

West Cobb Baseball Association Rule Supplement for Recreation Leagues

1/2/2013

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2012 West Cobb Baseball Regular Season Rules

Any rules not covered by this Supplement or Georgia High School Rules, in that order, are covered by the National League version of the Major League Baseball Official Rules.

1. The home team scorekeeper will be the official scorekeeper for the game.
2. No inning will start after one hour and fifty minutes from the umpires' official start time.
3. If either team has a lead of 15 runs after 4 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings, the game will end and be recorded as a win for the team in the lead.
4. If a game is called for weather, it is considered official after the team with the least runs has batted through four full innings.
5. If game is tied at the end of the time limit, the game will end and be recorded as a tie. If a game is tied after seven innings have been played and the time limit has not expired, additional innings may begin under the time limit rule.
6. Uniform Rule: Players will NOT be permitted to play in any game without the full WCBA provided uniform. (Excluding pants-but must have baseball pants on).
7. The WCBA ejection rule will stand.
 - a. The Team Manager will be responsible to notify the Age Director, Athletic Director, or President if any Player, Coach or Manager has been ejected from a game **preferably by e-mail or phone by noon the following day**. The penalty for not notifying the above mentioned is a one game suspension of the manager the first time and two games suspension the second and so forth.
 - b. No ejected Player, Coach or Manager may participate in any subsequent game activity until cleared by the Age Director, AD, and President. Practice is permitted.
 - c. The penalty for a Manager or Coach Ejection will be a MINIMUM one (1), maximum three (3) game suspension for each occurrence, in addition to the game ejected. The Age Director, A.D. and President will make the final determination on the length of the suspension.
 - d. The penalty for a Player ejection will be a MINIMUM one (1), maximum three (3) game suspensions for each occurrence, in addition to the game ejected. The Age Director, A.D. and President combined will make the final determination on the length of the suspension.
 - e. Suspension is defined as the player / coach / manager may not participate in **any** game activity (coaching, playing, scoring, etc.) and may not watch game play in the bleachers! The president, A.D., Age Director may allow the coach / player to watch the game from the outfield fence.
 - f. All ejections must be reported to the President and AD promptly regardless of any appeal. (by noon of next day by email)
 - g. The penalty may be appealed. Appeals may be made through the President, Athletic Director or Age Director.
 - h. An out will be recorded each time an ejected player is scheduled to bat regardless of how many players a team started the game with.

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8. **Playing Time Rule:** For defensive purposes, no player shall sit a second inning until all players at the current game have sat a first inning. (SITTING PART OF AN INNING AND GOING IN TO THE FIELD DOES NOT COUNT AS AN INNING SAT). No player shall sit a third inning until all players at the current game have sat a second inning. This rule continues as long as the game is in progress. An exception may be made in order to discipline a player. In this case, the manager must notify the home plate umpire and the opposing coach. This rule does not apply with regard to starting pitching (the starting pitcher may pitch the first 4 innings without sitting, but must sit the fifth inning if all others have sat out). For offensive purposes, all players at the current game will be in the batting order. Opposing Managers will monitor the playing time, with any complaints and discrepancies being put forth in writing to the Director of that age group or the Athletic Director. Discrepancies or complaints must be reported within 24 hours of the occurrence. Failure to adhere to the rule will cause forfeiture of the game in which the incident occurred and the manager will be suspended the next game.

9. **Pitching Rule:** a. No pitcher will be allowed to pitch more than four (4) innings in a game. One pitch constitutes an inning. No other rest rules apply.

b. The pitcher must be removed from the mound on the coach or manager's fourth defensive visit to the field of play and any visit thereafter during the game. Any visit in which you change pitchers is not counted as a visit. Visits for injuries are an exception and are not considered a visit for this purpose.

c. Only the starting pitcher may return to the mound one (1) time in the same game as long as it is not in the inning they were removed.

d. Toeing the rubber between innings declares a player to be the pitcher of record.

e. Failure to follow pitching rules will result in a forfeit.

f. An intentional walk will be automatically awarded to a batter upon announcement from a catcher, pitcher, or a coach to the home plate umpire for all age groups. Time shall be called, and the batter awarded first base.

18U pitching rules:

18 year olds may only pitch a maximum of 4 innings per game, individually or combined. 1 pitch counts as an inning. The balance of the game is to be pitched by the younger age pitchers on the team.

14U pitching rules:

When the 13 and 14 year old age groups are combined, 14 yr olds can only pitch a combined 4 innings in a game. 1 pitch counts as an inning. The balance of the game is to be pitched by 13 yr old pitcher(s).

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10. Squeeze Bunt Rule: a. The runner from third cannot cross the plate until the pitch crosses the plate and the batter MUST be squared around with intent to bunt, though he does not have to bunt at the ball and must pull his hands back towards his chest if he does not bunt. Absolutely the batter cannot swing at the ball. This will be based upon the umpires' judgment.
b. Stealing of home, prior to the ball crossing the plate, is NOT allowed.
c. The penalty for failure to comply with this rule is as follows: i. The runner will be declared out.
ii. If - during a squeeze play attempt - the batter does not square, show intent to bunt, though he does not have to bunt at the ball, AND takes a full swing, the batter, runner, and manager will be ejected with the batter and runner being declared out. The suspension penalty noted in the Ejection Rule (#7) above WILL apply.

11. Avoid Contact Rule: According to WCBA by-laws, all Players MUST attempt to avoid contact (either slide or get out of the way). Should any Player fail to attempt to avoid contact – in the judgment of the Umpire – the Player will be ruled out AND ejected from the game. The suspension penalty noted in the Ejection Rule (#7) above WILL apply.

12. Forfeit Rule: Per our WCBA by-laws there are no forfeits during the regular season. In the event that any team does not have nine Players, the following may occur: The team will have 15 minutes after the official game start time to solicit Substitute Players. The time limit (rule #5 above) will NOT be extended. Game clock starts at assigned time. a. A minimum of 8 Players (including Substitute Players) will be necessary to field a team. Anytime your batting order starts or drops below 9 players it is an out for that spot/s in the order.
b. The Substitute Players can be from the same age group, or a lower age group, provided they are registered in the WCBA Program. The Uniform Rule above (#6) will apply for all Substitute Players (i.e. they must wear the uniform from their own team).

c. Substitute Players from the same age group must play an outfield position and may NOT be included in the batting order (unless approved by the opposing Manager). If Substitute Players are needed to field a team, they will be able to play the following positions:

- i. First Substitute Player – Right Field
- ii. Second Substitute Player – Left Field
- iii. Third Substitute Player – Center Field
- iv. Fourth Substitute Player - 3rd Base
- v. Fifth Substitute Player - 2nd Base
- vi. Sixth Substitute Player - 1st Base
- vii. Seventh Substitute Player - Short Stop
- viii. Substitute Players will NOT be permitted to pitch or catch.

Substitute Players from a younger age group may be included in the batting order without opposing manager's approval.

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13. Approved Bats: **Beginning in the fall season of 2012, the park will only allow BBCOR bats per High School rules.**

All bats used must comply with the 2011 NFHS bat rules, which mandate -3 weight minus length value and disallow fully composite bats.

The penalty for an illegal bat will be as follows:

- a. If the illegal bat is discovered PRIOR to any hit by a batter, the bat will be removed from the game. No further penalty will apply.
- b. If the illegal bat is discovered AFTER a batted ball and BEFORE the first pitch to the next batter; the bat will be removed from the game, the batter will be ruled out and all runners will return to the bases occupied immediately prior to the pitch that was hit with the illegal bat?

14. Pinch runners for catcher - The coaching staff can use another player (the last batted out in the game) to run for the catcher of record after the second out is recorded. Any catcher taking too long to get to the assigned position, the penalty at the umpire's discretion is to call a catchers balk. (this is to keep teams from delaying the game, thus reducing innings played-coaches please ensure your catcher is hustling)

15. If a player leaves a game early for any reason other than injury or family emergency, and the coach did not notify the umpire and opposing coach at the plate meeting, it will be an out each time his at bat is reached. With proper notification, the coach can collapse the line up without penalty providing the team still has 9 players, otherwise refer to rule 12 - a.

16. WCBA has a no jewelry policy during the game. No players may play while wearing jewelry in the game. If this rule is not adhered to, the player will be asked 1 time and 1 time only to remove the jewelry (plate meeting constitutes this warning); Refusal to obey will result in the player being ejected from the game and serve a 1 game penalty without any rights to appeal. Jewelry includes any type of bracelet, necklace, ring, etc., including athletic type jewelry.

Tryouts: If a manager or coach's son is not at tryouts without prior approval of President, A.D. and Age Director, they are the first pick of the draft for the manager. Prior is before tryouts are held.

Please review these rules with all players and parents.