



West Windsor Little League

2009 Baseball Rules and Operating Instructions

Last Update:
3/19/09

T-Ball Division

The following WWLL League Rules and Operating Instructions clarify, emphasize, and in some cases modify the Official Little League Rules established by Williamsport and set out in the 2009 Little League Baseball Playing Rules. All managers and coaches are responsible for reading and understanding the official Little League rules and Safety Procedures and these Rules and Operating Instructions. The WWLL Rules Committee as well as the League Coordinators have approved these rules. Where there is a conflict between the official Little League Rules and this document (or the separate rules document for any particular WWLL division), follow the WWLL League Rules. Any questions concerning the League Rules should be directed to the League Coordinators.

General Rules and Procedures Applicable To All Leagues

Safety

1. The safety of our players is our #1 priority. This should always be given the highest consideration when interpreting our rules and making game decisions.
2. Players are not permitted to wear jewelry of any kind (e.g. earrings, watches, bracelets, etc). The only exception is a medical warning tag, which should be taped to the player. The umpire will require the removal of any jewelry prior to the beginning of each game. Casts may not be worn during the game.
3. Hard protective cups are required at all times during games and practices for all male players. No cup -- no play or practice. **(teeball players can wear a soft cup)**
4. Managers must bring the players medical records to each practice and game. Each team should have a small medical kit and a cell phone.
5. If lightning is sighted or thunder heard, the players must be removed from the field and should seek shelter in dugouts or vehicles where possible. Play may resume at the discretion of the umpire (or managers where no umpire is present) when there has been no lightning/thunder for thirty minutes. Anyone sighting lightning or hearing thunder should alert the umpire, who will make the decision to suspend play.
6. **No on deck batter and no on-deck position** is permitted. Only the batter can have a bat in his hands. No other offensive player is allowed to touch a bat, and no practice swings are permitted anywhere other than near the plate area by the current batter. No "do-nuts" or other removable weights are allowed at any time.
7. No chop bunts will be allowed. Once a player is squared to bunt, he is committed to either bunting or taking the pitch. If an attempt to swing away occurs, the batter will be ruled out.
8. Anyone who is involved with the children as a manager, a coach or just wanting to help out **must undergo a background check** before he/she can work with the kids. It is the manger's responsibility to enforce this Rule.

Player and Coach Conduct

1. No food is permitted in the dugout (except if medically necessary). The dugout must be cleaned up after each game.
2. Players are not allowed to chew gum in the dugout or on the field of play.
3. Inappropriate language or conduct will not be tolerated. Any obscenity, threat, or intimidating conduct directed at an opponent, or an umpire, will result in ejection from the game and field area, and will be reviewed by the league for further action. Any inappropriate action by the managers, coaches and parents that is inconsistent with good sportsmanship will be addressed by the executive committee of West Windsor Little League.
4. Ejection and suspension -- appeals. Any manager, coach, or player who is ejected from a game receives an automatic suspension from the team's next physically played game. (See rule 4.07) Any suspended manager, coach, or player, may appeal the one-game suspension by making an application to the Player Agent. The Player Agent will convene a meeting of the League's Disciplinary Committee, composed of the President, Vice-President (for the affected division), and the Player Agent. If an appeal is initiated, the suspension will not be served until after the appeal meeting. The decision of the Disciplinary Committee is final. If the Disciplinary Committee reverses the suspension, then it will not be served; otherwise, it must be served immediately (the team's next physically played game) after the Committee issues its decision.

Parental Conduct

1. Inappropriate language or conduct before, during or after games or practices will not be tolerated. Any obscenity directed at an opponent, or an umpire, will result in ejection and league review for further action.
2. Parents are expected to be supportive and positive – toward their own children as well as toward other players.
3. Parents are expected to treat managers and coaches with respect. Yelling at or challenging coaches, at any time, is inappropriate. Please maintain an appropriate professional demeanor in all your relations with managers and coaches, and respect team rules established by your team's manager.

Postponement Due To Inclement Weather

Games will be postponed due to inclement weather in advance of game time if both managers agree, or if the League Coordinator has announced in advance that the games have been canceled. The League Coordinator will reschedule make-up games, as appropriate.

THE FOLLOWING IS PROHIBITED IN ALL WWLL GAMES IN ALL DIVISIONS:

- *Bat Throwing: Only one warning. Second infraction the batter is called out.*
- *Smoking by managers or coaches during the game (including behind the dugout)*
- *Eating by players in dugouts or bench areas (unless medically necessary)*

T-BALL Rules and Guidelines

1. The T-Ball League's primary goals are:
 - Teach basic baseball skills
 - Teach and reinforce good sportsmanship
 - Have fun
 - Safety First.

NOTE: during T-Ball play, the coach of the batting team should position the batting tee in front of home plate. Batters should take their positions in the batters box, aligned with home plate so that the ball on the tee is slightly in front of the batter.

1. Players must be at least 5 years old (as of April 30, 2009) to participate in the 2009 T-Ball program.
2. Depending upon registrations, team sizes will be limited to 8 to 12 players per team. Consistent with prior years, there will be boys teams and girls teams, and they will play each other.
3. Each Saturday will be divided into an instructional session and a game. These should last about 50 minutes and 20-30 minutes, respectively. The game time should be sufficient for 1-2 innings. The 8:30 am games must end by 10:00 so the following games can get started on time. Please tell your players to get to the field on time.
4. Players must wear helmets while batting and while on base.
5. Players must use a baseball glove while in the field.
6. Every player will be in the field for the entire game, even if you have more than 8 children present. Rotate players' field positions each inning. There is no catcher. No more than 5 players shall play infield defense, and they should be stationed at the usual infield positions (1B, 2B, SS, 3B and pitcher). Other players present shall play outfield positions, even if there are more than 3 outfielders. Outfielders shall be on the outfield grass when the ball is batted.
7. Every player will bat once each inning. Make sure all players remain on the "bench" protected by the backstop. No child should touch a bat until it is their turn to bat.
8. No strikeouts.
9. The base runner must stay on the base until the ball is hit. There is no leading. Overthrows in fair or foul territory get the runner only one base. Do not run the players more than one base on overthrows.
10. Do NOT keep score.
11. Be sure to instruct the batter to drop the bat. This must be reinforced. After the second game, if a batter throws the bat more than once that batter must be called out.
12. Managers and coaches may be on the field and at the plate to instruct the batter. BE POSITIVE, NOT NEGATIVE. We want these kids to enjoy T-Ball.
13. Exchange handshakes at the end of the game.
14. Keep players and spectators a safe distance from the field.
15. Always have your medical forms with you.

16. Always make sure that each child leaves with a parent at the end of each game.

Other T- Ball Considerations

1. Team managers, working together on game day, may consider having multiple games simultaneously (one on main field and other in outfield) to promote more at bats and more player action in the field. Players should be divided evenly and teams should rotate such that each set of teams plays two innings on the main field and 2 innings in the outfield. This should only be done if each team has enough players present to field both teams' infields (i.e. P, 1B, 2B, SS and 3B).
2. Team managers may also consider introducing "coach-pitch" during the last 4 weeks of the season. This should only apply to players that can consistently hit off the tee and that want to experience coach pitch (ask the kids, and if they are scared or don't feel ready, don't push them). So kids do not feel left out, intermix coach pitch and tee hitting throughout the lineup. If coach pitch is used, each kid should get a maximum of 3 swings, after which the tee should be used to keep play moving. **KEEP IN MIND THAT OUR GOAL IS TO ENCOURAGE KIDS, BUILD CONFIDENCE, AND DEVELOP A LOVE FOR THE GAME. COACH PITCH IS ENTIRELY OPTIONAL AND SHOULD ONLY BE USED IF THE KIDS FEEL READY.**