

# 2022 8U Rules

## General Rules

1. You will use an 11 inch “Softie” ball.
2. Equipment – Waupun teams will be provided with a bag of balls, bats and other items. They can be found in your team cubby in the equipment room along third base side at diamond #1. You may keep it in your possession during the season or keep it in your cubby. This must be returned at the end of the season. There are separate storage sheds at each diamond. Provided in these sheds will be a pitching rubber, stakes, hammer, measuring tape, chalker and string, rakes, batter’s box frame, catching equipment and helmets etc. These items are to be returned immediately after your practice or game. Each coach can only take from the shed on the diamond they are scheduled at. Do not take individual helmets out of the shed, take the entire bag and hang it on the fence to help protect the helmets. Keys will be provided to the head coach only. The keys will allow you to get into all storage sheds, and batting cages. Keys must be returned to the commissioner after the season. Coaches will not be reimbursed until their key is returned. **PLEASE RETURN ALL EQUIPMENT WHERE YOU FOUND IT, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FINAL GAME AND KEEP THE STORAGE ROOMS ORGANIZED.**
3. Uniforms – Each player is required to wear their t-shirt, non-metal cleats or tennis shoes. (no sandals and no jewelry) Batters and runners are required to wear helmets with a face mask attached. If a runner deliberately knocks off their helmet, they will get one warning. The next time they do it, they are out. T-Shirts cannot be altered.
4. Time rule – All of the games will be for 60 minutes or 6 innings in length. The home team will set the timer on the scoreboard. If the scoreboard is not working, then the home team is responsible for keeping the time. Once the timer goes off that inning WILL be completed and be the LAST inning. No new inning will be started once time has expired unless the score is tied after the last inning. Please keep the games going. Most of the time is wasted between innings, so having someone in the dugout helping the girls would be ideal.
5. Run Rule – 6 runs per inning or 3 outs, whichever comes first. There is NO UNLIMITED run in any innings. A game will go no longer than 6 innings, unless tied at the end of the 6th.
6. Rosters – A minimum of 8 eligible players must play, or your team is forced to forfeit. (players from the younger leagues are eligible to play) A team may substitute from the younger league if fewer than 10 players are available. If rostered players show up before the first pitch, the non-rostered player can bat, but CAN NOT PLAY IN THE FIELD. You must bat your entire roster.
7. After each REGULAR season game, each player may get either a Slushy, or 2 Freeze sticks.

## Umpire

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1. There is no umpires in this age level. We use a pitching machine and batters strike out when they swing and miss 3 times. Strikes will only be “called” on a batter who refuses to swing. Plays at bases will be called by coaches. Remember sportsmanship and to set good examples for the players!

### Offensive rules

1. Count - There will be 3 strikes. All Strikes will be swinging strikes.

2. No infield fly rule

3. Bunting and stealing – are not allowed. The runner must stay on the bag till the ball is hit. If caught leaving early, they will get 1 warning. If anyone else is caught leaving early, it will be an out. Players may only advance to 1 base per hit at bat. Unless the event that the 1st base is open and the batter hits a ball that goes well past the outfielders then the batter can advance to 2nd base, however a play can be made on them to get them out at 2nd base.

4. Catcher Courtesy Rule – If your catcher is on base with 2 outs, we ask that you call time and put in a courtesy runner. This runner will be the last player called out. Coaches have your catcher ready for the start of the inning.

5. Sliding. Sliding is not mandatory but is suggested. When a runner creates malicious contact and/or interference with any fielder with or without the ball, in or out of the base line the runner is out, and any other runners must return to the base touched at the time of such action. This is not an appealable action and will be decided by the umpire covering such action.

6. Orange Bag Rule – A batted ball hitting the orange bag is foul. The batter/runner must use the orange bag when running through 1st base. She does not need to use the orange bag while rounding 1st base when attempting to run to 2nd base. 2) If the infielder covering first base uses the orange bag (i.e., errant throw from fielder or throw from catcher to first on dropped third strike where ball is in foul territory on first base side of field), the runner must use the white bag. If not, she could be called out for interference.

7. If a batter throws their bat, they will get 1 warning and so will their team. If anyone else on their team throws their bat again during the game, they will be called out. The coaches should make this very clear if it happens.

8. Ball bounces then hits batter – This is not a windmill league, so if the ball hits the ground first and then hits the batter, it is a dead ball unless she swings.

### Defensive Rules

9. Max is 10 players on defense. The 10th player must be an outfielder.

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10. Pitching – Pitching will be done with the pitching machine. It is up to the coaches to have it setup before each game. It will be setup 35 feet from home plate. The team will pitch a player for 3 strikes. If a player gets 3 strikes, they are out. The batter will only strike out if she swings and misses three times. The defensive pitcher will remain on the field in a defensive capacity and be positioned inside the pitching circle during the pitch. The pitching machine will be operated by a coach from the team up to bat.

11. Catching equipment – Catchers are required to wear helmet and mask, chest protectors and shin guards.

12. Coaches should be on the field to coach and teach their defense. The coach will not make any defensive plays. If a live ball either via throwing from a player or hit from a bat makes contact with the coach while they are on the field to pitch to their batter it is considered a live ball.

### Misc. Items

1. Good sportsmanship is expected AT ALL TIMES. Behavior including ridiculing, teasing, and making inappropriate comments to players and coaches will not be tolerated. Coaches are responsible for the behavior and actions of their players and fans. Anyone displaying bad sportsmanship may be warned, but it could result in the immediate forfeiture of the game. A second warning will result in the forfeiture of the game.

2. Score –Each team will be responsible to keep score and each team will need to report the final score to the league commissioner. It is very important that the scores are recorded each week.

3. Inclement weather – (WIAA Guidelines) When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for thirty minutes and take shelter immediately. Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.

A. BEFORE A GAME STARTS – A member of the executive board is the only one who can call a game off due to the weather before a game starts. The game must be rescheduled within 7 days, but it doesn't have to be played within 7 days. It must be played before the end of the regular season though.

B. ONCE THE GAME STARTS – A member of the executive board or the league commissioner may call the game due to the weather.

C. COMPLETE GAME – A game that is called due to the weather is considered a complete game if over 3 innings have been completed or over 30 minutes have been played. If the game is considered a complete game and stopped in the middle of an inning, the

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final score will be reverted to the last completed inning. If a game is stopped prior to 3 innings or 30 minutes, a make-up game will be scheduled and that game will start over. If the game is just delayed, the game is continued that same day as though there was no interruption.

Most of all make sure your girls have fun!!!

4/15/2022