

Winfield in Action (WIA) Official Baseball Rules

The scope of this document is intended to be a guide for the WIA Board of Directors, Baseball Commissioner, League Directors and all of the Volunteer Coaches.

The purpose of forming and administering this baseball program by WIA, is for the instructional betterment of the players involved and to provide an environment where these players can learn and have fun, by playing the game of baseball.

Divisions:

There are seven (8) leagues within the WIA baseball program, they are as follows:

- T-Ball 4 & 5 year old coed
- Junior 6 & 7 year old coed
- Pre-Minor 8 year old boys
- Minor 9 & 10 year old boys
- Major 11 & 12 year old boys
- Pony 13 year old boys (National League)
 14 year old boys (American League)
- Colt 15 & 16 year old boys
- Palomino 17 & 18 year old boys

Juniors:

This league is structured similarly to T-Ball, as an instructional league. For many players, this will be their first exposure to playing baseball, if they have not played in a T-Ball league. It is intended to build upon the skills learned at the T-Ball level, where fundamental skills are the most important part of the game. No scores are to be kept during these games, as it is not part of the philosophy of this league. The added skill introduced at this level is hitting a ball pitched by a coach. Player requests will be used in the formation of the teams and will be met to the best of the league's capabilities. Overriding factors will be ratings from the prior year, team size (number of players on a team), age (mixture of 6yr olds & 7yr olds) and gender.

Skills The Coaches Are Expected To Teach:

- Proper glove position when fielding a fly or ground ball
- Proper batting stance
- The proper technique for hitting a pitched ball
- Continue to stress the proper release of the bat after hitting the ball
- How to safely cover a base in advance of runner
- Technique of throwing a ball into 2nd base from the outfield

Field Requirements & Equipment:

- Bases are to be 50' away from each other
- Pitching mound is to be 40' away from home plate
- Uniforms (tee shirt & hat) are supplied by WIA
- Baseballs, bats, batting helmet, catchers gear & hitting tee are supplied by WIA
- No metal spikes are allowed
- Players can use their own bats, but they must be Aluminum
 - Can not be longer than 28" & not have a barrel larger than 2 ¼" in diameter

The Game:

- There are no make up games in this league
- If one team has less than eight (8) players, then the other team will rotate player(s) per inning to the other team, to get them to eight (8), so that the game can be played.
- Games are four (4) innings in length
- No score or standings will be kept
- In this league the batting teams coach pitches to their batters. A maximum of six (6) pitches are to be thrown to a batter before they must bring the tee out for the batter to hit off of (common sense situations to keep in mind, if the batter is fouling off pitches and making good contact you may throw more than six (6) pitches or if a batter has not acquired the skill yet, you may throw less than six (6) pitches; you want to keep the games moving and the fielders interested in the game).
- If a batter throws their bat, play should be stopped after they reach 1st base and an instructional warning should be given. Use this as information for your next practice session.
- There is a continuous batting order.
- Batting orders are established before the first game of the season and remain the same for the entire season. The player who follows the batter, that made the last out of the previous game, will be the first batter of the next game.
- The maximum number of batters per inning is nine (9). So an inning will end when either of these occurs first; the fielding team gets three (3) outs or the maximum number of nine (9) players have batted.
- **Players can't advance on overthrows to 1st or 3rd bases and can only advance one base on an over throw to 2nd base.**
- Players can advance as many bases as possible on hits to the outfield, but once the fielding team returns the ball to the infield the over throw rule applies.
- On the ninth (9) batter of an inning, the base runners can advance until the fielding team gets the ball into the catcher or gets an out.
- The fielding team can have ten (10) players in the field, with the extra fielder being in the outfield. This extra outfielder cannot play directly behind 2nd base.
- A player may only sit out one (1) inning per game, if they are available to play. The manager should keep track of who sits out each game, so that they can equalize this for every player over the entire season.

- Fielders must rotate the position they play each inning, so that they get the opportunity to play all positions. Coaches should keep track of positions played, so that players get equal chances at all positions.
- To keep the game moving, the batting team should have their catcher putting on their gear before the inning is over, so that the game can keep moving.
- When your team is playing the field, you are allowed to have one (1) coach in the field of play.

Calls & Miscellaneous:

- When your team is batting you will have one coach pitching and additional coaches at 1st & 3rd base. The coach that is pitching should be aware of the need to protect the player who is fielding the pitchers position and knock down any ball that may cause a problem.
- The coach that is pitching will have the responsibility to act as lead umpire and call fair & foul balls as well as the plays at the bases. They should solicit help from the coaches at 1st & 3rd base or the coach from the other team that may be in the field of play. Remember, this level is about instruction and not winning. Make your calls loud and clear and explain them to the player so they learn the rules.
- The home team is responsible for the game ball. After the game is over add it to your practice balls. Please do not hand it out as WIA counts on these balls for practice the following season.
- Home team should take the 3rd base dugout
- During weeknight games the visiting team has the entire field ½ an hour before game time and the home team has the entire field ¼ of an hour before the start of the game for warm-up practice. Please start the games on time so that everyone gets use of the fields.
- No negative comments are allowed from the fielding players towards the batters such as “miss it” or “swing”.
- The home team manager for the game will make sure that all equipment from the field equipment box is returned to it and that it is locked before leaving, unless there are teams present to play the next game.
- All team Managers are responsible for their conduct, as well as, the conduct of their players and the player’s parents. Teaching good sportsmanship continues at this level for all concerned. (See WIA Parental Code of Conduct)