

Woodmore Youth Organization (WYO)  
A non-profit organization

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 15<sup>th</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\_(delete underlined) (In general, league play begins the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May every year.)
- 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 forms will be distributed by the end of January each calendar year at the Woodmore Elementary, Solomon Elementary, and Woodmore High School. All specifics in regard to fees, deadlines, uniforms, etc. etc. are found on the Registration Information sheet on the WYO website.

### Article 3: Team Make Up

3.1 The Woodmore Youth Organization shall be broken down into various age levels. These levels shall include:

- A. T-ball
  - Boys and Girls entering kindergarten and first grade (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\*
- I. U-14 Girls
  - Girls entering eighth and ninth grade\*

\*\* Birthday cut-off for girls softball (U-8 to U-14) is January 1<sup>st</sup>. Birthday cut-off for boys baseball is May 1<sup>st</sup>. T-ball has no cut off date.

- 3.2 Team rosters shall consist of no more than thirteen (13) players for baseball and fourteen (14) players for softball. T-ball should have no more than twelve (12) 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.
- 3.04 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. In matters of “playing up. 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. (all new)
- 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. T-ball teams will be co-ed. Boys play baseball. Girls play softball. Any deviation from this rule must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to the team draft.
- 4.02 The team shall consist of the coach and his/her assistant coaches’ son/daughter. Two assistants will be permitted per team. Once the number of players on the team has been established, the team(s) with fewer players will draft until every team has the equal number of player. At this time, there shall be a lottery to determine who drafts 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc. etc. 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.)
- 4.03 Coaches MUST abide by the Equipment Issue Form and fill out prior to and at the end of the season. All equipment must be turned back into the WYO at the end of the season and no later than the first week of the school year. Coaches MUST attend the Mandatory coaches meeting and make very effort or send a team representative to the WYO General Meetings that take place during the year.
  - 4.04 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

- 5.01 It is the intent of the Woodmore Youth Organization to ensure that all participants are given playing time in each game. The 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 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 5.02). Coaches are encouraged to keep track of total innings played by each player so as to avoid conflicts with parents/family members.

- 5.02 Exceptions to the section 5.01 include disciplinary action. In the event of disciplinary action, the coach shall inform the player, his/her parents, and the Board of Directors of the disciplinary action being taken, and what situation warranted said action. Notification of said action in person, text, or by phone, needs to be provided to the parents, player, and Board 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.

5.03.1

Parents, friends, and family members are expected to conduct themselves properly at all practices and games, and if a problem occurs, 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 depending on the situation at the time, can and will take place.

5.04 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 and 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 if warranted.

5.4 The Woodmore Youth Organization in no way endorses an All-Star team which involves cuts, nor will they provide any funding for such teams.

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.

6.02 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..