



# **2012 LEAGUE RULES**

of the

# **WISCONSIN STATE YOUTH**

# **BASEBALL LEAGUE**

**Amended on December 12, 2011**

## 1. LEAGUE FORMAT

### 1.1. Age Divisions & Eligibility

The Wisconsin State Youth Baseball League, hereafter referred to as the WSYBL, will consist of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Divisions. The rules contained herein will apply to all divisions. Rules specific to a given age level will be noted as such.

**NOTE: No student who is in High School may play for any team in the WSYBL.**

### 1.2. Format

The WSYBL is a closed league format with players on each team coming from their respective school districts or community of residence. If a player is legally on the roster of a WSYBL team the previous year, he may remain with that team in the event he moves out of that community or changes school districts. This privilege will continue through his 8<sup>th</sup> grade season. Once the player leaves the team, this privilege is revoked.

**Clarification:** For this rule, “legally on the roster” is defined as meeting ALL eligibility requirements, not being on a team by being granted an exemption or waiver.

For teams representing parochial/private schools ONLY, it is a requirement that the bulk of the team players be currently enrolled in a parochial/private school or home schooled. The team may have a maximum of 2 players from public schools who may reside in any community. **Example:** A private school team has a total of 12 players. Ten of the players attend private school or are home schooled, one player attends public school in New Berlin and one player attends public school in Milwaukee.

WSYBL Rules state that **new teams entering the league** may not raid existing teams to get their players. However there are times when an existing team may not object to the player moving to the new team. For those cases the WSYBL has developed a release form, where an existing team will release a player to a new team. This includes 2nd or “B” teams formed within an existing organization.

### 1.3. Rosters

Team rosters will consist of a minimum of 11 players and a maximum of 20 players. Each player may only be on one WSYBL team roster. Rosters must be turned into the league by **March 1st** of the current baseball season. No player will be allowed to play unless he is listed on the official team roster, which is to be held at the league office, and has provided proof of grade and residency. Changes to the roster during the season will require league commissioner approval. Failure to abide by these rules will result in forfeitures of games played.

#### 1.3.1. Proof of Eligibility

One of the biggest and most time consuming duties of an Age Level Coordinator is to verify the eligibility of a team to play in our league. The WSYBL has set a procedure to do this which works in 98% of the cases. Each new player to the WSYBL is required to provide a copy of his/her most current Report Card.

The Report Card is intended to show that the players grade and that he/she either lives or attends school within the boundaries of the school the team represents. In The case of private school teams it also verifies that the player attends a private school so we can verify the team meets the private school criteria as stated in rule 1.2.

If the report card does not show the school name, the student name and grade then **additional** proof of residency will be requested. This may be in the form of a tax bill which shows parent name and address.

We fully understand the parents desire to keep certain information private. In the case of the report cards all we care about is the school name and student name/address. Anything else may be blacked out. In the case of Tax bills all we care about is the parent name and address, any \$\$ information may be blacked out.

The sole purpose of requiring this information is to verify that all of the teams are playing by the same rules.

### 1.4. Insurance

Every team must provide a certificate of liability Insurance, naming the WSYBL as an Additional insured on the policy. This must be provided to the Age coordinators by April 15<sup>th</sup>. No team may play a game in our league without first providing proof of insurance.

## 2. GAME PLAY

### 2.1. Rules

The league will play "National Federation of State High School Rules" with the following clarifications and exceptions:

### 2.2. Base Path & Pitching Distances & Dropped 3rd Strike

2.2.1. Bases and pitching rubbers will be placed at the following distances:

	<u>Base Length</u>	<u>Pitching Distance</u>	<u>Advance on Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike</u>	<u>Enforce Infield Fly</u>
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades	90 ft.	60 ft. 6 in.	Yes	Yes
5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grades	70 ft.	50 ft.	Yes	Yes
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grades	60 ft.	46 ft.	No	Yes
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>60 ft.</b>	<b>43 ft.</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>

### 2.3. Game Length

**For the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade division, the game will be six (6) innings in duration with a 1 hour 45 minute time limit.**

For grades 3-8, a game will be seven (7) innings in duration. The time limit for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade games will be 2 hours 15 minutes and for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade games will be 2 hours

A new inning will not start after the time limit has elapsed. In the event of a tie after 7 innings and *time still remains*, additional innings may be played until a winner is determined or the time limit expires. Any inning started prior to the time limit expiring must be completed.

### 2.4. Suspended Game

**Per WIAA adaption to NFHS rules,** "A game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined, will be treated as a suspended game (Rule 4-3-1- Note 2). If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension and a suspended game will be completed."

### 2.5. Rainouts

Effort should be made to play games as scheduled, however in the case of inclement weather a decision should be made early enough to notify the visiting team prior to them leaving for the game.

In the even of a cancellation it is the responsibility of the Home team to contact the Umpires and the visiting team coach. This means talking with them, not simply leaving a message.

### 2.6. Ten-Run Rule

If a team is behind by 10 or more runs after five innings of play, it shall be considered a complete game.

### 2.7. Forfeits

All forfeits must be submitted to and approved by the WSYBL Commissioner before being posted to the standings. Every effort must be made to play every league game.

### 2.8. Courtesy Runner

A courtesy runner may be used at any time for the pitcher of record or the catcher of record. The same player may not be used for both in the same inning. The runner must be a player not in the game and may not be used as a substitute for any other player in that same ½ inning. If no eligible player is available to courtesy run for the catcher the player who made the last out may run for the catcher. A courtesy runner for the catcher is mandatory after 2 outs.

Pitcher or catcher of record means the player in those positions the previous defensive inning. In the case of the visiting team, in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning, it is the player who will pitch or catch in the bottom of the inning.

**Note:** Upon discovery of a catcher on base with two outs, a courtesy runner should be put into the game for the catcher, without penalty.

For teams using a continuous batting order, the player making the last out must be used as the courtesy runner for either the pitcher or catcher, but not for both in the same inning.

## 2.9. Leading Off

Leading off is allowed in the 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade leagues. Leading Off is NOT Allowed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade leagues.

For the 4<sup>th</sup> grade league, a runner may leave a base only after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade league, a runner may leave a base only after the ball crosses the plate.

The runner will be called out for leaving early and the pitch will not be allowed.

**For the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade league, a runner may not steal home unless a defensive play is attempted on him or any other runner. A runner attempting to steal home without a play being attempted will be sent back to 3<sup>rd</sup> base.**

### **No Advancement on Walks.**

On walks, in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Leagues, the Batter/Runner (B/R) may not advance to second base if the catcher returns the ball directly to the pitcher and the pitcher is on the rubber. The B/R is only protected, by virtue of the walk, to first base. If the B/R is off the base or running to second while the pitcher has the ball and is on the rubber, the B/R will be called out.

If there is a play on another runner or there is a pass ball, then the ball is live and the B/R and all other runners may advance at their own risk.

## 2.10. Players

2.10.1. There may be no more than 9 players in the field at one time. The WSYBL will allow the game to start and be played with 8 players. The 9<sup>th</sup> position is then an automatic out each time through the line up.

### 2.10.2. Continuous Batting Order:

2.10.2.1. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade leagues only, teams may choose to use a continuous batting order and bat their entire team.

2.10.2.2. If a team uses a continuous batting order, then they may also freely substitute their players on defense without regard to reentry rule 2.12.

2.10.2.3. If a player leaves the game due to an injury or illness, there is an automatic out for that player the next time his spot comes up in the batting order. His spot is then skipped on subsequent at bats. Once the out is taken, this player may NOT return to this game.

2.10.2.4. If a player leaves the game for any other reason than injury or illness, there is an automatic out for that player every time his spot comes up in the batting order.

2.10.2.5. If a team is using a continuous batter order and a player arrives late, the late player may be inserted at the end of the lineup provided the team has not yet batted through the lineup at least once. If the team has gone through the line up at least once, then the player must be used as a sub and normal NFHS substitution rules will apply.

2.10.3. The continuous batting order/free substitution option is NOT allowed in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade leagues.

## 2.11. Extra Player

The extra **player (EP)** is optional for all age divisions. The WSYBL does not use the designated hitter (DH) rule. The Extra **player** is then free to rotate in and out of the field defensively.

## 2.12. On Deck Batters

In the interest of safety, on-deck batters may loosen up behind the batter rather than being restricted to their own side of the field

## 2.13. Re-entry

Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered once, including a player who was the extra hitter, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup. In the event of an injury with no officially available players to replace the injured player, re-entry of any available player will be allowed.

## 2.14. Slash Bunts

For safety reasons, slash bunts are prohibited at in the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade divisions. A slash bunt is when the batter shows a bunt then pulls back and swings away or slaps at the ball. Penalty – Batter is called out and no runners may advance.

## 2.15. Double First Base

Some fields use a double first base and do not have a choice to use a single base. In these cases, the double base should be considered one big base, allowing the runner or the fielder to touch either the white or the orange portion of the base. There will be no penalty for the runner or the fielder if they touch either color.

## 2.16. Pitchers

Pitchers in the 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade Leagues may pitch up to 4 innings per game; pitchers in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade league may pitch up to 3 innings per game. **In order to encourage teams to develop more pitchers, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade league, pitchers will be limited to 2 innings per game.**

### 2.16.1. Pitchers in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade leagues:

2.16.1.1. Will follow the WIAA rules for JR. High School pitchers.

2.16.1.2. A pitcher may pitch up to 7 innings in a single game, and a maximum of 7 innings in any 4 day sliding window. Once a pitcher reaches the 7 inning maximum, he **MUST** take 3 full days rest.

#### Some Examples:

Pitcher	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
A	7	R	R	R	7	R	R	R
B	6	0	0	1	R	R	R	
C	5	2	R	R	R			
D	3	3	1	R	R	R		
E	3	3	0	1	R	R	R	
F	4	2	0	0	5	R	R	R

R = Mandatory rest day.

This table is an example and not intended to be all inclusive

2.16.2. One pitch constitutes an inning.

2.16.3. Once removed as a pitcher, a player may not return as a pitcher.

### 2.16.4. Enforcement

It is not the responsibility of game officials to enforce the pitching rule. Teams must report violations to your age coordinators following the competition. Violations are considered in the same manner as a team using an ineligible player. The minimum penalty for such violations is forfeiture of the game.

## 2.17. Balks

Balks will be called in the 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade leagues. For the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade leagues there will be 1 warning **per pitcher**. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams will get 1 warning **per team**.

## 2.18. Sliding Rules

There is **NO** MANDATORY SLIDE RULE!

The sliding rules for the WSYBL are all the same as the NFHS book rules. There are two main points.

### 2.18.1. The Force Play Slide Rule

Any runner who is in a force play, must either slide directly into the base or run himself out of the play avoiding contact with the fielder. If this is not done, this is considered interference and the runner is out and the B/R is automatically out for a double play, and all other runners must go back to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch. The runner may not "take out the fielder to break up the double play." If the runner slides, it must be a legal slide according to book rule and if the second baseman is on the bag and the runner makes a legal slide into the bag and there is contact, interference should not be called.

#### Plays at the plate: Summary of the NFHS rule.

When there is a potential play at the plate, and the catcher has the ball, the runner must either make a legal slide or avoid contact. The catcher has the right to be in the base-path when he has the ball in his possession... If the catcher does not have possession of the ball and denies the runner access to the plate, then the catcher has committed obstruction and the runner may be awarded home. The runner has the right to reestablish his base path by running no more than 3 feet to either side of the base path to avoid contact. If the runner does attempt to avoid contact and there is incidental contact then this is a judgment call by the umpire. If the runner commits malicious contact, the runner is out and ejected.

**Remember, *Malicious contact supersedes obstruction.***

## 3. EQUIPMENT

### 3.1. Spikes

No metal spikes are allowed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade leagues. Metal Spikes will be allowed in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade league only.

### 3.2. Helmets

Helmets must be worn at all times by any offensive player on the playing field for any reason. Batboys must wear helmets at all times he is on the field or in the dugout.

### 3.3. Baseballs

Two league approved game baseballs will be provided by the home team. Approved game balls are as follows:

Milwaukee Sporting WSL2BB                      Any Ball with NFHS Approval (Will be stamped on Ball)

### 3.4. Bats

There is no restriction on a bats weight to length ratio, however bats are limited to a 2 5/8" maximum barrel diameter. Any adult league bat (those with a weight to length ratio of -3) must conform to current NFHS standards.

### 3.5. Uniforms

All players on one team must have the same uniform if possible.

## 4. MISCELLANEOUS

### 4.1. Fields

The umpires will have the right and the responsibility to end a game due to unsafe playing conditions. If a game is ended prior to seven innings, then five complete innings will constitute an official game. Four and ½ innings if the Home team is ahead at the time the game is ended

### 4.2. Protests

Protests are allowed, however, games must be played to completion. **Protests are not allowed on judgment calls.** The league commissioner will evaluate and rule on the protest. The league commissioner's ruling will be final on all protests.

### 4.3. Umpires

Umpire fees are to be split between the home and visiting teams.

#### 4.4. Scoring & Reporting

The home team will be the official scorekeeper for league games. The **winning team** is required to **E-mail** the results of the game **within 24 hours** to wsybl@wsybl.com. **For TIE games, only the home team should report the game.** See the WSYBL website, <http://www.wsybl.com> for the **required E-mail format.**

#### 4.5. Ejections

Anyone ejected from a game will automatically be suspended for the next game. This is the minimum punishment and the board may impose additional sanctions if deemed appropriate for the infraction.

Note: for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ejection, there is an automatic 2 game suspension. This too is the minimum punishment; it could be more if the board deems it appropriate. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> ejection, the player, coach or fan will be removed from the league permanently.

Parent or coaches ejected must leave the vicinity of the playing field area including the stands and may not attend the game under suspension.

It is strongly recommended that a player serve his suspension by sitting on the bench, out of uniform and supporting his team.

The board of directors will, upon written documentation presented to the league commissioner, consider an appeal. The board of directors reserves the right by virtue their position to uphold the decision of the umpire or overturn the suspension.

#### 4.6. Umpire Fees

**For the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade league, there will be one umpire who will be paid \$60. to be split equally by both teams.**

For the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade leagues' using a two man umpire system the fee is \$45/ umpire to be split by both teams equally OR games with one umpire the fee is \$60, to be split equally.

For the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade leagues using a two man umpire system the fee is \$45/ umpire, to be split equally by both teams OR \$70 for one umpire, to be split equally by both teams.

##### 4.6.1. Rainout Policy:

The home team coach is responsible for notifying the umpires at least 1½ hour before game time, that the game is rained out. If the umpires are not notified in time or the game is started and does not qualify as a completed game then each umpire will receive \$20 plus \$5 per inning completed (split by both teams), and shall be asked to return to finish the game for the remainder of their fee. If new umpires are assigned to finish the game on a different date, then the umpires finishing the game shall receive ½ game fees for that age level. If only 1 umpire is available for the game, then that fee shall be ½ of the one umpire fee for that age group.

Rain out fee payment Chart					
If game cancelled at field but before game starts or middle of 1st Inning	After 1 inning complete	After 2 innings complete	After 3 innings complete	After 4 innings complete	After 5 innings Complete <b>This is a complete Game</b>
\$20	\$25	\$30	\$35	\$40	<b>Full Fee</b>

**Note:** In the case of a double header, if both games are rained out then each umpire receives a single \$20 rainout fee. If game 1 is rained out before or during the game, the chart applies. If the 1<sup>st</sup> game is played and the 2<sup>nd</sup> game is cancelled before it starts there is no rainout fee. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> game is started, then the chart above is followed.

##### 4.6.2.Replacement Umpires:

Coaches should contact Al Hochmuth by email [ahochmuth@wi.rr.com](mailto:ahochmuth@wi.rr.com) for replacement umpires if the original umpires are unavailable to return to finish the game. Rainout games should be rescheduled with at least one week or more notice to the Arbiter scheduler.

##### 4.6.3.WSYBL Additional Umpire Fee:

Each team in the WSYBL will be required to submit an additional check of \$120 for unpaid umpire fees or umpires who are not notified on time. This check will be refunded at the end of the year if there are no outstanding fees to be paid.