



## 2022 Spring In-Town Season

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Rules ~ Westfield Baseball League

#### I. General League Notes:

- **Goals & Objectives**
  - **FUN:** The #1 goal should be for players to have fun & learn to love the game
  - **INSTRUCTIONAL:** Spring In-Town is primarily an instruction league, and players of all abilities & skill levels are welcome
  - **SKILL DEVELOPMENT & FUNDAMENTALS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders should begin to develop skill levels in all areas of play ~ catching the ball, throwing, fielding (*infield & outfield*), hitting, base running, pitching
  - **RULES:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders should have a strong knowledge of the basic rules of the game
  - **COMPETITION:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders will begin to be introduced to Competition
- **Safety** The #1 priority of WBL is player safety at all levels of the game
  - **Bat Safety:** ONLY the Batter & On-Deck Batter (*when in a batting cage*) may have a bat in their hands
  - **Thunder/Lightning:** Immediately halts play for a minimum of 30-minutes
  - **Rain/Field Conditions:** Games will be cancelled if field conditions are unplayable
    - *The league will send notices when all games/practices are cancelled*
    - *Coaches always reserve the right to cancel game/practice based upon their scheduled field condition*
  - **Injury:** Please ensure any injuries are immediately reported to the Coach & League Director. In the event of emergency/serious injury:
    - **Emergency:** 911
    - **Rescue Squad:** 908-233-2500 (*non-emergency*)
    - **Westfield Police:** 908-789-4000 (*non-emergency*)
    - **Westfield Fire:** 908-789-4130 (*non-emergency*)
    - **Recreation Dept:** 908-789-4080

#### II. Coaches & Team Rosters:

- **Team Rosters** Team Rosters are assigned by the League Director
  - Our goal is approx. (11) players per team – subject to change
  - NOTE: Rosters are LOCKED
    - Coaches/Parents may not re-assign team assignments or trade players
    - *All requests for roster changes must be submitted to, and may only exclusively be granted by the League Director*
- **Coaches** Coaching staff consists of
  - Head Coach: One (1) Head Coach
  - Assistant Coaches: Minimum of one (1) Assistant Coach
    - *League may directly assign assistant coach(es) where possible/available*
    - *Or Head Coaches should enlist parents on team roster to assist*
- **Rutgers** All Head & Asst Coaches must complete Rutgers Safety Training course
  - *All Coaches & Asst Coaches are required to complete all Background Check requirements*



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#### III. Uniforms & Equipment:

- **Baseballs** Hard Balls ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> grade begins introduction of 'hard balls'
- **Uniforms** Each player receives team Hat & Jersey
  - **Teams** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade will feature MLB team names
- **Team Equipment** Each team is provided the following equipment
  - Baseballs (1 box of 12 baseballs ~ Hard balls)
  - Catcher's Gear (1 set)
  - First Aid Kit
  - Ice Packs
- **Player Equipment** Each player is expected to provide their own equipment for
  - **Tips:** Have all players write names on hats & equipment ~ guaranteed some will be left behind  
Teach kids to DOUBLE knot shoelaces ~ imagine a game without a timeout to tie shoes!
  - **Glove** Players should supply their own glove
  - **Helmet** Players should supply their own helmet
    - **NOTE: Players may NOT come to bat or be on base path without helmet**
  - **Bat** WBL leagues correspond to the Babe Ruth leagues as follows:
    - **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade thru Majors** = USA Baseball Marking, 2 5/8" Barrel Maximum
      - **NO BBCOR BATS**
    - Babe Ruth League Bat Rules: <https://www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx>
    - Current list of approved bats can be found here: <https://usabat.com/>
  - **Cleats** It is preferred players wear plastic baseball cleats
    - At 2<sup>nd</sup> grade level, sneakers are acceptable
  - **Baseball Pants** Baseball Pants should be worn to all games/practices
    - At 2<sup>nd</sup> grade level, sweat pants are acceptable
    - **NO SHORTS** to games or practices ~ shorts are for Basketball & Soccer, not baseball
  - **Cups** All players must wear protective cups
  - **Heart Guard** With introduction to Hard Balls ~ all kids must wear protective Heart Guards

#### IV. Season Schedule:

- **Regular Season** April 2 – June 18, 2022
  - # Games (10) Games
  - Bye Weeks Easter weekend (April 16) & Memorial Day weekend (May 29)
  - Rainouts Typically are not rescheduled

#### V. Games:

- **Field Location** Tamaques Park – Fields T3, T5 & T6
- **Game Dates** Every Saturday – (1) game per week
- **Game Times** Games times will be 2:30p & 4:30p (subject to change)
- **Innings** Up to 6-innings, time allowed
- **Length** No new inning should start 90 minutes after scheduled start time
- **Umpires** No Umpires – Coaches act as umpire



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#### VI. Practices:

- **Field Location** Franklin School or Tamaques Park – Fields T3
- **Practice Dates** Mon– Fri ~ (1) Practice per week (*based upon coach schedule*)
- **Practice Times** Time Slots ~ TBD (*approx. 5:30p & 6:30p*)
- **Length** 1-Hour

#### VII. Field Distances:

- **Bases** 60 Feet
- **Pitcher's Mound**
  - During Coach Pitch: 40 – 46-Feet (*ALL coaches must pitch min. distance of 40-feet*)
  - During Kid Pitch: 40 – 46 Feet (*ALL kids must pitch min. distance of 40-feet*)

#### VIII. Pitching & Batting:

- **Pitching** During Coach Pitch – Coaches pitch to own team (*including relief pitching*)
  - **Coach Pitch** Innings 1 & 2
  - **Kid Pitch** Innings 3 & 4 ~ ***after (4) balls, coach finishes at-bat for batter***
  - **Coach Pitch** Inning 5
  - **Coach Discretion** Inning 6 – *if game makes it to 6 innings (Kid or Coach pitch)*
- **Count** 0 – 0, count starts at 0 Balls / 0 Strikes
- **Balls & Strikes** Coach on batting team calls Balls & Strikes
- **Strike Outs** YES – (3) Strikes ~ Swinging or Called
  - Ensure Called Strikes are clear strikes ~ objective is to get balls in play for every at bat
  - During COACH PITCH, if 1<sup>st</sup> Strike of At Bat would be Called Strike ~ provide **(1) warning**, then call strikes (*opportunity to be more liberal during Coach Pitch*)
    - *Reward kid pitchers who throw strikes, with Called Strikes*
  - Goals: Teach batters to Swing at Strikes; Reward pitchers for throwing strikes
- **Walks** No walks permitted – ball must be put in play or strikeout (*swinging or called*)
- **Outs** Called Outs – baserunner removed from base (*Coach consensus on outs*)
- **Inning Ends** 3-defensive outs ends the inning, or max. once thru the Batting Order
- **Batting** Roster Batting ~ *every player at game remains in batting order*
  - *Batting order should change week to week, or pick up where left off last game*
  - *All kids should have opportunity to bat first, last and in-between*
- **Thrown Bats** 1-warning per game, then batter is automatically CALLED OUT
  - *For Safety Reasons with kid catchers, this rule must be enforced*

#### IX. Catching:

- **Catchers** Kids Catch ~ with Coach backing up the Catcher
- **Plays at Plate** Base runners must slide for any play at plate and avoid catcher contact
  - No collisions of any kind or base runner is out
  - Force outs or tag outs allowed ~ no coach assistance of any kind allowed for outs
- **Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> Strike** Batter is out – no advance to 1<sup>st</sup> Base



## 2022 Spring In-Town Season

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Rules ~ Westfield Baseball League

#### X. Baserunning:

- **Advancing** Advance to reasonable base – aggressive baserunning is prohibited
  - Once defense has ‘possession’ of ball – base advance STOPS at nearest base
- **Errors** Baserunner must stop at nearest base when error occurred
- **Leading** Prohibited – *base runners may not leave base until contact/ball in play*
- **Stealing** Prohibited

#### XI. Fielding:

- **Positions** All player positions should ROTATE every inning
  - No player should be in same fielding position for more than 1-inning in a row
  - All players must have opportunity to play EVERY Position, with exception of Coaches discretion for Pitchers, Catchers & 1<sup>st</sup> Base for safety reasons
  - Player Counts – available roster
    - 10 players – should have all players in the field (*4 outfielders*)
    - 11+ players – should have 9 players in field (*2+ on bench*)
      - No player may be on bench more than 1-inning in a row
      - No player may be on bench for more than 2-innings per game
    - 8 players – play with (2) Outfielders
    - Less than 8 players – borrow a defensive outfielder from opposing team
- **Errors** No Advance
- **Overthrows** No Advance

#### XII. Coaching Positions

- **At Bat (4)** Bench Coach ~ ***required***, Pitcher ~ Coach Pitch or Relief (*calling strikes*)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Base Coach, 3<sup>rd</sup> Base Coach
- **Fielding** Catcher Backup, Coaches allowed in field to provide instruction on defense

#### XIII. General Game Rules:

- **Sliding** Allowed – feet first only
- **Balks** There are No Balks by pitchers
- **Bunting** Prohibited – bunts are not allowed
- **Infield Fly** There is no infield fly rules
- **Pitcher Pickoff** Prohibited – no leading allowed
- **Catcher Pickoff** Prohibited – no leading allowed
- **Tagging Up** Prohibited

#### XIV. Scores & Standings:

- **Scores** Scores may be kept & game winner declared (*but not reported*)
- **Standings** No Standings are kept for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teams
- **Playoffs** No Playoffs for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teams



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#### XV. Covid-19:

- Follow CURRENT New Jersey Guidelines. If sick or quarantined – do not attend.
- Do not share equipment or food
- **Catcher's Gear**
  - *Note: kids interested in catching are encouraged to bring their own catcher's gear*
  - *When using team catcher's gear, please wipe down equipment between catcher's*
  - *Catchers should catch 2-innings, to limit 3 catchers per game*
- **Postgame** MAY allow post-game handshakes or high fives

#### 2022 WBL important Dates ~ Seasons, Sessions, Events & League Information

- **Sat, 3/19/22:** Spring Clean-up Day (9:00a)
- **TBD:** Coaches Clinic
- **Tue, 3/29/22:** Rutgers Safety Course – Rec Mtg Room at Town Hall
- **Wed, 3/30/22:** Uniform & Equipment Night – Gumbert
  - Coaches Jerseys & Photo Envelopes
- **Fri, 4/1/22:** Fields Open
- **Sat, 4/2/22:** Opening Day ~ PLAY BALL
  - Schedule: *Sat, 4/2/22 – Sat, 6/18/22 (Skip 4/16 & 5/28)*
- **Sat, 4/23/22:** Parade & Carnival
- **Sun, 4/24/22:** Spring Clinic (Grade 1 – 4): 10a – 12p G2 thru Sun, 6/12/22
  - **FREE** for registered WBL players for 1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup> grades
  - Hosted every Sunday from 10:00a – 12:00p at Gumbert Field 2
  - Professional Coaches from D-Bat
  - No registration required – just show-up whenever you can attend each Sunday
- **Sun, 4/24/22:** Summer Travel Tryouts (7U – 8U: 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders)
  - Travel players must attend tryouts & be assigned to a Summer Travel team
  - Players should be available June 15 – July 31 for EVERY game & practice
  - Summer vacations & Sleep Away camps before August 1 preclude summer travel
  - All Travel Team players MUST participate in Spring In-Town league
- **Sat, 4/30/22:** Photo Day
- **TBD:** Somerset Patriots Night
- **Sat, 6/18/22:** Spring Regular Season Ends
- **TMid-June:** Travel Season begins for those players who are participating
- **July:** Summer In-Town Season
  - For those interested in playing in Summer, but not on a travel team
  - Less competitive experience – geared more for instructional experience
- **September:** Fall In-Town Season begins
- **October:** Summer Travel Tryouts ~ 2023 Season (9U – 12U: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- **January 2023:** Winter Training ~ at D-Bat (K – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)
  - Advance registration required ~ sessions book fast (additional fee)
  - Training sessions typically held at D-Bat, 1x/wk on Sat & Sun from Jan – Mar
  - Slots fill fast, so when registration opens – make sure to sign up quickly



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### General Team Questions, Comments, Concerns?

*Please contact your Coach*

### Additional League Questions, Comments, Concerns?

*Please contact your League Director*

WBL Website:

visit us @ [www.WestfieldBaseball.com](http://www.WestfieldBaseball.com)

WBL Facebook page:

follow us @ [www.facebook.com/wblbaseball](https://www.facebook.com/wblbaseball)

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