

2018 West Shore Minors Fall Ball 12U Rules

This program abides by the official A.S.A. 12 and under softball rules with the following exceptions. **WSM Vice-President of Majors, Steve Barbour at sbarbour@rlgsa.com**

I. THE PLAYING FIELD

- A. Set-up:** Home team shall be responsible for setting up the field.
1. Placing and removing the bases.
 2. The pitching distance shall be forty (40') feet.
 3. A Double first base is required at all game fields and ASA rules will apply for its use.
 4. One new and one fairly new game ball. The approved 2016 ball is a 12" Core .47 375LB Compression Red Stitch yellow ASA approved softball. Dudley 4A311Y.
 5. Rescheduling make-up games.
- B. Smoking:** Anyone attending the game must abide by the hosting complex rules for smoking restrictions.

II. EQUIPMENT

- A. Batting Helmets:** Players must wear **batting helmets with face shields.**
- B. Jewelry:** Players must not wear any jewelry (except medical bracelets and headbands).
- C. General Equipment Guideline:** Players may only use the equipment furnished by the sponsoring organization except:
1. May use own bat with the approval of the minor league representative.
 2. On all bats "Official Softball or ASA approved" must be displayed and be legible
- D. Coach/Player Conduct with Equipment:** Coaches and players cannot throw any equipment. Players throwing a bat: the first time is a team warning. The second time any player throws a bat the batter is declared out -dead ball. (No play).
1. No cell phone use during the game on the playing field by any coach or player.
- E. Uniform:** Players must wear sneaker-type footwear or molded cleats. No metal cleats.
- F. Mouthpieces or face guards** are strongly recommended for all players.

III. PLAYERS, COACHES, SUBSTITUTES

- A. Team Conduct:** No intentional roughness by one player against another. For example: tripping, deliberately crashing into, pushing, pulling, and hitting. No swearing. No bad name calling of members of the other team. Terms such as: no hitter, easy out, swing, etc. are not allowed.
1. Cheers and chants are permitted except the following:
 - a. When the pitcher places her foot on the pitching rubber until the ball is either hit or crosses home plate.
 - b. Derogatory cheers or chants directed at the other team or an individual player on that team.

B. Substitution: Free substitution of players in the field is allowed when batting the full lineup. If a coach chooses not to bat the entire lineup, all ASA substitution rules apply. (ASA 2015 Participant Manual Rule 4 Sections 1-6.)

IV. THE GAME

A. Starting Time: All games will start at 1:00 p.m. Pre-game warm-ups are to be from 12:30 P.M. to 12:40 P.M. for the home team and from 12:40 P.M. to 12:50 P.M. for the visiting team. Coaches' conference with umpire will be conducted at 12:55.

B. Game Length: All games are 80 minutes finish the inning. **There is no unlimited last inning for fall ball.** There will be a 15 minute break between games.

C. Game Stoppage: Games are to be stopped in case of inclement weather. **If you need to cancel an umpire, text Mike Pehanic, 903-6594 (cell) by 11:00AM. Otherwise, your organization will incur a \$15 fee.** Once the game has started, the umpire shall decide if the game cannot be continued or when the last inning will begin. **If a game cannot be resumed, it is officially over if at the conclusion of three and one half (3½) innings and the home team is winning.** If a game is called before it is official, the game is played from the beginning.

Exception: If an ASA umpire does not show up for a game and another umpire cannot be found, the game may be rescheduled or the coaches may agree to select a parent/etc. to umpire the game. Coaches are not recommended to act as an umpire. ** In the event of lightning, the game will not be resumed until 30 minutes from the last lightning flash. (For more information refer to ASA 2015 Participant Manual pages 193-195).

D. Umpires: They must be respected with their judgment calls and decisions are final. Protests of games on an umpire's interpretation of softball rules must be made to the umpire before the next pitch or any subsequent play occurs. The umpire shall then notify the opposing coach and sign both scorebooks at the point of infraction. Verbal notification to a league officer shall follow within twenty-four (24) hours of the protest and shall be further followed with a written protest to the league president within forty-eight (48) hours. This written protest shall list all facts pertinent to the protest and shall also be made available to the umpire-in-chief of the umpires association. The league officers shall arbitrate the protest. Protests of games due to ineligible or illegal players may be made at anytime prior to the close of the regular season. In a protested game where the protest is upheld, the game will resume at the point of protest.

E. Batting Lineup: If a team chooses not to bat everyone in their lineup, they must adhere to ASA substitution rules. If a team chooses to bat every player, free substitution is allowed. (In Disciplinary Action the coach with that player must let the other coach know in advance.)

F. Players: Each player must play at least 2 innings and bat at least once. Each player is allowed to play a maximum of 3 innings at any one-field position, except the catcher and pitcher positions.

1. If a team is playing with nine (9) or more players and there are no available substitutes when a player is injured or becomes ill when advancing on an awarded base or after reaching base and is unable to continue:

A. The previous batter, not on base, is allowed to replace that player as a courtesy runner until she is out, scores or the half inning ends.

B. When a player cannot continue her at bat, her position in the batting order shall be skipped over and no out will be called.

C. This injured or ill player may not re-enter the game even if she does have re-entry rights.

2. A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher; the player making the last out will be used.

G. Infield Fly: The infield fly rule is in effect.

H. Batting:

1. The team at bat (the offensive team) may score no more than four (4) runs per inning. There is no unlimited last inning for fall ball.

I. Fielding:

1. Teams will play with 10 fielders. (4 outfielders: must be positioned in the outfield. No short fielder)

2. Bases must not be blocked by the fielders; they must be accessible to the base runner.

3. If a batted fly ball is caught in bounds and carried out of bounds by the defensive player, the batter is out, the ball is dead and one (1) base will be awarded to the base runner(s).

J. Run Ahead Rule:

1. West Shore Minors will follow ASA Rule 5, Section 9, A.1.b which states that the game will end if there is a 15 run lead after 3, 12 run lead after 4, or 8 run lead after 5.

V. PITCHING REGULATIONS

A. Pitcher Eligibility: A pitcher will be removed from the mound after hitting two batters with a pitched ball in the same inning. The pitcher may return in another inning. If the pitcher hits a total of four batters with a pitched ball in one game, they are to be removed from the mound for the remainder of the game.

B. Pitching Rules:

1. Pitching rules shall be in accordance with ASA. Pitchers are required to have 2 feet on the rubber to begin the pitching motion.

2. Pitchers shall be limited to pitching only four (4) innings per game.

3. Innings shall be determined in total innings, not in thirds. 1 pitch in any inning shall constitute 1 inning of pitching.

4. Any player who pitches up at the next level, e.g. 14U or higher, will then be ineligible to pitch any future 12U game. The player will still be eligible to play any other fielding position.

Any rule interpretation or question that arises during the season will be decided by the Governing Body of the West Shore Minors