

WORLD SPORTS LEAGUE

Corporate Rules Committee



Baseball National Rules and By-Laws

WSL CORPORATE RULES COMMITTEE

Baseball National Rules and By-Laws

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Mission Statement

Why we do what we do.

Our mission with WSL Baseball is to provide all teams, coaches, players, and parents, a fun and competitive platform to learn and participate in America's pastime while giving teams a positive and rewarding experience in all levels of play and tournaments.

Organizational Chart

Who is responsible for all the fun.

Nathan Kendrick – President/CEO	229-460-7474	nathan@playwsl.com
David Ruschmeier – Senior Vice-President	850-259-7414	rush@playwsl.com
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I. Team Participation

What it takes to play WSL Baseball

Sanction Fees

Sanction fees for all teams in 2018 are \$45 per team. All teams who participate in WSL must be sanctioned each year prior to playing. All sanctions are collected online and can be performed at <http://www.leaguetime.com/Association/Membership/36?m=3>.

Season Length

All WSL Baseball seasons run from August 1 through July 31 of the following year. The exception to the rule is for Fall Baseball. We will have a separate Fall Season that will preclude any regular rosters that are in effect.

Levels of Play/Classes

WSL Baseball has 2 levels of competition to afford every team an enjoyable and competitive level of play.

Elite – Our most competitive level. This includes travel teams and those that play in the upper most leagues, ie. AAA, Major, National, American, Premier, Elite, Gold, and Silver.

Select – Our average division. Most teams will fall into this level. This includes teams that play in AA, A, Continental, Select, Bronze, and Rec.

II. Player Eligibility

What it takes to play WSL Baseball

Age

WSL Baseball follows two classifications for age. 14U and under goes by age and above 14U, age level goes by graduation or by age. The below table determines age level. **All**

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players are required to have photocopies of state issued birth certificates on file with WSL or at time of tournament. Without a copy of birth certificate, no child will be eligible to participate.

Age eligibility is April 30 of the current year. The age eligibility (*cut off date*) is defined as the age participant is (will be) on April 30, 2018.

Cross match the month (top line) with the year box (left column) of when the participant was born to determine correct division for participant. For example, if participant was born in March of 2004, then he/she would be in the 14U division.

Year	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Apr
2013	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
2012	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6
2011	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7
2010	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	8
2009	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	9	9
2008	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	10	10
2007	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	11	11	11	11
2006	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	12	12	12	12
2005	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	13
2004	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	14
2003	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	15	15	15	15
2002	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	16	16	16	16
2001	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	17	17	17	17
2000	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	18	18	18	18
1999	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18				

Illegal Player

A player that is found to be illegal due to age during or after a tournament shall result in the offending team losing all games affected, the illegal player and team ejected from the tournament, and the team being placed last in the standings. All awards and points are also forfeited. Team may also be banned from further WSL Baseball events and all monies paid, forfeited.

WSL Baseball Agreement and Waiver to Play

All teams that participate in WSL Baseball events will have a signed WSL Baseball Agreement and Waiver to play in all WSL events. This not only protects the WSL, but protects the teams, players, coaches, umpires, and event locations.

III. Roster/Team Eligibility

What it takes to play WSL Baseball

Roster Size

All rosters can contain up to 22 eligible players. **All teams MUST maintain an official WSL Baseball roster online.** All players that are participating in a WSL Baseball event must be on the roster and their name must appear **EXACTLY** as it does on their

government issued birth certificate. No nickname or alias shall be allowed. A player can only play on one team at any tournament and can only play in one WSL Baseball tournament per weekend. This also includes playing in different age divisions or levels.

Team Location

The majority of the team's residence constitutes the team's home state. If residence of players is equal between states, the manager's home state becomes the team's state.

Frozen Roster

When a team earns a birth to a Regional or National Championship, the team's roster becomes "**Frozen**". Teams may add up to three additional players to their roster (providing they have the slots available). **No player can be added to a roster within seven days of a State, Regional, or National Championship without the prior approval of the State Director.** Any players can be released from a frozen roster at any time. Once a player is released from a frozen roster, he may **NOT** return to that team during that year. Any roster move by a team can be approved or denied by WSL Baseball.

Online Roster

All sanctioned teams will maintain an online roster. This roster will be located and accessed from www.playwslbaseball.com.

Roster Approvals

All rosters will go through an approval process. Once all documents for each player is uploaded and verified, a team's roster will be approved by the State Director. Once a roster is frozen, any players that are added will go through the same approval process.

Roster Responsibility

All rosters and their accuracy are the responsibility of the team manager. Any errors or omissions could result in the team forfeiting any and all awards, berths, and points as well as suspension of coach or team.

IV. Tournament Qualifying

What Are Our Tournament Rules

Rules

Our State Directors are responsible for setting the rules for tournaments in their state. They also may amend any rules and by-laws to accommodate any tournament with approval from WSL Baseball.

WSL Baseball utilizes pool play into an elimination format in all Championship Play Tournaments to determine champion. Teams must play in their State Championship to validate any Regional or National Championships. The State Director may override this rule with approval from WSL Baseball.

Teams must register for all National events on our website at wslbaseball.com. Teams entering a Regional or National Championship must have all roster moves completed within 7 days of tournament.

Pool play and tie breaker rules will be as follows. Once a tie is broken with three or more teams, teams advance to the next tie breaker rule until the tie is broken.

- Win-Loss Record
- Fewest Runs Allowed
- Run Differential
- Coin Flip

Tournament Types

WSL has three types of Championship Tournaments.

State Championships are where teams who participate in that particular state are eligible to play. Tournament may be an open tournament and teams can win berths by means of other tournaments or by accruing points. At this time, WSL Baseball does not have any leagues. All equipment, bats and balls, must be approved by WSL Baseball to participate in State Championship Play.

Regional Championships are for teams from multiple states that qualify through winning a specific tournament or a State Championship. All equipment, bats, and balls must be approved by WSL Baseball to participate in Regional Championship Play.

National Championships are WSL's highest level tournament. This usually culminates the season and crowns our National Champion. All equipment, bats, and balls must be approved by WSL Baseball to participate in Regional Championship Play.

V. Rules of the Game

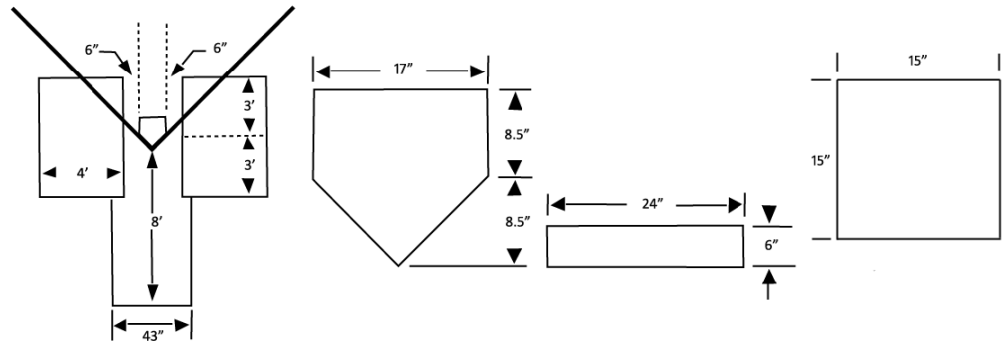
The Basics to Our Rules

Any rule not covered in this book shall be governed by The National Federation of High School Rulebook.

Field of Play

The playing field shall be laid out according to the dimensions listed below.

Age	Pitching Distance	Base Distance	Home - 2nd Dist.	Foulline Distance	Centerfield Distance
6 - 8	38'	50'	70'8"	150'	175'
9 - 10	46'	60'	84'10¼"	175'	200'
11 - 12	50'	70'	99'	225'	250'
13	54'	80'	113'2"	300'	300'
14+	60'6"	90'	127'3¾"	300'	300'



Equipment

Balls – All balls are provided by WSL Baseball for all tournaments and adhere to strict standards. All balls are provided by Rawlings.



Bats – All bats must be made of approved materials and be smooth and round. All bats MUST meet a BPF of 1.15 or less and be certified by bat manufacturer. In 14U tournaments and above, bats will be limited to a -5 ratio or heavier. For 13U and under, there is no bat size restriction. For an approved list of NFHS bats, go to <http://www.mme.wsu-ssl.org/certifiedbaseballbats.aspx>.

If a bat is found to be illegal, the bat will be removed from the game and manager will be warned about the use of the bat. If it's after a play and the result is a batter reaching base, the batter will be declared out and all other runners must return to their last base that was legally occupied. No runs may score. If a second offense occurs, the batter affected will be removed from the game as well as the coach for the remainder of the game.

Uniforms – All players must be uniformed in like attire. Like attire is shirts that have the same sponsor or logo but may be a different color or style. If wearing a hat, it must be matching as those who are wearing one. Also, all uniforms must have numbers on the back and no two numbers are to be the same for different team members. Uniforms are not protestable and the tournament director reserves the right to make rulings on uniforms.

Footwear – Non-metal cleats shall be worn for all ages up to 12U. 13U and above, traditional baseball spikes are allowed.

Catcher – The catcher must wear a head protector, body protector, protective cup, shin guards, and a mask with throat protector. The catcher's helmet must cover both ears in all ages up to 12U.

Helmets – WSL Baseball requires that **ALL** offensive players **MUST** wear a double ear flapped helmet while on the playing field. At no time will any playing equipment contain undue commercialization. All batting helmets should bear the NOCSAE stamp.

Gloves – All defensive players are required to wear gloves or mitts made of leather or other approved material. Pitcher's gloves may be two toned. If multi-colored, white and gray should not be any of the colors.




Blood Rule / Concussions

WSL Baseball takes injuries very serious. If at any time during a game a player has an open wound or is bleeding, play will be stopped and treatment must be given immediately to alleviate the issue. Reasonable time will be given to address the player and

bandage and or stop the bleeding. If more time is needed or the bleeding can't be stopped, the affected player must be removed from the game. Once stopped, the player may return to the game but the re-entry rule for starters is in effect.

Uniforms that have any signs of blood on them must be removed and a uniform change is required. This may result in a uniform not matching and in no way is a violation of the uniform policy.

WSL Baseball Concussion Protocol states that any player that is involved in a collision with another player, fence, ground, ball, or bat, may be subject to be removed from the game and rest of tournament. Player may not play in another WSL Baseball event until said player has a release from a qualified physician releasing player to play again.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Athletes who experience one or more of the signs or symptoms listed below after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body may have a concussion.

- **SIGNS OBSERVED BY COACHING STAFF**
 - Appears dazed or stunned
 - Is confused about assignment or position
 - Forgets an instruction
 - Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
 - Moves clumsily
 - Answers questions slowly
 - Loses consciousness (even briefly)
 - Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes
 - Can't recall events prior to hit or fall
 - Can't recall events after hit or fall
- **SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE**
 - Headache or "pressure" in head
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Balance problems or dizziness
 - Double or blurry vision
 - Sensitivity to light
 - Sensitivity to noise
 - Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
 - Concentration or memory problems
 - Confusion
 - Just not "feeling right" or is "feeling down"

ACTION PLAN

As a coach, if you think an athlete may have a concussion, you should:

1. **Remove the athlete** from play.
2. **Keep an athlete with a possible concussion out of play on the same day of the injury and until cleared by a health care provider.** Do not try to judge the severity of the injury yourself. Only a health care provider should assess an athlete for a possible concussion.
3. **Record and share information about the injury**, such as how it happened and the athlete's symptoms, to help a health care provider assess the athlete.
4. **Inform the athlete's parent(s) or guardian(s)** about the possible concussion and refer them to CDC's website for concussion information.
5. **Ask for written instructions from the athlete's health care provider** about the steps you should take to help the athlete safely return to play. Before returning to play an athlete should:
 - Be back to doing their regular school activities.
 - Not have any symptoms from the injury when doing normal activities.
 - Have the green-light from their health care provider to begin the return to play process.

For more information and to order additional materials free-of-charge, visit: www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP

The information provided in this document or through linkages to other sites is not a substitute for medical or professional care. Questions about diagnosis and treatment for concussion should be directed to a physician or other health care provider.

IT'S BETTER TO MISS ONE GAME THAN THE WHOLE SEASON.

Game Rules

Refund Policy - Once an entry fee is paid for an event, no cash, check or credit card refunds will be issued for any reason, unless WSL Baseball cancels the event in advance of the event weekend due to insufficient participation. If a team

registers and subsequently is unable to participate, provided reasonable notification in writing: a) Team can be transferred to another WSL Baseball tournament, subject to availability; or b) Team can receive a full credit, valid through the following season. If an event is cancelled at any time or shortened due to inclement weather or field conditions, WSL Baseball will issue credits as follows: 0 games: 100% credit toward a future WSL Baseball event either later in 2018 or in 2019. 1 game: 50% credit toward a future WSL Baseball event either later in 2018 or in 2019. 2nd game started: 25% credit toward a future WSL Baseball event either later in 2018 or in 2019. 2 or more games completed: No credits due.

Coin Flip - The game will start after a coin flip to determine home team for all pool play games. For bracket play games, the home team is determined by the higher seed team in single elimination brackets. In double elimination brackets, the highest seeded team is home team until the championship game, where the team that is in the winner's bracket, is the home team. If there is an "IF" game, a coin flip determines the home team.

Time Limit – For all Championship play, a time limit will be used for all pool play games and consolation brackets (if used). The time limit for each age is as follows;

7U – 9U	1 hour 15 minutes
10U - 12U	1 hour 30 minutes
13U – 14U	1 hour 45 minutes

Line-Up – Teams can bat nine (9) players, a ten (10) player line-up with an extra hitter (EH), or roster bat all present uniformed players. The line-up **MUST** be declared before the start of the game and used the entire game.

If a team is only batting nine (9) players, the extra players on the roster are considered as substitutes. All starting players can be removed and re-enter the game once, but must re-enter in the same position in the batting order. Non-starters are considered "DEAD" once they are removed from the game.

If a team uses a line-up that contains ten (10) players, the EH can freely enter and exit for defensive purposes.

The continuous line-up requires that all players other than the nine (9) defensive position players are considered as extra hitters and may move freely in defensive positions with the exception of the pitching position. Any players arriving after the beginning of the game, shall be placed at the bottom of the line-up. If a player has to leave during a continuous line-up that player's position now becomes an out.

Courtesy Runner – WSL Baseball allows a courtesy runner to be used for the pitcher and/or catcher at any time during the game. The courtesy runner may be

a player that is not in the line-up. If the runner is currently in the line-up, then it must be the last player whose turn at bat has been completed.

Regulation Game – A regulation game for 7U – 12U is six (6) innings and seven (7) innings for 13U and above. Games can be extended due to a tie score or shortened due to time limit. The game can also be shortened for the “**RUN RULE**”. It is used to complete a regulation game when one team’s ahead by more than a certain number of runs. The Run Rule is;

Length of Game	Run Rule	After Inning
6 innings	12	3rd
6 innings	8	4th
6 innings	8	5th
7 innings	15	3rd
7 innings	12	4th
7 innings	8	5th
7 innings	8	6th

Inclement Weather – From time to time, inclement weather may cause a game to be called before completion. If a six (6) inning game is called due to inclement weather after the 3rd inning, it will be considered a complete game. If a seven (7) inning game is called after the 4th inning, it too is considered a complete game. If at any time a game is called before the 3rd or 4th inning, the game is considered cancelled and will be started from the beginning. Tournament Director reserves the right to change tournament rules and format to complete tournament.

Batter/Runner – An intentional walk may be issued upon announcement from either the pitcher or catcher with no pitches being thrown. At any time, the offensive team may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher from the previous inning on defense. The courtesy runner must be a player not currently in the line-up. The courtesy runner can only run for one player per inning and must be on the online roster.

Runners are never required to slide, but if they do, the slide must be legal. If a runner slides, he or she must slide directly into the bag. If a tag play is imminent, the runner should slide or seek to avoid contact. No player can initiate malicious contact. It is a umpire’s judgment call that determines the contact. Any player that is found to initiate malicious contact, will be ejected from the game.

Protest - Umpires shall work to settle all situations on the field. Protests shall be allowed for age and pitching violations or rule interpretations only. Protests must be declared to the Umpire-in-Chief and then to the League / Tournament Director before the next pitch following the dispute. If a call to be protested is the last recorded out of a game or on a game ending play, the protest MUST be filed prior to the Umpires and the protesting team leaving the field of play. No protest shall be allowed following the

game. League / Tournament officials shall rule on all protests and their decisions shall be final. The Protest fee shall be \$100.00 CASH. The fee shall be returned only if the protest is upheld. Leagues may develop their own fee structure and methods of recording and settling protests.

Pitcher – Pitching and the health of the pitchers is a top priority in WSL Baseball. We have implemented several safeguards to ensure that a pitcher is not overworked for a tournament. The 1st safeguard is number of pitches. A pitcher may not exceed the number of pitches per age group. The 2nd safeguard is number of days of rest. A day is defined as a business day for the park you play at.

AGE	DAILY MAX Pitches in Game/Day	REQUIRED REST (AFTER # PITCHES)				
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50		
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-75	
11-12	85	1-30	31-45	46-50	51-85	
13-14	95	1-40	41-55	56-70	71-85	86-95

If the pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch till the batter reaches base safely or is put out.

A player that pitches three (3) days in a row regardless of pitch count, **MUST** sit the fourth day. It is the responsibility of each team managers to keep track of the number of pitches during a game. A protest can be filed if a team thinks the other pitcher has reached their pitch limit.

An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count. The ball shall be declared dead before making the award and the pitches that would have been thrown are **NOT** counted as pitches thrown.

8U Player Pitch

In 8U, nine (9) defensive players with three (3) outfielders are used. Player pitch is closed bases and no balks are enforced. Runners must remain on the base when the pitcher is in the pitching position and the catcher is in the catching position. If the runner leaves early, the umpire will place the runner back on the base unless the runner was put out. This is not appealable. If forced, the runner advances one base ahead of the batter-runner. If the ball is put into play, the defense has the option of taking the result of the play or placing the runner or runners back on the base and the batter back in the batter’s box.

The infield fly rule applies. There is no advancement on dropped third strikes. There is no stealing of home. The only way the runner can advance from third to home is if batted or forced home. If the defense fields the ball and attempts to make a play on the runner, the runner may attempt to advance home.

7U & 8U Coach Pitch

A regulation team consists of nine (9) players. Teams can either use nine (9) or ten (10) players on defense. One must play the pitching position and one the catching position. For teams playing ten (10) defensive players, four outfielders will be used.

There is a 30-foot arc that is measured from the back tip of home plate and from the first base line to the third base line. Fielders must stay beyond the arc until the ball is hit. There is a circle drawn with a 10' diameter with the pitching rubber in the middle. This is the safety area for the player in the pitching position. The defensive player listed as the pitcher cannot leave the pitching circle until the ball is hit.

If the pitcher leaves the circle early, the play continues. After the play, the offensive team has the option of taking the resulting play or accepting a no-pitch and the play is over. If the pitcher has a second infraction, that player is removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.

Each batter is allowed 6 pitches or three strikes. If a batter fouls the sixth pitch off, he or she is allowed to continue to bat until either there is not contact or the ball is put in play. WSL Baseball allows a maximum of seven runs or three outs per inning.

A ball that is batted and fair that hits a coach pitcher is declared a foul ball if the umpire rules the coach pitcher's contact with the ball was unintentional. If the umpire deems the coach pitcher intentionally made contact with a batted ball, the batter is out and no runners can advance.

Umpires are to call time after every play and declare a dead ball. Time is called when the following three occur;

- Lead runner no longer is attempting to advance
- Ball is in possession of an infielder
- No defensive play is imminent

All teams at this level will roster bat for all games. Due to roster batting, there are free substitutions on defense. The batting order **MUST** remain the same.

The catcher must be located in the catcher's box, no more than four feet behind home plate. There is no base on balls, base awards for being hit by pitch, infield fly rule, base stealing, bunting, or intentional walks.

If a player bunts or takes a half swing, it will be declared a foul ball. Runners cannot leave their base until the pitched ball crosses the front edge of home plate. A runner who leaves early is declared out, and the pitch is declared a no pitch.

A coach pitcher is prohibited from coaching while in the pitching position either physically or verbally.

Courtesy runners are only to be used for the catcher only.

7U & 8U Machine Pitch

There is a 30-foot arc that is measured from the back tip of home plate and from the first base line to the third base line. Fielders must stay beyond the arc until the ball is hit.

The front of the pitching machine is set at forty-six feet in a straight line directly toward second base. There is a box that extends five feet to either side of the pitching machine and five feet behind. This box is considered a safety box for the player playing the pitching position. The player in this position is not allowed to come out of the box until the ball is batted.

Pitching machine speed recommendations are as follows;

- 7U 34-38 MPH
- 8U 40-44 MPH

Each batter is allowed 6 pitches or three strikes. If a batter fouls the sixth pitch off, he or she is allowed to continue to bat until either there is not contact or the ball is put in play. WSL Baseball allows a maximum of seven runs or three outs per inning.

A fair batted ball that hits the pitching machine is declared a dead ball and rule a single. All runners advance one base from their original position. Umpires are to call time after every play and declare a dead ball. Time is called when the following three occur;

- Lead runner no longer is attempting to advance
- Ball is in possession of an infielder
- No defensive play is imminent

All teams at this level will roster bat for all games. Due to roster batting, there are free substitutions on defense. The batting order **MUST** remain the same. Teams can use either 9 or 10 defensive players. One player **MUST** play the pitching position, and one

player **MUST** play the catching position. For teams using 10 defensive players, four players **MUST** play outfield positions.

The catcher must be located in the catcher's box, no more than four feet behind home plate. There is no base on balls, base awards for being hit by pitch, infield fly rule, base stealing, bunting, or intentional walks.

A team can bunt once an inning. Runners cannot leave their base until the pitched ball crosses the front edge of home plate. A runner who leaves early is declared out, and the pitch is declared a no pitch.

VI. Officials

Certification

All officials that umpire games with WSL Baseball **MUST** be high school certified and a member of their umpire organization.

Uniforms

All officials that that umpire games with WSL Baseball **MUST** be uniformed in matching attire when 2 or more umpires are used. Correct uniforms are black or gray pants with a collared shirt. Hats may or may not be worn but all umpires must be the same.

VII. Tobacco Products

The use of **ANY** tobacco products are strictly prohibited by all participants including players, coaches, and manager. This includes the playing field, dugouts, and warm-up area.

VIII. Electronic Devices

At no time are electronic devices allowed on the playing field. This includes cell phones, tables, and computers. We understand that tablets are being used to keep score and stats and these devices are allowed in the dugout area or outside of playing area.

IX. Conclusion

All rules set forth in this manual is subject to change at any time at the discretion of WSL Baseball. Any and all comments and questions can be forwarded to Nathan Kendrick, President and CEO of WSL. Any rule or situation not covered in this handbook, is covered by the NFHS Baseball Handbook.