WUSA 5U and 6U
RULES

1) Definitions

a) Lead Runner: The runner closest to home plate.
b) Foul Territory: Includes territory outside the left and right field foul line and in fair territory within three (3) feet of home plate.
c) Overthrow: Any thrown ball that enters foul territory constitutes an overthrow and a dead ball will be declared

2) The Playing Field

a) The distance between the pitching rubber and home plate shall be thirty-five (35) feet.
b) The distance between the bases shall be sixty (60) feet.
c) The field will be marked with a standard ASA batter's box, foul lines, and eight (8) foot radius circle around the pitching rubber.
d) Half-way lines will be marked between first base-second base, second base-third base and third base-home plate.

3) Equipment

a) All players on the team at bat will wear a batting helmet at all times while on the field of play.
b) The pitcher and first baseman will wear a batting helmet. The catcher will wear full catcher's gear, including a catcher's helmet, chest protector, and shin guards.
c) A batting tee will be used and placed directly on top of home plate at the start of each at-bat.
d) Balls will be 11-inch safety balls issued by WUSA.
e) Bats must be USA, ASA, or USSSA certified.

4) Players and Substitutes

a) All players bat in order. Any players arriving late are placed at the end of the batting order.
b) If a player exits the game, no out is recorded when their batting position comes up.
c) All players must play one full inning in the field at one of these positions within the first three innings of the game: Pitcher, First Base, Second Base, Rover, Shortstop or Third Base.
d) Injured players may re-enter the game.

5) The Game

a) A fully played game shall be fifty-five (55) minutes, but no new inning shall begin after fifty-five (55) minutes. Four (4) runs or three (3) outs will constitute a half-inning.
b) There is no Run-Ahead Rule (also known as a Mercy Rule or Run Rule). No game will end because a team is mathematically eliminated. All games will be played per the inning limit ortime limit described in Rule 5(a).
c) The following coaching positions will be allowed.
    a. Offensive first base and third base coaches.
    b. Offensive batting coach to position batters and remove the tee as soon as the ball is hit.
    c. Two defensive coaches, one defensive coach down each foul line in foul territory, standing in the grass, will be allowed and must remain 20 feet back from the offensive base coaches. The defensive coaching must be provided to defensive players in

such a manner as to not interfere with the instructions given by the offensive base coaches to runners and batter.

d) Only one defensive time out will be allowed per inning, per team other than for injuries.
e) If a player is injured, play stops immediately, and coaches may go directly to the player. The umpire will place runners according to his or her judgment. A courtesy runner may be used for any injured base runner. The courtesy runner will be the last player to make an out or score a run, whichever happened last.

6) Defensive Play

a) The pitcher must be in the rear one-half of the pitching circle until the ball has been hit.
b) Corner infielders may not be closer than forty-five (45 feet) from the batter until the ball has been batted. Middle infielders must stay behind an imaginary line between first base and third base until after the ball has been batted.
c) Only five infielders may be used inside the base paths other than the pitcher and catcher: first baseman, second baseman, rover, shortstop, third baseman. All other fielders must be placed in fair territory outside the base paths. Such fielders playing outside the base paths shall have the responsibilities of an outfielder and shall not have primary responsibility for covering or receiving throws at any of the bases.
d) If a pop fly is caught by a fielder inside the three (3) foot foul ball zone, the batter will be out.
e) No run-downs in excess of 30 ft (one half of the base path) of a base runner by a defensive player are allowed. Violation of this rule will be at the discretion of the umpire. Penalty: A dead ball will be declared by the umpire, and the base runner will be placed on the last base safely occupied with all other runners positioned accordingly. A lead runner not involved in the rundown will be granted the next base if past the halfway mark on the base path.
f) No intentional rolling of the ball on the ground to make a defensive play or to return the ball to the pitcher is permitted. Penalty: one extra base will be awarded to all base runners according to the position of the lead runner and no out will be awarded.
g) Fielders may not run more than six (6) feet to return the ball back to the pitcher in the judgment of the umpire. Fielders must throw the ball if they are farther than six (6) feet from the pitcher. Penalty: one extra base will be awarded to all base runners according to the position of the lead runner and no out will be awarded.
h) Pitcher may not run more than six (6) feet to apply a force out to a runner attempting to score from third, in the judgment of the umpire. The pitcher must throw the ball if she is farther than six (6) feet from home plate. Penalty: Home is awarded to the base runner attempting to score from third.

7) Batting

a) 5U
    a. All 5U games utilize a tee.
    b. The batter must hit the ball in fair territory at least three (3) feet beyond home plate. A batted ball that comes to rest within three (3) feet of home plate is a foul ball.
    c. If a portion of the batting tee lands in the field of play, a dead ball is called, all runners will return to their previous position, no strike called and the batter will resume their at-bat.
b) 6U
    a. The batter receives three (3) pitches to put the ball into play.
        - If a ball is not put in play after the third pitch, a tee is presented.
        - When a tee is used, refer to rules 7a)b) and 7a)c).
c) 5U and 6U
    a. Less than full swings and bunting are not allowed. Batters will be given one warning per at bat. Penalty: in the event of a subsequent attempt to bunt or take less than a full swing after the warning, a strike will be called.
    b. If a player throws her bat after swinging at a pitch she will receive a warning from the umpire. If the same player throws her bat a second time at any point in the same game, she will be called out.

8) Batter-Runner and Runner

a) All base runners must maintain one foot in contact with the base until the bat passes or hits the ball on the tee**.**

b) Any thrown ball that enters foul territory constitutes an overthrow and a dead ball will be declared. If the thrown ball enters foul territory on the initial play by an infielder to any base the batter is awarded first base and all other runners are awarded one base from their position at the time of the hit. If the thrown ball enters foul territory on any play other than the initial play, runners past the halfway mark are awarded the base to which they are advancing with the position of the lead runner governing.

c) Play will stop and a dead ball will be declared when (a) the pitcher has control of the ball and has two feet within the circle or (b) a thrown ball crosses the plane of the circle when the pitcher has two feet in the circle. Runners will be granted the next base if they are past the halfway mark on the base path when a dead ball is declared.

d) If the batting coach does not remove the tee from home plate a runner may not score. Runners must either stop and wait at risk of being put out or return to third base. If a runner crosses the plate with the batting tee still on home plate a dead ball will be declared, no run will be counted and all runners must return to the last base safely reached, governed by the position of the lead runner. The runner who crossed home plate will return to the dugout. No out will be counted on the runner who crossed home plate.

e) The Infield Fly Rule does not apply.

f) A ball that hits the umpire in fair territory is considered a dead ball and the hit is treated as a single. Runners do not advance to the next base unless forced to advance.