

**WAXAHACHIE YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION  
RULES  
(VERSION 030519-2019)**

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 league and tournament play. The WYBA offers programs for four (2) levels of play.

The D-1 (AA) division is for those teams that want to play in a more competitive division.

The D-2 (A) division is for recreational teams.

**\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\***

The currently approved WYBA version is 020119-2019. 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.

**5U and 6U Division Rules**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Ages</b>                | <b>5 and 6 years old by May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season. Players are allowed to play up one year. Any other move must be approved by the Division Director and WYBA.</b>   |
| <b>Base Path</b>           | <b>Minimum of 55 feet.</b>  |
| <b>Length of Game</b>      | <b>50 minutes or 5 innings, whichever comes first.</b>  |
| <b>Ball &amp; Bat Type</b> | <b>5u division will use McGregor #56 (or other manufacturer's equivalent). 6u division will use McGregor Safe/Soft Level 5 ball (or other manufacturer's equivalent). WYBA will supply balls for games. No other balls will be allowed. Bats can range from T-Ball bats up to 2 5/8" bats. <u>No big barrel (2 3/4" and over are not allowed.</u></b> |

**Team Formation**      **Methods used will be Coach Return, Player Return, Draft, and Parental Exemptions. Any other method will up to the Director. Team size will be determined by League Director and WYBA Board.**

**Other Details**

- **No “In Field Fly Rule” will be in effect.**
- **Ties are allowed in regular season. In tournament play the Director will decide how ties will be played.**
- **No intentional walks are allowed.**
- **No stealing or leadoffs are allowed.**
- **Score will be kept and will be the responsibility of the home team. Home team will be also be responsible for keeping score board.**
- **Home team will be in 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout and visiting team will be in 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout.**
- **Play will be three (3) outs or five (5) runs per inning, whichever comes first.**
- **10 players will play in the field defensively. Defensive players consist of 4 outfielders, pitcher, catcher, 1<sup>st</sup> baseman, 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman, shortstop, and 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman. No more than 6 players can be played in the infield.**
- **All outfielders must play a minimum of 15 feet behind the base paths.**
- **Any ball hit must pass the painted line out in front of home plate to be considered in play.**
- **On overthrows to first base a dead ball will be called. That runner cannot advance. All other base runners will be given the next base or another base if they have crossed the next halfway point (line).**
- **Play stops when ball is thrown into the pitchers circle, thrown through the pitchers circle, or ran in the pitchers circle by the pitcher. Runners will be given the next base if they have crossed the half-way point (line). Runners will return to previous base if they have not crossed half way point (line).**
- **Dead ball and play stoppages by the umpire is not subject to appeal.**
- **The batter is out if after failing to hit a fair ball after six (6) swings.**

- **No player will sit out defensively more than one (1) inning if the team has twelve (12) or fewer players.**
- **All players must play at least one (1) inning of infield.**
- **Fielding pitcher may not tag out batter or any runner at any base. Pitcher must throw the ball to make an out at any base.**
  - **A pitcher may make an out if he is covering a base and the ball is thrown to him.**
  - **The pitcher can tag a runner if he is covering a base and the ball is thrown to him.**
- **Umpire's scorecard will be the official score. It is up to the team's coaches to make sure it is correct at end of game.**
- **One (1) defensive coach is allowed in the outfield. He must be at least 15 feet behind base paths before play begins. All other coaches must remain in dugout or at least an arm's length away of dugout.**
- **Each team will be allowed one (1) head coach and four (4) assistant coaches. All coaches must fill out a coach's application before being allowed on field during games. No other person will be allowed in fenced playing area during a game.**
- **No non-roster players allowed in dugout.**
- **No parental photography in fenced fielding area during a game.**
- **A team must have at least eight (7) players to start a game. A team starting with eight (7) players will be penalized an out when the vacant ninth (8<sup>th</sup>) player should have batted.**
- **A team is given 15 minutes from game time before a forfeit will result. However after forfeit is declared scrimmage may take place.**

### **Modified T-Ball**

- **Modified t-ball rules may be used if approved by the Director.**
- **Any game can be played using the modified t-ball rules if the Director has approved.**
- **All above t-ball rules from above apply except the following.**

- **The batter will be thrown three (3) pitches from the team's designated pitching coach. If the batter does not hit a fair ball in those three (3) pitches, then player will be given three (3) additional swings from the t-ball stand. If batter does not hit a fair ball after three (3) pitches and three (3) swings on t-ball stand then the batter is out.**
- **The pitching coach must leave infield if ball is hit by player. The coach should leave field on opposite side of where ball is hit. If hit ball strikes pitching coach, then a dead ball will be called, and pitch will not count.**
- **The team on offense will supply a coach as catcher when the batter is thrown to.**

### **Sportsmanship**

- **All players, coaches, umpires, and spectators will conduct themselves properly and with respect for all others at the Optimist Fields.**
- **All players, coaches, umpires, 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, coach 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. If a parent is ejected, they must leave the field and wait in their vehicle until the end of the game.**

### **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 at the discretion of the WYBA Sportsmanship Committee.

- 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, deliberately throwing equipment, or by using foul or abusive language. These decisions will be made by the umpire in their sole discretion.

#### **Player Age Group**

- Unless approved by a WYBA Officer Director, all players will play within their age group as outlined under USSSA rules.
- Parents must request a waiver from WYBA Officer Director for any age group change.
- Sibling situations are always considered, but only under 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, officials will be notified.

- After notification, all players, coaches, and spectators must leave the baseball fields immediately in an orderly manner.
- Absolutely no one is allowed to remain on the playing field 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 received “Official” confirmation that their game has been cancelled. Head Coaches who dismiss their teams prior to receiving “Official” confirmation that the game has been cancelled may be subject to receiving a forfeit for dismissing their teams prematurely.
- The “all clear” signal indicates the threat has passed and play may resume, subject to field conditions.
- Once the lightning detections system indicates danger, coaches and / or umpires 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 cancellations based on field conditions will be made in the following line of succession (based on availability) by one or two (in consultation of possible) of WYBA Board Members: President, Director of Umpires, Vice President, and League Commissioner. One or two of the members shall make themselves available for consultation, (by phone if not in attendance) to any duly elected Board Member to render the “Official” determination regarding game cancellations.
  - Please note that if field conditions are deemed acceptable for play for the reasons noted 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 transferred to the game umpires.

- **Saturday games which are suspended in process due to weather or by the sounding of the lightning detector will not be completed that day if the delay ends after the scheduled time has expired or 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 11U/12U age groups are considered complete if 2 ½ innings are played and the home team is ahead. In 13U/14U age group are considered complete if 3 ½ innings are played and the home team is ahead. Incomplete games will be rescheduled 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 should the suspended game be allowed to be completed at a later date.**
- **Week night 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. Should there be a game scheduled after the first game "Saturday" rules will apply to both games.**
- **Call the WYBA – Rain-Out Line at 972-938-5870 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.**