

WESTERVILLE YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL LEAGUE

2024 WYBSL 18U (Black Hat) BASEBALL LEAGUE

SUMMARY – PROGRAM AND RULES

This league is composed 18U players that are still attending High School and approved 14 year old players. The league will play baseball with modifications. The league is organized and supervised by the Black Hat General Manager, under direction of the Baseball Program Director, and the WYBSL Board of Trustees. Games are played in accordance with National Federation High School rules with the following modifications and clarifications:

1. GAMES AND CONDITIONS

- A. Game's are seven (7) innings in length and will generally be played on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays. Make up games will not necessarily be played if each team has played a minimum of 10 games. If make-up games are necessary to reach the 10 game minimum, they will be played on Saturdays and Sundays, and during the week following the end of the regular scheduled season and will be scheduled as necessary by the committee, generally starting from the canceled games at the beginning of the regular schedule with the intent of equalizing the number of games each team plays.
- B. A game shall end if a team is leading by: (1) fifteen (15) or more runs at the end of the fifth (5th) inning (or any time after four and one half (4½) innings, if the home team is leading by fifteen (15) runs or more); or (2) ten (10) or more runs at the end of the sixth (6th) inning (or after five and one half (5½) innings, if the home team is leading by ten (10) runs or more).
- C. Games less than seven (7) innings are considered **complete** if: 1) they last at least five (5) full innings (four and one-half (4½) innings, if the home team is ahead) and are stopped for any reason. The final score is determined by reverting back to the last complete inning unless the home team is at-bat and ahead when play is stopped. 2) they have reached the two (2) hours and forty-five (45) minutes limit, regardless of the number of innings played. Games that are not complete are considered **suspended** games. When continued, play resumes exactly where it left off when play was stopped (batting order, position of any base runners, pitchers, etc.) and all rules apply as if it was one continuous game.
- D. No new inning is permitted to begin more than **two (2) hours and fifteen (15) minutes** after the start of the game unless the game is not considered complete and in no case may a game continue beyond **two (2) hours and forty-five (45) minutes**.

2. COACHING

- A. Normal defensive alignment consists of nine (9) players – three (3) outfielders and six (6) infielders. All three (3) outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass before each pitch.
- B. Every player will play a minimum of three (3) defensive innings per game. No player may sit out for a second (2nd) inning until all players have sat out one (1) inning with the exception of the Pitcher or Catcher. No player may sit out for a third (3rd) inning until all players have sat out two (2) innings, with the exception of the Pitcher or Catcher.
- C. At the end of each half inning, the first pitch must be pitched within two (2) minutes, unless the catcher is the final out, when the time limit will extend to three (3) minutes. If the defensive team

is not ready to pitch at the listed time limit, a ball will be called at 30 second intervals, until the first (1st) pitch to a batter is delivered.

- a. If the catcher or pitcher are on base with two (2) outs, the last player on the bench (the most recent batter not on base) may substitute as a runner for the catcher to expedite putting on the catcher's gear or the pitcher.
- D. If both paid umpires do not appear for a game, the game shall not be played and will be rescheduled by the Board. If one paid umpire appears for a game, the game shall be played.
- E. If two (2) charged conferences are taken in one (1) inning, the pitcher must be removed from the pitching position during the second (2nd) conference. Beginning with the fourth (4th) conference in a regulation game, the pitcher must be removed from the pitching position. A conference is not charged if the pitcher is removed or when a player is hurt and must be attended to by a coach.

3. EQUIPMENT

- A. Base distance will be 90 feet and the pitching distance will be 60 feet, 6 inches. The baseball used will be an official League baseball selected by the league.
- B. The National Federation rule for bats shall be enforced with the following modification: All non-wood bats must have the appropriate BBCOR markings to be legal. Each non-wood bat shall be 2⁵/₈" or less and each wood bat shall be 2³/₄" or less in diameter (at the thickest part of the bat) and 36" or less in length. A bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (for example, a 33" long bat cannot be less than 30 ounces in weight). Note: No BBCOR label, sticker or decal will be permitted on any non-wood bat. The marking will have to be part of the manufacture of the bat.
- C. Metal spike cleats may not be worn while pitching.
- D. Players must not wear jewelry, metal hair ornaments or similar items during practices, scrimmages, or games, for their safety. The 1st offense will result in a team jewelry warning. A 2nd and any additional jewelry offense(s) will result in the player(s) being called out and restricted to the bench.

4. OFFENSE

- A. There will be only one (1) batter in the batter's box and one (1) player in the warm-up circle, which must be outside of the backstop or bench fence. All other players and coaches – when not directing the base runners from the coach's box – must remain on their bench or behind their bench fence, except when warming up. No spectators are not permitted to be positioned closer than six (6) feet behind the backstop, unless they are using bleachers that have been provided.
- B. The "delay by batter" rule will be enforced; but, one (1) warning will be given per team.
- C. A coach or player shall not carelessly throw the bat which would include the bat hitting the catcher, umpire, or the fence surrounding the field. Penalty: At the end of playing action, the umpire shall issue a warning to the coach of the team involved and the next offender(s) on the team shall be ejected.

5. DEFENSE

- A. Any player on the roster is permitted to pitch.
- B. Pitchers may use any regulation fielding glove, except those containing gray or white, while pitching.
- C. Each player is permitted 85 pitches a game with a max of 150 a week. Pitcher can finish pitching to the batter he/she is pitching to once the 85 and 150 limits have been reached.

- D. Once removed as a pitcher, a player may not return in the same game as a pitcher. Exception: The starting pitcher may be removed and return to the game one (1) time. As long as his/her pitches when removed didn't exceed the 85 max pitch count per game or the 150 max pitch count for the week.
- E. A pitching week runs from Monday through Sunday.
- F. The balk rule will be enforced.
- G. An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count. The ball shall be declared dead before making the award, and no further pitches will be required.
- H. Warm-up pitches between innings will be limited to three (3). When a pitching change occurs: 1) the first time that a pitcher enters a game as pitcher, the warm-up limit is five (5) pitches; 2) when a pitcher reenters a game as pitcher, the warm-up limit is three (3) pitches.
- I. Pitching rules apply to all games whether completed or not.