

West Allegheny Baseball League
Instructional League Rules for 7 and 8 Year Olds
2008

1. Visiting team has third base bench, and home team has first base bench.
2. Field should be dragged (if necessary) and lined. Lines should be placed 45 ft. from first and second, second and third, and third and home. With a 6 ft wide line, 3 ft on each side of imaginary line. Bases will be at 60 ft.
3. **Visiting Home** team should take the field for warm-ups from 6:00 to 6:15 p.m. **Home Visiting team should take the field for warm-ups** from 6:15 to 6:30 p.m.
4. Home team brings two (2) new balls for the game. We will use the Wilson RIF 5 ball when players pitch and when the coaches pitch; the Wilson 1074 baseball will be used.
5. Selecting Umpires: Each team is responsible for providing an umpire for each game, both home and away. Please make an effort to determine your umpire before coming to the game. Both managers must agree upon selection of the umpires.
6. Five minutes before game time, managers, coaches, and both umpires meet behind backstop to do the following:
 - a. Go over the rules that are peculiar to our league.
 - b. Be sure they know the rules on base running. (i.e., leaving the base early, halfway marks etc.)
 - c. Check outfield conditions and decide whether the ground rule double will apply.
 - d. Decide which base each umpire will go to first, (See “umpire’s duties”)
7. Home and Visitors must have a scorekeeper and they will confirm with each other at the end of each inning.
8. The Instructional League will be called West Allegheny Baseball League.
9. REMOVED.
10. League season will start on April 23rd and run thru June 16th.

Special Rules

1. Continuous batting order. Line-up will include all players dressed for the game whether or not players are scheduled to play in the field (defense) in that inning.
2. Each player must play in the field (defense) for at least three (3) innings. Exceptions only apply if player is injured or ill.
3. Notify the other team when substitutions are being made.

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4. Manager (or coach) of the offensive team pitches to the offensive team. The pitcher player of the defensive team must stand within five (5) feet of the coach pitcher. The pitcher is not permitted to stand in front of the coach pitcher.
5. Batters receive only six (6) pitches. (Exceptions apply only on interference calls or a fouled sixth pitch. The player must swing at the sixth pitch.
6. Sliding is allowed but not mandatory. For player safety, base sliding is permitted.
7. Runners must stay on base until the ball is hit. Penalty: First offense – umpire issues a team warning. Second offense – the umpire calls out player.
8. Put outs are permitted at home at all times. Runners must slide, or avoid contact, during a play at the plate or the player will be called out.
9. Ball is dead and play stops when:
 - a. There is any overthrow to 1st base or 3rd base by an infielder. An overthrow from an outfielder is a live ball until an infielder has clear possession in the infield.
 - b. An infielder has possession of the ball in the dirt part of the infield with hand in air.
 - 1) After the infielders have made a play on balls hit within the infield. (Note: infielders are allowed to attempt to make a double play on balls hit in the infield.) See “umpire’s duties” note.
 - c. It’s thrown, batted, or kicked out of bounds.
 - d. It’s lost in the outfield grass, player must signal umpire that ball is lost.
 - e. It’s interfered with in any way.
10. No throwing of the bat. First offense – team warning. Second offense – batter is out and play is dead.
11. Infield fly rule does not apply.
12. Bunting is not allowed.
13. No deliberate colliding with another player. If a fielder is blocking the runner’s path (without having the ball) the runner is entitled to the base rather than pushing the defender away. However, if the fielder is making the play on the ball the runner must avoid the fielder. If the runner interferes with the fielder while making a play, the runner is out. (i.e., in front of fielder)
14. If an unauthorized person (coach, pitcher, or umpire) touches the ball during play, an interference call is made and the play is taken over and all runners must return to their original base. This includes a batted ball hitting the offensive coach while on the pitcher’s

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mound. If the coach pitcher interferes on the 6th pitch the player is awarded one (1) additional pitch.

15. Each Association must split their roster as even as possible for 8 and 7 year olds. Each Association will setup own rules for drafting. WABL has the right to make Association even out teams, if the rest of the league feels that team does not fit rule #15.

Umpire's Duties

1. Maintain order during the game. Umpires have complete control over field activities.
2. First base umpire will:
 - a. Keep track of how many pitches have been thrown and notify the batter when the last pitch is to be delivered. Clickers are most helpful.
 - b. Make calls on first and second base.
 - c. Watch the 45-ft. line between second and third base and also between third base and home plate; in order to decide if a runner is over the line when play is dead.
3. Third base umpire will:
 - a. Make calls at third base and home plate.
 - b. Watch mid-marker line between first and second base, in order to decide if the runner is over the line when play is dead.
 - c. Make calls for throwing the bat.
Note: Umpire to call the play dead based on Special Rule #9.
4. Umpires can switch positions at the top of each inning, if they wish to do so.
5. Umpires will call balls and strikes when the players pitch, switching after each full inning. The umpire will call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher.
6. Umpires have the following rights:
 - a. Eject any player, coach, manager, or spectator for using profane language, throwing objects on the field, or deliberate badgering.
 - b. The right to stand firm on any judgment calls. Call the play as you see it!!
 - c. The right to call the managers to the mound for a conference on a rule.
 - d. The right to confer with the other umpire over a play not seen. However, if both umpires see a play differently, the one who is responsible for that particular base or line will have the final decision.

Note: The procedure for ejection will be as follows:

1. First, warn the offenders that you have the right to eject them if they continue the offense.

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2. If they continue ask them to leave the park under penalty of forfeiture.
3. If the refuse to leave the park, the police will be summoned.

Postponements

1. If a team is unable to field at least eight (8) players for a scheduled game, that team manager must notify the other manager at least three (3) days before the game and reschedule ASAP.
2. If a team manager wishes to reschedule for any other reason, he must still notify within three (3) days but it will be up to the other manager to grant or reject his request.
3. Rainouts and darkness:
 - a. At first sign of visible lightening or fast approaching storm, umpires and managers shall suspend play.
 - b. If four (4) complete innings have been played (or home team is ahead after 3 ½ innings), it shall be a complete game not rescheduled or completed at a later date.
 - c. Managers or umpires may temporarily suspend play due to inclement weather if it appears that play may be resumed within 30 minutes maximum.
4. If one team shows up with only eight (8) players, they may play 8 against 10. The team with eight players will play without a catcher and only 3 outfielders. If one team shows up with only seven (7) or less players and no prior notice was given to the other team, the team with fewer players may lose by forfeiture. But game should still be played by asking players from other team to play for the other team.
5. Mandatory Substitution: If a team has a 15 (or more) run lead at the end of a full inning, that team must field at least two (2) players in the infield who normally play outfield positions. Will continue until the lead decreases to eight (8) runs.
6. If a team scores 6 runs in an inning, the inning is over and the teams switch, except for the 6th inning and extra innings.
7. Defensive team is to field ten (10) players. The positions are: pitcher, catcher, 1st, 2nd, 3rd bases, shortstop, left fielder, left-center, right-center, and right fielders. In NO case shall outfielders be positioned within an imaginary line 20 feet behind 1st and 2nd base and 2nd and 3rd bases.
8. 1st, 2nd, 3rd basemen and shortstop may not stand any close to the batter than two (2) steps (approximately 4 feet in front of an imaginary line strung between 1st, 2nd base and 2nd and 3rd base) regardless of batter's hitting ability.
9. Defensive pitcher must stand within 5 feet of the coach pitcher but never in front of him.

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10. In case of an injured batter, remove the batter from the line-up.

Pitching Rules

1. During coach pitch, pitchers must wear a heart guard.
2. The third and fourth innings will be the designated innings for the players to pitch.
3. The pitching distance for the players is 36 feet **(from back of plate)**.
4. After four (4) consecutive walks or six total walks, a new pitcher must be brought in. Games can get too long if you are waiting for a pitcher to throw strikes. If a pitcher is having problems throwing strikes, switch pitchers. Let's not let them get too frustrated, on both teams.
5. Only two (2) hit batters per pitcher per game and then the pitcher must be removed as the pitcher. This rule can be waived if both managers agree.
6. Any player on a team can pitch. A player is allowed a maximum of four (4) innings pitched per week. There is a maximum of one (1) inning per game per pitcher. One thrown pitch constitutes an inning pitched.
7. The game is played in accordance with the league rules. The play is stopped when the umpire calls time.
8. Strike zone during kid pitch will be from chin to bottom of knee of batter **and a ball's width on either side of home plate**.

League Fees

1. No League fees.
2. All-Star Teams will be representative from each Association.
3. No splitting of concession stand money during regular season.
4. There will be an end of the season tournament. All teams will make the tournament with the 8th and 9th team playing a "play-in" game. At mid-season, managers will meet to determine 4 best teams to split into 2 brackets for tournament with 4 teams in each bracket even though no league records will be kept. Trophies will be given for those teams finishing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in the end of season tournament. Each athletic association will put in \$50.00 for purchasing of trophies.

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Managers Responsibilities

1. Home team will be responsible to line field and place bases on field. (Managers will get a key or combo # to equipment shed and concession stand.)
2. Home team is responsible to man concession stand. Suggestion: when handling out the schedule, also include a rotation schedule for the concession stand.
3. Home team will be responsible clean up field; place bases back into shed and to clean concession stand.
4. Coaches are encouraged to assist outfielders if needed by standing on the right or left field lines. Coaches may also choose to position themselves in left center field and right center field. Coaches may tell the players where to throw the ball during the play, although the idea is to teach the kids to make their own decisions Even though coaches may tell where to throw the ball, the coaches can not pick up or stop the a ball in the outfield. .

Board Members

1. Board member is chosen from own Association rules. Example: the Commissioner or at large member from Findlay will be a member and have authority to make rules.
2. Each year a Scheduler needs to be picked to schedule for regular season. Lastly, a Commissioner to help organize league affairs.

2008 Season: Commissioner – Oakdale Youth League
Secretary/Scheduler – Findlay Athletic Association
Treasurer – McDonald Youth League

These rules are as complete and accurate as possible. However, when situations arise that are not specifically covered by the Little League rules or our special rules, settle them within the spirit of these rules. If a dispute arises and a mutual agreement cannot be made, take the play over rather than argue. The whole intention of this league is to teach fundamental baseball, teamwork, and above all, good sportsmanship. The youngsters learn a great deal by watching our behavior. With these goals in mind, this will be an enjoyable and rewarding season.

Good luck to all.