

West Covina Girl's Softball
2026 SPRING SEASON GAME & TOURNAMENT RULES

- 1. USA Softball 2026 Rules apply to all Divisions, except as noted herein.**
2. Placement awards will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place teams only.
3. No games shall be rescheduled unless it's due to inclement weather conditions. Executive Board shall make final decision on any rescheduled games or complete cancellations of games. Rescheduled games will depend on field and umpire availability. **THERE ARE NO REFUNDS FOR CANCELLED GAMES.**
4. All players must play 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. Failure to adhere to Rules 4 and 5 shall result in tournament disqualification.**
7. On Game days, 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 play, fill in players are NOT ALLOWED.**
8. 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 a **\$40 forfeit fee** before next scheduled game. No exceptions, rule applies to all teams.
- 9. BOTH TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO RECORD AND SUBMIT ALL GAME SCORES VIA LEAGUE WEBSITE www.wcgs.info** Game scores will determine team standings which will rank teams 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. Standing will determine seeding for end of season tournament.
10. All teams shall bat round robin for all games including end of season tournament with defensive substitution. **RUNNERS ARE ONLY ALLOWED FOR PITCHERS AND CATCHERS AND MUST BE LAST RECORDED OUT.**
11. Ties will be allowed for regular season games. For end of season tournament play, the **international tiebreaker rule** will be in effect.
12. Run Ahead rule (aka "Mercy Rule") shall apply to **end of season tournament games only!** See USA Softball Rule. **(15 runs after 3 innings or 12 runs after 4 or 8 runs after 5).**
- 13. Season Games - 5 Run Ahead Rule with a possible 8 run maximum.**
- 14. Tournament Play Only – No run limit in tournament play. Exception: 6U & 8U – 5 run ahead Rule with possible 8 runs maximum.**
- 15. COIN TOSS AT HOME PLATE TO DETERMINE HOME AND VISITORS FOR ALL REGULAR SEASON GAMES!!!**
- 16. ALL FIELDS MUST BE DRAGGED, WATERED AND CHALKED BEFORE ALL GAMES BY BOTH TEAMS. ALL WCGS TEAMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FIELD PREPING AT CAMERON PARK AND CAMERON ELEMENTARY FIELDS.**
- 17. LINE UP CARDS MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED TO UMPIRE AT HOME PLATE MEETING PRIOR TO GAME START.**
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.

19. Season Game Time Limit: 10U, 12U and 14U will play 7 innings (8u will play 6 INNINGS) or one hour and 15 minutes (1:15) NO NEW inning. 6U will play 5 innings or 1 hour 5 minutes (1:05) NO NEW inning.

20. Tournament Game Time Limit: 7 innings or one hour and 20 minutes (1:20) NO NEW inning. Exception: 8U will play 6 innings or one hour and 20 minutes (1:20) NO NEW inning & 6U will play 5 innings or 1 hour 10 minutes (1:10) 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 will play 6 innings or one hour and 40 minutes (1:40) NO NEW inning & 6U will play 5 innings or 1 hour 25 minutes (1:25) NO NEW inning.

Note: Game Time is forfeit time.

22. 8U exceptions: (SEASON GAMES AND TOURNAMENT PLAY)

a. Regular season games shall be limited to 6 innings or no new inning after 1 hour and 15 minutes (1:15). End of season tournament games shall be limited to 6 innings or no new inning after 1 hour and 20 minutes (1:20).

Championship game will be 6 innings no new inning after 1 hour and 40 minutes.

b. Ten (10) players are used in defensive position, six (6) infielders, and four (4) outfielders.

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. A 10" ball will be used (A safety ball, RIF1 or its equivalent).

f. Pitcher may start their wind up with two feet or one foot on the pitching plate. Illegal pitches will be called with no penalty given and will be corrected by umpire and team coaching staff.

g. 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.

h. A Coaches pitch will be allowed for the first half of the season. The coach will be allowed to pitch three balls after the defensive pitcher has pitched a fourth ball. Instead of resulting in a "walk," the offensive Coach will pitch three balls from the 30 foot pitchers plate in an attempt for the batter to hit the ball. The batter MUST hit the ball in play. If the batter swings and misses or chooses not to swing on the coaches third pitch, an out will be recorded. The batter may foul off a pitch and continue batting until they swing and miss or hit the ball in fair play. There will be NO "walks" for the first half of the season. A player will be awarded first base only if they are "hit by a pitch" by the defensive pitcher. A batter hit by a coaches pitch will NOT be awarded first base.

23. 6U exceptions: (SEASON GAMES AND TOURNAMENT PLAY)

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

b. A 10" ball will be used (A safety ball, RIF1 or its equivalent).

c. All regular season games shall be limited to 5 innings or no new inning after 1 hour and 5 minutes. End of season tournament games shall be limited to 5 innings or no new inning after 1 hour and 10 minutes (1:10). Championship game will be 5 innings no new inning after 1 hour and 25 minutes.

d. Pitching rubber distance shall be set at thirty (30) feet. The adult pitcher/coach shall pitch from the 30 foot pitchers rubber 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.

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

- f. The catcher must remain in the defensive position until after the ball has been hit.**
- g.** 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).
- h.** An inning is over after three outs or “5 runs ahead” rule will apply for all games and no limit on batters.
- i.** **If by the third pitch the ball is not hit, the batter will use the batting tee to put the ball into play. The batter may take up to two (2) swings to hit the ball before returning to the dug-out resulting in an out. THIS RULE APPLYS TO THE FIRST HALF OR FIRST 8 GAMES 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 RUBBER. THE PLAYER WILL GET 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 IF SHE FOULS OFF ANY OF THE LAST PITCHES.**
- j.** **WHEN BATTING TEE IS UTILIZED, BATTERS AND RUNNERS MAY ONLY ADVANCE ONE BASE.** Meaning batter can not go past 1st base on hit and runners on bases may only advance one base. Runners that continue past one base may be tagged out by defense. If runners advance to additional base safely, time will be called and all runners will be returned to previous base.
- j.** 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.
- k.** **Two defensive coaches are allowed in the outfield.** Coaches will position themselves a minimum of 5 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.
- l.** Remaining coaches must be inside dugout or near dugout out of play field.
- m.** Overthrows (out of play) will be determined by Umpires. Bases will be awarded on Umpires discretion.
- n.** 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 line between bases, the runner must return to previous base.

O. Important Things to Remember

- 1) Keep team cheers, conduct of players and parents controlled and respectful. No negative cheering toward any team or player will be permitted.
- 2) Verbal harassment from the sidelines directed at the opposing team, umpires, or players will not be tolerated.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Remember, one umpire is doing the job of four umpires. Please be respectful of umpires strike zone and calls on outs.
- 5) It’s everyone’s responsibility to pick up trash around the fields.
- 6) All managers and coaches need to help with fields prior to their games.
- 7) **ABOVE ALL, PLEASE MAKE THIS A POSITIVE MEMORABLE SEASON FOR ALL!!! LET’S PLAY BALL AND HAVE FUN!!!**