coach Pitching shall set up approximately 30 feet from home plate. The Coach will pitch all innings.

Coach-Pitch Rules: A Manager or coach will pitch underhand from the pitching rubber. When the Manager or Coach is pitching, the defensive player in the pitcher’s position will stand next to the adult pitcher. It is the adult pitcher’s responsibility to make sure the defensive pitcher’s view is not obstructed.

Coach-Pitch Batters will receive 5 pitches; no additional pitches are allowed. If after 5 pitches, the batter has not put the ball in play, then the ball is placed on the Tee. The batter will hit off the Tee until the batter hits a fair ball. If a batter hits the Tee, it will be considered a foul ball. The batter shall remain at bat until the batter either hits a fair ball or is put out, either on a foul out, pop out, fly out or ground out.

Conduct

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES DO WE WANT ANY ARGUING ON THE FIELD. ACTIONS LIKE THIS IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Managers are 100% responsible for the conduct of their coaches, parents and players. Parents are to be informed of the rules before the season begins. All managers, coaches, players, umpires, parents, and board members are subject to the Wasco Athletics Codes of Conduct. The League Commissioner must be notified as soon as possible with a report to the League President as to what occurred if a problem arises.

Rosters

Only players that are registered shall be considered “rostered players” and be allowed to participate in practices, games or other league sponsored events. A “registration” shall be considered completed when the player has their registration fully completed through SportsEngine (the Wasco Athletics website), which includes the applicable fees paid, the medical waiver form and code of conduct form completed. Use of a non-rostered player shall be strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action against the team manager.

A Coach may request a maximum of six players to be added to their roster.

Dugout Selection & Rules

Unless otherwise agreed to by the managers, the home team shall occupy the 3rd base dugout/bench and the visitor team shall occupy the 1st base dugout/bench. The only persons allowed in the dugout during a game are the players, the manager and coaches. Managers and coaches shall remain in the dugout during game play unless specifically allowed by league rule or functioning as a base coach or an outfield coach.

Field Preparation and Care

Do not warm up your team on the infield, prior to a game. Please use your side of the outfield. You can use the out of play infield area, on your side, for groundballs. But please ask your players to avoid touching the chalk lines.

The **home team** is responsible for ensuring the field is set up properly for the game, including chalking the foul lines and the batter’s box. The home team will supply the game balls and shall be required to surrender the field to the visiting team fifteen minutes before game time.

At the end of the game, the **away team** is responsible for clean-up. Bases should be left “in” (there is no need to take the bases out and replace them with plugs). Please put away all rakes and ensure all field equipment (marking string, dig out tool, and chalker) are in the field box **with the lid closed tightly**. The away team is responsible for smoothing and filling any holes created during play, especially around the bases, home plate, and the pitcher’s mound.

The field shall be cleared of all players five minutes prior to the start of the game. The Managers shall concur in the event a previous game makes the field setup impossible to be completed prior to the scheduled start of the game. Teams should remove all equipment from their dugouts immediately following their game, and prior to post-game meetings, to allow the next games teams to enter the dugouts timely. **Each team is responsible for the removal of all trash from their respective dugouts, spectator areas, and the field.** All field issues should be reported to fields@wascoathletics.com.