

## 15/18U Division Rules

Waxahachie Youth Baseball Association Rules 15-18u..001. The Waxahachie Youth Baseball Association has adopted the rules outlined by USSSA Sporting News Rules except where stated otherwise by the WYBA governing body.

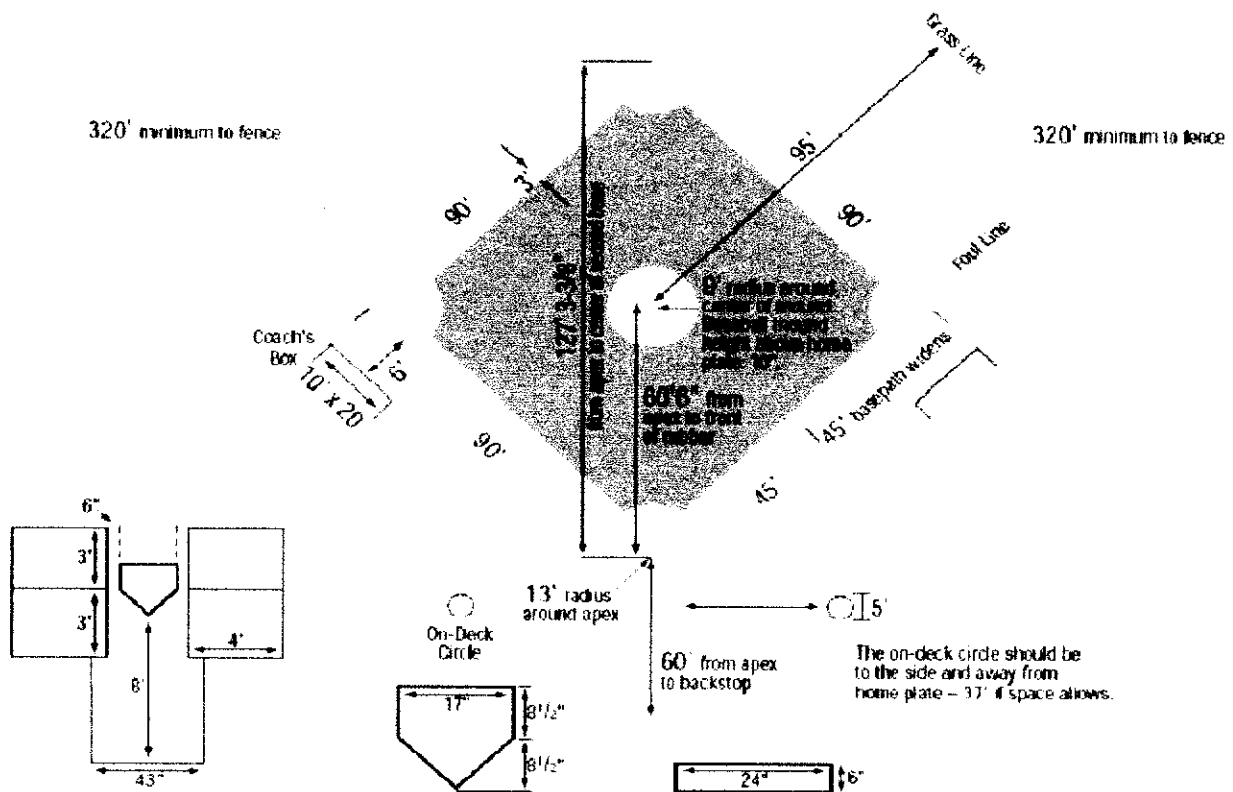
The Waxahachie Youth Baseball Association believes the overall development of all players can be enhanced by the experience and fun of tournament play. The WYBA offers programs for four (4) levels of play.

☑ Major and AAA programs are national programs that culminate in a World Series. ☑ The AA program is a regional program ran by the participating state that culminates at a National tournament. ☑ The A level is for recreational teams.

\*\*\*\*NOTE \*\*\*\* the currently approved WYBA version 0001-2018. This version replaces all other published and printed versions. Please check the version number on the header of your document to confirm you are referencing the most up to date version.

## Field Requirements

### 90' Baseball Field



## General

- Ages 14 years old (or 15) by May 1 of the current season (next upcoming May 1st)
- Base Path of **90 Feet**. Pitching will follow High School distance of **60' 6"** inches from front of pitching rubber to back of home plate.
- Length of Game will be **2 hours or 7 innings**, whichever comes first .
- Ball Type Rawlings R200USSSA ball or other manufacturer's equivalent
- In Field Fly Rule ( **Yes** )
- Mercy Rule ( **Yes** )
  - 15 run lead after the 3rd inning;
  - 12 run lead after the 4th inning;
  - 8 run lead after the 5th inning
  - If the home team is leading by the mercy rule run amount going into the bottom half of the inning, the game is over.
  - No team shall score more than **7 runs per inning (Last inning where home is at bat is open )**
- Ties Allowed (Yes)
- Intentional Walks Allowed (Yes )
- Balks Called (Yes)
- Head first slides on bases only (1-3) ... **NO** head first slides at Homeplate
- No charging the catcher
  - First offence player warning
  - Second offence player will be ejected
- Slashing Not Allowed (out)
- Score Kept – By Home Team
- Equal Playtime Rule (Yes )
- Each team provides own water
- Home team responsible to cover Homeplate and pitching area after the game

## Game Details

- All players in attendance for the game will bat in continuous batting order and play under the free substitution rule.
- Game length is 2:00 hours or seven (7) innings, whichever comes first. The next inning begins as soon as the home team makes the final out in the previous inning. No inning will be started after the time limit is reached.
- All bats and rosters will be checked prior to the start of the game.
- If a team has missing players, the coach must notify the umpire and league director prior to the game.

## Pitching Rules

- **(8 outs)** pitcher is free to pitch next day, **(9 outs)** pitcher requires **1 day** of rest **(12 outs)** requires **2 full days** of rest, **(15 outs)** requires **3 full days** of rest, **(18 outs)** pitcher requires **4 full days** of rest. A total of **18 outs** per pitcher is allowed per week. Umpire will report to the league the total outs a pitcher pitches in a game.
  - If a pitcher is pulled in the middle of a batter; that batter will count as a pitched out for the pitcher taken out and the pitcher coming to the mound.
  - Warm ups are **NOT** counted toward pitching maximum

## Rules Enforcement (Enforcement of pitch count or equal play rules)

- **1st offense** - Coach and / or player may be subject to probation or suspension based on Director's recommendation.
- **2nd offense** - Coach and player suspension and possible forfeiture of game or games based on Director's recommendation.
- **3rd offense** - Coach suspended for season and possibly next season based on recommendation of the Director.

## Sportsmanship:

- All players, coaches and spectators will conduct themselves properly and with respect for all others at the Optimist Fields. All players, coaches and spectators will abide by the rules of the Optimist Fields at all times while on the premises. Profanity, assault (whether verbal or physical) or any other abuse of any person by another at any WYBA-sanctioned event is strictly prohibited. The Waxahachie Police Department will be immediately summoned should any player, coaches or spectators become involved in a fight. A duly elected member of the WYBA Board may eject any spectator that is exhibiting disruptive behavior. An ejected spectator must leave the park immediately. In the case of a parent who is ejected, must leave the field immediately and wait for the end of the game at their car. Ejections - Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game must leave the field immediately, including the immediate vicinity of the field on which the game is being played. Any ejected party may have no impact on the game from that point forward. Should a coach or player be ejected from a game, this also carries an automatic one-game suspension. The determination date of the one-game suspension will be served will be at the discretion of the WYBA Sportsmanship Committee. o Additional discipline may be applied as determined by the WYBA

Sportsmanship Committee. Players may be ejected for deliberately attempting to injure another player through rough play or deliberately throwing equipment. These decisions will be made by the umpires in their sole discretion. Player Age Group Determination - Unless approved by a WYBA Officer Director (President, Vice President, League Director, Treasurer, Secretary), all players will play within their age group as outlined under USSSA rules. o Parents must request a waiver from a WYBA Officer Director for any age group change.

- Sibling situations are always considered, but under no circumstance may a player play more than one age group above his own. "Tournament" or "Select" Players Playing in the Recreational League "Select" players are welcome to play in the WYBA recreational league. Cancellation of Games / Inclement Weather Policy In its sole discretion, the WYBA or the Optimist Fields may cancel games for any reason. The WYBA will attempt, subject to field availability and subject to its contract with the Optimist Fields, to reschedule all games lost due to cancellation. Depending on when cancellations occur, there may not be enough time in the season to reschedule cancelled games. The WYBA will attempt to reschedule games, but cannot guarantee rescheduled game times or dates will be convenient for coaches and team members. The WYBA and the Optimist Fields utilize a lightning detection device. If the system detects a storm in the vicinity.
- Absolutely no one is allowed to remain on the playing fields or sit in the dug outs or stands or stand in the open spaces or green belts around the playing fields and concession stand.. Players, coaches and spectators are to remain in the parking lot at their cars until either the "all clear" is given or their team's Head Coach has informed the parents of their team that they have received "official" confirmation that their game has been canceled. Head Coaches who dismiss their teams prior to receiving "official" confirmation that the game has been canceled may be subject to receiving a forfeit for dismiss in may not independently decide to continue play, and play may not resume until the "all clear" signal has been given by the lighting detection system. The "official" determination of game cancellation based on field conditions will be made in the following line of succession (based on availability) by one or two (in consultation if possible) of WYBA Board Members: President, Director of Umpires, Vice President and League Commissioner. One or two of these members shall make themselves available for consultation, (by phone if not in attendance) to any duly elected Board Member to render the "official" determination above, while rain is falling at the time of the start or the game, the game will be started and the responsibility for determining whether field conditions are safe for play will be the lightning detector will not be completed that day if the delay ends after the scheduled time has expired for those games. If the delay ends after the time allotted for the game which was suspended, the next game to start will be the game that has the start time closest to the end of the delay. Delayed games will be considered complete if the games meet the following criteria for a complete game; 5U through 11/12U age groups are considered completed if 2 1/2 innings are played and the home team is ahead. 2) 13/14U age group is considered completed if 3 1/2 innings are played and the home team is ahead. 3) 15/18U age group is considered completed if 3 1/2 innings are played and the home team is ahead. 3) ... Incomplete games will be scheduled at the discretion of the WYBA based on available dates, times and field space. The home team's scorekeeper will be responsible for asking the Umpire for the time remaining and for noting it on the official scorebook to determine how much time is remaining, the number of outs and the runners on base.
- Games which are suspended in process due to weather or the sounding of the lightning detector will be suspended with the remaining time noted by the home scorekeeper and the teams will wait for

up to an hour until either the Umpires determine the field is safe to play or the "all clear" signal is given. Play will only resume, provided there is not a game scheduled after the delayed game on that field. Call the WYBA Rain-Out Line at **972.938.5719** or check [www.wybonline.org](http://www.wybonline.org) for updated field playability information. When inclement weather occurs prior to or after games have commenced the WYBA will attempt to update the Rain-Out Line and the WYBA Web site as rapidly as possible. If rain is in the forecast on the day or evening of a scheduled game, please check both forms of communication as often as possible to determine the status of your game prior to leaving for the fields

## **RULES OF PLAY**

- **Playing Field, Equipment & Safety:** The playing field shall be laid out according to the recommended dimensions contained within these rules.
- For details on field layout including recommended direction of play, fair and foul territory requirements, infield and outfield grades, pitcher's mound height and slope, batter's and catcher's box dimensions, and base and home plate size and construction should be referred to the Official Rules of Baseball as published by Major League Baseball on [MLB.com](http://MLB.com).
- All 15U players must use a maximum drop 3 (-3) All bats for scholastic divisions ages 15U to 18U they must conform to the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) bat standards including a length to weight ratio no greater than negative three (-3) ounces. These bats must be permanently stamped with the BBCOR.50 Certified Mark or made of wood and manufactured by a licensed USSSA manufacturer.
- In all Events, the use BBCOR or wood bats only. **(First Offense)** – If the Umpire discovers that a bat does not conform, it shall not be grounds for declaring the batter out and / or ejection from the game. If the Umpire discovers that a bat has been used to put a ball in play and before the next legal pitch, the defensive team shall have the choice of the result of play or the batter being called out and all runners returning to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. **(Second Offense)** – If a team is found in violation of this rule a second time, then the manager shall be ejected in addition to the First Offense penalty. Any bat permanently stamped with the official USA Baseball logo is legal to use in any USSSA baseball event, except where BBCOR is required.
- The catcher shall wear all appropriate protective gear including a catcher's helmet with facemask and either a built in extended throat guard or a separately attached throat guard, chest protector, shin and / or leg guards, and protective cup. The catcher's helmet shall fully cover both ears.
- All offensive players shall use a double ear-flap batting helmet whenever at bat, on deck, on base or any other time outside of the dugout and the ball is live and in play. **Special Protective Gear:** WYBA continues its long-standing policy of permitting players to determine the use of the protective equipment when they deem it appropriate.
- Bat / ball boys / girls under the age of eighteen (18) shall not be permitted.

- WYBA will provide licensed baseballs which must weigh between 5 and 5.25 ounces, must have a circumference of between 8.95 and 9.25 inches, have a COR of between .5 and .555 and have an ASTM standard compression of between 200 and 350 pounds.