

# **WESTERVILLE YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

## **2026 Spring TEE-BALL I LEAGUE - BOYS & GIRLS (Co-Ed) 5 YEARS OLD AND UNDER**

### **SUMMARY – PROGRAM AND RULES**

The Spring league is composed of 4 & 5 year old boys and girls (Co-Ed). The league is non-competitive with the emphasis placed upon learning baseball or softball skills in all positions. Spring leagues are organized and supervised by the Baseball and Softball Program Director(s), under the direction of the WYBSL Board of Trustees. Games are played in accordance with National Federation High School baseball rules which would be applicable to Tee-Ball, with the modifications and clarifications below. The rules below are subject to change at the discretion and approval of the WYBSL Board of Trustees.

#### **1. GAME PROCEDURES**

- A. Games will normally be played on Saturdays. If make-up games are necessary, they will be played on Sundays and during the week following the end of the regular scheduled season.
- B. No score shall be taken, and no standings will be posted at this level of play. Each player will receive a trophy at the end of the season.
- C. Every team shall bat until the entire line-up has hit each inning. No outs will be recorded. If a player is late for a game, the player's name is placed at the bottom of the batting order.
- D. The batting order of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning shall be reversed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning. Please rotate lead off batters each game.
- E. Games will be two (2) innings or 30 minutes in length.
- F. Practice time is limited to 25 minutes, then a 5-minute break and then a 30 minute game for a total of 60 minutes.
- G. A team must start, play and finish with a minimum of five (5) rostered players. If a team begins with, or at any time during the game has less than five (5) players, the opposing team will supply players in order to complete the game.

#### **2. COACHING**

- A. Defensive teams consist of eight (8) players – four (4) outfielders and four (4) infielders (no pitcher or catcher). All outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass before each swing of the batter. When a team is required to play with four (4) players, the opposing team will supply outfielders as needed. Defensive positions include 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> base, Shortstop, Left field, Left Center, Right Center and Right Field.
- B. Every player will play the entire game, in the field and at bat.
- C. Coaches are responsible for knowing the rules of play.
- D. Coaches should go over the rules prior to the start of the game to eliminate any misinterpretation of the rules.

- E. Prior to the start of the game, the coaches will draw an arc between the foul lines, five (5) feet from the center of home plate. A hit ball must land beyond the arc and in fair territory; otherwise, it is a foul ball.
- F. There will be no more than four (4) defensive coaches allowed on the field. Coaches are allowed to assist on the field as needed, but must not interfere with the play.
- G. Volunteer umpires are not needed at this level of play.

### 3. EQUIPMENT

- A. Base distance will be 30 feet and no pitching rubber is needed at this level of play.
- B. **Tee-Ball "I"**: The ball used will be a *"Reduced Injury Factor 1"* baseball selected by the league.
- C. Any bat that is factory-marked "Tee-Ball", "USABaseball", or "Softball" (factory marked with the ASA 2004 or USA softball certification logo and with the USSSA 1.2 BPF logo) may be used. Bats used in this league shall not be more than thirty-three (33) inches in length. Prior to each game, it shall be the responsibility of each Head Coach to check all bats to assure that only legal bats are in use during the game.
- D. A batting tee shall be used at home plate for all batters. Either the adult parent/family volunteer or a coach shall put the ball on the tee for the batter to hit. The batting tee will be removed by the adult parent/family volunteer prior to any play at home plate.
- E. Rubber cleats or tennis shoes must be worn, no metal spikes or metal cleats may be worn.
- F. Players must not wear jewelry, metal hair ornaments or similar items during practices, scrimmages, or games, for their safety.

### 4. OFFENSE

- A. As a safety measure, only the batter may take practice swings and they must be inside the field of play. There will be no practice swings by "on-deck" or other batters at all.
- B. A batting helmet must be worn by all batters and base runners.
- C. All players will hit each inning. Once the ball is hit, the batter will run to 1<sup>st</sup> base and stop.
- D. A batter who throws the bat will be verbally warned by the coach **one (1)** time. If the same batter throws that bat again, that batter will be removed from that at bat. Please keep other players a safe distance away from home plate.
- E. No bunting, stealing or leading off is permitted at this level of play. If a player leads off, the coach shall call "dead ball" and the player leading off will be told to return to the base by the coach.
- F. Sliding is not encouraged. However, if a runner does slide, the runner will not be called out.
- G. A batter/runners may not advance more than one base per hit.
- H. The last batter in the line-up will hit a "home run," all players on the bases and the batter will run home and the ½ inning shall end.
- I. A coach may not touch a base runner in order to aid or restrict movement.

## 5. DEFENSE

- A. First baseman **MUST** wear a batting helmet.
- B. There is no infield fly rule.
- C. Defensive fielders must rotate defensive positions throughout the game/season.