

Wilton Little League

- 🏆 60+ Years of Little League baseball in Wilton
- 🏆 35+ Years of Little League softball in Wilton
- 🏆 Little League International (Williamsport, PA)
 - 🏆 East Region (Bristol, CT)
 - 🏆 Connecticut District 1 (Lower Fairfield County)
- 🏆 An all-volunteer organization
 - 🏆 Board of Directors
 - 🏆 League Directors, Managers and Coaches
 - 🏆 Boosters
 - 🏆 Parents



League Structure – Baseball

Youth Umpires will be used in our “Minors” Division

- ③ 3rd and 4th grades (ages 8/9/10)
- ③ Introduction to pitching
- ③ Focus on core skill development
 - ③ Hitting, Throwing, Pitching and Catching
- ③ Limited base-running
- ③ Playoffs and Championship



League Structure – Softball

AA (“Double A”)

- 🕒 Ages 7 and 8
- 🕒 Introduction to pitching
- 🕒 Uses 11 inch ball (RIF1 or RIF 10)
- 🕒 Focus on core skill development
- 🕒 Hitting, Throwing, Base Running and Catching
- 🕒 Introduction of inter-town play

AAA (“Triple-A”)

- 🕒 Ages 9 - 10
- 🕒 Kid pitch with boundaries
- 🕒 Intermediate base-running
- 🕒 Playoffs and Championship
- 🕒 Uses 11 inch ball
- 🕒 Pitching from 35 feet
- 🕒 Increased percentage of play is inter-town during season
- 🕒 Submits a district team

Majors

- 🕒 Ages 11 and 12
- 🕒 For our more advanced and older players
- 🕒 Play full Little League “book” rules
- 🕒 Playoffs and Championship
- 🕒 Majority of play is inter-town
- 🕒 Pitching from 40 feet
- 🕒 Uses 12 inch ball
- 🕒 Submits a district team

Juniors

- 🕒 Ages 13 and 14
- 🕒 WLL’s highest level of spring softball
- 🕒 For our most advanced and oldest players
- 🕒 Play full Little League “book” rules
- 🕒 Freshman that play high school team are eligible once school season ends
- 🕒 Pitching from 43 feet
- 🕒 Uses 12 inch ball
- 🕒 All play is inter-town
- 🕒 Submits a district team



Fields

BASEBALL

Middlebrook 3 (Middlebrook School, 25 School Road)

- 🏆 Minors baseball

Clem Young Field (aka “AAA”; Wilton YMCA, 404 Danbury Road)

- 🏆 Minors baseball
- 🏆 Kid-pitch playoff semifinals and championship

Bill Terry Field (aka “Majors”; Wilton YMCA)

- 🏆 Majors baseball
- 🏆 Kid-pitch playoff semifinals and championship

SOFTBALL

Middlebrook 1 (Middlebrook School, 25 School Road)

- 🏆 Majors/Juniors Softball

Middlebrook 2 (Middlebrook School, 25 School Road)

- 🏆 Double-A, Triple A Softball



Wilton Little League – Umpire Resources

- 🏆 Tony Palumbo – Umpire Coordinator
 - 🏆 coachtonypalumbo@hotmail.com
 - 🏆 203-816-7257
- 🏆 Morgan Norful – Minors League Director
 - 🏆 mnorful@gmail.com
 - 🏆 347-525-3198
- 🏆 Wilton Little League Website: www.wiltonlittleleague.org
 - 🏆 Rules
 - 🏆 Field Closure Hotline: 203-834-3747



Umpiring Basics

- 🏆 Your purpose is to manage the game and enforce the rules of Little League Baseball and local rules of Wilton Little League
- 🏆 You have 6 basic calls:
 - 🏆 Strike/Ball; Fair/Foul/; Safe/Out
 - 🏆 Your judgement calls are not negotiable – managers have been advised that they are not to argue on these six items.
 - 🏆 Managers may ask politely to explain your interpretation of the rules.
 - 🏆 Do not be intimidated and NEVER change a call.
 - 🏆 The League Directors and Board will ALWAYS support the umpire.



Calls Defined

- ⓪ A “Strike” is a legal pitch that crosses home plate and is between the bottom of the batter’s knees and the middle of the batter’s chest when he is in his normal batting stance.
- ⓪ A “Ball” is any pitch that is NOT a “Strike”
- ⓪ A “Fair” ball is:
 - ⓪ A fly ball that lands or is touched by a fielder within the field of play.
 - ⓪ A ground ball that crosses or hits first or third base prior to crossing the foul line.
- ⓪ A runner is “Out” if:
 - ⓪ In a force situation, a fielder in possession of the ball touches the base before the runner touches the base. The runner must “beat the play”. A tie DOES NOT go to the runner.
 - ⓪ In a non-force situation, a runner is tagged by a fielder before the runner reached the bag. The fielder must complete a legal catch to complete the tag.
- ⓪ A runner is “Safe” if he is not put “Out”



A Catch

- Ⓞ **A CATCH is the act of a fielder establishing *secure possession of the ball in in his hand or glover in flight and firmly holding it. The fielder must demonstrate VOLUNTARY or INTENTIONAL RELEASE or TRANSFER***
- Ⓞ The fielder may not use any part of his uniform, cap, protector, mask pocket, etc. to trap the ball
- Ⓞ The catch of a fly ball is not complete until the continuing action of the catch is completed.
- Ⓞ A fielder who *catches* (initially touches) a ball and then runs into a fence, wall, teammate, umpire, etc. and then drops the ball has not completed the catch.
- Ⓞ A fielder who *catches* (initially touches) a ball and in the process of regaining his balance drops the ball has not completed the catch.
- Ⓞ A fielder who is in the process of voluntarily transferring the ball from glove to hand and drops the ball will be considered to have completed the catch.



Starting the Game

- ① Arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to game time
- ① Find your partner, introduce yourself and establish communication. Plate umpire is the Umpire in Charge.
- ① Always be dressed in appropriate attire:
 - ① Navy blue WLL Umpire polo and khaki slacks/shorts; sneakers
- ① Arrive with necessary equipment:
 - ① Indicator, Pitch counter
 - ① Plate umpire protective equipment is located at the field
- ① Advise managers/coaches that field must be cleared 5 minutes prior to scheduled game time.
- ① Hold pre-game meeting with managers:
 - ① Introduce yourselves
 - ① Ask **“Are your teams legally and properly equipped?”** – They **must answer “Yes”**



Managing the Game

- 🏆 Managers/coaches should make sure they have the line-up posted in the dugout and that all players know their defensive positions **before** the end of their time at bat
- 🏆 Field umpire shall maintain the official pitch count for all pitchers. He shall confirm count with both managers at the end of each half inning.
- 🏆 Make all calls definitively and loudly always using the proper mechanics.
 - 🏆 Baseball is a slow game. You do not have to make a call quickly. Watch the play, pause and process what you have seen, then make the call.
 - 🏆 Both umpires should pay attention. Confer with your partner if you did not see something.
- 🏆 All managers, coaches and players must obey the bench conduct regulations defined in the WLL Local Rules.



Wilton Little League Local Rules

- 🏆 Read and understand the exceptions to Little League International's rules:

- 🏆 “Butcher Boy” play (squaring to bunt then pulling back and swinging away) is **ILLEGAL – BATTER SHALL BE CALLED OUT**

- 🏆 Stealing:

- 🏆 Runners must hold until the pitch has passed the batter

- 🏆 In AA, steals (including advancing on a wild pitch/passed ball) is limited to two per half inning. Runner on third may not advance regardless of number of “steals” in the inning.

- 🏆 In AAA, stealing is unlimited, including of home.

- 🏆 On a base on balls, runners may not continue to advance as long as the pitcher has the ball on the mound.

- 🏆 Inning “Mercy Rule”

- 🏆 A half inning shall end once the offensive team has scored 5 runs, regardless of the number of outs.

- 🏆 If a home run is hit over the fence, more than 5 runs may score



Umpire Positioning

- 🏆 Home plate umpire stand behind the catcher with mask, chest protector and shin guards. **Please wear a protective cup.**
- 🏆 Field umpire has three positions based on the game situation:
 - 🏆 “A” position in foul territory behind first with no one on base
 - 🏆 “B” position on the outfield grass at approximately 30 degree angle from 2nd base on 1st base side, with runner on first.
 - 🏆 “C” position on the outfield grass at approximately 30 degree angle from 2nd base on 3rd base side,

NOTE: The 2021 spring season will operate under revised protocols due to COVID-19:

- Masks are required for both umpires
- “Home plate” umpire will stand behind the mound
- Umpires will not handle baseballs



Umpire Mechanics

- ① “Strike” and “Out” are called using your right hand with a closed fist announcing the call with a strong voice.
- ① “Ball” is announced vocally with no body motion.
- ① “Safe” is called with both arms stretched out from the body announcing the call with a strong voice.
- ① “Foul” is called by putting both hands above the head (similar to “touchdown”) announcing the call with a strong voice.
- ① “Fair” is called by pointing to fair territory with no vocal call.

