

WGSA RULES – 8 AND UNDER 2019 Rules

- A regulation game shall consist of five innings.
- The pitching distance shall be 30 feet.
- The base distance shall be 50 feet.
- Teams may begin and play game with 7 players. Less than 7 players will cause a team to forfeit.
- Teams may borrow players from any team in the same age group or below to avoid a forfeit.
- Games will start at 6pm. There will be a 15 minute grace period to allow for missing players to arrive if the team is unable to field a team at 6pm.
- Last inning will be called by 1 hour 15 minutes in accordance with the designated time frame of 1 hour 30 minutes, or the completion of a full 5 inning game, whichever comes first.
- The infield fly rule shall not apply.
- There is no dropped third strike rule.
- The offensive team shall bat until three outs are made or until three runs have scored in the half inning. The “three run rule” does not apply in the last inning of the game.
- There is NO limit on pitchers innings – It is recommended that pitchers pitch three innings per game however discretion will be left to coaches.
- There will be no walks in 8U. If a batter gets 4 balls, the coach shall come in and finish the at bat. All at bats will end either with the ball being put into play, or the batter striking out. This will be true for hit batters as well.
- If a batter is hit by a pitch, regardless of the count, the coach will come in to pitch to the batter.
- When the coach is pitching, the pitcher may position herself anywhere within the 16 foot circle around the pitcher’s plate.
- It is recommended that an APPROVED manager or coach be on the bench at all times. If allowing the offensive coach to pitch removes the only coach from the bench, it is suggested to use the defensive coach to pitch.

- When a coach comes in to pitch, the coach is obligated to follow the pitching rules. The coach must pitch from the pitching plate. If a coach interferes with a ball hit in play, the batter is out and all runners return to their original bases.
- After the ball is put into play by the offensive team, the play is ended when the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle. (If a coach is pitching at the time of play, the coach cannot get involved in the play, the ball must be returned to the player designated as the pitcher.)
- When a play has ended and a player is simply returning the ball back to the pitcher's circle and the ball is either overthrown or the pitcher does not catch the ball, no runners shall advance.
- Runners will be limited to 1 base for an infield hit. Runners may take extra bases if the ball is hit to the outfield. Runners will be held up once the ball returns to the infield.
- There is no stealing and no runner may advance on a passed ball. Runners are not allowed to leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- The "mercy rule" shall apply. If a team is leading its opponent by at least 10 runs after four innings, the game shall be terminated and the team in front declared the winner.
- To speed up the game, defensive managers are allowed to position a coach behind the catcher. The coach is allowed to return all passed balls directly back to the pitcher. When the offense puts the ball in play, the coach will vacate the area around home plate and allow the catcher to make all defensive plays.
- Coaches are allowed on the field throughout the regular season to instruct players and encourage them, but not to assist them in making a play.
- Players must be rotated between the outfield and the infield during the course of the season. Players should be given the opportunity to play all positions on the field. Pitcher, catcher and first base are the only positions where the coaches' discretion is used.