

## **Winfield in Action 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

### **T-Ball:**

This league is structured as the first organized level of baseball for these young participants. It is intended to expose the players to the fun that can be realized in playing the game and to provide for a starting place to learn some of the fundamental rules of the game. No scores are to be kept during these games, as it is not part of the philosophy of this league. Coaches can be and are encouraged to be on the field with these players giving them instruction at all times. 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 4yr olds & 5yr olds) and gender.

### **Skills The Coaches Are Expected To Teach:**

- Where the bases are on the field
- The direction to run the bases
- Where the position players are on the field
- What hand to place the glove on
- Proper glove position when fielding a fly or ground ball
- Watching the batter as they swing the bat to hit the ball from the tee
- The proper batting stance
- The proper swing of the bat, keeping their eyes on the ball
- The proper release of the bat

### Field Requirements & Equipment:

- Bases are to be 50' away from each other
- Pitching mound is to be 40' away from home plate
- Uniforms (t-shirt & hat) are supplied by WIA
- Baseballs, bats, batting helmet, bases & hitting tee are supplied by WIA
- No metal spikes are allowed

### The Game:

- There are no make up games in this league
- Games are three (3) innings in length
- No score will be kept
- For safety reasons, only a coach may place a ball on the hitting tee
- A ball hit in fair territory, but less than 5' from home plate will be called a foul ball
- If the batter throws their bat after hitting the ball, the coach should instruct the player before running to 1<sup>st</sup> base, on the proper method of releasing the bat. The player will then be allowed to run to and occupy 1<sup>st</sup> base.
- The catcher, each batter and base runner will wear a protective batting helmet
- The batter and each runner may only advance one base on a ball put in play by the batter, except on the "last batter of the inning".
- The batting order will be rotated each inning throughout the season, so that each player gets a chance to be the last batter of an inning.
- All players on a team will bat each inning. If one team has more players than the other, then the team with fewer players may bat the same number of times as the team with more players.
- The Manager of the hitting team must announce when their "last batter" is at the plate. When the ball is put into play, the runners may advance as many bases as possible before the fielding team gets the ball to the catcher and they step on home plate in possession of the ball (there is to be **NO** tagging of runners).
- Each player on a team will play in the field each inning. The fielding team manager will place one player in each of the infield positions, and then place the remaining players in the outfield. The outfielders should be at least five (5) adult steps behind the infielder to allow for separation of the fielders.
- The Manager must rotate players each inning throughout the season, so that all players get a chance to play each position.
- A coach from the fielding team will play alongside the catcher at all times, to ensure that they stay out of the batters way, so that they do not get hurt. The catcher should play several feet back from the batter.
- The fielding team players will be instructed to stay out of the runner's path, to avoid all collisions.
- All plays will be made at 1<sup>st</sup> base. All runners will remain on the base even if they are out.

### Calls & Miscellaneous:

- It is the hitting teams Manager or their designates responsibility to:
  - Call foul balls
  - Removes the hitting tee so that runners from 3<sup>rd</sup> base can score safely
  - Announces play ball for each batter, so that the fielding team is alerted that a ball will be put into play
  - Places the ball to be hit on the tee and adjusts the tee for correct height
  - Making sure that the fielding team has a coach with the catcher, so that they stay out of the batters way
- 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.
- Both the hitting team and the fielding team may have coaches at each base or position, so that they can instruct players during play.
- All team Managers are responsible for their conduct, as well as, the conduct of their players and the player's parents. Teaching good sportsmanship starts at this level for all concerned. (See WIA Parental Code of Conduct)