

2026 Westfield Recreational Softball Rules

6U

(as of 1/5/2026)

A. The Playing Field/Equipment

1. 60' between bases with 30' baseline hash marks
2. 35' to pitcher's plate with 8' radius pitching circle
3. Foul lines, batter's box and base coach boxes per IHSA Rulebook
4. 10" optic yellow ball with red stitching
5. Batting helmet with faceguard is required, chin straps are strongly recommended.
6. Facemasks are strongly recommended for all players in the field

B. Pitching Regulations

1. Coach Pitch: The coach has three (3) pitches/soft tosses.
2. If the ball is not put into play off the coach, the batter will hit off the tee.
3. The Coach-Pitcher should pitch or soft toss from a safe distance and at an angle to avoid being hit by the ball.
4. The Coach-Pitcher must avoid contact with the ball and defensive players when the ball is in play.
5. The Pitcher-Helper (defensive player) should keep **at least one foot** in the pitcher's circle and be two steps behind the pitching rubber until the ball is released.
 - a. All Pitcher-Helpers must wear a fielding mask or helmet with a faceguard and a chest guard.
6. Offensive team should provide a "catcher" behind home plate to help expedite play. (This should be a parent or someone over the age of 13.)

C. The Game/Playing Rules

1. A game shall consist of no more than four (4) innings, or no new innings after 45 minutes.
 - a. A "new" inning starts once the last batter has hit and rounded the bases.
2. Home Team is decided by the schedule. Home Team takes third base dugout.
3. A half inning consists of three (3) outs or a bat through the lineup, whichever is first.
 - a. All players will play every inning of every game.
 - b. Players must also play at least one inning in the infield and one inning in the outfield.
 - c. No player may play first base or pitcher's helper more than two consecutive innings.
 - d. Rotation of players to all positions is required in 6U.
4. Three or four defensive coaches are allowed on the field. Two must be positioned in the outfield (in the grass). Defensive coaches must avoid contact with the ball.
5. A maximum of three (3) pitches/soft tosses, with unlimited fouls on the last pitch.
 - a. There will be **NO STRIKES OR WALKS**.
 - b. A batter that is 4 years old (as of Sept. 1 of the current year) is allowed to bypass the coach pitches/soft tosses and go directly to hit off the tee.
6. After a ball is hit into play, if there is an overthrow to first base, the (hitting) runner may advance only one base. If there are other runners on the field, they may only advance one

base as well. Runners may not advance if a second overthrow occurs (during the same play) that is directed at the pitcher.

- a. **Overthrow** - any throw which sends a ball untouched past its intended recipient or target

7. Dead ball. Play shall stop when:

- a. Any defensive player has possession AND control of the ball in front of the lead runner, holding their arms up. Coaches should call "Time!" The ball is dead and all baserunners must stop at the base that the coaches rule they are entitled.
- b. The defensive player has possession AND control of the ball inside the 8ft radius circle and time is awarded, the ball is dead. When time is awarded, the runner's will be placed according to where they are based on half-way lines.

D. Batting & Running

1. No stealing in 6U.
2. Runners may not leave the base until the batter makes contact with the ball.
3. The last batter in the lineup will round all the bases prior to the defensive team leaving the field.
4. Any hit ball that lands in either batter's box is a foul ball.
5. A player removed from the game due to injury will **NOT** be allowed to return to the game unless agreed upon by both coaches. The injured player will be skipped in the batting order without penalty.

E. Other Rules

1. All safety and conduct rules will be in accordance with WYSI and will be enforced by the Umpires and Commissioner.
2. **Rainouts/Suspended Play:** Will be determined 30 minutes prior to the first game time by the League Commissioner. During game times, Coaches and Umpires will determine this.
 - a. The Lightning Policy will be in accordance with WYSI Lightning Policy

G. General Requirements

1. Head Coaches are responsible for the actions of the Assistant Coaches, players and fans.
2. All issues with any parent, coach or fan should be relayed to the WYSI Recreational Softball Commissioner.