

Junior Division Rules

National Wheelchair Softball Association

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Junior wheelchair softball rules and regulations are derived from the NWSA Adult rules and the ASA softball rules. Below are the specific rules and regulations designed for the juniors 5 years old until graduates from high school.

Field Dimensions

Playing field should be a minimum of 90' and a maximum of 120 feet to foul lines with a minimum of 110' to center with a maximum of 150' to straight center field. The official diamond shall have all bases 50' apart.

Coaches will pitch at 28 ½ feet to the plate. If you have an athlete playing the pitchers position they must stay behind the pitching rubber at a minimum of 28'.

The pitching stripe, extending perpendicularly 1 foot on either side of the diagonal from home to 2nd base, shall be located 28 ½ feet from home base.

The playing field shall be a level smooth surface of blacktop or similar materials.

The outfield will have a 75 foot outfield retainer line. The outfield players may not cross this line until the batter hits the ball.

At 2nd base shall be located a 4 feet diameter circle. At 1st and 3rd base, in fair territory, shall be located a 4 feet diameter semicircle. The defensive baseman and the base runner must touch the circle with one or more wheels in order to tag the base. The bases shall be painted white.

Equipment

1. The official game ball is: 14" gymball DeBeers Clincher Seam
2. All bats must be softball or tee-ball bats. No baseball bats.
3. All participants must be in manual wheelchairs with foot platforms. If a participant is not in a sports chair all metal parts of the wheelchair that are above the foot platform must be covered to prevent injuries in a collision. This will be checked and determined safe or unsafe by the head umpire before each game.
4. All players are allowed to have assisted devices to alter their bat to improve the grip. The altered bat must be approved by the head umpire for safety concerns (no sharp or pointed edges, etc.). Athletes that are quads or have trouble with catching a ball may wear a glove on either or both hands regardless of position (including pitcher).
5. Helmets – All batters, players, and catchers are allowed to wear a helmet but are not required to do so.
6. Tee's - If player chooses to use a tee they must notify umpire before start of game and must use the tee - for the entire game. Using a tee – front casters are allowed to cross batters box in order to reach the tee.

If an athlete is over the age of 18 years old they will need a Verification of enrollment in a high school program providing high school verification.

1. Game Length 1 hour 15 minutes or 6 innings whichever occurs first.
2. Juniors will not have a point system for classification to play. Athlete must have significant neurological involvement (muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy) and/or cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, spina bifida with encephalitis or shunt problems that affect mobility, coordinated movement and strength and endurance as determined by the NWSA Executive Committee.

3. Juniors are allowed to play with adult teams during the regular season. For a National Tournament a junior player must choose to play for either the adult program or junior but may not play for both leagues.
4. All team members should wear uniforms of the same color and style. Uniforms are allowed to be altered to ensure safety for athletes. Each player shall have numbers on the back of their shirt.
5. Players – Minimum of 8 players to start a game. 3 out fielders 4 in fielders and a catcher
6. 10 players on a field
7. Line up requirement – An official lineup must be submitted to head Official and the line up must state whether the athlete hit from the tee. Line up will state players name and number.
8. Thrown bat is an immediate out called by the umpire's discretion. Umpire has the ability to give warning to a team if chooses.
9. If a batter using a tee hits the tee only, a foul ball will be called.
10. If a team is ahead by 15 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings, the game will be called. In the event of a tie, extra innings will be played until someone scores, they will be full innings.

Sportsmanship

1. If a coach is thrown out of a game the coach will be ejected from game and will be suspended for one additional game.
2. If a player gets into a fight. Player will be ejected from game and will be suspended for one additional game.

Umpires – officiating

1. 2 umpires per game 1 should have an ASA certified official – Commissioner and President of NWSA have the rights to waive this rule. ASA certified official requirement may be waived with commissioner consent.
2. Umpires must have ability to communicate effectively to athletes and players to ensure that call from official is interpreted correctly.

General questions or concerns to a game time situation will refer back to the NWSA rules for adults or the ASA Rule Book.

2008 Rules are subject to change by the NWSA Committee after each year.