



Cactus League Rules

All Managers, Assistant Managers, Team Members, Families, and their guests are subject to the Wasco Baseball Code of Conduct. Wasco sponsors three different Cactus seasons: Spring, Summer, and Fall.

Spring Cactus (High School grades or no older than 18 years old by April 30th) is for players NOT PLAYING high school baseball. This league is unique to the Fox Valley area and is great for players who love baseball but do not have the time and interest to play high school baseball. It is a 10-12 game season starting in early April, with 2-games per weekend, and a single-elimination tournament ending before the Memorial Day weekend. Individual or full team registrations are welcome.

Summer Cactus (Completed High School Freshman, Sophomore or Junior) starts in June, after the end of the high school baseball season, and ends by August. Wasco teams compete in the FRVC League with other teams in the Fox Valley. It is a 14-18 game season with games during the week (makeups scheduled for the weekend), where half of the games will be played at home and the other half at opponents' fields. Individual or full team registrations are welcome.

Fall Cactus (High School grade) is a 10-12 game season starting in August, with 2-games per weekend, and a single-elimination tournament ending in October. Wasco partners with adjacent communities to form a robust league, so games are played at different venues throughout the season. Individual or full team registrations are welcome.

The Spring Cactus and Fall Cactus rules are listed below. The Summer Cactus rules can be found at the FRVC League [website](#).

Field Dimensions

Distance between bases: 90 feet from back of home plate (point) to outfield side of bases at 1st and 3rd, from foul line side of bases at 1st and 3rd to center of 2nd base. All bases are inside the 90-foot square except 2nd base. Pitching rubber distance: 60 feet, 6 inches from the back of home plate (point) to the front of the rubber.

Uniforms

Uniforms are conventional, with long-legged pants (no shorts) and sneakers or baseball shoes (steel spike shoes are permitted), that the player provides. Steel spiked shoes are NOT permitted on the Portable Mounds. Players must bring and wear tennis shoes or molded cleats to pitch on the portable mound. The league provides jerseys, pants, socks, belts, and baseball hats. Each player is responsible for wearing their entire uniform on game-day (with all shirts "tucked in"). It is expected that hats will be worn to both practices and games.

Heat / Cold / Lightning Policies:

Please refer to the Policies section of the Wasco Baseball website: <https://www.wascobaseball.com/policies>

Regulation Game

Games shall be played according to National Federation of State High School Associations baseball rules unless otherwise noted. All games will have a two (2) hour time limit from the original scheduled start time. No inning may be started after two (2) hours from the original scheduled start time; the next inning starts when the final out is made in the prior inning. This rule applies whether a game is to be played on the field following the game in progress. This rule also applies to restarting an inning after a rain or weather delay; a delayed inning may not be restarted after two (2) hours from the original scheduled start time. Cactus league games are seven (7) inning games. Extra innings may be played in accordance with the league time and other game completion rules. If rain, darkness or weather ends a game prior to 4 complete innings of play the game will be suspended. If the game is called after 4 innings the score will stand as a complete game reverting back to the score at the end of the last fully completed inning, including if such score results in a tie game (3 ½ innings complete with the home team winning).

Lineup / Playing Requirements

Continuous batting order shall be used. Each player shall play a minimum of 4 innings in the field (unless an injury requires less playing time). Players having to leave after the start of a game will be allowed to return to the game. Each manager is responsible to maintain a documented rotation for his own team consistent with this rule. The inning requirement is superseded by time, weather, darkness, and mercy rules of the league.

Minimum Team

A minimum team will consist of 8 players. No out shall be recorded in the ninth batting position if only 8 players are present at a game. If more players arrive after the game begins they will be added to the end of the batting order. Teams without 8 players by 10 minutes past the scheduled start time shall forfeit the game with a score of 7-0. A team may use a player from the league below; unlike other leagues, there is no restriction on playing position. If a team has 9 players, they may call up a player from the league below; if they have 8 players they may call up two players. In no case may a player not registered with Wasco Baseball play as a walk-on. Call up players must wear the team uniform of their full-time team. A team cannot call up a player if that player's full-time team has a game scheduled at the same time. You cannot use a player from the same division of the Cactus league. All call up players must bat last.

Coaches

All Coaches must be registered, rostered and approved by the Wasco Baseball Board of Directors.

Standings & Tiebreakers

The following is the list in order of the tiebreakers used to slot teams for the post-season tournament:

1. Winning Percentage (wins + (ties*.5)/games)
2. Head to Head Winning Percentage (Highest of all teams tied after computing (wins + (ties*.5)/games) for only games played against tied teams.
3. Head to Head Run Differential: Highest of total runs scored when playing all tied teams in #2 - (minus) total number of runs allowed when playing tied teams in #2
4. Runs Against Overall: Lowest of: Total number of runs allowed for all games played
5. Runs for Overall: Highest of: Total number of runs scored for all games played

If there are any issues or if there is still a tie after the 5th tiebreaker, the Vice President will be involved and make the final decision using his/her discretion.

Note: the Wasco Baseball Website does not always calculate the standings correctly.

Pitching

There are no pitching restrictions; however, coaches, parents, and players are encouraged to follow the [Pitch Smart Guidelines for 15-18 years olds](#) to support the health of the player. Pitchers may not return to the mound after being removed. Pitchers shall not wear sunglasses, wrist bands, or show a white / light colored shirts under their uniform, which might hide the baseball. On the second trip in an inning to confer with the defense with the same pitcher on the mound, that pitcher must be removed. No balk warnings. Teams are allowed 2 minutes or 8 warm up pitches in between innings, whichever is less. Any player catching for warmup in between innings or in the bullpen must wear full catcher's equipment.

Offense

Only BBCOR or wood bats will be allowed for all games. Only one batter is allowed at a time on the on deck-circle, and the on-deck batter must wear a helmet. Courtesy runners for pitcher and catcher can be used at any time. Substitute runner shall be the last batted out. The spirit of this rule is to help speed the game and should be applied, so "of record" and "next defensive inning" will be honored. If the "next defensive inning" is applied, the pitcher or catcher must play this position for at least one out.

Runs Scored

If a team is ahead by 10 runs after 5 complete innings the game will be considered over. If the home team is winning and at bat at the 2-hour time limit, then the game is over at that point.

Rule Questions

Managers, coaches, players, and fans may not argue or complain about an umpire's call. If a player or manager is ejected from a game, they are required to sit out the next game. If a player or manager is caught at the next game, they are subject to removal from the league. No protests allowed. Any rule interpretation or question must be directed to the Vice-President of Wasco Baseball at the e-mail address found on the league website in writing. Interpretations will be made by the Wasco Executive Board and a written response will be given.

Entering Scores

The winning team shall be responsible for recording the score in the score reporting section of the Wasco Baseball website within one week of the completion of the game. Unless directed differently by the Commissioner, all scores for the season must be reported by 8pm CST on the final Sunday of the Regular Season to be counted toward the final standings. Points shall be awarded to teams for standings as per the following: Win = 3 pts, Loss = 1 pt, Tie = 2 pts. 1 point for each team on a game not played, unless forfeited.

Rainouts / Suspended Games / Make-Up Games / Rescheduled Games

The HOME coach is responsible for checking the fields to determine if a game should start due to rain or threatening weather. If the HOME coach determines that the field or conditions are unplayable, he should contact the visiting coach and umpire within 2 hours of the start time. If a game is suspended due to weather, the game is recorded by both managers from the point at which it was stopped with all stats, including pitchers, held until the make-up game. Once a date and time is agreed between both managers, the game is restarted from the recorded stoppage point. The game will be completed within a new 2-hour time limit from the rescheduled start time.

Field Preparation and Care

Do not warm up your team on the infield, prior to a game. Please use your side of the outfield. You can use the out of play infield area, on your side, for groundballs. But please ask your players to avoid touching the chalk lines.

The **home team** is responsible for ensuring the field is set up properly for the game, including chalking the foul lines and the batter's box. The home team will supply the game balls and shall be required to surrender the field to the visiting team fifteen minutes before game time.

At the end of the game, the **away team** is responsible for clean-up. Bases should be left "in" (there is no need to take the bases out and replace them with plugs). Please put away all rakes and ensure all field equipment (marking string, dig out tool, and chalker) are in the field box **with the lid closed tightly**. The away team is responsible for smoothing and filling any holes created during play especially around the bases, home plate, and the pitcher's mound.

The field shall be cleared of all players five minutes prior to the start of the game. The Managers shall concur in the event a previous game makes the field setup impossible to be completed prior to the scheduled start of the game. Teams should remove all equipment from their dugouts immediately following their game, and prior to post-game meetings, to allow the next games teams to enter the dugouts timely. **Each team is responsible for the removal of all trash from their respective dugouts, spectator areas, and the field.** All field issues should be reported to fields@wascobaseball.com.

Fall Season Addendums

All rules described above apply for the Fall unless there is a difference described below:

The League Commissioner may create multiple regular season and playoff divisions in the Fall to create competitive parity. Teams can be formed in the Fall leagues by a team manager; however, individual player registrations may be assigned to manager formed teams of less than 12 players.

In no case may a player not registered with Wasco Baseball play as a walk-on. In the Fall Cactus league only, if a team is short players as described below, they can 'call-up' a player from another division of the Wasco Fall Cactus league. If a team has 9 players, they may call up one player; if they have 8 players they may call up two players. Call up players must wear the team uniform of their full-time team. A team cannot call up a player if that player's full-time team has a game scheduled at the same time. All call up players must bat last.

In certain circumstances, the league commissioner may approve the addition of a 'free agent' player to participate when a team has less than 10 players; this player must meet the participation eligibility requirements and register before participation. The application of this rule is narrow and exists to support game play versus game forfeitures.

Due to the limited day-light during the Fall season, rescheduling of games will be limited, so teams are expected to 'find a way to play as scheduled. Any rescheduling will need to be coordinated with the league commissioner.