



WYBA



Westmont Youth Baseball Association

RULES OF PLAY – Minors Division (9yrs – 10yrs)

Amended April 2024

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 the Minors baseball level as the last level before the player is ready to play at the Little League Majors level. At the Minors level kid pitch is established from the first pitch of the season and base stealing is further integrated into the game. For the manager, the added tasks include managing the pitching staff and their pitch counts, teaching the base stealing aspects of the game and the new defensive requirements needed against the running game.

Team Formation/Player Assignment

Each manager’s child will be placed on his/her team. Each manager may select **no more than two assistant coaches** prior to the start of the team formation. All other assistants will be assigned AFTER the completion of the team assignment based on the newly created rosters. All coach’s children will be slotted in the round determined by the Minor League Coordinator and any other WYBA Board Members present.

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 assigned. Prior to the player assignment, available players will be discussed in open forum. It is expected that coaches be open and forthcoming during group assessments.
- 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 player assignment, 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 team formation. Information can include skills assessments, age, years of experience or other relevant information.
- All managers and volunteers must pass a background check.



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Minor league games will be schedule to be played at Veteran's Memorial Park (75 E Richmond St, Westmont, IL 60559), and Ty Warner Park (700 Blackhawk Drive, Westmont, IL 60559)

The home team bats last and uses the third base dugout. The home team is responsible for putting down the bases and, if needed, assisting the umpires chalking the field. While preparing the field is the home team's responsibility, the visiting team should volunteer to assist when needed. After the game, the home team must place all equipment in the field box and ensure that it is locked. Both teams have a responsibility to take care of the field after the game as well.

Game duration will be six innings and no inning may begin after 1 hour and 50 minutes of the game's start time which will be announced by the home plate umpire to both managers.

When games between Westmont and a Visiting team at a Westmont field, regardless of Home or Visitor assignment, it will be the Westmont team's responsibility to prepare and put away the field.

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 no "on-deck" circle allowed by the WYBA or Little League Baseball.

- There are no head first slides allowed, except when a player is returning to a base they occupied when a play is made on them.
- 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."



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- There is a first aid kit in the garage next to the concession stand. Park Patrol also has access to this space.
- Park Patrol, the Minors 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.
- A player who fakes a bunt attempt and then takes a full swing will be called out.

Substitutions

All games will start at the scheduled time. If after 20 minutes, a team does not have seven players, the game is forfeited unless they can find enough substitutes to field seven players. The team missing players can use 9-year-old players only from other teams within the WYBA Minor League, including the team they are playing against. Instructional players are allowed to sub up. Any 10-year-old subs must be approved by the League Coordinator.

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.



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Bat Rules

A player's bat must be a baseball bat which meets Little League specifications and standards as follows:

- Non-wood bats must have a USA Baseball Logo stamped on the bat as per the change in Little League rules as on the start of the 2018 season. Big barrel bats may be used as long as they have the USA Baseball Logo.
- Only appropriated stamped 'USA Bats' are allowed to be used. If a player comes to the plate with a non-USA bat, they will immediately be called out and the bat will be removed from the field of play.
- All wood bats are allowed.

Playing Time

All players present at the scheduled start time of the game must play at least 12 defensive outs in a full 6 inning game. 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 Minors Coordinator must be notified after the game.

Mercy Rule

- Only 7 runs may be scored during any half inning. There is no continuation rule.
- If a team is ahead by 15 or more runs after 4 complete innings, or 10 or more after 5 complete innings, the game is over.



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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 4 innings have been played, or 3 and a half innings have been played, and the home team is ahead.

Pitching

Little League Baseball pitching rules will be adhered to. It will be the responsibility of the managers/scorekeepers to record and exchange the pitch counts after each half inning or when a pitching change occurs. It is the responsibility of each manager to send the pitch counts to the Minor League Coordinator within 18 hours after each game.

Mound Visits Rule - A coach is allowed 2 visits to the mound per pitcher per inning. Upon a 3rd 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:

- Any pitcher who throws at least 1 pitch in a game, and is removed from the mound, for any reason, can play any other position in that game except pitcher.
- The manager must remove a pitcher when he reaches his maximum amount of pitches. If a pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count milestone during an at-bat, he may finish that at-bat without additional days' rest unless next milestone is reached.
 - Example: Pitcher starts a new batter after throwing 33 pitches. He throws 6 pitches to the batter making 39 pitches total. He is required to rest only 1 day. However, if he throws 17 pitches to that batter, he reached the next marker of 50. Now he requires 2 days' rest.
 - Any player who catches 4 or more innings (**3 full innings plus 1 pitch in a fourth inning, 1 pitch = 1 inning**) is ineligible to pitch in that same game. Any pitcher who has thrown 41 pitches or more is ineligible to catch in that same game.



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Pitch Limits

League age 8: 50 pitches per day
League age 9 or 10: 75 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

For example, if a pitcher throws 66+ pitches in a game Monday, he is next eligible to pitch on Saturday

- 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.

Pitchers cannot pitch in three consecutive calendar days regardless of pitch count.

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 Major League Coordinator of the details of the infraction.

ALL PITCH COUNTS & GAME SCORES MUST BE REPORTED TO ALL MANAGERS, ASSISTANT COACHES, LEAGUE PRESIDENT, & THE MINOR LEAGUE COORDINATOR WITHIN 18 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 of the game results and pitch counts.



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Base Stealing

There will be no base stealing until both teams have played 3 games each with no stealing.

- Stealing of second base and third base are permitted. Stealing home is NOT permitted.
- Runners may not steal until the ball has crossed home plate. If they leave early, the umpire will send the runner back to the previous base.
- Runners may only steal one base at a time and CANNOT advance on a catcher overthrow. If the runner over-runs the base on an attempted steal, he is eligible to be tagged out.
- Runners may steal from the time the ball has crossed the plate until the pitcher is in possession of the ball on the pitching mound – NOT NECESSARILY THE RUBBER. If the runner is off the base once the pitcher has received the ball on the mound and has not begun their steal attempt; they must return to the base they started the pitch at.

Other Rules

- The dropped third strike rule is NOT in effect at the Minors level. A batter that makes a fake-bunt attempt, and then swings, will be called out.
- The *infield fly rule is in effect* at the Minors level. The decision to call the infield fly rule to be in effect after a ball it hit is at the umpire's discretion.
- As mentioned above balks are NOT in effect at the Minors level.
- 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.
- 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.



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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.
- 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, in most cases, kids who are currently playing in the WYBA program. They 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 Minor 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 Minor League Coordinator and Umpire Supervisor.