



# Warren Park Youth Baseball Rules

## Basic Ball Plus Division

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### I. GENERAL RULES

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1. The Basic Ball Plus Division plays under the current Little League International official regulations and playing rules except for differences covered in this document. Little League Baseball Rules can be found at <https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/little-league-rulebook-app/>.
2. All coaches, parents, and players are expected to adhere to the Sportsmanship Codes of Conduct available on the WPYBLL website. The Board may suspend or expel any player, coach or parent for abuses of safety, sportsmanship and league rules.
3. Abuse of umpires by coaches, players, or parents is grounds for expulsion from the park after one warning by the umpire. Any coach, player, or parent ejected from a game by an umpire must serve a one-game suspension before returning to active status. A person serving a suspension is not allowed at the ballpark until the suspension is served.
4. All players are expected to play in their league-approved uniforms. No lettering or insignia may be added to the league-approved uniforms without board approval. Players wearing inappropriate or unsafe attire will not be allowed to play.
5. No metal cleats are allowed.

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### II. PLAYING FIELD

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1. The front edge of the pitcher's plate shall be 35 feet from the back of home plate.
2. The back edge of first and third bases shall be 50 feet from the back of home plate.
3. Second base shall be equidistant from first and third base.
4. A double-first will be used for all games in accordance with Little League Rule 7.15, except where otherwise mentioned in these rules.
5. The infield is defined as the area inside the diamond created by connecting all four bases.
6. The field of play, including team benches, is for coaches and players only. This includes siblings of players on the team.
7. There are no on-deck circles at the fields that safely separate the players from spectators, so players waiting to bat must remain in the dugout or position themselves behind the backstop fence near the dugout.
8. Players waiting to bat shall NOT take any practice swings until they enter the field of play.
9. The Home team is responsible for setting up the field prior to the start of the game.
10. The Away team is responsible for picking up the field upon completion of the game, unless there is another WPYBLL game immediately following.

11. The field of play shall be kept clear of bats and unused equipment.
12. During the course of the game no persons including spectators, friends, family, or coaches shall attempt to distract a player by locating themselves behind the backstop fence of home plate.

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### **III. STARTING AND ENDING A GAME**

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1. Games are played at the times and locations shown on the schedule.
2. Basic Ball Plus games are scheduled for six innings. No new inning may start after 50 minutes have elapsed from the first batter of the game. An inning is considered to start immediately at the conclusion of the previous inning.
3. Each half inning ends with three outs or a maximum of four runs, whichever comes first.
4. The bottom half of the final inning shall be played regardless of which team is leading.
5. A minimum of 5 players are required to play a game. Players may be called-up from a Basic Ball division team, or can be borrowed from another Basic Ball Plus division team, including the opposing team, in order to meet the minimum number of players required to play the game.
6. All games, without exception, shall be stopped when it is no longer safe to play due to darkness, upon the umpire seeing lightning or other weather/safety conditions. Upon a game being stopped for lightning, all players, coaches, and spectators must leave the field and go to the fieldhouse, their cars, or other safe areas. The game can resume once there has been a period of 15 consecutive minutes without any lightning.

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### **IV. FIELDING**

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1. All players should be positioned in the field of play each inning when a team is on defense.
2. The standard defensive positions for the Basic Ball Plus division are as follows:
  - a. Pitcher
  - b. First Baseman (see Section IV.6)
  - c. Second Baseman
  - d. Third Baseman
  - e. Shortstop
  - f. Left Fielder
  - g. Center Fielder
  - h. Right Fielder
3. At the time of the pitch the Pitcher shall be positioned within 5 feet of the pitcher's plate
4. At the time of the pitch two infielders shall be positioned on either side of second base.
5. At the time of the pitch all outfielders shall be positioned approximately equidistant from their neighboring outfielder(s).

6. For the first two weeks of the season, a defensive coach will take all throws from infielders at first base, The coach shall start in foul territory, and come into fair territory for field throws from the infielders. The player playing first base will field ground balls and get force outs at first base on balls hit to them. Starting in Week 3, a coach may only play first base if the defensive team has less than 6 players available for that game.
7. Two coaches from either team will be positioned in the outfield to assist the fielders and runners.

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## V. BATTING

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1. All available players at the start of the game shall be included in the starting lineup.
2. Any players arriving after the start of the game shall be added to the bottom of the lineup. Coaches shall notify the opposing coach of late arriving players and their place in the batting lineup.
3. If a player misses their turn at bat because of injury or medical reason, the offensive team will NOT be charged with an out.
4. If a player has to leave a game prior to the completion of the game, the offensive team will NOT be charged with an out when the player's spot in the batting order is reached.
5. All bats used in the Basic Ball Plus division shall feature the USA Baseball mark and text which reads "ONLY FOR USE WITH APPROVED TEE BALLS".
6. The offensive coach gets the option of choosing a tee or coach pitch for each batter.
  - a. If tee, the batter gets a maximum of 5 swings to put the ball in play
    - i. If the batter does NOT put the ball in play after 5 swings the batter is out
    - ii. A swing that hits the tee, not the ball, is considered a swing and miss
    - iii. Hitting a foul ball on the 5th (or subsequent) swing earns the batter one additional swing
  - b. If coach pitch, the batter gets three swinging strikes or 5 pitches to put the ball in play
    - i. If the ball is NOT put in play after 3 swings or 5 pitches, the batter is given two swings from a tee
    - ii. Hitting a foul ball on the 5th (or subsequent) pitch earns the batter one additional pitch
    - iii. If the batter does NOT put the ball in play after 2 swings off the tee the batter is out
    - iv. A swing that hits the tee, not the ball, is considered a swing and miss
    - v. Hitting a foul ball on the 2nd (or subsequent) swing off the tee earns the batter one additional swing
7. A fair batted ball, off the tee or on Coach Pitch, must travel beyond a 5' arc from home plate to be considered a fair ball. A ball that does not travel beyond the 5' arc shall be considered a foul ball.
8. Bunting is not allowed.
9. Batters shall drop their bat in, or immediately around, the batter's box after making contact with a pitched ball.
10. If a thrown bat interferes with a defensive player attempting to make a play on the batted ball, interference shall be called, and the batter is out, and all other runners returned to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch.

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## VI. BASERUNNING

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1. Runners must remain in contact with the base until the pitched ball is hit by the batter.
2. The batter-runner will only be considered to have legally touched first base when contacting the colored first base (the one in foul territory) when a play is being made on them in accordance with Little League rule 7.15. No runner, other than the batter-runner as described in the previous sentence, will be considered safe at first base when touching the colored first base.
3. Batter-runners and base runners shall wear their helmet at all times when the ball is in play.
4. When the first play by an infielder is an attempt to force out the batter-runner or a base-runner, and results in an overthrow at any base, all runners can only obtain a maximum of one base from the base they occupied at time of pitch.
5. The batter-runner and all base runners can advance a maximum of one base beyond the base occupied at time of pitch on a batted ball that stays within the infield, as defined in Section II.4.
6. The offensive team can score a maximum of 4 runs in each inning.

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## VII. PITCHING

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1. When Coach Pitch is selected as per Section V.6, a coach from the offensive team shall pitch overhand from a distance between 27 and 35 feet from home plate. The pitcher's throwing foot does NOT need to be in contact with the pitcher's plate.
2. During the last 2 weeks of the season an offensive team's coach will pitch to all batters for the first two innings of each game. For those two innings, the following rules apply:
  - a. Pitchers must pitch overhand with their throwing foot in contact with the pitcher's plate.
  - b. Each batter is given up to 7 pitches each at-bat. The batter's at-bat ends when one of the following has occurred:
    - i. The batter hits a fair ball.
    - ii. The batter hits a foul ball caught in the air by a fielder.
    - iii. The batter strikes out.
    - iv. The ball has not been put into play after 7 pitches, the batter is called out. However, if the 7<sup>th</sup> pitch (or subsequent pitch) is fouled and not caught in the air by a fielder, the batter will receive one additional pitch.

**NOTE:** No tee will be used in the first two innings of games during the final two weeks of the season.
  - c. A batter shall not be awarded first base when hit by pitch from their coach.