

2022 10U LEAGUE RULES

Our League uses NFHS rules with the exceptions below. If a rule comes up that is not spelled out here, then the NFHS rule book should be referenced to assist with any discrepancy or disagreement. It is the coach's responsibility to bring up a rule violation. It is not the umpire's job to "show the coach where it says that" when a call is disputed. **Remember this is rec league and we will not be using certified umpires!**

General Rules

1. You will use an 11 inch "regular hard leather" ball. (1 new one per game, and home team keeps the ball)
2. Equipment – Waupun teams will be provided with a bag of balls, bats and other items. They can be found in your team cubby in the equipment room along third base side at diamond #1. You may keep it in your possession during the season or keep it in your cubby. This must be returned at the end of the season. There are separate storage sheds at each diamond. Provided in these sheds will be a pitching rubber, stakes, hammer, measuring tape, chalker and string, rakes, batter's box frame, catching equipment and helmets etc. These items are to be returned immediately after your practice or game. Each coach can only take from the shed on the diamond they are scheduled at. Do not take individual helmets out of the shed, take the entire bag and hang it on the fence to help protect the helmets. Keys will be provided to the head coach only. The keys will allow you to get into all storage sheds, and batting cages. Keys must be returned to the commissioner after the season. Coaches will not be reimbursed until their key is returned. **PLEASE RETURN ALL EQUIPMENT WHERE YOU FOUND IT, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FINAL GAME AND KEEP THE STORAGE ROOMS ORGANIZED.**
3. Uniforms – Each player is required to wear their t-shirt, non-metal cleats or tennis shoes. (no sandals and no jewelry) Batters and runners are required to wear helmets. **IF** a runner deliberately knocks off their helmet, they will get a warning. The next time they do it, they are out. T-Shirts cannot be altered. **All helmets will have face masks.** Fielders are not required to wear face masks, but they are recommended.
4. Time rule – All of our games will be for 60 minutes or 6 innings in length. The umpire will set the timer on the scoreboard. The PLATE UMPIRE and HOME team should set timers at the same time. (This is a backup system to the score board) Once the timer goes off, that inning will be completed. **If the home team is winning or is losing by more than 6 runs, the bottom half of the last inning will not be played.** Please keep the games moving. Most of the time is wasted between innings, so have someone coordinate your defense ahead of time. Posting positions in the dugout is a good way for the girls to know each inning where they need to play. (Please refer to the pitcher/catcher sections)
5. An umpire's call is final, one coach from each team, may ask for an explanation/clarification. Please remember that they are human and may make mistakes. If you have a complaint with the umpire, talk to the commissioner. When needed, the commissioner and umpire will try to resolve the problem. Yelling, swearing, complaining repeatedly will not be tolerated. A coach, parent, or player may be asked to leave the diamonds by an umpire for any of the above reasons.
6. Run Rule- An inning consists of 3 outs or 6 runs. However, if it's the last play of the inning, the play continues, until the play is complete (Meaning up to 9 runs may count if there were players on all 3 bases). Intentional walks for the 6th run are forbidden. If the game is tied after the last inning the last out from the previous inning will start on 2nd base for both teams, follow the batting order. Any pitcher can be used in a tie-breaking inning. Differential points will be used as tie-breakers for the tournament.

7. Rosters – A minimum of 8 eligible players must play, or your team is forced to forfeit. **ONLY players from the younger division are eligible to play as substitutes.** You may not substitute from the same age division or an older one. If rostered players show up before the first pitch, the non-rostered player can bat, but **CAN NOT PLAY IN THE FIELD.** You must bat your entire roster. Girls that are brought up from the lower league must bat last in the batting order.
8. Concession stand – The concession stand will be open this season and there will once again be a free small slushy for each player after the game.

Offensive rules

1. Count – This year the players will get 3 strikes and 4 balls. If the player has 3 strikes, they are out. If the pitcher throws 4 balls, a coach from the offense will come in to pitch. There will be no walks issued. The strike count will not re-set when a coach comes in to pitch. **NO** bunting or slap hitting off coach pitch. If a player does either action vs coach pitch whether it is hit fair or foul, it will be treated as a dead ball infraction, an automatic out and no runners may advance. **NO** stealing when a coach is pitching. Coaches must have a least one foot on the pitching rubber when pitching to the batter.
2. No infield fly rule
3. Bunting is allowed.
4. Stealing- There is no stealing at this age level. A runner may leave the base once the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. If caught leaving early, the team will get 1 warning. If anyone else is caught leaving early, it will be an out. Runners will be allowed to advance to 2nd and 3rd base on a **"passed ball"** only. No stealing will be allowed if the catcher stops or catches the pitch. A runner may advance only one base per batter. If the runner on second attempts to steal third, they can not advance to home, even if the catcher makes a play on them. If the runner starts the play on 3rd base, they can not steal home unless the catcher makes a play on them. They cannot advance to home on a **"passed ball."** A **"passed ball"** is defined as a pitch in which the catcher fails to hold or control **AND** the ball continues to the point at which it goes past where the umpire stands.
5. Catcher Courtesy Rule - If your catcher is on base with 2 outs, we ask that you call time and put in a courtesy runner. This runner will be the last player called out. Coaches, please have your catcher ready for the start of the inning, and warm up your pitcher yourself until she is ready.
6. Sliding - Sliding is not mandatory per WIAA and this is our interpretation of such rule for this league. Sliding is not mandatory but is suggested. When a runner creates malicious contact and/or interference with any fielder with or without the ball, in or out of the base line the runner is out, and any other runners must return to the base touched at the time of such action. This is not an appealable action and will be decided by the umpire covering such action. Catchers are not allowed to cover all of homeplate.
7. Orange Bag Rule – A batted ball hitting the orange bag is foul. The batter/runner must use the orange bag when running through 1st base. She does not need to use the orange bag while rounding 1st base when attempting to run to 2nd base. If the infielder covering first base uses the orange bag (i.e., errant throw from a fielder or throw from the catcher to first on dropped third strike where ball is in foul territory on first base side of field), the runner must use the white bag. If not, she could be called out for interference.
8. If a batter throws their bat, they will get 1 warning and so will their team. If anyone else on their team throws their bat again during the game, they will be called out. The umpire and coaches should make this very clear if it happens.

9. Ball bounces then hits batter – If the pitched ball hits the ground and
 - a) then hits the batter, it's a dead ball and the batter is awarded 1st base.
 - b) (whether or not the ball hits the ground), the batter swings at it, misses, and the ball hits the batter, it's a dead ball strike.
 - c) the batter hits it fair, it's a live ball.

Additionally, hands are not part of the bat (if batter does not swing at the pitched ball, and the ball hits the batter's hand(s), she is awarded 1st base unless the pitch would have been called a strike).

Defensive rules

1. Max is 10 players on defense. The 10th player must be an outfielder. Outfielders must begin the play on the grass.
2. Calling Time – Time can only be called once the forward progress of the lead runner has stopped. And the ball is secured in the infield. The Umpire should call time at this point, and if the non-lead runner is more than halfway to the next base, she will get that base. Otherwise, the non-lead runner must go back to the previous base.
3. Pitching – **Coaches must check to see if the pitching rubber is at the correct distance as soon as they arrive to the field.** 10u will be 35 feet from the plate. There is a 3-inning limit to the number of innings a pitcher may pitch during a game (If a tie breaker is needed, any pitcher can be used regardless of the number of innings they have pitched.) **Once a pitcher is removed, she may not pitch again that inning,** but can pitch again later that game. Windmill pitching is allowed. The pitcher shall take a position with both feet on the ground and touching the rubber. This position must be maintained for at least 1 second. Their shoulders must be in line with first and third base. The pitch starts when the pitcher makes any motion that is part of her windup after the required pause. The pitcher may take one step back, and then take one step, which must be forward toward the batter, and simultaneous with the delivery of the ball to the batter. The pivot foot must be in contact with the rubber then the dirt through the release of the ball i.e., no crow hopping. One pitch from a pitcher is considered an inning. Any forward motion by the pitcher, to the batter is considered a pitch. Please warm up pitchers before the game, and during innings on the side lines. **EACH GIRL WILL BE ALLOWED 5 WARM UP PITCHES ON THE MOUND WHEN IT IS THEIR FIRST INNING PITCHING, ANY INNING PITCHED AFTER THIS THE PITCHER WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED 3 PITCHES.** If the catcher is not ready, coaches must warm up the pitchers however will only receive the 3 or 5 warm up pitches.
4. Catching equipment – Catchers are required to wear helmet and mask, chest protectors and shin guards. If a player is warming up the pitcher, they must have a catcher's mask on.

Misc Items

1. Good sportsmanship is expected AT ALL TIMES. Behavior including ridiculing, teasing, and making inappropriate comments to players, coaches and or umpires will not be tolerated. Coaches are responsible for the behavior and actions of their players and fans. Anyone displaying bad sportsmanship may be warned, but it could result in the immediate forfeiture of the game. A second warning will result in the forfeiture of the game.

2. Score - It is the responsibility of one coach from each team to report the final score to the league commissioner.
3. Inclement weather – (WIAA Guidelines) When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for thirty minutes and take shelter immediately. Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
 - A. **BEFORE A GAME STARTS** – A member of the executive board is the only one who can call a game off due to the weather before a game starts. The game must be rescheduled within 7 days, but it doesn't have to be played within 7 days. It must be played before the end of the regular season though. Since we do not have a lot of extra field time, games typically will not be cancelled earlier than 1 hour prior to the start. Commissioners will reschedule all games.
 - B. **ONCE THE GAME STARTS** – A member of the executive board or the league commissioner may call the game due to the weather.
 - C. **COMPLETE GAME** – A game that is called due to the weather is considered a complete game if over 3 innings have been completed or over 30 minutes have been played. If the game is considered a complete game and stopped in the middle of an inning, the final score will be reverted to the last completed inning. If a game is stopped prior to 3 innings or 30 minutes, a make-up game will be scheduled and that game will start over. If the game is just delayed, the game is continued that same day as though there was no interruption.
4. All games must be made up before the end of the season and no game shall end in a tie. This must be followed in order to seed teams by record for the tournament or final standings.
5. Umpires – The umpires should be in at least 9th grade, be able to vocally call a game and have a basic understanding of softball rules and this league's rules. The umpires will be paid by the league according to pay limits set by the board. Umpires should contact the commissioner of the league with any concerns.

04/15/2022