



Warrington–Warwick Softball Organization

Low Minors Division Rules

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1. General

1.1 Introduction

The **Low Minors Division** is intended to build upon the fundamentals of softball taught in the Instructional Division.

Players who are **7–8 years old at the start of the season** will be considered for this division regardless of prior playing experience.

Requests by players to play outside their age division may be considered by the **Division Director** and approved on an individual basis.

During the month of **April**, coaches should focus on developing player skills in order to introduce competitive play by the **first scheduled divisional games in May**. This approach helps prepare players who will advance to the **Minors Division** the following season.

1.2 Little League Softball Rules

The rules contained in this document supplement the **official Little League Softball Rules for Intramural Play (7–8 year olds)**.

Current rulebooks and annual updates are available at:

<http://littleleague.org/rules>

2. Player Safety

2.1 General

Player safety is **paramount** and is the responsibility of the coaches at all times.

2.2 Background Checks

All coaches, including:

- Head Coaches
- Assistant Coaches
- Bench Parents

must complete a **risk management background check** prior to the start of the season.

2.3 Dugout Safety

- Only **players, coaches, and one bench parent** are permitted inside the dugout.
 - **No swinging of bats inside the dugout at any time.**
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2.4 Inclement Weather

Field status updates due to weather will be:

- Posted on the **WWSO website**
- Sent through the **text/email alert system**

Coaches should use their **best judgment** regarding weather conditions during games or practices. When in doubt, **err on the side of caution** and postpone or reschedule activities to ensure player safety.

3. Equipment

3.1 Softball

A yellow 11" circumference .47 COR soft center RIF (Reduced Injury Factor) softball will be used.

3.2 Helmet

Players must wear a **batting helmet with a facemask and chinstrap**.

3.3 Face Guard

- **Pitchers are required** to wear a face guard.
 - All other players are **strongly encouraged** to wear face guards while fielding.
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3.4 Bats

- **Aluminum softball bats** are permitted.
 - **Composite bats** are not allowed.
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3.5 Cleats

Metal cleats are not permitted.

4. Game Structure

4.1 Field Dimensions

- Base length: **55 feet**
- Pitching plate distance: **30 feet from home plate**

(See Appendix A for diagrams.)

4.2 Home Team Responsibilities

- The **home team** will be designated on the WWSO schedule.
- The **3rd base dugout** will be used by the home team.
- The home team **fields first**.

The home team is responsible for:

- Raking/dragging the field prior to the game as needed
 - Installing bases
 - Lining the field
 - Providing the **game ball bucket**
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4.3 Visitor Team Responsibilities

- The **visitor team** will be designated on the WWSO schedule.
- The **1st base dugout** will be used by the visiting team.
- The visiting team **bats first**.

The visiting team is responsible for **field cleanup**, including:

- Removing bases
 - Raking/dragging the field
 - Returning equipment to the shed
-

4.4 Pitching

- Players interested in pitching are **encouraged to pitch** during the season.
- All pitches must be released from **within the pitcher's circle**.
- **Pitchers must wear a face guard at all times.**
- A coach from the batting team must be available to pitch during the team's at-bat.

If no pitcher's circle is drawn, **pitchers and coaches must pitch from the rubber.**

Pitching Structure

April

- 3 pitches from the player pitcher
- 4 pitches from the coach

May

- 3 pitches from the player pitcher
- 3 pitches from the coach

Additional rules:

- Swinging at a **player's pitch does not count as a strike.**
 - Only **coach pitches count toward strikes.**
 - **No player pitching during playoffs.**
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4.5 Batting

- A **continuous batting order** including all players will be used.
- Late arrivals are added to the **bottom of the batting order.**

Batting rules:

- Batters should be encouraged to **swing at player pitches.**
- **Bunting is permitted and encouraged.**
- Batters are **out after three strikes.**
- Fouls count for the **first two strikes only.**

Hit-by-pitch rules:

- If hit by a **player thrown pitch**, the batter may choose to advance to first base, but are encouraged to keep batting.
- If **three or more batters are hit** in an inning, the coach will pitch the remainder of that inning.

If a batted ball hits:

- A **coach standing in the field of play**, or
- The **bucket of balls at the mound**

The ball is **dead**, and the batter is awarded **first base.**

Inning Batting Structure

April

Teams are encouraged to allow **all players to bat each inning.**

Beginning in May

The inning ends after:

- **Three outs**, or
- **Ten batters**

(whichever occurs first)

Bat Throwing Rule

If a player throws a bat after hitting the ball:

1. Both teams will receive an **initial warning and reminder regarding bat safety.**
 2. Any additional bat throwing during the game will result in the **offending team being assessed an automatic out.**
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4.6 Base Running

- A batter may attempt **one extra base** if the ball is hit cleanly into the outfield grass.
- **Infield hits are limited to one base.**
- **Advancing on an overthrow is not permitted.**
- **Stealing is not permitted.**
- **Continuation of a walk is not permitted.**

The batting team must have:

- A **first base coach**
 - A **third base coach (recommended)**
-

4.7 Fielding

Ten defensive players are used:

- Pitcher
- Catcher
- First Base
- Second Base
- Third Base
- Shortstop
- Left Field
- Left Center Field
- Right Center Field
- Right Field

Player participation rules:

- Players must receive **equal time in infield and outfield** positions.
- No player may **sit out two consecutive innings**, except for injury or illness.

Positioning rules:

- Infielders should play **their assigned positions**.
- Playing excessively “in” is **discouraged**.
- Outfielders must play **on the grass**.
- Outfielders **may not cover bases** to record outs.

One **defensive coach** may be on the field to guide players during the inning.

4.8 Game Duration

Games will be limited to:

- **Two hours**, or
 - **Six complete innings**
-

4.9 Scoring

Scores will be kept during **April games** with the following limit:

- **Maximum of 6 runs per inning**

If the final inning cannot be completed due to time limits, the score reverts to the **last completed inning**.

Beginning with the **first game in May**, standings will be recorded to determine **playoff seeding**.

4.10 Playoffs

A **single elimination playoff tournament** will be held at the end of the regular season.

- **All teams qualify for the playoffs.**
 - Brackets will be determined by **final regular season standings**.
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5. Adult Conduct Policy

All coaches, parents, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a **respectful and sportsmanlike manner** at all WWSO events, including games, practices, and league functions.

The **umpire has the authority** to address and report inappropriate behavior.

First Offense

- The umpire will issue a **warning**.
- The incident will be **documented and reported to the WWSO Board**.

Second Offense

- The individual will receive a **suspension from WWSO events** as determined by the Board.
- The individual will **forfeit their Non-Par Fee** and will not be eligible for reimbursement.

If the offending individual is **not a coach or parent**, the **coach or parent associated with that spectator** will forfeit their **Non-Par Fee**.

The **WWSO Board reserves the right** to impose additional disciplinary action if behavior is deemed severe or detrimental to the league.

WWSO is committed to providing a **positive and respectful environment for all players, coaches, umpires, and families**.

6. Appendix A – Field Diagrams

All dimensions are compulsory unless marked "optional" or "recommended."

NOTE 1: The eight-foot (8') radius circle is to be properly marked — measured from the center of the front side of the pitcher's plate.

NOTE 2: Tee Ball basepaths may be 50 feet.

NOTE 3: Minor League pitching distance is 30', 35' for Pitching Machine.



