



# WYBA

**Westmont Youth Baseball Association**



## **RULES OF PLAY – Instructional Division NAVY (6yrs – 7yrs)**

*Amended April 2025*

Except for the special provisions below the **“Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League Baseball”** is the standard. See [www.littleleague.org](http://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 for 6–7-year-old players. The purpose of the instructional league is to further develop the player’s fundamental skills in baseball and introduce the pitched ball. The instructional league, like tee ball, is a basic introduction to organized baseball, and it is meant as a learning experience. 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.

WYBA adheres to little league international rules.

## **FIELDS**

Instructional League games may be played at the following locations:

- Ty Warner Field 2 - (800 Blackhawk Dr, Westmont), Fritz Werley Park (430 N Warwick Ave, Westmont) and Veterans Memorial (141 S. Linden Ave. Westmont, IL)
  - The Home team bats last and uses the 3rd base dugout. The Visiting team uses the 1st base dugout.
  - Both managers are responsible for setting up the field (*chalking the field and putting bases in*) 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!**



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## GAME RULES

- Game durations are 6 innings, or 1 hour and 30 minutes after the first pitch, whichever comes first.
- Should the game end with a visitor at bat, visitor's runs for that inning will count. Same applies to the home team at bat.
- No warm-ups for fielders between innings. Coaches should do their best to speed play and limit the down time between innings. Also, we want the kids to learn to **run in and out** of dugouts.
- A maximum of 5 runs per inning unless the team down on score is batting. That team can score as many runs as possible until the team is ahead by 5 runs.
- All scores should be recorded on the League Website by the Home Team within 1 hour of completion.

## PITCHING

### COACH PITCH

- The pitching mound should be 38 feet from home plate.
- Coach Pitch will last throughout the season for the first three innings, including the playoffs.
- For coach pitch, maximum 7 pitches or strike three swinging, whichever comes first. There are no balls or strikes called, except a swing/foul ball. No walks or bunting is allowed. The batter does not get first base after being hit by a coach's pitch.
  - Should a player foul pitch number 7, that player will receive an additional pitch. The additional pitch must be hit fair or foul. Should the player hit the pitch foul, he/she will receive an additional pitch with the same rules as pitch number 8.
- Coaches are allowed to pitch from a stand position or on one knee.
  - Minimum distance to pitch from is 30 feet.



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### PLAYER PITCH

- The pitching mound is 38 feet from home plate.
- No pitcher may wear any long sleeve shirt that is white or light gray in color that is exposed to the batter.
- The coach for the **batting team** will call balls and strikes. Should the batter receive 4 balls before strike three, the batter will receive additional pitches from the coach. Below are the maximum pitches to be thrown by the coach before the batter reaches strike three swinging. There will be no balls or strikes called by the coach.
  - Batter has no strikes – 5 pitches maximum
  - Batter has one strike – 4 pitches maximum
  - Batter has two strikes – 3 pitches maximum
- **STRIKE ZONE SHOULD BE AS CONSISTENT AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN ALL TEAMS; FROM SHOULDERS TO SHINS AND 2 BASEBALLS OFF THE PLATE. THE IDEA IS TO GET YOUTH PLAYERS CONFIDENTLY SWINGING WHEN AT THE PLATE.**
- Players are allowed to pitch up to two innings. One pitch is considered an inning. Once a pitcher is pulled from pitching, they cannot re-enter to pitch again.
- In the event a batter is hit by a pitch from a player, the manager is to encourage the player to take first base. The player **does** have the option to continue batting if he or she chooses. The batter will receive a maximum of 5 pitches from the coach. The hitter will start with no strikes. Once the first pitch is thrown by the coach, the batter cannot reverse the decision to take first base.
  - A batter hit by a pitch by a coach does not get first base.

### OFFENSE

- The batting rotation shall consist of all team players in attendance at the game. Batting order will be continuous. This means if eleven (11) players are in attendance, then all eleven (11) must bat consecutively before the first player comes to bat again. All players arriving late to a game must be inserted at the bottom of the batting order as if it were at the beginning of the game.
- There are no walks. A batter must either hit the ball into fair play or strike out.
- A hitting coach is allowed on the field when his/her team is batting. Position yourself in a way that is non-disruptive to the batter, but convenient when instruction is needed.
- A batter who throws his/her bat, even accidentally, is automatically out and all runners should return to their original bases. Please make good judgment.



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- Batting helmets must be worn by all batters and base runners- no exceptions.
- Base stealing is not allowed at the instructional level.
- No head-first sliding into a base. The runner will automatically be called out.
- No on deck batters or batting circle- **this is a little league rule.**
- A player's bat must be a baseball bat which meets little league specifications. Non-wood bats must have a USA baseball logo stamped on the bat. Big barrel bats may be used if they have the USA logo.

## DEFENSE

- A team may play with all players in the field. The excess players over nine can only play in the outfield.
- It is **mandatory** that managers rotate defensive players rather than simply platoon lesser defensive players.
  - It is suggested that players are rotated between infield and outfield positions unless there is significant safety risk to the player(s).
- Teaching the fielders to make basic baseball plays is important to the development of the defensive player. Therefore, the following rules apply to what base(s) a runner is entitled to because of a hit fair ball.
  - "Possession" is defined as having the ball in one's glove or hand.
  - If a hit fair ball is initially fielded in the infield area, the runner is only entitled to the base he/she is going to at the time of *possession* by any player regardless of whether the ball is held or thrown.
    - Example: an infield error that is fielded by an outfielder is considered initially fielded in the infield area.



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- If a hit fair ball is initially fielded in the outfield area, the runner(s) is entitled to the base that he/she is going to at the time the ball has been returned to *possession* of any player who is in the infield area.
  - Example: if a ball makes its way to the outfield, untouched by an infielder, the runner can advance as many bases as they can until a player in the infield area has *possession* of the ball. If a play is made on the runner, and an overthrow is made, the runner **cannot** advance. If the runner advances, he/she will be asked to return to the previous base.
- 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.
- Time out shall not be called until the ball is considered dead.
- Two (2) adult (18 yrs and older) defensive coaches may be stationed on the field for the purpose of giving placement and throwing advice to the defensive players.

## **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 parent 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.