



GCAA 8U Rules

I. League Administration

GCAA will coordinate with the Johnston County Athletic Association to administer the league and reserves the right to make any changes they deem necessary.

Official Tar Heel Softball Rules, INC (<https://www.tarheel leagues.com/forms>) will apply with the following modifications

II. Eligibility

A. This program is for girls ages 7 – 8 as of January 1, 2023. Players must pay their entry fees, turn in a completed application and give the recreation department a copy of a birth certificate before participating in organized practices or games.

III. Equipment

A. Molded rubber cleats or tennis shoes are recommended for all players. Metal cleats and barefoot are not permitted.

B. All batters and base runners must wear batting helmets with facemasks

C. Each player must wear a glove in the field.

D. Each player must play in her uniform.

E. Catchers must wear equipment consisting of a helmet, facemask, shin guards and chest protector.

F. All players must wear a fielders protective mask while playing an infield position.

IV. Playing Rules

A. Ten players constitute a team, but a team may begin with eight players until additional players arrive.

1. Ten players will play defensive, 6 infielders and 4 outfielders. The outfield will be defined as 10' behind the base path.

2. All outfielders must be positioned at a similar radius.



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- B. Each team will submit a lineup to the press box ten minutes before their scheduled game time.
- C. One umpire will be used for each game and the umpire must call the game from behind home plate.
- D. Each game will consist of six innings or no new inning beginning after 1 hour and 10 minutes. Games will play until the inning has been completed, there will be no drop dead play.
- E. An inning consists of five runs or 3 outs, whichever comes first.
- F. Consecutive batting order – Each coach will make up a batting order consisting of all members of the team that are present for the game. Players will bat in this order throughout the game. Any player arriving after the game has started must be placed at the end of the batting order.
- G. A maximum of **five** pitches will be thrown to each batter. If a player does not hit the ball after the maximum pitches thrown or if she swings and misses three times, the player is out. There will be no limit of number of foul balls on the 5th pitch or 3rd swing.
- H. A coach will throw the pitches from a distance of 35 feet. Teams will use a regulation 11” softball.
- I. Bunting is not permitted. If in the judgment of the umpire, a player has attempted an intentional bunt, the ball is immediately called a foul ball and it counts as a strike.
- J. The defensive pitcher must have both feet inside the pitching circle until the batter makes contact with the ball.
- K. The Adult pitcher MUST leave the field, 1st or 3rd base line, when the ball is put in play.
- L. Mandatory base runner for the catcher with two outs.
- M. If a batted ball hits the pitcher (coach), the ball is dead.

CLARIFICATION: If the pitcher catches a line drive in self-defense or is hit by a batted ball, the ball is dead. The batter is then placed on first base and other runners advance only if forced but, if in the opinion of the umpire the pitcher interferes with the batted ball, the batter is out.

- N. **2 Outfield coaches are permitted on defense. 2 Base coaches are permitted on offense. The pitcher and any optional coach/helper behind the plate are not allowed to “coach” after the ball is pitched.**
- O. There is no stealing and the base runner may not leave the base until the ball is hit. If a runner leaves the base before the ball is hit, then the runner is declared out.



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P. On an uncatchable throw to 1st base, runners may advance one base only, at their own risk. Infielders should be taught to make a play. There is no overthrow rule for any other bases.

Q. Action will be stopped after each play has been completed. The ball will be called a dead ball when the defense has contained the front runner. A runner may advance, at her own risk, when the ball is being thrown from the outfield to the infield.

R. Coaches must position their infielders so they will not obstruct the baselines. The base runner is entitled to the baseline and proper positioning will minimize obstruction calls.

S. On hits to the outfield, where the ball is being returned to the infield, and on infield hits, players should be taught to make a defensive play in the infield where reasonable opportunity exists.

T. THERE WILL BE NO SLINGING OF THE BAT! The following penalties will be enforced by the umpires and coaches:

1. First Time – player warning
2. Second Time – player will be called out.
3. Third Time – player will be called out and ejected from the game.

U. Mandatory Playing Rule: Players must play defense in every other inning. A player may not sit out two consecutive innings on defense. All players must bat in the consecutive batting order.

V. CONDUCT – Team personnel and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner for a youth recreational sporting event. Any team personnel are subject for removal from the game by the umpire and/or the facilitator for unsportsmanlike conduct, profanity or any other objectionable behavior.

W. Team personnel must clean up their respective dugout before leaving each game.

X. Team personnel and umpires shall not use tobacco or tobacco-like products on or in the vicinity of the playing field. If the field is at a school facility, school policy states that no tobacco products are allowed on campus.

Y. SPORTSMANSHIP – All players and coaches are to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. Lining up at the end of the game to shake hands with the other team is mandatory and only a small token of sportsmanship. Remember to demonstrate good sportsmanship from the beginning to the end.

Z. Always remember to have fun and enjoy the game!