

## **WEST COVINA GIRL'S SOFTBALL 2025 FALL BALL SEASON RULES**

**General Rules: USA Softball 2025 Rules apply to all Divisions, except as noted herein.**

- 1. Placement awards** will be awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams for end of season double elimination tournament.
  - 2.** There will be no make up games unless it's due to inclement weather conditions. The Executive Board shall make the final decision on any rescheduled games or complete cancelation of games. Rescheduled games will depend on field and Umpire availability. **ALL MAKE UP GAMES WILL BE RESCHEDULED ON SUNDAYS. THERE ARE NO REFUNDS FOR CANCELLED GAMES.**
  - 3. Line up cards** will be submitted to the umpire at home plate meeting prior to start of all games. **Line up cards will include date, division, team name, player names and jersey numbers to be considered official.**
  - 4. All players must have played one (1) full defensive inning** within the first two (2) innings of the game, unless injured and unable to continue.
  - 5. All players must have a minimum of one (1) at bat each game**, unless injured and unable to play. If a player does not receive an at bat due to time limitations, the player(s) shall be placed at the top of the lineup the next game.
  - 6. For Friendly Games, if a team is short players, the manager may recruit two (2) players** from WCGS league to complete their team roster. Remember, you need eight (8) players to play. Players that fill in will be from the same or a lower division. **Under no circumstance will a player from a higher division be allowed to drop a division to help fill a roster.**
- NOTE: For end of season tournament, borrowing players is NOT ALLOWED!!!**
- 7. If a team cancels and/or forfeits on game day** and does not inform the league two (2) days in advance they will have to pay **\$40 forfeit fee** before next game is played. No exceptions, rule applies to all teams.
  - 8. Failure to adhere to Rules 4 and 5** shall result in tournament disqualification.
  - 9. No official game scores or team standings** will be maintained during season friendly games.
  - 10. All teams shall bat round robin for all games including end of season tournament with free defensive substitution.**
  - 11. Ties will be allowed, except in tournament play** where the international tiebreaker rule will be in effect.
  - 12. Run Ahead rule (aka "Mercy Rule") shall apply to tournament games only!** See USA Softball Rule. (15 runs after 3 innings or 12 runs after 4 or 8 runs after 5).
  - 13. Friendly Games - Five run AHEAD rule with a possible 8 run max.**
  - 14. Tournament Play Only – No run limit in tournament play. Exception: 6U & 8U – 5 run AHEAD Rule with possible 8 run max.**
  - 15. COIN TOSS AT HOME PLATE TO DETERMINE HOME/VISITORS FOR ALL GAMES INCLUDING END OF SEASON TOURNAMENT!!!**

**16. ALL FIELDS MUST BE DRAGGED, WATERED AND CHALKED BEFORE ALL GAMES BY BOTH TEAMS. ALL TEAMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FIELD PREPING AT CAMERON PARK AND CAMERON ELEMENTARY FIELDS. Outside teams DO NOT help with field preparation.**

**17. Coaches and player etiquette:**

- a) Keep team cheers, conduct of players and parents controlled and respectful. No negative cheering toward any team or player will be permitted.
- b) Verbal harassment from the sidelines directed at the opposing team, umpires, or players will not be tolerated.
- c) The Umpire may at his/her discretion end the game due to any negative or insulting comments toward him/her, teams or players. Umpire has the right to eject any Manager, Coach, Team Mom or spectator for any abusive language.
- d) Teams are responsible for maintaining a clean dugout.
- e) It's everyone's responsibility to pick up trash around the fields.
- f) **NO DOGS ALLOWED ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, THIS INCLUDES FIELDS!!!**

**18. Only 4 coaches may be in the dugout at one time** and must present a current USA Softball Background Check ID card upon request, including the team mom. **Lost ID cards and lanyards will be replaced for \$10.00 fee.**

**19. Friendly Game Time Limit:** 7 innings or one hour and 20 minutes drop dead.

**Exception:** 8U is 6 innings or one hour and 20 minutes drop dead & 6U is 5 innings or 1 hour 10 minutes drop dead.

**20. Tournament Game Time Limit:** 7 innings or one hour and 20 minutes (1:20) no new inning.

**Exception:** 8U is 6 innings or one hour and 20 minutes (1:20) no new inning & 6U is 5 innings or 1 hour 10 minutes no new inning. **Note: Game Time is forfeit time.**

**21. Championship Game Time Limit:** 7 innings or one hour and 40 minutes (1:40) no new inning. **Exception:** 8U is 6 innings or one hour and 40 minutes (1:40) no new inning & 6U is 5 innings or 1 hour 25 minutes (1:25) no new inning. Double Dip in championship if undefeated team loses first game. **Note: Game Time is forfeit time.**

**22. Ball sizes and pitching distances:**

- a). 6U and 8U shall utilize a 10 inch safety ball that is USA Softball regulated.
- b). 6U and 8U shall pitch and be pitched from a 30 feet distance.
- c). 10U shall utilize a 11 inch hard ball that is USA Softball regulated.
- d). 10U shall pitch from a 35 feet distance.
- e). 12U, 14U and HS shall utilize a 12 inch hard ball that is USA Softball regulated.
- f). 12U shall pitch from a 40 feet distance.
- g). 14U and HS shall pitch from a 43 feet distance.

### **23. 8U House Rules: (FOR FRIENDLIES AND TOURNAMENT PLAY)**

**a. A “coaches pitch” may be utilized for the first half of the season with the following guidelines:**

- I) A “coaches pitch” may only be utilized when the defensive team pitcher throws “ball four”.
- II) At that time a “coaches pitch” from the offense will be utilized.
- III) The coach will pitch the ball from the 30’ pitchers plate. The defensive player shall stand anywhere behind the pitcher’s rubber plate with both feet in the pitching circle while the adult pitcher is pitching.
- IV) A maximum of three “coaches pitches” are allowed to hit the ball in play.
- V) A batter may get additional pitches only if the last pitch is hit in foul ball territory.
- VI) A “strike out” will be recorded when the batter swings and misses on a third strike.
- VII) The batter must swing and attempt to put the ball in play.
- VIII) The batter will NOT be walked. If the batter does NOT swing on the third coaches pitch, a strike out will be recorded.
- IX) Any runners on base can advance during a “coaches pitch”. The catcher may still attempt to throw runners out who attempt to steal bases.
- X) **During the second half of the season, “coaches pitch” will be eliminated.** Only defensive rostered pitchers will be allowed to pitch. This will remain in effect through the end of the championship tournament.

**b. Ten (10) players are used in the defensive position**, six (6) in the infield, and four (4) in the outfield.

**c. Pitcher is only allowed 4 consecutive innings** and then must break for 1 inning.

**d. No infield fly rule or Drop Third strike.**

**e. Pitcher may start their wind up with two feet or one foot on the pitching plate.** During friendlies, illegal pitches will be called with no penalty given and will be corrected by umpire and team coaching staff. For end of season tournament, illegal pitches will be enforced.

**f. Stealing: one base per pitch, home plate is closed.** A player can only cross home plate on a batted ball. If a base runner steals a base and continues to next, they can be tagged out before they reach the next base or return to the base attempting to steal. If the base runner safely reaches the next base, the umpire will return the runner back to the correct base.

### **23. 6U House Rules: (FOR FRIENDLIES AND TOURNAMENT PLAY)**

a. No official game scores or team standings will be maintained during regular season games.

**b. Pitching rubber distance shall be set at thirty (30) feet. The adult pitcher/coach shall pitch from the 30 foot pitchers plate. The defensive player shall stand anywhere behind the pitcher’s plate with both feet in the pitching circle while the adult pitcher is pitching.**

c. The outfield shall be considered any area 10 feet beyond the base paths between 1st and 2nd base and 2nd and 3rd base.

**d. The catcher must remain in the defensive position until after the ball has been hit.**

**YES 6U SHALL UTILIZE A CATCHER FOR ALL GAMES!!!**

e. No base stealing is allowed. All base runners must remain on the bases until the ball is hit. If a runner is off the base when the ball is hit, the ball is dead, the runner returns to base and batter bats again (Do-Over). “Do-Over” is at the Umpires discretion.

f. An inning is over after three outs or “**5 run ahead**” rule will apply for all games and no limit on batters.

g. If by the third pitch the ball is not hit into play, the batter will use the batting tee to hit the ball into play. The batter may take up to two (2) swings to hit the ball before returning to the dugout resulting in an out. **THIS RULE APPLYS TO THE FIRST HALF OF THE SEASON. FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE SEASON AND THROUGH CHAMPIONSHIP, NO TEE WILL BE USED. ALL PLAYERS MUST ATTEMPT TO HIT THE BALL PITCHED BY THE COACH FROM THE 30 FOOT PITCHERS PLATE. THE PLAYER WILL GET FIVE (5) PITCHES. IF THE BATTER CAN NOT HIT THE BALL IN PLAY WITHIN THE 5 PITCHES, AN OUT WILL BE RECORDED AND A TEE WILL NOT BE USED. THE BATTER MAY GET MORE THAN 5 PITCHES THE HITTER FOULS OFF ANY PITCHES.**

h. The team taking the field will place all players in defensive positions: six (6) in the infield including the pitcher and catcher, and the remaining players in the outfield.

i. **Two defensive coaches are allowed in the outfield.** Coaches will position themselves a minimum of FIVE feet behind the defensive player in the outfield to guide players in defensive plays. Coaches are not allowed to touch the ball or players or interfere with defensive play.

j. Remaining coaches must be inside dugout or near dugout out of play field.

k. **Overthrows (out of play) will be determined by Umpires.** Bases will be awarded on Umpires discretion.

l. The play is called "Dead" once the ball crosses the line of the pitcher's circle with the pitcher inside the circle. The Pitcher does not have to have control of the ball in the circle. If the runner is not past the halfway mark between bases, the runner must return to the previous base.

**24. HAVE A WONDERFUL SEASON AND CREATE GREAT MEMORIES!!!**