



WRYSA BASEBALL LEAGUE RULES

Instructional Baseball 15U

Supplement to WRYSA By-Laws & Policies

Sportsmanship and Conduct

Each team will be given a WRYSA Coaches packet to guide them in consistent handling of routine and occasional situations. If you have questions, please discuss them with your league coordinator.

Sportsmanship and conduct are the primary concern of the coaches and assistants. This includes the conduct of coaches, players, and fans of your team. Coaches will be required to sign the Coaches Code of Conduct which outlines the approved behavior for all WRYSA coaches. Proper youth sportsmanship attitudes must be instilled and maintained on every team. Encourage positive cheering by everyone.

This is an instructional league with parents and coaches encouraging players to do their best and have fun. Players should be engaged, run on and off the field, and be attentive.

Schedules

Games will begin at 6:00 and 8:00 **with no inning to begin after 7:45 and 9:45 respectively (1 hour and 45 minutes of play time).**

Both the home team and away team will split the field for warmups. Both teams will set up fields prior to the game and at the end of play secure bases, lights and lock facilities. On lighted fields the field lights should be turned off as soon as play is complete. The home team uses the first base dugout and visitors use third base. An umpire will be scheduled for each game. The home team will provide a volunteer base umpire.

Rain delays and Canceled games

Valid warning sirens will result in stoppage of play. Lightning will result in stoppage of play. When a game is suspended, a decision will be made within 15 minutes to continue play or cancel the game.

When a game is canceled, 4 innings constitute a complete game and is not to be continued or rescheduled. When teams have had one hour of playing time the game will be considered complete and is not to be rescheduled. The League coordinator will decide to cancel games if deemed necessary. Cancellations are for the entire night. The entire night will be added to the schedule as a make up by the league coordinator.

General Rules

Follow Babe Ruth League Inc. Rules, unless otherwise noted:

Pitching (Child Pitch)

- A pitcher may pitch **3** innings max. per game.
- The balk rule will be enforced during the season, not strictly at the beginning of the season.
- Coaches and umpires will work with the pitchers during the game to teach how to avoid balks.
- One pitch in an inning, counts as an inning pitched.
- A pitcher must be removed from the mound if: He hits **3** batters in an inning.
 - However, if a batter is stepping into a ball thrown over the plate and gets hit, the umpire will decide if it was a strike.
 - If the pitch was in the strike zone, the pitch is considered a strike. No base is granted. Pitcher then has no hit batter called against him.
 - The opposing team should track pitch count for the other teams' pitcher. The coach should touch base with the opposing coach as the pitcher nears their pitch-count limit.
- Re-entry of a pitcher is allowed if the criteria for the above bullet points are met.
- Strike zone. The strike zone is between the arm pits and knees of the batter.
- A pitcher should be removed if they allow 5 walks in an inning.

Equipment

- Metal cleats are discouraged at this age level.
- Catchers must wear a helmet, facemask, shin guards, chest protector and protective cup to play. If needed, borrow from the other team. Safety is the goal.
- Helmets are to be worn by all batters, base runners, and on-deck players.
- All other players are to remain on/in the bench area or behind the fence. Coaches shall monitor and remind players as needed. Safety is the goal.
- Bat barrels must be no larger than 2 5/8" diameter
- League bats needs to be USA or BBCOR and can be -8 to -3.
- Any questions, please contact your league coordinator.

Fielding

- All teams will play the field on defense, with a pitcher, catcher, 1st, 2nd, 3rd baseman, shortstop and three outfielders (9 players on the field). A minimum 8 players are needed to start a game.
- All players shall play positions based on the coaches' discretion due to safety concerns and player ability.
- In each game, all players are required to sit once before any player can sit twice.
- No players may play the same position more than four (4) innings in a single game.
- Coaches will work to give each player ample time in the field.
- Fielders shall not fake a tag on a runner. A fielder who fakes a tag is considered an obstruction, and the runner shall be awarded the base attempted, plus one base.
- 15U teams when short players are encouraged to call up 12U players, only if the 12U players can safely play at the 15U level of play and if it does not interfere with their 12U players normally scheduled 12U games.

Batting

- Only the current and on-deck batters can practice swinging during the game. Both players must be on the playing field and the on-deck batter must be standing in the on-deck circle.
 - THE ON-DECK BATTER SHOULD BE FACING THE BACK OF THE BATTER THAT IS UP. THUS, WHEN THERE IS A LEFT-HANDED BATTER, THE ON DECK BATTER SHOULD BE ON THE FIRST BASE SIDE. RIGHT-HANDED BATTER, THE ON DECK BATTER SHOULD BE ON THE THIRD BASE SIDE.
 - No other player can swing a bat during the game, including outside of the playing field.
- The batting team will run their batting order in a consecutive and continuous fashion. Every player must bat every time through the order. A player that arrives late for a game will be added to the end of the batting order.
- Bunting is allowed. However, an out will be called if a foul ball occurs on a bunt with a two-strike count.
- Fake bunts are allowed, but once a batter squares to bunt they **cannot** swing.
 - If batter squares to bunt and swings away; they will be called out.
- Walks (4 balls) or strikeouts (3 strikes) will be called.
- A batter may advance to first-base on a dropped third strike.
- Infield fly rule will be called.
 - Foul tip on a strike must be above shoulders of the batter to be out, if caught.

Base Running

- No deliberate contact will be allowed. Any deliberate contact, a coach will need to talk to the player to make sure this won't happen again.

- Players are required to slide on close plays, except for first base. This is a safety issue and coaching point.
- It is mandatory to slide at home plate if there is a defensive player attempting to make a play at home. (Umpires discretion)
- A substitute runner will be allowed for the catcher when he is on base with two outs. The runner is the person who made the last out.

Coaching

- Additional "helpers/coaches" will be allowed to help prepare catchers between innings, or assist players in the dugout, if needed. Parents should refrain from entering the dugout during the game.
- Coaches are not allowed on the playing field when their team is on defense throughout the entire game and season.
- Anyone under 18 (coach or umpire) on the field must wear a helmet.
- Coaches can be just outside the dugout giving direction to their defense.
- Each inning is limited to **7 runs or 3 outs**. Each team can only score a maximum of 7 runs each inning, even if they are behind by more than 7 runs.
- The ten-run rule will apply after 5 innings.
- Games are timed for 1 hour and 45 minutes. The goal is to play as many innings as possible.
- If the umpire has made a call, only the manager may request information about it.
- No foul language by any players, spectators, or coaches, will be allowed. The coach will give warnings as needed.
 - If further action is needed, a report should be made to the League coordinator.
- No appeal on missed bases by the runner, or tagging up too soon, after a caught ball. It is an automatic out; umpire will call it at the end of the play.
- Eight players must always start and be on the field to conduct a game. Any teams with less than eight players available to play shall forfeit the game.
 - Teams should then divide players evenly and play a practice game.
- Coaches should have players defensive positions and batting line-up planned and completed before the game.

Team Responsibilities

- Help clean out dug out and field after the game.
- Have kids be responsible for helmets & bat organization. Have kids place balls and helmets back into bag for coaches at the end of the game.
- Have parents and players help with garbage clean up at the end of the game.

Concessions

- Obligations: It is a requirement that all baseball and softball league players partake in the WRYSA Concession Stand volunteer program. The requirement is that at least one concession stand shift be completed on behalf of each player registered for WRYSA league ball.
 - Families can opt-out of working a concession shift during registration and their opt-out fee will be donated to a volunteer concession worker on their behalf.
- A parent concession schedule will be made available to all WRYSA participants via email and posted online.
- Parents who opt-in to work their concession shift will be assigned their shift and responsible for covering their assigned shift.
- A list of eligible volunteer concession workers will be made available to coaches and WRYSA families as the regular league season nears.
- Parents who fail to fulfill their concession requirements will be invoiced \$100 at the end of the season and their player will not be allowed to register for tournament or league play for the following year until the invoice is paid in full.

The rules for this league will be the Official regulations and playing rules of Babe Ruth Baseball. Any rules not specifically stated or modified above will be governed by the Babe Ruth League rules.

2024 Baseball League Coordinators:

Jeb McKinney 262-433-1129 & Shannon Scheunemann 715-213-7172