



WYBA

Westmont Youth Baseball Association



RULES OF PLAY – FALL BALL – *Instructional (Orange Division)*

Amended August 2025

Except for the special provisions below the **“Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League Baseball”** is the standard. See www.littleleague.org for rules.

The Westmont Youth Baseball Association (WYBA) has established the Instructional League as an intermediary step between Tee Ball and Little League baseball. This level is intended for 7-8 year-old players. The purpose of the instructional league is to further develop the player's fundamental skills in baseball. While competitiveness is a part of it; skill development, good sportsmanship, and having fun while learning the basics of baseball are the driving force of our league.

Although WYBA generally adheres to little league international rules, the following special rules are applicable to the WYBA Fall Instructional league.

FIELDS

Most Instructional League games may be played at the following locations:

- Ty Warner Field (800 Blackhawk Dr, Westmont)
- Home team bats last and uses 3rd base dugout. Visitor team uses 1st base dugout.
- Both managers are responsible for setting up the field (*chalking the field and putting bases in, etc.*) and making sure the bases are put away after the game.

Please be sure to lock the shed once all equipment has been cleaned up unless there is a game after yours!

GAME RULES

GAME TIME LIMITS, RUN LIMIT & MERCY RULE

- A new inning cannot start after 1:40 has elapsed from the game start as announced by the umpire. The current inning must be played to a conclusion.
- There is a maximum of 7 runs per inning--no continuation of runners.
- If a team is ahead by 15 runs after 4 innings or 8 runs after 5 innings the mercy rule shall come into effect and the game will be ended.
- Games will be played to completion (6 innings) except for the Time Limit and Mercy Rule.
- Regular season - If an in-process game is called due to weather, it is considered complete after 3.5 innings (if Home team is ahead). If the game is not complete, the League reserves the right to either reschedule or cancel the game.
- All scores should be recorded on the league website by the Home Team.



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GAME RULES (cont)

MANAGERS & COACHES

- Two adult base coaches are permitted. One adult must be always present in the dugout.
- No on-field coaches are permitted.
- An adult is allowed to warm-up a pitcher in between innings or in the bullpen.

UMPIRES

- If umpires are present:
 - o All coaches and parents of each player will provide only encouragement to the umpires.
 - o 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.
 - o 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.
 - o 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.
 - o We have a zero-tolerance policy for the mistreatment of umpires.
- If umpire is not present
 - o Balls and strikes will be called by the offensive team's coach, from behind the pitcher.

SUBSTITUTES

If a team is unable to field 9 players from their roster for a game, they may use a substitute player(s) from the opposing team to play right or left field only. The opposing team's sub player may not bat. They may also request a substitute from another team in the league. Any Navy player in the WYBA Fall Ball program is eligible to be a sub. The sub(s) must play either right field or left field and bat at the bottom of the batting order-up.

If, at any point, a ninth player shows up from the team that needed a sub, the sub may still bat in the line-up but can no longer field a position. If there are only 8 players hitting because subs are on the opposing team, then the 9th batting slot is bypassed. There is no penalty. If there are only 7 hitters, then the 8th position is an automatic out. The 9th position is bypassed without penalty.

**Instructional League Coordinator must be contacted before the game begins to request a sub.
A team must have 7 rostered players to play a game. Otherwise, it's a forfeit.**

PITCHING

- Pitching mound is 40' from home plate (back corner).
- No Pitcher may wear ANY long sleeve shirt that is white or light grey that is exposed to the batter.
- One pitch thrown to a batter constitutes one inning pitched. Players are allowed to pitch a MAXIMUM OF 2 INNINGS PER GAME AND 4 INNINGS PER WEEK. The calendar week starts on Monday and ends on Sundays. Pitchers may throw on consecutive days.
 - o **EXAMPLE:** Pitcher "A" pitches two innings in Saturday's game. He may then pitch two innings in Sunday's game to reach the week's maximum limit of 4 innings pitched
 - o **Important Exception:** if a team is playing a 3rd game in the week due to rainouts, the following pitching rules apply. Again, these rules will apply ONLY to a team playing a 3rd game in a week.
 - All Players are available to pitch 1 inning per game.



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PITCHING (cont)

- ALL INNINGS PITCHED AND GAME SCORES MUST BE REPORTED TO ALL MANAGERS, ASSISTANT COACHES, AND THE LEAGUE COORDINATOR WITHIN 18 HOURS OF THE END OF THEIR COMPLETED GAMES. There will be a pitching log shared by the coordinator.
- Two visits to the mound per inning maximum by a coach and 3 times total before a pitching change must occur. A visit to the mound is when you cross the white lines.
- Hit By Pitch Rule: A pitcher must be removed if he hits 3 batters in one game.
- Dropped 3rd strike is NOT in effect

If pitching violation occurs?

- o 1st offense forfeit loss. Manager is giving a warning
- o 2nd offense forfeit loss. Manager is suspended one game
- o 3rd offense forfeit loss. Manager is suspended & presented to the board for reinstatement.

OFFENSE

HITTING

- Wood bats, USSSA bats, and USA bats are allowed.
- A continuous batting order will be in effect for all teams.
- A batter that fakes a bunt attempt then takes a full swing will be called out. The ball is considered dead, and all runners must return to their original bases.
- Infield fly NOT in effect.
- Big Barrel Bats are allowed.
- On deck batters are not allowed per local and Little League International rules.

FIELDING

All players present at the scheduled start time of the game must play at least 12 defensive outs in a full 6 inning game. For a game that ends after 5 innings, all players present at the scheduled start time of the game must play 9 defensive outs. All players available for the game will bat in a continuous batting order. Players who show up late will be placed at the end of the batting line-up.

BASE RUNNING

- Lead-offs are NOT allowed. Bases are 60 feet.
- Stealing is NOT allowed.
- IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE RUNNER IS ELIGIBLE TO BE THROWN OUT EVEN IF HE/SHE IS NOT ENTITLED TO THE BASE HE/SHE IS ATTEMPTING TO ADVANCE TO.
- Headfirst slides going to a base are not allowed and the base runner will be called out. A base runner may return to a base they occupied headfirst when a play is made on them.
- A pinch runner may be used for a catcher or pitcher on base with two outs, must be the last batted out.
- Kill Play
 - o Play is considered stopped and runners should not advance when the pitcher or any other player has possession of the ball on the pitching mound, umpire's judgement. To stop the play, all the defensive team needs to do is to keep the ball on the mound.
 - o The mound is considered the part of the field that is within a 3-foot radius of the pitching rubber
 - o Exception:
 - If the player in possession of the ball on the pitching mound puts the ball back in play, the play is 'live' again and both the defensive team and offensive team will proceed at their own risk



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- If a runner is more than halfway to the next base when the ball gets on the mound, the runner gets to occupy the next base.
- The judgment of the umpire is final

MISC

PRACTICES

. Once the season begins, teams may hold only one practice per week at the manager's discretion.

TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES / VOLUNTEERS

The visitor team is responsible for providing an adult volunteer to run the score board and making sure the score board is turned off.

ALL Players are REQUIRED to wear their WYBA issued hat to games. Non-WYBA hats will not be allowed. Additional hats are available for purchase. Please contact the league coordinator.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Weather and/or field conditions may result in the postponement of a game. Both managers and the instructional coordinator must agree if a game is to be postponed. If unable to agree, the instructional coordinator will have final say.

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. 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 until 3:30 pm during the week. Please download it because it will tell you if the field is closed or opened. Also please have the parents download it because they will get a text message saying 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.

MOST IMPORTANT RULE

Please use common sense in any disputes and remember that we are out there to **TEACH OUR CHILDREN ABOUT FAIR PLAY, SPORTSMANSHIP, and TO HAVE FUN!**