



WYBA



Westmont Youth Baseball Association

RULES OF PLAY – Juniors Division (13yrs – 14yrs)

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 for rules.

At the Little League Jr level, with few exceptions, kids will play baseball with very few modifications to major league baseball.

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.

There is a maximum of 3 coaches during the game in the dugout.

All base coaches must at least 18 years of age.

- 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.
- 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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GENERAL INFORMATION

- Junior league games will be scheduled to be played at Veteran's Memorial Park Lou Cimeria Field (55 E Richmond St, Westmont, IL 60559).
- The home team bats last and uses the third base dugout. 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.
- Field dimensions will be 60'6" pitchers mound and 90 ft bases
- Game duration will be 7 innings or no new inning after 2 hours, whichever occurs first. 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.
- It is both manager's 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

Any player not required on the field needs to be in the dugout. All coaches not acting as a base coach must be in the dugout. Keep all equipment, including bats, in the dugout. The bat that has just been used must be retrieved immediately after the play is over.

There is an "on-deck" circle allowed.

- Head first slides are allowed.
- There is no such thing as a 'must slide' rule. From the Little League Rule Book Rule 7.08(a)(3), "...When the fielder has the ball and is waiting to make the tag, the runner has two options: 1 slide; or 2.
- Attempt to get around the fielder. The runner must NOT deliberately or maliciously contact the fielder, but he is NOT required to slide."

Sportsmanship

Players must always keep their batting helmets on when on the field. If a player throws a helmet or bat on the field or in the dugout they will receive 1 warning for the year, a second infraction will result in a game suspension. This is a judgment call by the umpire and may result in an immediate game ejection without issuing a warning. This rule is clearly designed to uphold the best sportsmanship possible. No exceptions.



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There is a first aid kit in the garage. Park Patrol also has access to this space. Park Patrol, the Juniors Coordinator, and the WYBA Safety Coordinator need to be informed of any injury that requires medical attention. An injury report needs to be completed by the manager. Each manager should obtain and keep 2 cold compresses in your team equipment bag. Teams should have a first base and third base adult coach on the field when their team is batting.

Substitutions

All games will start at the scheduled time. If after 20 minutes, a team does not have seven players from their own roster, the game is forfeited. The team missing players can use 13-yr-old players from other teams within the WYBA League, including the team they are playing against. If there are no 13-year-olds available, a 14-year-old may be used with the permission of the league coordinator. A Majors level player can be a substitute. 12 years olds only. They are not eligible to pitch.

If using players from that day's opposing team, the opposing manager will decide which player(s) he will let the other team use and freely substitute them in/out. The selected players **can only play right or left field** and will still bat for their own team. If, at any point, a ninth player shows up from the team that needed a sub, the sub is no longer utilized.

If using players from a team other than the opposing team, those players may only play right or left field and bat last in the line-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.

Bat Rules

A player's bat must be one which meets **Little League** specifications and standards:

- Non-wood bats must have a **USA Baseball Logo** stamped.
- Big barrel bats have a **USA Baseball Logo** stamped.
- All BBCOR bats are allowed.
- All wood bats are allowed.

Bat Rules Update Spring 2025

This section outlines a specific 2025 rule change regarding illegal bat usage.

WYBAbaseball.com

Key Takeaways:

- **Manager-Led Challenges:**
 - Only head managers of the teams playing can challenge the legality of a bat.
 - Umpires are not expected to initiate these challenges due to the complexity of league policies.
- **Illegal Bat Penalty:**
 - If a batter uses an illegal bat while in the batter's box the batter is ruled **out**.
 - If the discovery is made before the next batter enters the box:
 - Play is dead, the batter that used the illegal bat is out, and runners must return to their previous bases.
 - The defending manager has the option to decline the penalty and accept the play.
- **Mandatory Bat Removal:**
 - Once an illegal bat is discovered, it must be removed from the game.

Rationale

- It clarifies who is responsible for enforcing bat rules.
- It standardizes the penalty for illegal bat usage with the pitching penalties.
- It allows for a degree of leniency in the case where a play has already happened and the defending manager does not want to nullify the play.
- Non-USA bats pose a hazard due to the bats composition and response to a batted ball.
 - Skill level and response time varies at all levels.
 - This is a safety driven initiative by Little League International.

WYBA Manager Penalties

- 1st Offense - manager is given a warning and explanation of the rule. (Little League rule calls for the Player and Manager to be ejected from the game)
- 2nd Occurrence – manager removed from the game.
- 3rd Occurrence - manager removed from the game, suspended for the next game and the manager will be brought before the WYBA Board for review for future participation.



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Playing Time

All players present at the scheduled start time of the game must play at least 12 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.

Managers are permitted to bench a player for disciplinary reasons. The opposing manager and umpires must be informed of this decision and its reason immediately. If a player is benched for disciplinary reasons the Juniors Coordinator must be notified after the game.

Mercy Rule

There is not a limit on runs scored per inning. If the margin is more than 15 runs after 4 complete innings, or 10 runs after 5 full innings, the game will be considered final under the mercy rule.

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.

Pitching

Little League Baseball pitching rules will be adhered to. It is the responsibility of each manager to send the pitch counts to the Junior League Coordinator within 24 hours after each game.

A pitcher, remaining on defense in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.



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A coach is allowed 1 visit to the mound per pitcher per inning. Upon a 2nd visit in an inning, the pitcher must be removed. A mound visit is defined as crossing the foul line on the way to the mound, regardless of player (pitcher or fielder) to be approached.

Remember pitch count limits and required days' rest are put into place to protect the still developing arms of the kids at this level.

The rules for pitching are as follows:

- If a pitcher pitches more than 41 pitches in a game, they can NOT play the position of Catcher. If they exceed 41 during an at bat that began under the limit - they are eligible to catch - the pitch count reverts back to the 41 thresholds. IF they exceed 41 on a new batter, the pitcher is NOT eligible to catch.
- CATCHER RULES - A catcher that has caught more than 4 innings (*4 full innings plus 1 pitch*) – they are NOT eligible to pitch in that game.
- The manager must remove a pitcher when they reach their maximum number of pitches. If a pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count milestone during an at bat, they may finish that at-bat without additional days' rest unless next milestone is reached.
 - o Example: Pitcher starts a new batter after throwing 33 pitches. They throw 6 pitches to the batter making 39 pitches total. They are required to rest only 1 day. However, if they throw 17 pitches to that batter, they reached the next marker of 50. Now they require 2 days' rest.

Pitch Limits

League age 13 or 14: 95 pitches per day

If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a game	4 days of rest
If a player pitches 51 - 65 pitches in a game	3 days of rest
If a player pitches 36 - 50 pitches in a game	2 days of rest
If a player pitches 21- 35 pitches in a game	1 day of rest
If a player pitches 1 - 20 pitches in a game	no rest is required

- A pitcher must be removed from the mound after hitting 3 batters in one inning or 5 batters in the game. The same player hit twice counts as 2 hit batsmen.



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Pitchers cannot pitch in three consecutive (days) regardless of pitch count.

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A manager who has a pitcher exceed the pitch count limits above or uses a pitcher on less than the required rest days above will face the following penalties:

- 1st Occurrence - manager given a warning, explanation of rule, and loss of game
- 2nd Occurrence - manager suspended for one game & one team win forfeited
- 3rd Occurrence - manager suspended, one team win forfeited, and the manager is brought before the WYBA Board for review

Each time a pitch count limit or days rest infraction occurs the parents of the pitcher involved will be advised by the Junior League Coordinator of the details of the infraction.

ALL PITCH COUNTS & GAME SCORES MUST BE REPORTED TO ALL MANAGERS, ASSISTANT COACHES, LEAGUE PRESIDENT, & THE JUNIOR LEAGUE COORDINATOR WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE END THEIR COMPLETED GAMES. We will send out an email with all the applicable email contacts at the start of the season and continue to use said email for all the game results and pitch counts.

Other Rules

- The dropped third strike rule is in effect at the Juniors level.
- 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.
- One balk warning is allowed per team per game.
- Scorebooks (or an electronic scorebook version such as Game Changer) must be utilized by each team during games and the pitch counts must be noted in the scorebooks or Apps. What is reported in the email chain by a team manager is the official pitch count, unless contested by the opposing manager in which case the League Coordinator will investigate and edit the official pitch count based on his findings.



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Conduct

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