

Walton County
Parks & Recreation Department
Youth Softball – General Rules & Regulations
Revised: February 1, 2024

Governing Body:

The Walton County Parks & Recreation Department will make all final decisions concerning league rules, age control dates, rule interpretations, scheduling practice sessions & games, officials, registration fees, protest, team drafts, or any matter concerning the youth softball league. All games will be played by USA Softball Rules with the exceptions found herein.

Contact Information:

Sports Hot-Line Phone Numbers

West Walton Office..... 770-266-1650

Central Walton Office..... 770-267-7525

South Walton Office..... 770-267-1933

Softball - General Rules & Regulations:

- 01.) All teams are limited to no more than three (3) practices per week before the first game of the season. Teams are limited to three (3) events per week after their first game.
- 02.) All regular season games that are tied at the end of the time limit or maximum number of innings, will remain a tie.
- 03.) If a player is injured, becomes ill, leaves or simply chooses not to bat, her turn will be skipped with no penalty until such time as she can re-enter the game if the plate umpire, opposing coach and scorekeeper is notified prior to the next batter. A player arriving late must be added to the bottom of the line-up. If a player is ejected, their spot in the line-up will be an out for the remainder of the game.
- 04.) All players present, who are listed on the team roster, will be placed in a continuous batting order.
- 05.) Offensive teams will be allowed one (1) time-out per inning.
- 06.) On defense-One coach will be allowed outside the dugout within arm's reach.
- 07.) The slinging of a bat, which could cause injury to other players, shall result in the team being warned by the umpire. Any further incident by that team will result in the batter being called out. Such play would be a dead ball situation and no runner will be allowed to advance.
- 08.) Teams must have 8 players present to start a game. Anytime a team goes below 8 players a forfeit will occur. Teams that play a game with 8 players will receive an out each time the 9th spot in the lineup is scheduled to bat. Teams may pick up a registered player from the same age division or immediate younger age division to avoid taking an out in order to play the game. Any pickup player must bat last and play in the outfield. Any team picking up a player shall receive a forfeit in the standings. The score will be recorded as 5-0, 6-0 or 7-0 depending on age division for a forfeit. If both teams pick up players, it shall go down as a no contest and removed from the schedule for standing purposes. No pickup players are allowed in the end of season tournament.

- 09.) On deck batters may stand in the on deck circle located to the rear of the batter.
- 10.) All players are required to play six (6) defensive outs per game. It is recommended that managers rotate defensive players every inning. It is also recommended that players should not sit two (2) consecutive innings.
- 11.) Each team shall have an adult scorekeeper age 16 or older. This position may be shared. The home team will supply a scoreboard operator. The visiting team will provide an adult to keep the official scorebook.

*Scorekeepers (board & book) must sit in the designated score area. They should report to this area ten (10) minutes prior to game time.
- 12.) Players are not allowed to wear jewelry except for medical purposes.
- 13.) Teams are responsible for cleaning out their dugout after each game.

Player Eligibility:

- 01.) Girls aged 4-17 prior to January 1st of the current year, are eligible to participate during the regular season games. (4Yr.Old T-Ball is only offered in the Spring Season)
- 02.) All players must play within their age division, unless approved by an Athletic Coordinator.
- 03.) Four (4) year olds must play one (1) season before moving up.
- 04.) A player will not be allowed to move up an age division unless there is an opening after registration had ended.

Coaches:

- 01.) Each team is allowed to have one (1) manager and two (2) assistant coaches in the dug-out during games. Ages 5-8 may have one (1) additional coach to assist with the batters.
- 02.) Individuals appointed to be managers or assistant coaches are required to:
 - submit an application and pass a criminal background check
 - attend a certification / rules clinic sponsored by the Recreation Department
- 03.) Managers pulling their team from the field during a game will be subject to suspension.
- 04.) Managers using a player, not on their team's official roster, will forfeit the game in which the player was used.
- 05.) Failure to adhere to proper conduct could result in suspension. Ejected managers or assistant coaches will be suspended for the remainder of the game in progress and their team's following scheduled game. Suspensions will not be over-turned under any circumstances.

Umpire Procedure for Managers:

- 01.) Managers may ask the umpire that makes a call, to ask for help from his/her partner if the manager feels something happened on the play that created a situation where the other umpire may have had a better view. If the umpire that made the call chooses to ask his/her partner for help, the umpires may change the original call. Only managers appointed by the recreation staff, will be allowed to approach and speak to an umpire about seeking help on a previous call. Assistant coaches cannot request help. Any call by an umpire that is solely a matter of judgment is final. Only rule interpretation may be questioned. **No one is allowed to say anything negative to or about umpires, managers, coaches, or players.**
- 02.) Concerns about umpires should be directed to the Recreation Administrative Office. This must be submitted in a written form.

Protest:

- 01.) Judgment calls by the umpires cannot be protested.
- 02.) All protest of rule infractions will be handled in accordance with USA Softball Rules.
- 03.) All protest must be handled at the time of the occurrence.

Time Limits:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Time Limit</u>	
Age 5-6	1 hour 10 minutes	finish inning
Age 7-8	1 hour 10 minutes	finish inning
Age 9-10	1 hour 20 minutes	finish inning
Age 13U	1 hour 20 minutes	finish inning
Age 17U	1 hour 20 minutes	finish inning

If a team cannot score enough runs to tie or take the lead during its last at bat, that team will bat regardless of the score if time has not expired. However, the inning will end when: (a) three outs have been made, (b) the run limit for that inning has been reached, or (c) the time limit expires.

*Games may be extended to allow those players who have not yet batted to bat. Runs scored during this time will not count towards the final score.

Run / Mercy Rule:

5-6 inning game	11 runs after 4 innings,
7 inning game -	11 runs after 4 innings,

Equipment:

Player is responsible for glove, USA approved bat, batting helmet with face guard.
Recreation Department provides catching gear, 6 practice balls per team and all game balls.

5-10 division: 11-inch, yellow-red stitch, .47 core, 375 compression
11-17 division: 12-inch, yellow-red stitch, 47 core, 375 compression

All catchers must wear catcher's helmet, shin guards and chest protector.

Pitchers / Circle Players in the 5-10 age divisions must wear a facemask and heart (chest) protection.

Metal spikes will only be allowed for those players playing in the 17U division.

Sportsmanship:

In the interest of maintaining a quality event, the Athletics Staff reserves the right to eject any person from the site for unruly or unsportsmanlike behavior:

- Physical attack on an umpire, county official, and/or any player or fan prior, during, or following a game played under the authority of WCYB. Assault on an official is a felony in some states.
- Players, coaches, managers, fans, spectators, or sponsors threatening an umpire, or county official with physical harm.
- Any player, coach, manager, fan, spectator, or umpire who engages in physical fighting.
- Using unsportsmanlike conduct or abusive language, symbol tactics, or derogatory or unbecoming acts
- Destruction of property or abuse.
- Competing under an assumed, false and/or altered name
- County Officials have the authority to eject a player, fans, or team anytime during a game of committing any of the above listed offenses.
- A player, spectator, fan or coach ejection carries removal from that game and a one game suspension. Any spectator, coach, manager, or player who is ejected for the second time during the season will be subject to potential season suspension.
- Any event that results in physical altercation (before, during or after a game) could result in a forfeit for both teams and suspension.