



**PLOVER-WHITING YOUTH ATHLETICS  
EARLY BIRD TOURNAMENT RULES AND INFORMATION  
14-YEAR-OLD DIVISIONS**

A team roster will consist of no more than fifteen (15) players. Once a team begins its first game, its roster will be set for the tournament. Team rosters are to be turned into the Tournament Director prior to the first game.

WIAA Baseball Rules are in effect with the following exceptions noted below:

- A. **\*\* Games will be seven (7) innings in length, with the 10-run rule in effect after five (5) Full innings or 4 1/2 innings if the Home TEAM is ahead.**
- B. **Diamonds have 90 foot bases and a 60 foot pitching distance.**
- C. **\*\* A pitcher may pitch in any and all games; however, a pitcher will be limited to four (4) innings in any game. Once the umpire declares the ball live, it will constitute an inning pitched. Once removed from the mound, a pitcher may not return to the mound during the remainder of that game. There is an 8 inning maximum for the tournament.**
- D. **Managers or coaches are allowed one (1) trip to the mound in each inning. A second trip in the same inning shall require the removal of the pitcher. A pitcher walking toward the baseline to discuss a play with the manager/coach shall be counted as a trip to the mound (Umpire Discretion).**
- E. **Since this is an 'Early Bird' format all teams will bat their entire lineup and will have free substitutions on defense throughout the game.**
- F. **Throwing the ball around the horn is NOT allowed due to time limitations.**
- G. **No appeal on a missed base—it is an automatic out and called by the umpire at the end of play.**
- H. **Any runner is out when he does not slide or attempt to avoid contact with a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag or if he maliciously runs into a fielder. Base runners may not hurdle a fielder or catcher. (Umpires Discretion)**
- I. **Only players and the coaching staff are allowed in dugouts for liability reasons.**
- J. **Winning Team coaches are to report all game results (Winner, Loser, Score) to the Woyak Park standings board.**
- K. **No inning will start later than one (1) hour and forty (40) minutes from the first pitch of the game. A new inning starts when the last out of the previous inning is recorded.**

- L. A coin flip will determine home team in all games. The first team alphabetically will take the first base dugout, while the second team will take the third base dugout.
- M. Only the manager or team coach may discuss a decision with the umpire.
- N. Tournament sponsors are not liable for any injuries occurring during the tournament.
- O. \*\* No infield practice will be allowed prior to any game. NO soft toss is allowed into any fencing, with any type of ball. Pitchers are to warm-up in bullpen only – NO practice using fencing as back stop.
- P. Steel spikes are allowed in the 14- and 15-year-old divisions.
- Q. Intentional walks are allowed, but pitches must be thrown to complete the walk process.
- R. \*\* A courtesy runner for the catcher is MANDATORY with two (2) outs and encouraged to be used with less than two (2) outs. A courtesy runner may also be used for the pitcher, but he must be inserted in the game immediately upon the pitcher reaching base. All courtesy runners shall be players not currently in the game or the last out if you are batting the entire roster. If a player is injured and cannot return, his spot in the order will be skipped over and the TEAM will not be charged an out.
- S. No protests are allowed—umpires' decisions are final. Umpires shall be treated with respect.
- T. Choral chanting and the use of noise makers by teams and fans is not allowed during game play and will be ruled as an unsportsmanlike behavior and subject to game forfeiture.
- U. For safety reasons, on deck batters need to be in the on deck circle located behind the batter.
- V. Leading off will be allowed at any time.
- W. \*\* Bat differential will be WIAA rule. (-3). For this tournament, we will be following WIAA rules (2016) pertaining to baseball bats.
- X. In the event of a tie, California Tie-Breaking Rules will be followed. (Inning starts with a runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> base and 1 out. The runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> is the player who made the last out of the previous inning.)

The tournament officials reserve the right to change the tournament format in the event of extended delays caused by inclement weather in order to allow the completion of the tournament. In the case of rain delays, team managers or representatives shall report to WOYAK PARK and inform tournament officials of their local accommodations and telephone number so they can be contacted when necessary. Teams not available to re-start at the proper time will be subject to game forfeiture.

In case of inclement weather, the following procedures should be followed to ensure that coaches and tournament officials maintain the best line of communication possible:

\*If the weather interrupts play once a day's slate has been started, coaches should report to tournament headquarters at Woyak Park to receive updates and/or directions.

**\*If rain occurs during the night, coaches should call the tournament director for direction.  
If there is any question relative to whether or not a game is to be played as scheduled, we recommend that you show up as scheduled or check at tournament headquarters.**