



Waterloo Sports Association

Baseball / Softball / T-Ball

Parent Handbook / Supplementary Rules



www.waterloosports.ws

Rev: 2018

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ARTICLE I - OFFICIAL RULES

Section 1.1 - Applicable Rules

The official Rules of the IHSA supplemented by District 19 shall apply to all players, managers, coaches, and umpires participating in WSA programs. Ignorance of the rules involved cannot be used as an excuse for violation. Rules which are obviously meant for professionals do not apply.



ARTICLE II - AGE DIVISIONS

No player in open registration shall be allowed to play up more than one age level unless approved by the Director of his/her sport. The following age divisions will be followed if participation levels allow. If participation levels do not allow for the following age divisions, they will be combined where needed.

Section 2.1 - T-Ball 1 and T-Ball 2

- A. T-Ball 1 - Includes players who are 4 years old by April 1; will utilize a tee
- B. T-Ball 2 - Age 5 (must presently be in Kindergarten); will utilize a tee as appropriate

Section 2.2 - Baseball

Atoms I - First grade boys; will utilize pitching machines

Atoms II - Second & Third grade boys; will utilize pitching machines

Bantams - Fourth & Fifth grade boys; live pitching

Midgets - Six, Seventh & Eighth grade boys; live pitching

Section 2.3 Softball

- Petites I - First grade girls; will utilize pitching machines
- Petites II – Second and third grade girls; will utilize pitching machines
- Chics – Fourth and fifth grade girls; live pitching
- Robins – Six, seventh and eighth grade girls; live pitching

ARTICLE III - PITCHING AND BASE DISTANCES

Division	Pitching Distances (feet)	Base Distances (feet)	Pitching Machine Speed (mph)
Pre-K & T-Ball	30	55	—
Atoms (I & II)	40	55	34
Bantams	45	65	—
Midgets	55	80	—
Petites (I & II)	40	55	34
Chics	38	60	—
Robins	40	60	—



ARTICLE IV - ELIGIBILITY

Section 4.1 - Rosters and Registration Forms

To be eligible to participate in a WSA game, a player must be properly registered and the official roster.

Section 4.2 - Player on One Roster Only

A player can be on only 1 WSA team roster simultaneously.

Section 4.3 - Open Registration Team Rosters

When a player has registered for participation through WSA's open registration and has been placed on a team through a draft procedure, he/she will be on that team's roster as though he/she had signed the roster. Transferring to another team is not allowed unless approved by that sport's director.

Section 4.4 - Applicability

The roster and registration form of players, managers, and coaches applies to the current season only.

Section 4.5 - Discretion

The Board of Directors reserves the right to reject the application registration of a prospective player, manager, or coach.

Section 4.6 - Changes to Roster

Changes in a team's official roster will be made at the discretion of that sport's Director.

Section 4.7 - Additions to Roster

A. Registration will be closed and no additions to team rosters will be permitted after the last registration date for the current playing season unless otherwise determined by the sport's Director.

B. Late registrants will be determined at the sole discretion of the sport's Director, including assignment to a team. They may also be placed on a "wait list" .

Section 4.8 - Age Verification

The signer of the registration form shall be accountable for the child's age.



ARTICLE V - TIME

Section 5.1 - Starting Time

All games start promptly as scheduled. All teams, baseball and softball, must start the game with at least eight players but cannot finish the game with less than eight. All players showing up after the start of the game will be added to the bottom of the lineup.

Section 5.2 - Number of Players

Teams capable of fielding eight eligible players must start their game at the scheduled starting time with eight players.

Section 5.3 - Grace Time and Forfeiture

Should either team not be ready to start the game within 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time, the umpires must forfeit the game to the opposing team. Should both teams not be able to start the game within the time limit prescribed, the game shall be ruled a double forfeit, and each team will be charged with a loss. In the case of games delayed by use of the grace period, for the purpose of Sections 5.5 and 5.6, the game will be considered to have started at the scheduled starting time.

Section 5.4 - Official Time

The umpires will be the only ones to keep Official Time. NO game shall start before scheduled time unless both managers agree. The official starting time will be the scheduled starting time unless the game begins early, in which case the official starting time becomes the new, earlier time.

Section 5.5 - Regulation Game

A regulation game shall consist of seven innings for baseball and softball with the exceptions as noted in Sections 5.6 and 5.7 of these supplementary rules.

Section 5.6 - Time Limits for All WSA Games

- A. No inning can start after 1 hour and 50 minutes of continual playing time. A new inning begins immediately after the final out of the previous inning.
- B. In the T-Ball division, 3 innings will be played with a maximum time of 1 hour continual playing time regardless of game situation, including ties.

Section 5.7 - Minimum Innings for Official Game

- A. An official complete game will be declared if at least 3^{1/2} innings have been played and the home team is leading or 4 innings if the visiting team is leading and the game must be terminated due to inclement weather, darkness, time limit, or curfew.
- B. All Divisions - An official game will be declared if at least 4^{1/2}innings have been played and the home team is leading by 10 runs or more or 5 innings if the visiting team is leading by 10 runs or more.

Section 5.8 - Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather, all games will be postponed by the WSA Director or official on duty. Players, managers, and coaches should report to the concession stand to receive official confirmation of said postponement



Failure to comply with inclement weather postponement may result in forfeiture of the game.

Section 5.9 - Rescheduled Games

ALL RESCHEDULED GAMES **MUST** BE PLAYED ON THE DATE AND AT THE TIME SPECIFIED BY THE LEAGUE SCHEDULER.

ARTICLE VI - EQUIPMENT

Section 6.1 - Shoes

All players must wear tie or Velcro-fastened shoes. Shoes with metal spikes or metal cleats are strictly prohibited in all divisions of softball and baseball, except Midgets .

Section 6.2 Baseballs and Softballs

The official baseballs and softballs must be those as designated by the WSA Board of Directors.

- A. Two baseballs are required for each WSA baseball game with home team furnishing 1 new ball and visiting team furnishing 1 used ball.
- B. Two softballs are required for each WSA softball game with home team furnishing 1 new ball and visiting team furnishing 1 used ball.
- C. If, during the progress of the game a third ball is required, it must be furnished by the home team. If a fourth ball is required, it shall be furnished by the visiting team. Third and fourth balls can be acceptable used balls.

Section 6.3 – Helmets

All batters and base runners are required to wear protective helmets when the ball is in play.

- A. In all divisions, the umpire will issue only one warning per game per team regarding helmets for batters and base runners.
- B. After the first warning in either instance, any batter or base runner, not necessarily the same batter or runner, who assumes his/her position at the plate or on the bases without a helmet will be declared out by the umpire.

Section 6.4 - Required Catcher's Equipment

Any player catching a pitcher while in a catching position will be required to wear a catcher's mask and a protective throat guard. During the game, the catcher will also be required to wear a protective helmet. Protective cups are recommended for all male players, but are not required.

Section 6.5 - Baseball Bat Restrictions

Atoms – Bats shall not be more than two and one-quarter (2¼) inches in diameter.

Bantams & Midgets – All bats with a 2 5/8" barrel must meet the -3 drop rule. All bats 30" or less and with a 2 1/4" barrel, do not have to meet the -3 drop rule. All -3 bats must have the BBCORE label. *Maximum barrel diameter is 2 5/8". Maximum length is 36".

ARTICLE VII - PROTESTS

Section 7.1 - Protest

UMPIRE'S DECISION IS FINAL.



ARTICLE VIII - UMPIRES

Section 8.1 – Eligibility

Umpires for WSA must be at least 12 years of age. Preference shall be given to individuals who have participated in the WSA programs. Final eligibility of the umpires is left to the discretion of the official scheduler.

Section 8.2 - Authority

When the umpire enters the field until the time he/she leaves the field, he/she shall have complete charge of the field and shall exercise only that authority stated in the official rules cited in Article I, Section 1.1 and as supplemented herein.

Section 8.3 - Discretion

The senior umpire shall have the authority at game time to determine the firmness of the field for play. The decision as to whether the game shall be played or postponed due to inclement weather or other conditions shall be at his/her discretion or the authority of the WSA Director on duty.

ARTICLE IX - CONDUCT

All that is dishonorable, unsportsmanlike, and unbecoming a gentleman or lady is condemned.

Section 9.1 - Profane Language & Harassment

Profane language, harassment, and "ribbing" by any manager, coach, player, or spectator is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

The umpire will warn the manager of the offending team (be it player, coach, or spectator) at the time of the infraction. If the infraction is deemed intolerable by the umpire, the guilty party may be ejected immediately.

If profane language, harassment, or ribbing continues after the warning, play will be suspended temporarily until the situation is corrected and the umpire will eject the guilty parties from the game, bench, or complex.

If the infraction for profane language or verbal harassment forces suspension of the game for longer than three minutes, the game will be forfeited in favor of the opposing team.

Section 9.2 - Discussion/Physical Contact

All disputed plays must be discussed in a calm and sportsmanlike manner.

During a game, it is prohibited for any person to make verbal threats or deliberate physical contact with an umpire, opposing player, manager, or coach. The umpire shall judge whether verbal statements or contact is deliberate or threatening.

If the offender is a player, he/she shall be immediately ejected. If the offender is a coach or manager, he/she shall be immediately ejected and the game will be forfeited to the opposing team.

If a spectator is the offender, the umpire shall request the manager of that spectator's team to get the person under control. Should the problem persist, the offender shall be



ejected from the WSA facility.

The field umpires shall report all ejections and forfeitures on the lineup cards at the conclusion of the game. The lineup cards must be turned in to the concession stand immediately after the game. The umpire shall submit a detailed writing report of the incident and the surrounding circumstances to the WSA Sports Director within 72 hours of the incident. **(THE LINEUP CARD DOES NOT SUFFICE AS A DETAILED WRITTEN REPORT.)**

At the conclusion of a game whether by inning limit, time limit, or forfeiture, the manager, coaches, players, and spectators are prohibited from confronting or verbally or physically harassing the umpire. Any such incident shall result in immediate ejection from the WSA complex at the direction of the Director on Duty or the Chief Umpire on duty. The umpire shall submit a written report of the incident and the surrounding circumstances to the WSA Sports Director within 72 hours of the incident. The WSA Executive Board shall review and evaluate all reported incidents to determine if additional disciplinary action is required.

Any manager, coach, or player that is ejected from a game for striking or pushing an umpire, member of the opposing team, or any person in attendance at the WSA complex shall be suspended from participation in all WSA games until reviewed by the WSA Executive Board.

Any spectator that strikes or pushes an umpire, member of the opposing team, or any person in attendance at any WSA facility shall be banned from all WSA facilities and events

until reviewed by the WSA Executive Board of Directors.

Section 9.3 - Alcohol/Tobacco Products/Illegal Drugs

The consumption of alcohol or use of any tobacco products or illegal drugs by any manager, coach, or player during a game or during pre-game activity is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

This restriction applies to the field of play, the players' bench, and anywhere in close proximity to the field of play.

The Chief of Umpires or an officer of the WSA' who observes the infraction will notify the crew chief/plate umpire for that game. If the offense is judged by the Umpire Crew Chief to be minor, the offender may be asked to cease participation in the game and become a spectator for the balance of the game. If the Umpire Crew Chief judges the offense to be a major or repetitive problem in that game, the offender will be subject to ejection.

If the offender will not comply, he/she shall be ejected from the WSA facility by the umpire crew chief/plate umpire, or Chief Umpire of the WSA Director on Duty.

Section 9.4 - Manager Responsibility

The manager of a team is responsible for the conduct of his/her players, coaches, and followers of his/her team.

- A. EFFECT OF PLAYER EJECTION ON BATTING ORDER - Any player ejected from a game shall be recorded as an automatic out every subsequent time his/her turn comes up in the batting order.



- B. WSA BOARD REVIEW OF ALL EJECTIONS - The WSA Executive Board of Directors shall review and evaluate all reported ejection and forfeitures to determine if additional disciplinary action is required.

Section 9.5 - General Behavior

A manager, coach, player, or team spectator shall not:

- A. Deliberately throw equipment (on the field or in the dugout). Penalty for such an offense may result in a warning or immediate ejection. Failure to comply with the ejection shall result in forfeiture.
- B. Purposely disrupt the opposing pitcher during his/her pitching motion for the purpose of trying to cause a balk. Penalty for such an offense shall be a warning. Failure to comply with the warning shall result in ejection.
- C. Act in a disruptive manner in the area behind the catcher while the opposing pitcher and catcher are in position. First offense will result in a warning and subsequent infraction will result in ejection.
- D. Be in the field of play outside the vicinity of the designated dugout (bench) or bullpen area if not a batter, runner, on-deck batter, in the coach's box or one of the players on defense. The penalty if the offense is judged to be of a minor nature shall be a warning from the umpire. Repeated offense or a deliberate violation in effort to display protest or delay of the game shall result in ejection. Failure to comply shall result in forfeiture.

A pitcher judged by an umpire to be deliberately throwing at a batter shall be ejected. The umpire shall use his/her discretion to determine whether a pitcher repeatedly throwing at or hitting a batter merits a warning or ejection.

ARTICLE X - PLAYERS

Section 10.1 - Minimum Playing Time

- A. In all open registration divisions, there will be free substitution of defensive players with every player playing at least three of the seven innings in the field. Players may be inserted defensively at any time during the game.
- B. In baseball and softball team registration divisions, there will be free substitution of defensive players. Players may be inserted defensively at any time during the game.
- C. Petites, Atoms, Chics, and Bantams will play with 10 players in the field. Robins and Midgets will play with 9 players in the field.

Section 10.2 - Who Plays

- A. All players showing up for a game will be placed in the batting order. Players arriving late will be added at the bottom of the batting order.
- B. A courtesy runner will be allowed for the current catcher and/or pitcher with one or two outs. The last player making an out will be the courtesy runner. This rule is being implemented to speed up the game, but it is not mandatory.

**Section 10.3 - Injury Exception**

If a pinch runner is needed for an injury, the player making the last out will be the pinch runner, except under 10.2.B. If an injured player cannot take his/her turn at bat, that player must be removed from the game. The injured players remaining at bats will not be considered an out.

ARTICLE XI - FIELD RULES**Section 11.1 - Atoms, Petites, and T-Ball Conferences**

In the Atoms and Petite division, a manager or coach can confer with any of his/her players or remain in the outfield while his/her team is on defense. T-Ball managers or coaches may remain anywhere on the field at any time.

Section 11.2 - Delay of Game

In any event and in any division, the umpire shall be the sole judge of whether the actions of a manager, coach, or players are delaying the game beyond reason. If the umpire so judges, he shall warn the manager of the offending team only once. After this warning, any repetition of the delaying tactics by said team shall mean automatic ejection of the offender from the game and/or bench.

Section 11.3 - Forfeiture for Unreasonable Delay of Game

Further unreasonable delay of the game by the offending team after the ejection of the offender will justify the umpire in awarding the game by forfeit to the opposing team.

Section 11.4 - Unnecessary Wildness

To insure all safety precautions for a batter, the wildness of a pitcher will be watched.

- A. Any pitcher who hits 3 batters in an inning or 4 in a game must be removed as a pitcher for the remainder of the game.
- B. The batter's effort and his/her ability or inability to avoid being hit by a pitch will also be taken into consideration.

Section 11.5 - Pitching Limitation

In the Bantam and Chic Division, a player will not be allowed to perform in the position of pitcher for more than 4 innings in any game.

In the Midget Division, a player will not be allowed to perform in the position of pitcher for more than 5 innings in any game.

In the Robins Division, there are no pitching limits (inning restrictions).

- A. If a pitcher pitches to any one batter in anyone inning, it will constitute a full inning pitched against his/her total time as a pitcher in any game.
- B. It is the manager's responsibility to ensure compliance with this rule. Any infraction, when brought to his/her attention by the umpire or opposing team manager will mean forfeiture of the game to the opposing team.



- C. In the T-Ball, Atoms, and Petites Division, the team's coach pitches to his/her own team. The player pitcher must position himself/herself near the circle and do all the fielding. If the adult pitcher does contact the ball, he/she should drop it immediately and the ball remains in play. If the coach intentionally interferes, the batter is out. Swinging strikes are called. NO WALKS.

Section 11.6 - Balk Rule (Illegal Pitch for Softball)

- A. In all baseball divisions, except Bantams, balks shall be called immediately. One warning and an explanation will be given in the Bantam division. When the warning is given, the ball is dead and no runner may advance.
- B. See IHSA rules governing illegal softball pitch.

Section 11.7 - Third Strike Rule

- A. In the Atoms, Petites, and Chics Division, the catcher need not hold the third strike. The batter will be declared out automatically. The base runner or runners may not advance.
- B. In the Bantams, Midgets, and Robins Division, the batter is out when a third strike is not caught, provided a runner occupies first base and there are less than two outs. If there are two outs or if no runner occupies first base, the batter is not out unless the third strike is caught. He/She is entitled to try to reach first base before being tagged out or thrown out.

Section 11.8 - Stealing

- A. In the Atoms, Bantams, Petites, and Chics Division of baseball and softball, a base runner may not steal home. To score a run, the runner must be:
 - 1. Driven in by a batted ball.
 - 2. Forced in by a play that would require a runner to advance, such as a base on balls with bases loaded, hit batter, or an illegal pitch after the pitcher has been given his/her first warning, and any other play that would require a runner to advance.
 - 3. Played on a third base while occupying that base. The base the runner is on at the time of the pitch is considered the base occupied.

- B. In the Bantams and Chics Division of baseball and softball, no leadoffs from any base will be allowed until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. PENALTY: Any runner leaving base before the ball leaves the pitcher's hand will be called out.

- C. In the Atoms and Petites divisions:
 - 1. Any ball that hits the pitching machine, or drops into, or would drop into the pitching machine circle, will be considered a single and dead ball. No other runners shall be allowed to advance unless forced to.



D. In the Atoms and Petites Division, the following exceptions to the rules are also in effect.

1. Play is stopped when the ball is returned to the infield. However, all runners are required to advance or retreat to a base before the ball becomes dead. It is not an automatic advance. The runners are allowed only one base advance at the risk of being tagged out.
2. Overthrows: Only one base advance on an overthrown ball. Maximum advance on ball hit to infielder is two bases, whether or not there is an overthrow.
3. One pitcher and two outfield coaches are allowed on the field while their team is on defense.

E. In the Atoms and Petites Divisions of Baseball and Softball, no leadoffs from any base will be allowed until the ball is hit or swung upon.

Section 11.9 - Infield Fly Rule

The infield fly rule will not be in effect in the Atoms and Petites divisions.

The rule will be in strict effect in all other divisions.

Section 11.10 - Half Inning Rule

In all divisions, a half inning ends when the play is completed on which the seventh run is scored or when three outs are made. The seven run rule is suspended for the seventh inning and any extra innings.

Section 11.11 - Collision Rule

When a defensive player has the ball and is waiting for the runner and the runner remains on his/her feet and deliberately, with great force, crashes into the defensive player, the runner is to be declared out. EFFECT: The runner is out, the ball is dead, and all other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the collision. If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender shall be ejected from the game.

Clear and reasonable access to the base must be allowed to the runner at his/her approach to the base if the opposing player does not have possession of the ball or a reasonable chance to have possession at the runner's presumed contact (of great force) with an opposing player. The fielder without possession shall yield the baseline to the runner to avoid the contact for the sake of safety. EFFECT: The fielder shall have committed interference and the runner shall be allowed the base freely.

Section 11.12 - Bunting

In the Atoms and Petites Division of baseball and softball, bunting is prohibited. If the ball is bunted, the ball is dead and called a strike.

Section 11.13 - Pitching Machine Limits

In the Atoms & Petites Division (pitching machine), the batter shall receive a maximum of 7 pitches or 3 swinging strikes. If the 7th pitch or 3rd swinging strike is fouled off, the batter remains at bat until a pitch is not fouled off or is let go without a swinging attempt.



ARTICLE XII - CO-ED INSTRUCTIONAL T-BALL

Section 12.1 - Pre-K and T-Ball

- A. Open to boys and girls who are too young to play regular WSA ball. Players must be four years old by April 1.
- B. All players bat in order. Players should be fielded at the following positions each inning: pitcher, first base, second base, shortstop, third base. The remaining players should be positioned in the outfield.
- C. In T-Ball 1 Division, all players must hit off the tee all season long. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** In T-Ball 2, the coach has the option of pitching to the batter or letting him/her hit off the tee. The batter gets a maximum 7 pitches to hit the ball.
- D. The ball is a small, soft ball. One new ball will be provided to each team for each game.
- E. Time limit for play will be 1 hour.
- F. Each half inning consists of the entire batting order getting to bat and ends when all players have batted once.
- G. After hitting the ball, the player will take one base per hit. Ball is returned to the pitcher. The last hitter in the lineup will run to first, second, third, and home.
- H. Leadoffs and stealing are not allowed.

- I. Adult coaches are allowed on the field with the fielding team (maximum four coaches including the pitcher are allowed on the field at one time).
- J. All players will run the base regardless if there is an out.
- K. No standings will be kept for the T-Ball Instructional League.

**T-BALL IS FOR THE PLAYERS TO LEARN,
EXPERIENCE, AND ENJOY.**

REMEMBER: NO ONE LOSES IN T-BALL.

ARTICLE XIII - MISCELLANEOUS

Section 13.1 - Discretion - Rules Not Covered

Any matter not expressly covered by these rules shall be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Section 13.2 - Changes to Rules-Recommendations

Any player, coach, manager, parent, or Director has the right to recommend changes in the rules. Such suggestions must be made in writing and directed to the WSA President before the November Board of Directors.

Section 13.3 - Changes to Rules-Adoption

Any section of these rules may be amended, altered, or repealed by action of the Board of Directors of the Waterloo Sports Association. In all cases, Section 13.2 must be adhered to.

Section 13.4 - Final Authority

The Executive Board of Directors of the Waterloo Sports Association will be the final authority on the official rules of the WSA.

WSA Board Meetings

When

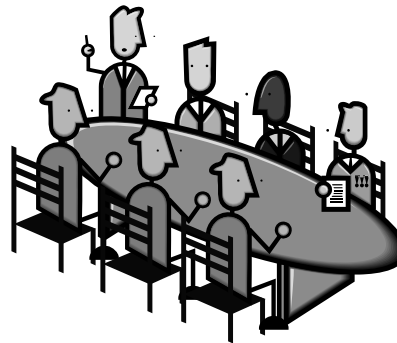
2nd Monday of each month

Time

6:30 p.m.

Where

W.S.A. Ebeler Complex
Meeting Room
801 Illinois Ave.
Waterloo, IL 62298



Waterloo Sports Association
P.O. Box 281
Waterloo, IL 62298

WSA Ebeler Complex - 618-939-9925
WSA Jaycees Ball Park - 618-939-9919

Website: www.waterloosports.ws
Email: execboard@waterloosports.ws