



**Greater Wenatchee Girls Softball Association (GWGSA)
Official 8U Softball Rules - 2026**

1. League Philosophy

This division is designed to develop fundamental softball skills in a fun, safe, and encouraging environment.

Emphasis shall be placed on participation, learning, and sportsmanship.

2. Eligibility

Players must be eight (8) years of age or younger on or before January 1 of the current playing year.

3. Game Format

Games shall consist of four (4) innings or a seventy-five (75) minute time limit, whichever occurs first.

No new inning shall begin after the time limit has been reached.

Each inning will consist of 3 outs, with a maximum of 5 runs scored.

4. Equipment & Safety

No jewelry may be worn during games or practices, except for medical alert items which must be covered.

All batters and base runners must wear helmets with face masks.

Catchers must wear full protective gear (helmet, chest protector, shin guards).

Metal cleats are not permitted.

5. Batting

Continuous batting order shall be used for all players present.

Each batter will receive a maximum of four (4) pitches from the pitching machine.

If the batter does not put the ball in play after four pitches, an option of coach pitch or tee will be used at coaches discretion .

There are no walks or strikeouts.

A batter cannot strike out on a foul ball.

Only one (1) batter per inning may bunt successfully.

6. Baserunning

No stealing or leading off is permitted.

Runners must remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit.

Runners advance at their own risk.

On an overthrow, runners may advance to the nearest base they have reached.

Play stops when the pitcher has control of the ball within the pitching circle.

Sliding is allowed but not required (except not permitted at first base).

7. Defense

Teams may field up to ten (10) defensive players, including four (4) outfielders.

All players should be given equal opportunity to play defensive positions.

Coaches may be on the field for instruction but must not interfere with play.

8. Dead Ball

The ball is considered dead when the pitcher has control of the ball within the pitching circle.

If the ball strikes the pitching machine, the play is dead.

The umpire or acting field official may call time at their discretion.

9. Game Operations

A coach or designated official will manage gameplay and make rulings.

Teams may share players to avoid forfeits if needed.

Games may be shortened or suspended due to weather conditions.

10. Sportsmanship & Conduct

Positive cheering is encouraged at all times.

Negative, taunting, or intimidating behavior is not permitted.

All players, coaches, and spectators must maintain a respectful environment.

General Rules and Guidelines:

- **All teams are responsible for ensuring that their bench and surrounding areas are free of litter prior to departure.**
- **All teams are responsible for ensuring that their bullpen is raked, field is raked around bases, baselines and around home plate. Ensure tees, & bases are put away in gator storage room.**
- **Coaches and team personnel must always maintain control of the dugout and bench areas to ensure player safety.**
- **In the event of lightning, play must stop immediately and may resume 30 minutes after the last observed strike.**
- **There are no league awards. Coaches are encouraged to provide team-level awards with the support of parents and/or host an end-of-season celebration to recognize player participation and development.**