

WCSA 2024 Youth Baseball

Rules 8U Division

Rev. 1/30/2024

WCSA Baseball is not currently affiliated with any organization (i.e. Little League, Five Tool (Nations), etc.). However, Five Tool (Nations) rules will serve as the primary set of rules for WCSA Baseball except as modified herein. If no modification to the applicable rule is incorporated, the Five Tool (Nations) rules will prevail.

1. **Max Roster Size:** 11 Maximum if possible, during regular season
2. **Age Verification:** All players on a team must be registered within the boundaries of the league they are playing for or as of April 30th of that year. A birth certificate must be presented upon request by a WCSA official

ELIGIBILITY: This division will be restricted to players ages 8 and under as specified by the participating League's standards.
3. **Season Format:** Per schedule
 - a. Teams may interleague and travel to other parks.
4. **Pitching Distance:** Plate @ 40 feet
5. **Coaching Staff:** 1 manager and 3 adults (coaches/team mom) allowed regardless of number of players. One must always stay in the dugout. The manager is responsible for the actions of their assistant coaches. No manager or coach shall be allowed to walk behind the infield area (home plate) to coach or position infielders, outfielders, or runners. Their job is to retrieve the ball missed by the catcher to help speed up the game.
6. **Mandatory Play:** 10 defensive players will be allowed on the field. Teams can start a game with eight players provided they take an out for the ninth player. Teams must have a minimum of eight players to start a game. If the lineup drops below eight players, the game is declared a suspended game and is not rescheduled. The suspended game is then ruled a forfeit by the League Commissioner. Umpires have no authority to forfeit a game.
7. **Time Limits:** A regulation game will be 1 hour and 15 minutes or 5 innings unless a team is mathematically eliminated. At the completion of 1 hour and 15 minutes the inning will be completed unless the HOME team is ahead and at bat.

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8. Coach Pitching, Player Pitcher, Batter, Runner, and Catcher:

a. Coach Pitcher:

- The coach pitcher will pitch from the rubber at 40 feet.
- The coach pitcher is prohibited from coaching while on the field of play either physically or verbally.
- The coach pitcher must leave the infield after the ball is put in play by the batter. The coach pitcher should make every effort to leave the field away from the play.

b. Player Pitcher:

- There is a circle drawn with a 10' diameter with the pitching rubber in the middle. This is a safety area for the player in the pitching position. The defensive player listed as the pitcher cannot leave the pitching circle until the ball is hit. **At least one foot must be inside the circle prior to the ball being hit.**
- The player in the pitcher's position **MUST** wear a batter's helmet while on defense.

c. Batter:

- Each batter will be allowed six (6) pitches. If a batter hits a foul ball on the sixth pitch, he will be allowed to continue batting until he does not make contact with the ball or puts the ball in play.
- If a player is unable to continue due to injury or illness, the team will not be penalized when it is the missing players turn to bat. His batting spot will be skipped over without penalty.
- There are no bunting or soft swings. Penalty: The batter is called back to the plate, the ball is dead, no runners may advance, and the pitch shall be considered a foul ball.
- **There will be NO:**
 1. Base on balls.
 2. Base awards for hit by pitcher.
 3. Infield fly rule
 4. Base stealing
 5. Bunts (players must take a full swing)
- There are no bunting or soft swings. Penalty: The batter is called back to the plate, the ball is dead, no runners may advance, and the pitch shall be considered a foul ball.

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d. Runner:

- Runners may not leave their bases until the pitched ball crosses the front edge of home plate. A runner who leaves early will be declared out and the pitch will be called a “no pitch”.
- Courtesy runners are allowed for the catcher only. The courtesy runner must be the player that recorded the last out for his team. Runner that comes off the field must play catcher the next inning.
- A fair batted ball hitting a coach pitcher will be declared a foul ball if the umpire rules that the coach pitcher’s contact with the ball was unintentional. If in the umpire’s judgment a coach pitcher intentionally makes contact with a batted ball, the batter will be out, and no runner can advance.
- Umpires call time after every play and declare the ball dead. Time should be called as soon as all three of the following occur:

1. The lead runner stops attempting to advance.
2. The ball is in the possession of a fielder in the infield.
3. No defensive play is imminent.

****Runners will return to the base which they are legally entitled.**

“Time” does not have to be called by the defense for the purpose of this rule, **nor will it be applied because a player calls “time”.**

- **Catcher:** The catcher shall be located in the catcher’s box, no more than four (4) feet behind home plate. The catcher must wear all protective catchers gear INCLUDING A CUP. The catcher is allowed to catch with a fielder’s glove.

9. **Run Limit:** 5 run limit per ½ innings.

10. **Mercy Rule:** 10 runs after 4 innings. 15 runs after 5 innings.

11. **Batting Order:** Will bat full roster.

12. **Players Re-enter:** Any player who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game.

13. **Conferences:**

- a. Defensive: Two in an inning,
- b. Offensive: Two per inning. Courtesy runner not charged.

14. **Base Stealing:** Not allowed.

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15. **Balls Hit to the Outfield:** If a ball is hit to the edge where the infield and outfield grass meet and there is not an outfielder in the outfield positions than the player that hit the ball and any runners on the bases are awarded only a double (2 bases). If a ball is hit to the edge of the infield and outfield grass and there is an outfielder in the outfield position than the player that hit the ball and any runners on the bases may advance as open bases with no restrictions.
16. **Overthrows:** Bases are not limited on overthrows if there is a player on the same side of the field (Outfield) the ball was overthrown at; this includes (1st Base & Right Field, 2nd Base & Right, Left & Center, and 3rd Base & Left Field). If there is not an outfielder and the overthrow reach the outfield grass line of infield and outfield, then the runner only can advance 2 bases
17. **Sliding:** A player must slide at 2nd, 3rd, and home plate if a play is being made. This is an Umpires judgement call.
18. **On Deck Batters:** On deck batters are allowed in the area designated to them.
19. **Infield Fly Rule:** NO infield fly rule.
20. **Courtesy Runner:** A Courtesy runner can be used with two (2) outs for the catcher. The courtesy runner must be the last recorded out.
21. **Replacement player:** If a replacement player (pool) is needed they must play the outfield and bat last. Pool players can only play in 2 consecutive games for the same team. Maximum of two pool players per game.
22. **Throwing the bat:** A player who throws a bat will be personally warned, the first time by the Umpire, any time after that warning batter will be called out. This is Umpire's judgement call.

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23. **Cleats:** NO METAL CLEATS.

24. **Jewelry:** All players are prohibited from wearing jewelry during the playing of any game.

25. **Disruptive Behavior:** WCSA will not tolerate any fighting or disruptive behavior by anyone (players, parents, managers, and fans) during any WCSA sponsored activity at ANY playing Field. THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED AND VIOLATORS WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE PREMISES. Any violator not leaving voluntarily will be escorted away by local enforcement authorities and banned from all future involvement in WCSA activities.

- a. The umpires will handle UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT if the unsportsmanlike conduct is on the field of play. If an umpire has a problem with a fan or parent outside of the field, the umpire should go to the manager of the team that the problem is with and have the manager handle the situation. If the manager fails to handle the situation, then the umpire will eject the manager from the game. The umpire then has the option of handling the situation himself or getting a facility director to handle the situation.
- b. If a manager or Coach is ejected from a game, he/she is suspended from any coaching responsibility for the remainder of that game AND his/her next game. Immediately following an ejection, the manager or coach will proceed to the parking lot for the remainder of that game. The WCSA Baseball Committee will decide if further disciplinary action is needed and will communicate their decision prior to the coach's next game.

26. **Weather delays:** In the event of inclement weather, or other delays beyond our control, cancellations will be posted on social media (Facebook etc.). All attempts will be made to rescheduled games if season permits.

- a. If a game is called due to weather or other hazardous conditions; the game will be considered complete if 3 innings have been completed or the home team was ahead after 2 ½ innings.
- b. A game stopped prior to the completion of the 1st inning will be completely rescheduled as if it had never been played. A game stopped prior to the game being called complete (after the 1st inning) will be rescheduled and will resume play from where it was stopped. Score keepers and coaches will need to make notes of batter and runners.

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27. Team Responsibility's

- a. Home Team is responsible for furnishing the official scorekeeper 7 pitch count, returning the official book to the equipment room, prepping, and marking the field before the game and cleaning the dugout/stands after the game.
- b. Visiting Team is responsible for operating the scoreboard, returning the control box back to the equipment room, racking the field after the game, and cleaning the dugout/stands after the game.
- c. Managers are to ensure that this gets done. First violation will be a warning. Second will be a one game suspension for the manager.

28. **Replacement player:** If a replacement player (pool) is needed they must play the outfield and bat last. Pool players can only play in 2 consecutive games for the same team. Maximum of two pool players per game.

29. **Protest:** If a team wishes to file a formal protest with the League official, a \$75.00 fee will be assessed. In the event that the call or situation is overturned because of the protest, the money will be refunded. A rules interpretation is the only grounds for a protest. Safe or out, foul, or fair, strikes or balls, or any such umpire judgment call is NOT eligible.

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