

THE WNSL BASEBALL LEAGUE

Baseball is an interesting and a different game from most other sports. It is a team sport but individualism is highlighted more often than other team sports. Baseball can easily embarrass and humiliate a youth player with its “individualism.”

Pitching, catching, fielding and of course hitting are all individual efforts and then the “team” aspects are put in place to create an out, make a play, etc. With this being said, **a youth baseball league should be a league that understands the importance of placing a youth baseball player in a friendly, relaxed and caring environment- a league that helps the young baseball player comprehend the highs and lows of “individualism in baseball.”**

The WNSL Baseball League is just that- a league that is friendly, relaxed and caring so a player can develop at his/her own pace. To accomplish this goal of player development in such an atmosphere, there are two very distinct differences in the WNSL Baseball League and other Baseball Leagues in Nashville.

1. **There is NO DRAFT, NO TRYOUTS, and NO PRESSURES to make a team.**

Coaches bring their own team/half of a team or free agents are placed on teams needing players or new teams are formed from free agents. No pressures, no anxiety and teams have better chemistry because of this. Players are more comfortable and hopefully perform better being around their friends with friendly coaches. Free agents are welcome to make new friends as well.

2. **There are no age group specific Commissioners in the WNSL. The WNSL has 2 directors in baseball that watch over the entire league and are not biased towards the competitive divisions. All teams are treated equally in the WNSL.** Coaches are either volunteers or teams find a coach that the parents are comfortable with. WNSL Coaches are not commissioners, not in charge of an age group and thus coaches can spend time on focusing on their team and their team only. This unbiased approach creates fairness for all teams. The recreational player/team is just as important as the competitive player/team in the WNSL.

The WNSL Baseball prides itself in the following areas:

1. Teams are placed in groups of recreational, middle level and competitive and there are plenty of teams to make this work. Teams play equal competition and thus there are better games and create a fairness that does not go unnoticed.

2. Training is provided for WNSL Coaches and its players. The Doyle system is utilized and our Coaches will attend a training session this spring and WNSL players can attend a few Doyle Clinics that will really help them. Training is provided during the season as well locally at NBTA, NLIB and Vanderbilt Instructors.
3. Competition is a stepping-stone. The younger age groups (Wookies) learn the basics and develop as hitters with the coach pitching and use of “tee” if necessary and learn basic fielding and base running. The 7/8 year olds (Rookies) use a pitching machine so there is a lot of hitting and placing the ball in play. The Rookies learn hitting techniques, develop as fielders and learn the outfield positions. The 9/10 year olds (Minors) step it up to increase on base percentages, power is important in hitting, pitching is brought into play, catchers become important, infielding and outfield positions are now the focus. The 11/12 year olds (Majors) is where players are getting ready for Middle School Ball and put everything together. Competition is at a high level but in a relaxed environment. The 13/14/15 year olds (Prep) is where the “men are separated from the boys” and players are playing at a high level of ball to get the players ready for high school.
4. The WNSL is aligned with Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken baseball and All Star teams are created at the end of the season to play other All Star Teams from other leagues. The WNSL gives all players in the league the opportunity to make an all-star team and this is a competitive process yet is fair.
5. For the most competitive teams in all groups, the opportunity to play top-level teams from the other leagues is available. The “Open League” allows the WNSL more competitive teams to play within the league and outside the league for a great balance of games. The “Travel Ball” experience is found in this group but without all of the expense of “travel ball.”
6. Flexible scheduling is provided to give teams the opportunity to play when they want. The league begins March 21st and ends Memorial Day weekend to give families the chance to vacation. All-Star and more competitive players play into the summer to give these players more games and higher level of competition.
7. WNSL prides itself to have the best fields possible. Harpeth Hills Church fields are the perfect size for the younger teams and the Warner Park fields are unsurpassed. New lights have been installed on the new fields at Warner Park this past fall. Great family atmosphere is crucial to the WNSL

Baseball and the Concession Stands offer a great family area to eat and relax. Baseball first and then family fun is the WNSL Baseball mantra.

8. The WNSL is a “Community League” and offers teams the opportunity to attend area games at Vanderbilt, Lipscomb, Belmont, the Sounds, etc. The WNSL relationship with Coach Corbin and the Vanderbilt program is very special.
9. The WNSL will be hosting many tournaments this spring and our teams will be eligible for them.

To sum it up, WNSL provides players a relaxed environment conducive to learning the game of baseball. Fun and Competition is balanced in the WNSL. Recreational players play recreationally, competitive players play competitively and the WNSL will guarantee the youth baseball player will learn the game of baseball in a fun environment. The WNSL approach to baseball has the “ proof is in the pudding”: Many ex WNSL baseball players are on middle school and high school teams and some ex WNSL players have been/are on college rosters.

The WNSL Baseball League registration is open on www.wnsl.org so do not wait to register. The fields will be ready in March and the crack of the bat is just around the corner. Go to www.wnsl.org for Spring Baseball and don't look back. A 5-year-old just beginning or the experienced 15 year old will all benefit from the WNSL Baseball Way.

The WNSL Baseball Team