



2023 Spring In-Town Season ~ Pre-K and Kindergarten 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
 - Expect all levels of ability & experience
- **SKILL DEVELOPMENT & FUNDAMENTALS:** Pre-K and Kindergarten children need to be taught basic skills (*catching, throwing, hitting, base running, fielding*) & basic rules (*field positions, base running, where to throw ball*)
- **RULES:** Pre-K/K should be introduced to basic rules of the game
- **COMPETITION:** Pre-K/K is about fun & skill development – NOT Competition

- **Safety**

The #1 priority of WBL is player safety at all levels of the game

- **Bat Safety:** **ONLY** Batter may have a bat in hand
- **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 pre-k team and 12 per Kindergarten
- 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*
 - *Head Coaches should enlist parents on team roster to assist*

- **Rutgers**

All Head & Asst Coaches must complete Rutgers Safety Training course

- **Background/SAFE**

All Head & Asst Coaches must complete background checks & SAFE training



2023 Spring In-Town Season ~ Pre-K and Kindergarten Rules

Westfield Baseball League

IV. Uniforms & Equipment:

- **Baseballs** Safety Balls
- **Uniforms** Each player receives team Hat & Jersey
 - **Teams** Pre-K – 4th Grade features major league team uniforms
- **Team Equipment** Each team is provided the following equipment
 - Baseballs (*1 box of 12 baseballs ~ Safety balls*)
 - Tee
 - Drop Bases
 - First Aid Kit
 - Ice Packs
- **Player Equipment** Each player is expected to provide their own equipment for
 - **Tips:** *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: No Helmet = No At-Bat. No Exceptions!**
 - **Bat** WBL leagues correspond to the Babe Ruth leagues as follows:
 - **Kindy** = USA Baseball T-Ball Stamp
 - T-Ball (bats 27" and smaller only, 28" bats fall into Cal Ripken Baseball)
 - 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 Kindergarten level, sneakers are acceptable*
 - **Baseball Pants** Baseball Pants should be worn to all games/practices
 - *At Kindergarten level, sweat pants are acceptable*
 - *Discourage SHORTS for games & practices ~ teach baseball basics*
 - *shorts are for Basketball & Soccer, not baseball*
 - **Heart Guards** Heart guard undershirts are recommended but not required

V. Season Schedule:

- **Regular Season** Sat, 4/22/23 – Sat, 6/24/23
 - # Games (9) Games
 - Bye Week Memorial Day weekend (Sat, 5/27/23) ~ no games
 - Rainouts Typically are not rescheduled

VI. Games:

- **Field Location** Jefferson – Fields J1, J2, J3, J4
- **Game Dates** Every Saturday – (1) game per week
- **Game Times** Games times will be @ 11am, 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30 (*subject to change*)
 - **30-minute arrival & warm-ups**
- **Innings** 3-innings, time allowed



2023 Spring In-Town Season ~ Pre-K and Kindergarten Rules

Westfield Baseball League

- **Length** 90-minutes (20 min practice, 60 min game - game ends with hard stop at 90-minutes)
- **Umpires** No Umpires

VII. Practices:

- **Field Location** Jefferson J1, J2, J3 & J4 (Mon – Fri 5:30p; 6:30p)
- **Practice Dates** Mon – Fri ~ (1) Practice per week (*based upon coach schedule*)
- **Practice Times** Time Slots ~ 5:30p & 6:30p
- **Length** 1-Hour

VIII. Field Distances:

- **Bases** approx. 40 Feet
- **Pitching** Tee Ball – 100% for Pre-k, 100% for first (6) Kindergarten Games

IX. Pitching & Batting:

- **Pitching** If Coach Pitch – MAXIMUM (4) Pitches ~ then revert to Tee
 - **IT IS LESS ABOUT THE BATTER – DON'T LOSE THE DEFENSE INTEREST**
- **Count** No Count – no balls or strikes
- **Strike Outs** No
- **Walks** No walks – ball must be put in play
- **Outs** No Outs – Base Runners Stay on base, advance maximum 1-base
- **Inning Ends** Once thru the Batting Order
 - **Last Batter Hits Grand Slam & Clears bases** (*Keep Defense on field till reach home plate*)
- **Batting** Roster Batting ~ *every player bats each inning*
 - *Batting order should change week to week*
 - *All kids should have opportunity to bat first, last and in-between*
- **Thrown Bats** Teach players NOT to throw their bats

X. Catching:

- **Catchers** no Catchers – Tee Ball (*or Coach catchers during Coach Pitch*)
- **Plays at Plate** None

XI. Baserunning:

- **Advancing** 1st Base Only – regardless of hit
- **Errors** No Errors
- **Leading** No Leading
- **Stealing** No Stealing

XII. Fielding:

- **Positions** All player positions should **ROTATE every inning**
 - TIP: ½-way through inning ~ Flip Flop infield and outfield to keep interest
 - All kids play in field – no sitting
- **Pitcher** Keep coach near pitcher for safety (*balls can come fast off tee*)



2023 Spring In-Town Season ~ Pre-K and Kindergarten Rules

Westfield Baseball League

XIII. Coaching Positions

- **At Bat (4)** Bench Coach (*required*), Tee, 1st Base, 3rd Base
 - **TIP: Line up kids along fence in Batting Order**
 - **TIP: Bats stay lined along fence or put in a bucket – NO BATS IN HAND**
 - **NO EXCEPTIONS**
- **Fielding** Coaches allowed in field to provide instruction on defense

XIV. General Game Rules:

- **Sliding** Allowed – feet first only
- **Balks** Not Applicable – No Pitchers
- **Bunting** No Bunts – Tee Ball
- **Infield Fly** No Infield Fly Rule
- **Pitcher Pickoff** Not Applicable – No Pitchers
- **Catcher Pickoff** Not Applicable – No Catchers
- **Tagging Up** Not Applicable – No Outs, Maximum 1-base per batter

XV. Scores & Standings:

- **Scores** No Scores Kept, No Win-Loss
- **Standings** No Standings
- **Playoffs** No Playoffs

General Team Questions, Comments, Feedback, Concerns?

Please contact your Coach

Additional League Questions, Comments, Feedback, Concerns?

Please contact your League Director Matt LaRusso (my cell is 9175825774)



2023 Spring In-Town Season ~ Pre-K and Kindergarten Rules

Westfield Baseball League

Important Dates ~ 2023 Seasons, Sessions, Events & League Information

- Fri, 4/1/23: Fields Open
 - NPGL Registration Opens ~ Summer Travel Teams
- Week of 4/17/23: Practices Begin ~ ***NO TEAM PRACTICE prior to these dates***
- Sat, 4/22/23: Pre-K & Kindy Opening Day ~ PLAY BALL
 - Regular Season: Sat, 4/22/23 – Sat, 6/24/23 (*Skip Sat, 5/27/23*)
- Sat, 4/15/23: Parade & Carnival (9:00a Mindowaskin Park)
- Sun, 4/16/23: Spring Clinic (Grade 1 – 4): 10a – 12p G2 thru Sun, 6/11/23
- Sun, 4/23/23: 7U & 8U Summer Travel Tryouts
- Sat, 4/29/23: Photo Day ~ *coaches have envelopes*
- Sat, 6/24/23: Regular Season Ends
- 5/26 – 5/29/23: Memorial Day Tourney – 11U & 12U teams
- Fri, 6/2/23: 4th Grade Playoffs Begin ~ Play-in Games Fri night
- Sun, 6/4/23: Somerset Patriots ~ WBL Day at Somerset Patriots
- Mon, 6/5/23: Summer Travel Season Begins
- Sat, 6/17/23: Pre-K & Kindy Season Ends
- Sat, 7/8/2023: Summer In-Town Season Begins
- Sat, 9/9/2023: Fall In-Town Season Begins
- October 2023: Travel Tryouts: 9U – 12U

WBL – Website & Social Media

WBL Website: visit us @ www.WestfieldBaseball.com
WBL Facebook page: follow us @ www.facebook.com/wblbaseball
WBL Instagram page: follow us @WBLBASEBALL #WBLNJ