

IWVYS Rules Appendix

Our league follows Official USA Softball Rules with the exception of the rules included in this appendix.

Playing Out of Age Group

As a general policy, playing outside of a player's age division is discouraged.

1. Players wishing to play up a division must meet all of the following criteria:
 - a. Submit a request to play out of their designated age division, and
 - b. Player has previously played in their designated age division, and
 - c. Player evaluated in the top 10% of the rated players in their current age division, and
 - d. Must evaluate for the division they desire to play in.
2. Under no circumstances will a player be allowed to play down a division.
3. Under no circumstances will players be allowed to move up a division once the current league teams have been formed.
4. A player will not be allowed to play in two different divisions during the same season unless a Lower Division player is borrowed as a player for an Upper Division team that is short players for a game.
5. The IWVYS Board of Directors makes the final decision on if a player may play out of their age group.

Evaluations

Evaluations will be held for Lower and Upper Division Players only. There will be no evaluations for T-ball and Developmental Divisions.

1. Evaluations days and times will be announced in advance. All lower and upper division players will be evaluated.
2. Lower and Upper Division coaches are encouraged to attend evaluations to observe possible future players and assist upon Boards request.
3. The Board will make every attempt to have evaluations completed by parties not directly affected by the outcomes.
4. Pitchers and Catchers will complete additional evaluations.
5. For players that did not attend an evaluation:
 - a. If they previously played with the league for the same age division they will be assigned the same evaluation as the previous year.
 - b. If they previously played with the league but for a younger division, the IWWYS Board will discuss and assign a number to those players at the beginning of the draft meeting (in front of the coaches).
 - c. If the player did not play within the league the previous year they will not be assigned a rating and will not be drafted by coaches. The Board of Directors will assign the player to a team based upon team numbers/point range. The assignment will occur on the night of the draft in front of the coaches.

Draft & Team Selections

1. The IWWYS Board of Directors will select all T-ball and Developmental Division Teams based upon age and number of years of experience.
2. Division coaches will draft Lower and Upper Division Teams.
3. Each team may only have two coaches present at the team draft.
4. There will only be (2) players reserved on a team, and must be a manager or coach's child.
5. Coaches from each team in a division will draw numbers to determine the selection order for the draft.

6. Teams will draft in order, skipping over teams who have a reserved player in that draft round. The selection order will be 1-2-3-4, 2-3-4-1, 3-4-1-2, and 4-1-2-3, which will repeat until all players with an eval number has been drafted.
7. The draft will begin with the first round for pitchers. Subsequent rounds for pitchers will be held until all pitchers have been placed.
8. After all pitchers have been placed, catchers will be drafted.
9. All other evaluated players will then be drafted.
10. The team evaluation totals must fall within one player a deviation of 10 points, unless requested by a coach. Team trades will be required until each team falls within that range.
11. After all evaluated players have been drafted, the Board of Directors will attempt to place each un-evaluated player to even up the team numbers.

Practices

1. Each team will be scheduled two practices a week with the option to schedule their own third practice prior to the start of the season and will be scheduled two practices a week once season starts. If a team wants to change their practice time, they must update on google calendar.
2. Team Managers canceling their scheduled practice must cancel using the google calendar link.
3. Team Managers/Coaches should have their team binder in their possession for all league events.
4. Teams shall not have more than three practices and/or games per week.
5. Team events must always have two adults present (Managers, coaches and/or parents), no exceptions.

IWVYS Game Rules

1. Both teams are responsible for prepping the field prior to the game and field/dugout cleanup after the game. Bases are to be returned to the equipment cage after the final game of the day.
2. The Home Team, which will be determined by the schedule, will occupy the third-base side dugout. The home team will be responsible for keeping the official score for Lower and Upper Divisions.
3. Pre-Game warm ups will be limited to the area outside of the base paths. Teams will not warm-up on the field.
4. Teams can begin a game with 8 players. If a player(s) is injured or becomes ill during a game, teams can play with as few as 7 players.
5. The umpire will announce the official game time after the pre-game coaches meeting.
6. Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a catcher's mask.
7. All batters, on-deck batters and base runners will wear a batting helmet at all times. All batting helmets must have a face shield.
8. Face masks are strongly encouraged when throwing and fielding during practices and games.
9. If a player is injured while on base, the player who made the previous out will run for that injured player. If the player is removed from the game due to the injury, the subsequent at bats will not result in an out.
10. All teams must be in uniform. Participating players will **not** wear jewelry, with the ONLY exception being a medical-alert bracelet/necklace. Sweatshirts may be worn.
11. If a player arrives after the lineup is turned in to the scorekeeper and/or umpire, the player will be placed at the end of the lineup. All players must bat.
12. No coach(es) will be authorized to enter the field to discuss a ruling without approval of the umpire.

13. The home team is responsible for submitting the official score to the Board of Directors.
14. Players are to remain in their respective dugout throughout a game with exceptions being made for medical issues and bathroom needs.
15. Only coaches, managers, and players of a team currently playing a game are allowed in that team's dugout (no family members or players from other teams).
16. Regular season game time for Lower and Upper Division games will be no new inning at 1:20 and drop dead 1:40 with score reverting back to the last fully completed inning's score. Regular season game time for the Developmental Division will be 1:15. Ties remain as a tie during regular season games (no tie breakers are played).
17. T-ball and Developmental Division managers, coaches and assistants may position themselves on the playing field to be able to help with instruction and to give positive reinforcement during play.
18. Lower and Upper Division **offensive** coaches during a game are to stay in the 1st and 3rd base coaching boxes. Lower and Upper Division **defensive** coaches during a game are allowed to be outside the dugout but must remain against the fence line, and behind the 1st or 3rd base coaching boxes front line.

T-Ball Division Rules:

1. All players will play in the field defensively. All infield positions will be filled and the remaining players will play in the outfield area.
2. Each team will go through the entire batting order each half inning.
3. There will be no bunting. The ball must pass 3 feet to be played. This will be marked on the field.
4. The time limit for each game is 1 hour.
5. Base runners may leave the base when the ball is hit.

6. There will be no standings or scorekeeping for T-ball

Developmental Division Rules:

The official game will be seven innings or time expiration. Regular season game time will be 1:15. There are no tie breakers.

1. Pitching: A pitching machine will be used during games until there are enough developed pitchers on each team.
2. Each team is to focus on developing a minimum of two pitchers throughout the season. The pitching machine distance will be 35 feet, set at a speed of 25-35, increasing in speed as the season progresses. The youth pitching distance will be 35 feet. All the pitchers will utilize an 11-inch soft core ball. The distance is determined from the front of the pitching rubber to the point of home plate.
 - a. Pitching Machine – The pitching machine will pitch 5 balls until a ball is put into play. No walks will be allowed. Once all balls have been pitched through the machine and no ball has been put into play, the batter is then called out. A batter cannot be called out for a foul ball unless it is caught by the opposing team. A coach for the team up to bat will load the pitching machine. Youth pitchers must remain inside the 8-foot circle while the coach is loading the pitching machine.
3. Base Running
 - a. USA Rules with the exception of a “COLD PLATE”. Runners may not advance to home plate except on a base hit.
 - b. The use of a cold plate will be terminated upon a Board vote.
 - c. Runners can only advance one (1) base on a thrown ball.
4. Five (5) Run Rule: Each team may not score more than 5 runs per inning.
5. All players must play the field at least two innings each game.

Lower Division Rules:

The official game will be seven innings or time expiration. Regular season game time will be 1:20 no new inning and 1:40 drop dead with score reverting back to the last full completed inning's score. No tie breakers during regular season games.

1. Pitching: Each team is to focus on developing a minimum of two pitchers throughout the season. The pitching distance will be 35 feet for all pitchers. All pitchers will utilize an 11-inch hard core ball. The distance is determined from the front of the pitcher rubber to the point of home plate.
2. Pitchers can only pitch 9 outs during the game. If an inning does not have any earned outs (as in a 5 run rule limit) the pitcher who pitched to the majority of batters that inning will be assigned 3 outs toward their out count. There is NO pitch limit for the Championship Game.
3. Coach pitching:
 - a. Coach pitch will occur from the start of season through April 1st. Then there won't be any more coach pitching.
 - b. If the batter has not put the ball into play or struck out after 5 balls, then the coach will come in to pitch. If the youth pitcher presented 4 balls, the coach will pitch 2 balls to the batter. If the youth pitcher presented only 1 strike, then the coach will pitch 2 balls to the batter. If the youth pitcher presented 2 strikes, then the coach will pitch 1 ball to the batter.
 - c. There is a cold plate when the coach is pitching.
4. Base Running:
 - a. Runners may advance to the next base once the ball has left the pitcher's hand.
 - b. Runners must slide when there is a close play to avoid injury to both the runner and the fielder. The umpire has the final say.

5. Five (5) Run Rule: Each team may not score more than 5 runs per inning.
6. All players must play the field at least two innings each game.
7. Players may be borrowed from another team if needed to allow 9 players on the field/line up. Teams must first attempt to borrow players from the team that they are playing before borrowing from another team. Borrowed players can not be used as a pitcher/catcher and must bat at the end of the batting line up.

Lower Division Tournament Play

The official game will be seven innings or time expiration. No new inning will begin after 1:45 but the current inning will be finished.

1. Home team will be the highest seeded regular season team. During the first round the season standings will determine the highest seeded team to be Home Team. After the first round, the highest seeded team in the tournament will be the home team. If there is a tied standing a coin toss will be used to determine the home team.
2. Pitchers can only pitch 9 outs during the game. If an inning does not have any earned outs (as in a 5 run rule limit) the pitcher who pitched to the majority of batters that inning will be assigned 3 outs towards their out count. There is NO pitch limit for the Championship Game.
3. A run rule is in effect of 15 after three innings or 8 after five innings. There is a 5 run rule for three innings, then it becomes unlimited.
4. If, after the completion of seven (7) innings or time expiration, the score is tied then the international tie breaker will be used.
5. All players will bat during tournament play.
6. There will not be any coach pitch during tournament play.
7. All players must play the field at least two innings each game.
8. Players may be borrowed from another team if needed to allow 9 players on the field/line up. Borrowed players can not be used as a pitcher/catcher and must bat at the end of the batting line up. Teams

must first attempt to borrow players from the team that they are playing before borrowing from another team.

Upper Division Rules

The official game will be seven innings or time expiration. Regular season game time will be 1:20 no new inning and 1:40 drop dead with score reverting back to the last completed inning's score. No tie breakers during regular season play.

1. Each team is to develop a minimum of two pitchers throughout the season. The pitching distance will be 40 feet for league age 12-year-old pitchers and 43 feet for league age 13+ year old pitchers. All pitchers will utilize a 12-inch hard core ball. The distance is determined from the front of the pitching rubber to the point of the home plate.
2. Pitchers can only pitch 9 outs during the game. If an inning does not have any earned outs (as in a 5 run rule limit) the pitcher who pitched to the majority of batters that inning will be assigned 3 outs towards their out count. There is NO pitch limit for the Championship Game.
3. Run Rule: Each team may not score more than 5 runs per inning.
4. Players must slide when there is a close play. The umpire has the final say.
5. All players must play the field at least two innings each game.
6. Players may be borrowed from another team if needed to allow 9 players on the field/line up. Borrowed players can not be used as a pitcher/catcher and must bat at the end of the batting line up. Teams must first attempt to borrow players from the team that they are playing before borrowing from another team.

Upper Division Tournament Play

The official game will be seven innings or time expiration. No new inning will begin after 1:45 but the inning will be finished.

1. Home team will be the highest seeded regular season team. During the first round the season standings will determine the highest seeded team to be Home Team. After the first round, the highest seeded team in the tournament will be the home team. If there is a tied standing a coin toss will be used to determine the home team.
2. Pitchers can only pitch 9 outs during the game. If an inning does not have any earned outs (as in a 5 run rule limit) the pitcher who pitched to the majority of batters that inning will be assigned 3 outs towards their out count. There is NO pitch limit for Championship Game.
3. A run rule is in effect of 15 after three innings or 8 after five innings. There is a 5 run rule for the first three innings then it becomes unlimited.
4. If, after the completion of seven (7) innings or time expiration, the score is tied then the international tie breaker will be used.
5. All players will bat during tournament play.
6. All players must play the field at least two innings each game.
7. Players may be borrowed from another team if needed to allow 9 players on the field/line up. Borrowed players cannot be used as a pitcher/catcher and must bat at the end of the batting line up. Teams must first attempt to borrow players from the team that they are playing before borrowing from another team.

