



Tournament Rules for Woodbury Area In-House Baseball League (WABL)

Player Rotation and Equal Playing Time

NOTE: These rules are consistent with the rules that should have been played with all season long. The only difference is requiring the player position chart where noted below. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to these rules except with a written exemption from the WABL Board. Failure to follow these rules will result in team forfeiture of that game. If coaches observe players from other team not playing positions according to the player position chart, they must bring it to the IMMEDIATE ATTENTION of the umpire and opposing coach.

- a. All Teams in 2nd grade – 6th grade will be required to provide the opposing team with a player position chart PRIOR to the start of the game. All players must play at least one inning in the infield and one inning in the outfield prior to the 5th inning. If a team has 13 players you have until the completion of the 5th inning to meet this requirement. Pitcher and catcher count as an infield position. The player position chart will be filled out with player names and numbers and exchanged with the opposing coach at the umpire meeting prior to the game.
- b. 2nd/3rd Grade - a player may not play the same position more than twice in a game
Note: Coaches are permitted to make game-time decisions related to player positions as long as these rules are followed and the opposing coach is notified. For example, if a player is scheduled for 2nd base but the coach decides to move him to short, that is permitted. Or if a pitcher is struggling, and the coach wants to bring a reliever, a player from the infield is appropriate. Or, if you've reached the point in the game where all players have played outfield and you want to bring an outfielder as a reliever that is permitted. Again, notify the opposing coach when you are making changes.
- c. All Teams in 7th/8th grade will be required to provide the opposing team with a player position chart PRIOR to the start of the game. All players must play at least **TWO** positions each game (coaches' option on position; *bench is not a position*). The player position chart will be filled out with player names and numbers and exchanged with the opposing coach at the umpire meeting prior to the game.

Note: Coaches are permitted to make game-time decisions as long as the TWO POSITION rule is maintained.

**EQUAL PLAYING TIME RULES APPLY AT ALL AGE LEVELS INCLUDING SENIOR HIGH.
PLAYING TIME MUST BE BALANCED PER GAME, NOT PER TOURNAMENT.**

Time Limits for all Games

NOTE: These rules are special for the tournament and are required due to the number of games and limited time we have to play them.

- a. Time limits are clearly posted on the schedules for all games. The umpire will announce the start time of the game and his watch is the **ONLY** official time. Note that the championship games in each bracket are exempt from time limits.
- b. If the game has reached the end of an inning, is tied, and it is at the point where “no inning can start after”, the following tie breaker method shall be employed:
 1. The player who made the last out in the previous inning takes 2nd base.
 2. The team batting starts with 1 out and will bat in order (continued from last out in the previous inning) until 2 more outs are made. The teams then switch spots and the other team follows the same rules. Whoever scores the most runs is the winner.
 3. If the game is still tied after this, repeat the process. The max innings pitched rule is still in effect and cannot be violated.
- d. There is no throwing the ball around the horn or throwing down. Also, there will be no warm up balls in the infield or outfield between innings.
- e. Pitchers are allowed three warm up pitches per inning – regardless of whether they are a returning pitcher in that game or haven't pitched yet.
- f. Any stalling tactics, as judged solely by the umpires, will allow umpire to invoke the 20 second rule, whereby you will have a ball or a strike called against your team every 20 seconds. Umpire can also add time to the game. Stalling will not be tolerated. Play the game.



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Home team

5th & up: Better seed is home team (# 1 seed is home all tournament). **4th & under:** Coin flip, unless otherwise noted on schedule.

Innings Pitched Rules

One pitch is considered an inning. If a pitcher is removed from the mound, he may return as a pitcher at any time during that game provided that he has not reached his inning limit.

WABL recommends that coaches keep a pitch count for all grades that allow live pitching. Keeping players safe and free from injury is paramount. Pitch count should supersede maximum innings in all cases. It is critical that coaches develop as many pitchers as possible!

3rd/4th Grade: Maximum of 2 innings per game with maximum of 5 innings for the tournament. A general rule of thumb is 30 – 40 pitches per game per pitcher. USA Baseball recommends no more than 55 pitches per week for boys 10 years old or younger.

5th/6th Grade: 2 innings per game with maximum of 5 innings for the tournament. A general rule of thumb is 40 – 50 pitches per game per pitcher.

7th/8th Grade: 3 innings per game with maximum of 6 innings for the tournament. A general rule of thumb is 50 – 60 pitches per game per pitcher.

Sr. High: 12 outs per game. A general rule of thumb is 60 – 70 pitches per game per pitcher.

Violation of the pitching limits will result in TEAM DISQUALIFICATION for the remainder of the tournament.

Trips to the mound

3rd/4th- 5th/6th: Each team is allowed 1 defensive conference (including trips to the mound) **PER PITCHER PER GAME**. On the second trip or defensive conference, the pitcher must be removed from the pitcher position. **This is not per inning, but per pitcher!**

7th/8th – Sr. High: A team gets 3 cumulative (not per inning) defensive charged visits (regardless who the pitcher is or was) and on the fourth visit and each visit after they must replace the pitcher. A conference is not charged if the pitcher is removed as pitcher. In extra innings, the coach gets one charged conference per inning.

All other rules not listed above are as published on the WAA site, <http://www.waawoodbury.org/page/show/786068-rules>. Coaches have had access to rules all season.

The final decision on any rules issues or disputes will be with the grievance committee.

ATTENTION COACHES

No player from your team will be signed to a college scholarship or professional contract today – so let's keep that in perspective and remember that coaches and parent conduct should model what we teach our young players.