

Woodmore Youth Organization (WYO)  
BY-LAWS

Article 1: Introductions

1.1 These By-Laws constitute to laws adopted by the Woodmore Youth Organization to coincide with the Code of Regulations to assist in the proper and fair play in the Woodmore Youth Organization

1.2 These By-Laws are enforceable through the powers of the Code of Regulations

Article 2: Registration

2.1 Registration shall be closed for team make up on **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. At this time, the make-up of the teams shall take place. Registrations will continue to be accepted for teams not filled up until the first game for that particular league, or until that team is filled up.

**2.1.1 Late registrants will be placed onto a waiting list and notified by the President of the WYO as to such. These potential players will only be placed onto teams if there is a need to fill out a roster. Under no circumstances should a player who is late to register be placed on a team if the roster is full. (All New language)**

2.2 No child shall be denied the right to participate with the WYO for financial reasons. If a situation exists where an issue is valid, the WYO will pay the registration fees for that child from its general fund. Parents and caregivers of children who fit into this category need only to contact a WYO Board member or Officer to facilitate the action.

**2.3 Registration is conducted through the WYO website:**

<https://tshq.bluesombrero.com/woodmoreyouth>

**A registration reminder will be sent home from school with all Woodmore K-8 students, Solomon Lutheran students, and Trinity Lutheran Pre-school students by January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Families may pay through the website or by check through the regular mail, and as stated above the deadline will be March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. (All New language)**

Article 3: Team Make Up

3.1 Woodmore Youth Organization **teams** shall be **organized as follows:**

**A. Beginner Ball**

- Boys and Girls entering kindergarten and first grade (4/5/6)

**B. Coach Pitch (Boys)**

- Boys entering second and third grade (7/8)

C. U-8 (Girls)

- Girls entering second and third grade\* (7/8)

D. T-shirt (U-10) (Boys)

- Boys entering fourth and fifth grade\* (9/10)

E. U-10 Girls

- Girls entering fourth and fifth grade\* (9/10)

F. Little League (U-12) (Boys)

- Boys entering sixth and seventh grade\* (11/12)

G. U-12 Girls

- Girls entering sixth and seventh grade\* (11/12)

H. U-14 (Pony League) (Boys)

- Boys entering eighth and ninth grade\* (13/14)

I. U-14 Girls

- Girls entering eighth and ninth grade\* (13/14)

\*\* Birthday cut-off for girls softball is January 1<sup>st</sup>. Birthday cut-off for boys baseball is May 1<sup>st</sup>. **Beginner Ball** has no cut-off date **although 4 year olds must be entering kindergarten in the fall to be eligible to play.**

3.2 Team rosters shall consist of no more than **twelve (12)** players for baseball and **twelve (12)** players for softball. **Beginner Ball** should have no more than **ten (10)** players per team to encourage participation. Any deviation from this formula must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to the start of the season.

3.3 Any challenge to the age group (either moving up or down in the ball players age group) shall be addressed as outlined below in 3.06.

3.4 If a player has a late birthday and wishes to “play down” they may do so if they wish. If that same player wishes to “play up” with his/her classmates they may do so as well. The head coach will have the final say as to whether or not the player is capable of playing at that level. A player may not compete for two separate teams unless that player is needed at the level above them to fill out a roster for a single game or tournament.

For example: If a player is rostered at U12, they cannot play down to U10, even if they have a late birthday. **That same player could only play u12, or if needed be moved up to play U14 for a single game or tournament situation where a player was needed for the game(s) to be played.**

Players can only be moved up if there are not enough players from the original roster to field a team for that single game or tournament.

3.5 Parents are expected to register players for the level of play which is most appropriate for the player, given their age. If a situation presents where it is determined that a player should not be “playing up” by the head coach, the player will be rostered on a team from the next lower division for the season. Player safety is of the utmost concern in this regard, and would likely be the primary reason for such a decision. Parents may appeal the decision to the WYO Officers and Board of Directors by filing a Grievance Form with the organization. Once received, an assessment of the player’s ability will be carried out by one or more of the Officers or Board Directors. The decision made after the assessment will be binding, and final.

#### Article 4. Team Selection

4.1 Siblings playing at the same level will be placed on the same team and the Draft Rules will take effect, including players moving up to the next level. **Beginner Ball** teams will be co-ed, **although if there are 10 or more girls who register for Beginner Ball, an all-girl team will be formed and compete in the ESGSA.**

4.2 **Teams will be selected at the Coaches meeting in March. The WYO will provide the list of registrants for each age group. If there are more than two teams in an age group, the President shall over-see the drawing of numbers out of a hat to determine draft order. If there is only one team in an age group, the list of registered players will become the roster. Understandably, there may be a situation where more than 11 or 12 players are registered for an age group. The Head Coach will have the opportunity to accept or decline this roster. If the Head Coach decides to stick with the registration rules for the maximum number of players allowed per roster, the roster shall then be reduced to the appropriate number by eliminating the latest registrants. The parents of the players will be notified of this action by the WYO President, placed onto a waiting list, and if necessary their money refunded. It is the hope of this organization that a Head Coach would accept the roster, and that the organization would do everything in its power to support that Head Coach so that no players are eliminated in such a manner.**

Once the draft order has been determined, the selection process will begin. The list will have the players separated by age. Coaches will first select from the youngest players from the list. Once all of the younger players have been selected, the coaches will then select from the oldest players on the list. A Serpentine draft format will be in effect (i.e whoever picks first shall pick last in the second round and whoever picks last in the second round shall pick first in the second round, rotating as such until all players have been selected.)

**The point behind all of this is to establish a good mix of young players and old players on each team which should improve the competitive balance across the entire organization.**

Assistant coaches will be determined once the entire roster has been selected by the Head coach. No longer will assistants be permitted to be selected (along with their children) prior to the draft.

4.3 Appropriate equipment will be distributed to all teams by the end of March. Any equipment that is damaged or unsafe must be reported to the WYO. All equipment must be turned back into the WYO at the end of the season. Coaches **must** attend the **pre-season** league meeting.

4.4 In the event that there is a problem with the make-up of the teams or other problems not addressed in these By-Laws, the Grievance procedure outlined in Article 6 of these By-Laws shall be followed to resolve the issue.

## Article 5. Rules of Play

5.1 It is the intent of the Woodmore Youth Organization to ensure that all **players** are given playing time in each game.

**Each** player shall play at least the following amount of time in each game:

- 5 or 6 inning games = bat at least once and play in field at least twice
- 7 inning games = bat at least once and play in the field at least three times

These rules are “minimum” play rules. If a team plays in a league in which the **minimum** play rules are increased, then those play rules shall be adhered to by the coaches from the WYO. In the event of a “mercy rule” game, the player(s) that did not get to play at least the minimum shall be started in the lineup at the next game. This rule shall include regular season games as well as tournament games.

There may be exceptions to this rule to include disciplinary measures (covered in section 5.2). Coaches are encouraged to keep track of total innings played by each player so as to avoid conflicts with parents/family members.

5.2 **An** Exception to section 5.1 **may** include disciplinary action. In the event of disciplinary action, the coach shall inform the player, his/her parents, and the **WYO President** of the disciplinary action being taken, and what situation warranted said action. Notification of **the disciplinary** action (in person, text, or by phone) needs to be provided to the parents, player, and **WYO President** prior to game time. If the parents wish to appeal the action, they must follow the appropriate steps as outlined in the Grievance process in Article 6 of these By-Laws.

5.3 Along with ensuring proper playing time, good sportsmanship shall be stressed. If a player demonstrates poor sportsmanship, the coach may remove the player from that game ~~or practice~~ **and the minimum play rules will not apply in that situation.**

5.3.1 Parents, friends, and family members are expected to conduct themselves properly

at all practices and games. **Should** a problem-**arise**, they will be asked to leave the immediate area by the coach and/or umpire. If this is done, then that person must leave immediately or other actions **including and up to calling local law enforcement**, can and will take place.

5.4 Coaches for the Woodmore Youth Organization shall conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times. Conduct un-becoming would include, but is not limited to: use of profanity, use of tobacco (practice or game), use of alcohol (during or prior to contact with players), and verbal **or** physical altercations. Violation of the coaching conduct rules should be reported to the Board of Directors and the appropriate action will be taken against the coach, up to and including dismissal **and notification of local law enforcement** if warranted.

5.5 The Woodmore Youth Organization in no way endorses an All-Star team which involves cuts, nor will they provide any funding for such teams. **If a WYO team wishes to participate in a post-season tournament or fall league which would involve a registration fee, the Head Coach of that team can petition the Officers and Board of the WYO for payment of that fee. Such requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and voted upon by the full Board and Officers.**

## Article 6. Grievance Procedure

6.1 Any person who has a grievance in regard to the items listed in the Code of Regulations or the By-Laws, they shall submit in writing their grievance to any member of the Grievance Committee of the Woodmore Youth Organization. The Chairman of the Grievance Committee shall arrange a hearing with the parties involved along with the other members of the Grievance Committee, the President of the Woodmore Youth Organization, and the Secretary.

6.2 The Chairman of the Grievance Committee shall conduct the hearing with the President as an observer with the Secretary taking the minutes of the hearing. The Chairman shall have the grievant present their case. Once the grievant has presented their case, the person(s) against whom the grievance was filed shall present their case. Once both sides have presented, the Committee will be permitted to ask questions. Once the question/answer session has ended, the Chairman shall dismiss both parties involved with the grievance. The Chairman will then preside over a closed session meeting to discuss the merit of the grievance. Once a decision has been reached, the hearing shall be opened, the parties involved will be called back, and the decision of the committee will be rendered. All decisions of the Grievance Committee are final.

6.3 The Grievance Committee shall have the power to overturn suspensions, challenges to the moving up or down of players, and any other discrepancies. The Grievance Committee may not make changes to the Code of Regulations or the By-Laws. If the Grievance Committee feels that any part of the Code of

Regulations or By-Laws is out of date or does not thoroughly address a particular issue, they shall submit in writing their findings to the President of the Woodmore Youth Organization. The President will then review the request and bring the item up for discussion as part of New Business at the next regular monthly meeting.

#### Amendments

\*\*First Amendment done on 12/05

\*\*Second Amendment done on 11/12.

All previous amendments dated 12/05 have been added to this most recent update

Approved changes from 11/2018 in RED