



2026 WASHINGTON Youth Sports Association

Exceptions to the Rules and Regulations

Revised August 2025

Union/Washington (UWA) Youth Sports Rules Committee formed January 2025



This book is the Exceptions to the Rules found in the official USSSA Baseball and Softball rulebooks. (Rules not listed below – Rules default to USSSA Rulebooks)

Goals of Rec Baseball

The main goal of rec baseball is to provide a fun and safe environment for players to learn and enjoy the game. Recreational baseball leagues may focus on developing basic skills or providing opportunities for players to play in a more relaxed environment.

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DIVISIONS

PLEASE NOTE: Ages below are references. Players sign up by Age Range on sign-up form.

Coed T-Ball Division	4 years old
Atom	5 & 6 years old
Bantam 1 Division.....	7 & 8 years old
Bantam 2 Division.....	9 & 10 years old
Midget Division.....	11 & 12 years old
Juvenile Division	13 – 15 years old
Juniors Division.....	15 – 18 years old

WASHINGTON RAINOUT

Check "Field Status" on our homepage at washmosports.com We will post updates for all fields/all organizations on our website or check our Facebook page for updates

RAINOUT HOTLINES

MARTHASVILLE PARK..... (636)433-2204
HERMANN FIELD WYSA NOTIFICATIONS
DUTZOW FIELD..... (636)433-5656
ST. CLAIR FIELD WYSA NOTIFICATIONS
NEW HAVEN FIELD..... (573)237-2233
UNION FIELDS..... WYSA NOTIFICATIONS

Washington Youth Sports Association

UNIVERSAL RULES FOR ALL DIVISIONS (EXCLUDING COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS)

1. All players must wear closed toe shoes. The shoes must be the type generally considered as safe, those without hooks or snaps, which can cause injuries. Molded athletic shoes are acceptable. Metal spikes or cleats are prohibited except in the Juvenile and Junior divisions. If an agreement cannot be reached, contact the respective division chief.
2. First team listed on the schedule will be the away team. It will be the home team's responsibility to keep an accurate count of the score.
3. Game times may vary. (Generally)
Game times will begin at 6:15 and 8:15 during the week, afternoon, and evening times on the weekend. A new inning will not start if the time limit has been reached. If the last out in an inning is recorded prior to the time limit ending or the 80-minute mark, a new inning shall be started. A new inning shall be started even if a team cannot catch up. If the visiting team is behind and cannot catch up when the time limit is reached. Last batter can be called by the home umpire. If the home team is behind and cannot catch up, the bottom of the inning should still be played out. If the first game extends past the time listed, the second game will start as soon as possible after the end of the first game with no infield practice for either team. The time limit of all games will be 1 hour and 30 minutes from the beginning of each game. Exceptions: Atom and T-Ball games will have a 1-hour time limit.
4. Protests: A protest may be filed for Age, Pitching Violation, and rule interpretations only. Protests must be declared to the Umpire in Charge prior to the next pitch after the dispute and then shall be put in writing and given to the umpires before they leave the field. No protests will be allowed after the game is over unless the disputed call is the last play of the game. Then the protest must be declared as explained above. League officials will rule on the protest, and their decision will be final. A \$25 protest fee MUST be paid at the time the protest is filed and will be returned only if the protest is upheld.
5. Fielding Players and Subs: Each team is expected to field the normal number of players for their division at the scheduled time to play. The game will be allowed to start as an official game with 8 players. The 9th spot in the batting order WILL NOT be an automatic out. (T-Ball and Coach Pitch divisions may play with less than 8)

In the event a team cannot field 8 players within 5 minutes after the scheduled starting time of the game, the game will be a forfeit. (Does not apply to T-Ball/Coach Pitch)

No substitution of non-rostered players may be made after the game has started. If, for any reason, the number of players falls below the required number after the game has started, the game may be played.

If a player leaves the game due to injury or illness, his position in the batting order "may" be skipped and no out will be recorded. If the manager elects to skip the "at bat" with no recorded out, then the player is not allowed to return in this game. (Changed 2018)

A team can select no more than 2 stand-in players from a "**equal or lower**" division to bring the team to the normal number of players. Example. **Stand in Players MUST be from the same division or lower and from a roster within the same organization. Players that are not registered within the town's organization are not eligible to play.**

Exceptions: Atom and Pixie division's players must come from another team in their own division. (A player on your Roster can never sit out when you are using stand in players.)

INSURANCE WILL LIKELY NOT COVER PLAYERS WHO ARE NOT ON THEIR ORGANIZATION'S ROSTERS.

Example 1: A team that can play 10 players on the field only has 9 of their own players available. Only 1 stand-in player can be used.

Example 2: A team from WYSA is short a player but has a sub from UBA. The UBA player cannot sub as they are not within the same organization and will not be covered by insurance.

Stand-in players are not allowed to pitch in any pitching division. Stand-in Players "are allowed" to play in more than 1 game per day.

It is the intent of the league to provide as much enjoyment as possible for the players. If an official game cannot be played in the scheduled time slot, an unofficial game can be played providing the opposing manager agrees and it does not interfere with subsequent scheduled games. Umpires are not required to work on an unofficial game.

A rostered player arriving late for the game will not be allowed to play, under any circumstances, if the third inning has started. The late rostered player will always bat last in the batting order unless a stand-in player is replaced. If a rostered player arrives late for a game and a stand-in player is being used, provided the preceding paragraph is not violated, the stand-in will always complete an inning once they officially appear in it. The rostered player will take the stand-in player's place in the batting order.

6. All players must bat consecutively in the order selected by the manager prior to the game. Both the opposing team's scorekeeper and the official scorekeeper (home team) will copy these on their score pad prior to the start of the game. Line up cards are optional.
7. Each rostered player must play a minimum of three innings per game. This rule may be waived at the manager's discretion for disciplinary purposes, i.e. not attending practice. (Does not apply in games when only 3 innings are played)
8. Free substitution is in effect on defense only in all divisions. Washington Youth Sports Association will use a continuous batting order in all divisions.
9. Courtesy runners are allowed ONLY for the catcher when there are two outs. (Exception: Atom & Pixie Divisions – a courtesy runner is not allowed for any other runner except for medical reasons.) The courtesy runner will be the first preceding batter not on base.
10. All team rosters are determined in accordance with the special section concerning team selection and assignment.
11. Numbers are mandatory on all league uniforms, 3 inches or larger. Managers, coaches, and players will keep their shirts tucked in once the game begins. The league does not supply uniform pants or socks, and these will not be required for players to play. League supplied uniform should be worn unless there are extenuating circumstances.
12. Catchers must wear a catcher's mask and helmet, chest protector, and shin guards for all practice sessions and games. (Exception: Atom and Pixie Divisions will wear helmet, face mask, and chest protector.) All umpires except for adult umpires will wear mask, chest protector, and shin guards during all practice sessions and games.
13. An individual must have been 18 years of age prior to January 1 of the current year to manage a team. An individual must have been 16 years of age prior to January 1 of the current year to officially coach a team. An individual meeting the 18 years of age criteria must be present at all team functions. These age requirements may be bypassed if authorized by the Washington Youth Sports Association Board of Directors.
14. Any game ending in a tie at the end of regulation play may continue within the time limits set forth. If the time limit is reached. A game ends in a tie.
15. If a team member is caught throwing or tossing a bat or helmet in an unsportsmanship-like fashion, the player and the team will be warned once and a second offense by the same player will result in ejection from the game.

Atom and Pixie players throwing or tossing the bat in an unsafe manner while batting will be given a warning the first time. The second time the same player is observed throwing the bat, the player will be called out if they reach base or warned again if they are out. The third time the player is observed throwing the bat, the player will be called out and will be required to sit on the bench for the rest of the game.
16. Alcoholic beverages and/or tobacco use is not allowed on the playing field or in the dugout during a game. A game includes warm-ups prior to the game, during the contest, and immediately afterwards during equipment gathering and team meetings. Anyone involved in the contest, i.e., the manager, coaches, and players will be warned once. If not immediately stopped once the warning is issued, the game will be forfeited to the opposing team. In the event both teams are involved, the game becomes a double forfeit.
17. The officers of the board will have primary responsibility for calling a game due to inclement weather. Lightning detection devices will be kept in the concession stands. If it reaches a postponement level, a horn blast will follow. In addition, the chief umpire with the aid of both team managers can make a swift decision concerning inclement weather as well. Games should be delayed or suspended as quickly as possible during inclement weather. (Example: high winds, lightning, and darkness when lights are not available.) Games that are rescheduled due to inclement weather shall resume play where the game was initially stopped. Any game that has completed a minimum of 1 hour of play or the requirements for a complete game have been met will be considered a complete game and will not be rescheduled.
18. Pitchers in any boy's division after being removed as a pitcher may not pitch again in that game.
19. Big barrel bats will be allowed in all baseball divisions. The league has opted at the present time not to require the USSSA logo on all bats.
20. No new inning shall be started after 80 minutes of play in a 90-minute game. (Bantam and Petite divisions and up)

YEAR END TOURNAMENT

20. During the year-end tournament, special pitching regulations will be used.

Pitchers up through Midget division may pitch no more than 6 innings in any 2 consecutive games. Juvenile division may only pitch 7 innings in any 2 consecutive games.

21. Tournament Games with inclement weather: Any game scheduled for 6 Innings will be a complete game if 3 innings have been completed and the home team is ahead after 2 ½ innings, or if the home team scores to tie the game or take the lead in the bottom half of the 3rd inning. (4 innings for games scheduled for 7 innings)

After this point, if the home team is ahead when the game is called in any subsequent inning, the game is over. If the visiting team is ahead after this point, the score will revert to the last completed inning. (Example: After 4 innings the home team is ahead 4-3. The visiting team bats in the top of 5th and scores 2 runs to lead 5-4. With 1 out in the bottom of the 5th, the game is called because of rain. Because the 5th inning was not completed, the score reverts to the score after 4 completed innings and the home team won 4-3.)

22. If a **Tournament game** is in a tie after time expires. The International Tiebreaker will be imposed. Last batted out will be placed at 2nd Base

DEFINITION OF TERMS

ROSTERED PLAYER:

A rostered player is a player whose name is listed on the master list of all teams in their respective division. The Division Chief maintains the master list with a copy kept in the concession stands. EACH MANAGER WILL HAVE A LISTING OF ALL ROSTERED PLAYERS ON HIS/HER TEAM WITH THEM AT ALL GAMES. It is available for review by the plate umpire. Opposing managers may request the plate umpire to check official rosters. The game is to be forfeited if a player is not listed on the official roster.

5 RUN RULE:

NO MORE than five (5) runs can be scored in an inning, when the fifth (5th) run scores, the inning is over.

7 RUN RULE:

NO MORE than seven (7) runs can be scored in an inning, when the seventh (7th) run scores, the inning is over.

STAND IN PLAYER:

A player listed on any team's roster who has been asked by a team manager to play a game due to the absence of a normal rostered player. The player must be a current player in the Washington Youth Sports Association. (Players from other leagues such as Marthasville etc. are not eligible for WYSA teams) Our insurance WILL NOT cover players who are not on the league rosters.

Stand-in players cannot begin after play commences in the first inning. One pitch to a batter constitutes commencement of an inning.

TEAM SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT

It is the responsibility of the respective division chief to conduct the protected player assignments for the teams of the Washington Youth Sports Association. The player assignments for teams playing out of Washington, Union, St. Clair, Hermann, Dutzow, Marthasville, and New Haven will be carried out by their respective organizations.

Each Manager may select up to two Assistant Coaches. The manager and his coaches may protect no more than 6 players. (Upper divisions may protect more players. This will include the Managers/Coaches children, or a combination with the Sponsor's children. The number of players that can be saved per division are listed below.

Bantam 2 and younger – 6 players can be saved

Midget, Juvenile – 9 players can be saved.

Junior - 12 players can be saved.

The teams will be randomly selected by League Officials. A Blind draft is recommended.

1. There **will be no trading of players for any reason.** Any manager or coach who is caught trading players will be removed from their position with the league. Teams shall not be changed for any reason without prior approval from the Washington Youth Sports Association Board of Directors.

(Continued on next page)

T-Ball Division

1. All hitters will hit the ball from a batting tee. The tee will be adjusted to such a height the batter will be able to swing level. Base Distance will be 60' Feet.
2. All players must bat consecutively in the order selected by the manager prior to the game. Both the opposing team's scorekeeper and the official scorekeeper (home team) will copy these on their scorebook prior to the start of the game.
3. No bunting is allowed.
4. Pitcher should be in contact with the rubber which will be placed at 35 feet for this division.
5. Teams will bat the entire lineup each inning. The last batter of the inning, once reaching first base safely, must continue to circle the bases until he or she is either tagged out or scores, either of which will end the inning.
6. Batting helmets must be used at bat and when on base.
7. When the ball is hit, it must go at least 5 feet, which is shown by an arc drawn from foul line to foul line.
8. Three complete misses of the ball while batting constitutes a strikeout.
9. If a batter hits part of the ball and part of the rubber tee, it is a fair ball if it goes past the 5-foot arc. If a batter hits all rubber or the ball does not go past the 5-foot arc, it is a foul ball.
10. No stealing or leading off permitted.
11. A team may play a game with only 5 players.
12. A low impact ball will be used for this division. Game balls will be supplied to the coaches at the start of the season.

Fielding:

1. Only 10 players on the field at any one time.
2. Each player present must play a minimum of 2 innings defensively.
3. Two defensive coaches may be on the field of play, but they must position themselves behind the player's positions playing the outfield. The coach cannot intentionally contact the players when the ball is in play.

Game:

1. The time limit is 1 hour.
2. A regulation game will be 6 innings long if time permits.

BASEBALL DIVISION RULES **(Spring Recreational League)**

1. Players will wear protective helmets while batting or running the bases. Player is automatically out if this rule is not complied with, i.e., a pitch is thrown, and player is not wearing his helmet. No Exceptions.
2. Groin cups will be worn by catchers in all games and practice sessions except for the Atom Division.
3. Only one player other than the batter and baserunners may be out of the dugout at any time. This player must be in the on-deck circle.

ATOM DIVISION

1. Coach pitch will be played in this division. The game ball will be supplied by the League.
2. The distance between the bases is 60 feet.
3. The normal number of players the team is expected to field is 10.
4. A pitching rubber is not mandatory.
5. The 5 run rule is in effect.
6. The infield fly rule is not in effect.
7. Two defensive coaches may be on the field of play, but they must position themselves behind the players' positions playing the outfield. The coaches cannot intentionally contact the players when the ball is in play.
8. A player may play a position only two (2) innings in a seven-inning game. Innings may be consecutive. The league recommends rotating the players each inning.
9. Catchers must wear a face mask, helmet, and chest protector in this division. Shin guards are not required for Atom Division play.
10. A defensive player will be in the pitcher's position.
11. Batter will hit the ball from a coach pitched ball:
 - a) Batter must be standing in the batter's box
 - b) The coach may pitch either overhand or underhand
 - c) Each batter will be limited to no more than 6 pitches. If a fair ball is not hit after 6 pitches, the batter is out. 3 strikes on the batter will be considered an out. If the batter fouls a ball on the 6th pitch, he will be allowed another pitch.
 - d) Play will end on an infield play when an out is made or an attempt at an out is made. The runners will not be allowed to advance on an overthrow. No runner can advance beyond the next base on infield play.
If the batter hits the ball beyond the base path, it is considered in the "Outfield" and the runner may take more than one base if a play has not been made with the ball.
12. Base stealing is prohibited. The runner can advance only because of the batter hitting a ball that is in play. Runners leaving the base before the ball is hit will be called out. Each team will be given one warning before runner is called out. A grace period will be observed at the beginning of the season, of which will end the beginning of the second week of June.
13. Stand in players must come from the Atom division. No more than 2 stand in players are allowed and must be rostered with WYSA.
14. A team may play with only 5 players.
15. WYSA does not use the Fair Ball Arc, Safety Arc, or Pitching Line or Circle.
16. To speed up play; An assistant coach or parent will stand behind catcher to retrieve passed balls to give back to coach pitching.

BANTAM 1 DIVISION
(Rookie League)

1. The normal number of players the team is expected to field is 11 players. A fourth outfielder is used along with a pitcher being placed on each side of the pitching machine.
2. The 5 run rule is in effect.
3. The infield fly rule is not in effect.
4. A pitching machine will be used instead of a human pitcher. The machine will be placed such that its discharge point is 46 feet from the plate. The machine will be set in a 6' diameter circle for the defense. When the batted ball strikes the machine or the ball feeder, the ball is considered a dead ball. The batter is awarded first base. If a ball is touched by or thrown by a defensive player and the ball hits the machine, the ball is in play. The umpire can declare the ball dead to prevent a dangerous play around the machine as necessary.
5. Umpire discretion is used to adjust the machine. The managers may request an adjustment after the completion of a half inning. The machine will be checked after being hit by a batted ball. If at such time that the machine begins throwing consistently outside the strike zone and the umpire does not attempt to correct the problem after three pitches, the managers should call time out and confer with the umpire to correct the problem. (The object is for the batter to put the ball into play, there are no walks, thus more pitches will only delay the game and prevent the batter from putting the ball into play.) No walks are allowed. Suggested settings for the pitching machines are:
Micro: "4" Release Block: "3" Power Level: "7"
6. The manager, coach, or designated person of the batting team will insert the ball into the pitching machine rather than the umpire. If the pitching machine malfunctions, the game will be called the same as if it were rained out.
7. A defensive player will be placed on each side of the pitching machine with their foot touching the player lines that extend from the circle itself.
8. Each batter will be limited to no more than "6" pitches. If a fair ball is not hit after 6 pitches, the batter is out. 3 strikes on the batter will be considered an out. If the batter fouls a ball on the 6th pitch, he will be allowed another pitch. Any ball that hits the machine or is called dead because it lands in the circle will not count as a pitch.
- 9.) The batter is out on the third strike whether the catcher catches the ball or not
10. There will be no stealing of bases. Runners cannot leave the base until the bat contacts the ball. Runners leaving the base before the ball is hit will be called out. Each team will be given a warning on their first offense.
11. The ball feeder may coach the batter but may not coach the runners.
12. Players may play the same position for only three innings. (The 2 pitching positions are considered 1 position, so a player may only be at the pitching machine for 3 innings.) The league recommends that players be rotated each inning.
13. A defensive coach is allowed in the outfield.
14. Batters must stop at 2nd base on a hit. Runners may advance only 2 bases on any hit. (Example runner on first may advance to third, runner on second may advance home)
15. To speed up play; An assistant coach or parent will stand behind catcher to retrieve pass balls to give back to coach who is pitching.

BANTAM 2 DIVISION
(Minor League)

1. The normal number of players a team is expected to field is 10.
2. The 5 run rule is in effect.
3. Players may play the same position for only three innings, including pitchers. One pitch in an inning is considered an inning played at that position.
4. Stealing is allowed. Baserunners may not leave the base until the ball reaches the batter. Each team will be given a warning on their first offense. (This includes stealing home)
5. The distance of pitching will be 46 feet.
6. Batter is out on a dropped third strike. Base runners may advance at their own risk.

MIDGET DIVISION
(Major League)

1. The normal number of players the team is expected to field is 10.
2. The pitching distance will be 50 feet. Bases will be 70 feet. Pitchers are limited to 15 consecutive outs in a game. Pitchers may only pitch 7 innings in a calendar week (Monday through Sunday) and must have 2 calendar days between outings. One pitch in an inning is considered an inning pitched.
3. Balks will be called in this division. One warning per pitcher will be assessed. The manager may accompany the umpire to the mound to explain the balk call and will not be assessed as a "Trip" to the mound. However, if in the umpire's judgment the manager exceeds the balk explanation, he may assess a trip to the mound against the manager.
4. The 5 run rule is in effect.
5. Batters may advance on a dropped 3rd strike if first base is not occupied or if there are 2 outs.
- 6: Suicide Squeeze is not allowed in this division. The runner on 3rd base cannot break for home on the first movement of the pitcher. The runner can come home ONLY after the bunt is laid down. A direct steal of Home is not allowed. Runners can delay steal on the return throw to the pitcher or can steal on a passed ball.

JUVENILE DIVISION

1. The pitching distance is 60'6" with 90' bases. Pitchers are limited to 18 consecutive outs in a game. Pitchers may only pitch 8 innings in a calendar week (Monday through Sunday) and must have 2 calendar days between outings. One pitch in an inning is considered an inning pitched.
2. The 7-run rule is in effect. (Teams may only score 7 runs per inning)

JUNIOR DIVISION
(15-18 LEAGUE)

1. The pitching distance is 60'6" with 90' bases.
2. The 7-run rule is in effect. (Teams may only score 7 runs per inning)

UMPIRE RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Training is mandatory for all umpires.
2. Two times missed without notification to the umpire Chief is grounds for dismissal. At least one-hour notification is required.
3. If there is a complaint about a manager or coach's behavior, the umpire is to note problem on the back of the game card.
4. If there is a complaint about an umpire, designate the problem on the back of the game card, or report problem directly to the division chief. The game card is to be signed by both teams. The score is to be recorded on the game card. The card must be signed by each umpire and score recorded or you will NOT be paid for that game!!!
5. Umpires are to arrive 1/2 hour before game time for the purpose of field preparation, which includes putting the bases at their proper location, as well as the pitching machine.
6. Just before the game begins, the home plate umpire will inform both coaches of the time at the start of the game and the time at which no new inning will begin. All games will observe the time limit rule.
7. It is the duty of the field umpire to remove the bases, pitching machine, and extension cord and place them in the storage area. The home plate umpire is to assist in this once his assignment is complete.
8. If the umpires need help in removing the pitching machine from the field, it is advised that they get help from the coaches or managers. Umpires will re-chalk as needed between games.
9. Proper uniform for umpires in the Juvenile and Sophomore Division will be gray slacks, black belt, navy blue shirt, (button type with collar) black shoes and socks. All other umpires will wear a navy-blue shirt, button type with collar and khaki shorts. The umpire patch will be worn on the left sleeve. No short shorts or shorts with holes, patches, or tears will be permitted, likewise with jeans.

If a baseball cap is worn, the cap will not be worn backwards. The bill on the cap must be facing forward.
10. All umpires will bring with them a ball and strike indicator, a watch, and two-inch paint brush for the purpose of keeping home plate clean. Umpires are not allowed to text or use their cell phone during the Game!!! You may remove it momentarily to check for time limit but there will be no other exceptions!!!
11. The umpire(s) will place themselves in what they feel is the best location for them to call the game.

Washington Youth Sports Association reserves the right to dismiss anyone who has not conducted themselves in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth.