



WYBA

Westmont Youth Baseball Association



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

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.

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 8-year-old players along with some higher end 7 year olds. 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.

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

FIELDS

Instructional League games may be played at the following locations:

- Ty Warner Field 1 & 2 - (800 Blackhawk Dr, Westmont) & Veteran’s 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. Tarps and other field coverings must also be placed back on to the appropriate areas once your game is completed so long as there is not another game to follow.

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

GAME RULES

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!**



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GAME TIME LIMITS, RUN LIMIT & MERCY RULE

- A new inning cannot start after 1:40 has elapsed from the game start. Current inning must be played to a conclusion.
- A team can score a maximum of 7 runs per inning, regardless of the score. E.g., if the away team is losing to the home team by 8 or more runs going into the top of 6th, the game would be over. Unless time remains and the team opts to “scrimmage” the final inning. Final score is the score prior to scrimmage.
- Games will be played to completion (6 innings) with the exception of the time limit or run differential.
- Regular season - If an in-progress game is called due to weather, it is considered complete after 3.5 innings (if The 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** within 1 hour of completion.

MANAGERS & COACHES

- Two adult base coaches are permitted. One adult must be always present in the dugout.
- **One** on-field coach is permitted.
- An adult is allowed to warm-up a pitcher in between innings or in the bullpen.
- Please limit the number of coaches in the dugout at one time to three.

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. A WYBA Spring Ball NAVY program player 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. The instructional League Coordinator must be contacted before the game begins to request a sub.

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 less than 9 players hitting because subs are on the opposing team, then the last spots are bypassed without a penalty.

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PITCHING

- Pitcher's mound is 40' from home plate.
- No Pitcher may wear ANY long sleeve shirt that is white or light gray that is exposed to the batter.
- The coach of the batting team will call balls and strikes. Should a pitcher throw 4 balls before strike 3, the batter will receive additional pitches from their 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.

Coaches should be throwing within 5 feet of the pitcher's mound.

- 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.**
- In the event that a batter is hit by a pitch, they are encouraged to take first base.
- **One pitch thrown to a batter constitutes one inning pitched. Players' ages 6-8 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.**
 - **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.
 - Coaches are required to submit their pitching log within 24 hours after the game. Log the player's name and number of innings pitched in the form.
- 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.

OFFENSE

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HITTING

- Wood bats and USA stamped bats are allowed. (USSSA bats are not permitted)
- 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.
- Drop Third Strike and Infield Fly NOT in effect.
- On deck batters are not allowed per local and Little League International rules.
- 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.**

FIELDING

A team should play 9 players on the field. All outfielders must be in the grass ahead of each pitch.

- 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.
 - 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
 - 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.

MISC

BASE RUNNING

- Lead-offs are NOT allowed. The bases are 60 feet.

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- Stealing is NOT allowed.
- Headfirst slides going to a base are not allowed and the base runner will be called out.
- A pinch runner may be used for a catcher or pitcher on base with two outs must be the last batted out.

PRACTICES

Teams may hold multiple practices until the season starts. Once the season begins, teams may hold only one practice per week at the manager's discretion.

TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES / VOLUNTEERS

Both teams are responsible for putting down the bases. The home team is responsible for providing an adult volunteer to run the concession stand before the game start time (Veterans Park Only).

If it is the last game of the evening, both teams are responsible for putting away the bases, putting down the tarps, locking up the equipment shed & concession stand and turning off all lights.

The visitor team is responsible for providing an adult volunteer to run the scoreboard and making sure the scoreboard is turned off and the upstairs area is locked after the game if it is the last game of the day / evening.

The home team should utilize the third base dugout during games, away team, first base dugout.

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 the App 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.

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