



WYBA



Westmont Youth Baseball Association

RULES OF PLAY – FALL BALL – *Juniors Division*

Amended 8/11/2025

General Information

Games will be played at Veteran's Memorial Park Lou Cimeria Field (141 S Linden Ave, Westmont, IL 60559).

Field dimensions are 60'6" pitching mound and 90' bases.

The home team uses the third base dugout.

There is a maximum of 3 coaches during the game in the dugout. All base coaches must be at least 18 years of age.

During games, players will only be allowed to wear 2025 WYBA Fall Ball issued hats and jerseys. Travel team hats and jerseys will not be allowed and players will be asked to remove them. If a player loses their hat, they can purchase another one from the Juniors League Coordinator.

The Draft

Each manager's child will be placed on his/her team. Each manager may select no more than one assistant coach prior to the start of the draft. All other assistants will be assigned AFTER the completion of the draft based on newly drafted rosters. All coach's children will be slotted in the round determined by the Junior League Coordinator and any other WYBA Board Members present. The draft order will be determined by lottery immediately before the draft begins.

- All players must be drafted. Players – other than the head coach's and predesignated assistant coach's children – are eligible to be drafted at any point in the draft by any team.
- Siblings will be placed on the same team unless requested otherwise by the family prior to the draft. Siblings in the round determined by the Junior League Coordinator and any other WYBA Board Members present.
- Players cannot be 'paired'. While requests can be noted on their registration, players must be individually drafted.
- Prior to the draft, available players will be discussed in open forum. It is expected that coaches be open and forthcoming during group assessments.
- All managers will be provided complete player information at the draft. Information can include skills assessments, age, years of experience or other relevant information.



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Field Preparation

Both teams help prep the field. This is a big project if you are the first game of the day, and it does take some time. So, if we can all share in that responsibility that helps speed things along. You will find everything you need in the storage room.

There is no field maintenance on the weekends other than first thing Saturday morning.

It is both managers' responsibility at the end of each game to ensure that the dugouts are clean of trash and all equipment is accounted for before exiting the dugout.

All managers and coaches are responsible for putting the tarps on the home plate area and pitching mound at the end of each practice or game regardless of the weather forecast – no exceptions.

Safety

Head first slides are allowed.

There is no such thing as a 'must slide' rule. The runner must NOT deliberately or maliciously contact the fielder, but he is NOT required to slide."

Scoring

All scores should be recorded in SportsConnect by the Home Team within 1 hour of completion.

Game Play

Unless otherwise specified in these rules, we follow High School baseball rules.

Game duration will be 7 innings or no new inning after 2:00 of play, whichever occurs first. This must be strictly followed. There is NO wiggle room for game times on the weekends in September. Let's not waste a lot of time between innings and meeting on the mound.

If the time limit is reached, we will finish the inning in play. If a game is tied after 7 innings and the time limit has not yet been reached, we will play extra innings using California rules.

California Rules: The player who was the last out of the previous inning starts the next offensive inning on second base. The team at bat starts with 1 out and each batter starts with a 1-1 count. We then play California rules until there is a winner or until the time limit is reached. If the time limit is reached, we will finish the inning in play and if the score is still tied the game will be declared a tie.

Mercy rule is 15 runs after 4 innings and 10 runs after 5 innings.



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Batting order is continuous. Any player arriving after the game starts is to be placed last in the batting order.

Pinch runners for Pitchers and Catchers are allowed at any time during the game. ALWAYS the last **batted** out runs for them. This rule is in place for the pitchers and catchers in the upcoming inning, not the pitchers and catchers of record from the previous inning. If you pitch run for a pitcher or catcher, they must start the next inning as pitcher or catcher unless an injury or sickness occurs. Failure to abide by this rule will result in one automatic out in the inning of the infraction. Once the subsequent half inning is over, a coach cannot retroactively attempt to impose a penalty on the other team.

One Balk warning per TEAM at the junior level. We may change this come playoffs but for now the kids need to still learn the move.

Every player must play at least 4 innings per game. 12 defensive outs. Let's all do our best as Managers not to sit the same kids every game. All players must play at least 4 innings in the field for a 7-inning game. Fall Ball is designed for the players to enjoy the game. If a mercy rule is in play and the games ends in less than 7, we would hope to have most play 3 innings at that point.

The dropped third strike rule is in effect.

The infield fly rule is in effect at the Juniors level. The decision to call the infield fly rule to be in effect after a ball it hit is at the umpire's discretion.

Once the line-ups are exchanged by the managers the line-up is finalized. If a player arrives after the first pitch of the game is thrown that player must be placed at the end of the line-up.

Metal spikes are allowed.

Bat Rules

Juniors--Wood, USA , USSSA or BBCOR are allowed for **Junior level, no drop limit. Big barrel bats are allowed.** If a player steps into the batter's box with an illegal bat and the opposing team catches it, the player is automatically out. If a ball has been put into play and the said bat if found to be illegal the batter is out, and all base runners return to where they started. Please continue to enforce the bat rule with the kids before each game.

Pitching Rules

No Pitcher may wear ANY long sleeve shirt that is white or light grey in color that is exposed to the batter.

Every player may pitch a TOTAL 5 innings per week, which normally has 2 games. If you have 3 games in one week due to rain makeups or schedule changes the maximum innings per player extends to 7. So, every player gets an extra 2 innings for the week if they have 3 games that week.

There will be an email chain the league coordinator will start for reporting innings pitched per player for each



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game. This must be reported within 1 hour of the game ending. Any team exceeding the maximum innings pitched will automatically lose the game regardless of when the violation was discovered.

The pitching week will start on a Friday and end on Thursday (7 days).

Regardless of how many games are played in a week, the maximum innings a player can pitch in one game is 5. Please note that one pitch equals one inning. If you used 4 pitchers in one inning, that all counts towards their 5-inning max limit. So, all 4 players pitched one inning.

Example A

Game on Saturday Tim pitched 3 innings. On Sunday Tim pitched 2 innings. He is maxed out for that week of games of 5 innings pitched.

Example B

Game on Saturday Mike did not pitch. On Sunday Mike pitched 5 innings. You have a makeup game on Tuesday. Mike can only pitch 2 innings because of a 7 inning Max per pitcher in this 3 game Example.

Example C

Ted Pitched 3 innings on Saturday. On Sunday Ted did not pitch. On Monday makeup game he is only allowed 4 innings as not to exceed the 7 inning Max.

Example D

Tony did not pitch at all on the weekend, but you have a 3rd game in a week situation. Tony is allowed only 5 innings as not to exceed the Max limit per game which is 5.

Once a pitcher is removed, he cannot return to pitch in the same game.

Pitching rule violation:

If a manager over pitches a player in a game/ or week set of games the penalty is as follows.

First Violation - Forfeit Loss for said team.

Second Violation – Forfeit Loss and manager is suspended Next game.

Third Violation - Forfeit Loss, manager suspended, manager must be reviewed by the WYBA Executive board upon returning to the season.

These Pitching rules are in place to keep the kids arms safe and the games as fair as possible as not to over-pitch the same players.



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Substitutions

The manager must contact the coordinator to request a sub.

Subs must be a player in our Fall Ball program. The ages rules are as follows - Juniors age, 12-14 only. No 15-year-olds can be a sub.

All subs must bat last and play left or right field only and be approved by the level coordinator.

If after 15 minutes after the scheduled game time a team does not have seven players from their own roster, it will result in a forfeit.

A team may use up to 2 players from the opposing team. When this happens the 8th spot is skipped without penalty and the 9th spot in the lineup is an automatic out. No penalty if only using 1 player from the opposing team.

Conduct

- All coaches and parents of each player will provide only encouragement to the players and umpires.
- All umpire decisions are final.
- If there is spectator/parent misconduct, the parent will be asked to leave the park. Second warning will call for dismissal from the WYBA Fall Baseball program.
- If a manager, coach, or player is ejected from a game, they are required to leave the park immediately, and may not sit in the stands.
- Any manager, coach, or player ejected from a game is suspended for their team's next game and may not be in attendance for the game.

All players and coaches must sign and return the WYBA Code of Conduct agreement prior to the first game of the year.

All coaches and volunteers must pass a background check.

The WYBA strives to use baseball as a vehicle to teach the players in our league about teamwork, fair play, sportsmanship, responsibility, and discipline. All managers and coaches must conduct themselves in a way that reinforces these principles.

Our umpires are trained and their performance is under constant review. However, errors will occur and mistakes will be made. That is not a reason for managers, coaches or fans to berate our umpires. It is the responsibility of the team manager to control themselves and the actions of their coaches and fans.

If the conduct of any manager or coach is deemed inappropriate, they are subject to removal from the game by the umpire, the Junior League Coordinator or any WYBA Board Member present at that game. The incident will be reported to and acted on by the WYBA Board. It may result in a review of their current and future managerial status within the WYBA.



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All questions and comments concerning umpire performance issues need to be taken up with the Junior League Coordinator.

Inclement Weather

Only the Westmont Park District or a WYBA league representative is allowed to cancel a game prior to its start. Once a game is in progress, only the umpire can suspend or cancel the game. Games that are called due to inclement weather will restart from the point they were suspended, unless the game fits the criteria of an official game.

A game becomes official when 5 innings have been played, or 4 and a half innings have been played, and the home team is ahead.

Please keep in mind that the Westmont Park District (WPD) dictates use of their fields, and they have the authority to close fields at their discretion, and WYBA must abide by WPD's decision. Both managers will be informed if the fields are closed in advance of a game, and a coordinated effort between the managers and the coordinator will be made to reschedule the game.

The WPD has a rain hotline that is updated around 3:00 pm during the week. Please refer to this, as it will indicate if the fields are closed or opened. Also please share the link with parents also, as they can sign up to receive a text message indicating if the field is open or closed.

It is the responsibility of the managers to ensure the proper conduct of themselves, their coaches, their players, and their fan base. Failure to carry out this responsibility may result in suspension and disciplinary actions that could include removal from the program.