

Rules Matrix - Walnut Youth Softball - SPRING 2026

	6U	8U	10U	12U	14U
League Age	4 - 6	7-8	9-10	11-12	13-14
Fielders	10 (4 OF)	10 (4 OF)	9	9	9
Game time	60 Min. DROP DEAD	Play out	Play out	Play out	Play out
No New Inning after...	N/A	1:20 / 1:30 Drop Dead	1:20 / 1:30 Drop Dead	1:20 / 1:30 Drop Dead	1:20 / 1:30 Drop Dead
Innings (max.)	5	6	6	7	7
Innings for Official Game	N/A	3	3	3	3
Home/Visitor Determination	Home team determined by coin flip for every game. Home is official book. If you don't have a scorekeeper, you can't be home.				
Umpires	No Umpire	Junior or USA Umpires	USA Umpires	USA Umpires	USA Umpires
Game Ball (Yellow)	10" Worth RIF Level 1 or USA softball approved ball	10" Worth RIF Level 1 or USA softball approved ball	11" Dream Seam or USA softball approved ball	12" Worth Dream Seam or USA softball approved ball	12" Worth Dream Seam or USA softball approved ball
Pitching Distance (Feet)	30	30	35	40	43
Base Distance (Feet)	60	60	60	60	60
Helmet (NOCSAE Approved)	Mandatory w/ Face Mask	Mandatory w/ Face Mask	Mandatory w/ Face Mask	Mandatory w/ Face Mask	Mandatory w/ Face Mask
Faceguard (NOCSAE Approved)	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional
Cleats	Rubber only	Rubber only	Rubber only	Rubber only	Rubber Preferred (Metal OK)
Bats	USA/ASA Approved	USA/ASA Approved	USA/ASA Approved	USA/ASA Approved	USA/ASA Approved
Max. Runs per inning	5	5	5	5-up	5-up
Batting Order (All Players)	Round Robin	Round Robin	Round Robin	Round Robin	Round Robin
Run Ahead Rule (Mercy)	N/A	USA softball rules	USA softball rules	USA softball rules	USA softball rules
Min. Field Play for Players (Innings)	Every other inning	Every other inning	Every other inning	Every other inning	Every other inning
Pitching Rule/Inning or Outs Max	3 coach pitches, then use the tee until the ball is hit in play	N/A (Try to pitch as many pitchers as possible)	See Below	Unlimited	Unlimited
Hit Batters allowed	N/A	Umpire's judgment	Umpire's judgment	Umpire's judgment	Umpire's judgment
Bunting	No	only if player pitches	Yes	Yes	Yes
Dropped 3rd strike	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stealing	No	One base per pitch	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stealing after the ball...	N/A	...leaves the pitcher's hand. Only off a player pitching.	...leaves the pitcher's hand		
Stealing Home	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Advance on Overthrow	Yes-until ball crosses the pitcher's circle or ball is deemed out of play	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Infield Fly Rule	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Special notes:	No walks, hit batters or strike outs. Play is dead when ball enters/crosses the pitcher's circle. Hit ball must go beyond 15 ft. arc to be live. Hash marks used for runners (30ft). Player/Pitcher must have one foot in the circle when the ball is pitched/hit off the tee. <u>Only 2 coaches are allowed in the outfield on defense.</u>	<u>After 4 balls, coach pitches remaining strikes.</u> Foul ball on last coach pitch receives additional pitch until put in play or strike out. Coach must have one foot on pitching rubber during coach pitch. <u>Batter may not advance to 2nd on a walk.</u>	Pitching Rule. No more than two consecutive innings. So if your starting pitcher pitches 1st and 2nd innings, she cannot pitch in the 3rd inning. She is eligible to come back in the 4th inning. Unlimited substitutions.		

****All USA Rules Apply Unless Stated Above**

Updated 01.07.2026