

**In addition to our regular league play rules, here are our
Specific Rules for 8u -Coach Pitch
Updated May 2026**

1. Game ball will be an 11' USA certified ball.
2. All games with Yakima area teams will start at 6pm mostly on Field 5.
3. There will be no paid umpires for 8u. Each team should provide at least one volunteer umpire at each game. It is up to the coaches to decide on agreed upon umpires at the plate meeting before the game. These parents should have a background check done by USA Softball.
4. All players on the dirt must wear a face mask. For example, if your outfielders are playing their positions in the dirt, they need a mask. The ball is not squishy and we can't always predict the bounce at this age level. Wear the masks!
5. All players need to wear appropriate gear for the sport. Such as a mitt when in the field, and tennis shoes or cleats. They should have an appropriate sized USA approved bat for their size. Players should also have a batting helmet that fits. However, they do not have to have their own bat or batting helmet. Bats and helmets can be shared among players.
6. **No scoreboard is needed for this level. GYGSA believes all should be focused on building the player's skills, not the score.** However, someone should keep track of each run in an inning because if you get to 5 runs before 3 outs then the inning is over. Refer to rule 4 under Batting.

Batting

1. Coach pitch will be used for all girls. Each batter will get three (3) swinging strikes or five (5) pitches from the coach. The batter is not out if the third strike or the fifth pitch is a foul ball. The batter will continue to bat until the ball is hit into play or there is a swinging 3rd strike. There are no walks in this age division.
2. No bunting is allowed.
3. The pitching coach must not interfere with the ball while it is in play. A batted ball that makes contact with the pitching coach is declared a dead

ball and the batter will bat again with the same count as prior to the contact. Intentional interference by the pitching coach will result in the batter being declared out.

4. Each half inning will end when the offensive team has batted once through their entire lineup, including substitutions, or after three (3) outs, or the offensive team has scored five (5) runs. There is no continuation rule. In the event of a “last batter”, the last batter will hit the ball or strikeout.

Base Running

1. Runners may advance one (1) base on fielding overthrows at 1st base.
2. Coaches may not assist a runner, via any physical contact. Any violation will result in the runner being declared out.
3. Runners may not leave any base until the batter swings the bat.
4. Stealing of bases is not allowed in this age division.

Follow all other league rules for **game length and code of conduct**

1:45 min can be a long game for players at this age level.

We recommend 1:15-1:30 min game times for 8u

For this season, GYGSA is leaving it up to the coaches discretion to end when necessary. There will not be league winners for this division. All the players are considered All-Stars.