
WPCYO Baseball

Article 1 - Playing Rules

All WPCYO league games will be played by the official rules of the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) with the following modifications:

1. During the regular season a game will be considered official when 4 innings (3 ½ if the home team is winning) have been completed at the time the game is stopped. During post-season play, a game must go five (5) innings (4 ½ if the home team is leading) to be official
2. Each game will start with a minimum of three (3) new baseballs. Recommended balls are LLB, BRO, RO-A, or RO-N (Babe Ruth are a good choice as well). **No Little League.**
3. All players must wear protective athletic cup (metal or plastic)
4. The use of metal cleats is strictly prohibited!! Plastic or rubber cleats are to be worn. This is NOT negotiable and if a player is charged with wearing metal cleats he will be ejected from the game immediately. It is the coach's responsibility to enforce this rule
5. A pitcher who is removed from a game may not re-enter the game as a pitcher. If a pitcher remains in the game in a defensive position however, he may return to the mound in a subsequent inning
6. Coaches are to use good judgment with regards to the total amount of pitches a pitcher may throw in a given week. A player who pitches five or more innings during a game must rest three (3) full days before pitching again. There is no restriction when a pitcher pitches two or less innings during a game. In the case of a double header, if a pitcher has pitched two innings or less in the first game he may then pitch in the second game
7. **TIME LIMIT** - Each regular season game will have a 2 hour and 15-minute. This rule does not apply to any post-season games. However, for those venues that have curfews please abide by the local cut off time and **MUST BE DISCUSSED AT PRE GAME.**
8. **MERCY Rule** - A game is terminated when a team is behind by ten (10) runs or more after five complete innings (4 ½ if the home team is leading). After five innings, the losing team must have the same number of turns at bat as the winning team before the game is terminated
9. **SPEED-UP Rule** - With Two Outs, the team at bat **MUST** use a courtesy runner for the catcher if he is on base. When this rule is utilized the catcher does not leave the game nor is the pinch runner considered a substitute. The umpire, however, must be advised. A player in the batting order may not be the courtesy runner unless no other player is available. In that situation, the "last out on the bench" will run for the catcher. The objective of this rule is to ensure that a catcher, in his equipment, is ready for play when his team takes the field. Speed up rule is, however, suspended for post-season games

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10. **EXTRA HITTER Rule (EH)** - An extra hitter may be used, bringing the number of players in the batting order to ten (10). The EH, if used, must appear on the lineup card exchanged at the pre- game conference. Failure to declare an EH at that time will preclude the use of an EH for the game. If the EH is removed from the line-up, the EH position is terminated for the remainder of the game. The EH may replace a defensive layer but is locked into his own original batting order position. A defensive player may replace the EH but is locked into his own batting order position.
 11. **AUTOMATIC OUT** - If a team bats 10 players and a player gets removed from the game, then that position becomes an automatic out when it comes up in the batting order.
 12. A team must start the game with **NINE** (9) players.
 13. **BALKS** - during the season each pitcher will be issued a warning. All subsequent balk calls for that pitcher will result in the rulebook penalty. During post season play there will be NO warnings
 14. **BASE RUNNER GUIDELINES** - A base runner has three (3) choices when approaching a base and the fielder either has the ball or is waiting for a throw:
Slide, Avoid the Fielder, or Give-Up.
A base runner that runs into a fielder when one of the three options above would have avoided contact will be called out. A base runner that maliciously runs into a fielder will be called out and ejected from the game
 15. **PRE-GAME CONFERENCE** - will be conducted at home plate approximately five (5) minutes before the game is scheduled to begin. Both teams will have completed their warm-ups and all team members will be in their dugout s or bullpen area while the conference takes place. The umpire will also ask both teams if all players are properly equipped.
 - Coaches will exchange line ups and/or lineup cards
 - Inform Umpire of roster batting or use of EH
 - Discuss if field has curfew time limits
 - Review ground rules
 - Pay the umpire
 16. Players are to use wood bats (-3 only) and no bamboo.

Article II – Player Eligibility

Each player must :

- Be a registered member or student of the School, Parish CCD Program or the Parish he represents
- Elementary grade school level grade 8 or below
- Have not reached his/her fifteenth birthday before January 1st of the season during which he/she is participating

Coaches are urged to question eligibility of any player where suspicions are raised. This should not be frowned upon or considered insulting or in poor taste but a continued effort on everyone's part to keep the league completely honest. It is possible that a coach may have an ineligible player and not know it. If this is discovered, the team involved will lose every game in which the ineligible player participated. The league will check any such inquiry without disclosure of the protesting party.

Article III - Rosters

- All team rosters must be fully completed (name, address, telephone number, date of birth, grade and affiliation) and signed by the school principal, athletic director or parish priest.
- Rosters should be received by the league prior to the start of the season
- Additions may be made at any time prior to April 30th of the season, only with signed approval of the school principal, athletic director or parish priest stating that the addition meets the league's eligibility rules

Article IV - Additional obligation of coaches

1. All coaches and assistants are required to submit their names along with the Official Team Roster.
2. If a coach or assistant is not available for a game and an alternate coach or assistant is filling in, they must clearly be identified in the pre-game conference.
3. Each coach is responsible for the following:
 - He and his players, managers, etc. and their actions in order that they conduct themselves accordingly.
 - Coaches are responsible for "crowd control" of their respective teams so that there is not a lack of ethics on the part of his team's followers regarding conduct and sportsmanship, such as an attempt to distract opponents. Cheering for your team is acceptable and encouraged, however, jeering or mocking the opposing team is unacceptable behavior for any member of the league.
 - All players are ready to begin on time.
 - Winning team coach is responsible for reporting game results to the league website no later than 24 hours after the completion of the game.
 - Home team coach will supply the official scorebook.
4. Any flagrant adverse conduct on the part of a coach or assistant coach such as intentional cheating, unsportsmanlike conduct, violence, foul-language, etc. are grounds for immediate removal from the WPCYO.

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5. **CANCELLATIONS** – Decision to postpone a contest due to inclement weather or unsafe field conditions must be made at least **TWO** (2) hours prior to game time. The WPCYO administrator must inform the Umpire contacts via phone call or text message and follow up with an e-mail.
 6. Game to be rescheduled due to rain outs, school obligations, must be done within **THREE** (3) days. Any teams that do not reschedule their games will receive a loss for that game. The goal is to have all teams play all games on the schedule.
 7. Rescheduling of games is not permitted within 48 hours of game time. The game will be forfeited if you try to reschedule within 48 hours. Get a copy of your school calendar and this will ensure that you do not wait until the day before a school trip or school event to reschedule a game.
 8. **FORFEITS** – the forfeiting team is responsible for paying the full umpire fee and will be coordinated through the WPCYO administrator and the Umpire organization contacts.

Article V - Regular Season and Playoffs

The league will determine the regular season and playoff format based upon the number of teams participating in the league and the availability of fields or, a vote will be taken where majority rules.

Current format:

- Top eight (8) teams make the playoffs
- Single elimination tournament to determine "League Champion"
- Tie-breaker: If there are ties at the end of the regular season the following will be used to determine the seeding for the playoffs:
 - Head to head
 - Runs Allowed
 - Run Differential