

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY WYBSL! FALL BALL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN



We are certainly happy that our 70th year is one that is relatively normal considering the events of the past year! Our spring/summer season is flying by, and before you know it we'll be playing All Star games and tournaments. Believe it or not, it's now time to get ready for our 26th Fall Ball season and online registration is now open.

WYBSL Fall Ball has become a tradition unto itself and we hope you'll consider playing some more ball with us this year. For the younger leagues, it gives players some extra time to develop their skills with schedules that provide balance with their school work. For players in "multi-age" leagues, it gives them the chance to experience the division they will be playing in next spring/summer. This usually means larger fields, additional rules and new techniques so that players can get a head start.

Once again this year, we're excited to announce the Black Hat (High School) Baseball games will be played on Westerville High School Varsity fields. This gives our "rec" players a unique opportunity to play at some outstanding facilities!

Later this month, we hope you can join us for our traditional All Star Saturday to be held on June 26th at Huber Village and Highlands Parks. All Star games and Home Run Derbies will be held for softball and baseball Coach-Pitch and older leagues. Schedules will be posted on our website approximately 1 week prior to the event.

Also, after holding our first ever Fall Ball All Star games last October, we will once again be bringing this special event to this year's program for Coach-Pitch and older leagues. Read on to learn more about our Fall Ball program and be sure to register before July 19th to guarantee yourself a spot on a roster and avoid late fees!

*See you at the fields!*  
*Ken Sahlin, Editor*

**Website**

[www.wybsl.org](http://www.wybsl.org)

**Email**

[wybsl@wybsl.org](mailto:wybsl@wybsl.org)

**Weather  
Hotline**

(614) 523-6220

**Twitter**

@WYBSLalerts

**REGISTRATION DATES**

Activity	Date(s)*
Online Registration Opens	6/14
Virtual "Open House" See website for details	7/17
Regular Registration & Scholarship Application Deadline	7/19
Play-up Assessments (see p. 6)	7/21 7/27
Refund Deadlines: - Full refund - Partial (less \$25)	7/30 8/6

**LEAGUE DATES**

Activity	Date(s)*
Coaches Meeting - Rosters Distributed	8/7
Practices Begin - Coach-Pitch & Older - Tee-Ball	week of: 8/9 8/18
Photo Day	8/21
Games Begin - Coach-Pitch & Older - Tee-Ball	8/28 9/8
All Star Saturday	10/16
Fall Season Ends	10/17

\* Based on weather and final # teams

**ABOUT THE WYBSL**

The WYBSL is an organization that exists for the sole purpose of organizing, conducting and supervising a recreational baseball and softball program. The league was established in 1951 when Westerville resident Alden Bennett organized a baseball league consisting of four teams and sixty boys. Alden directed the program for ten years.

In 1961, Dick Retherford became Commissioner and with the help of many volunteers, supervised the rapidly growing program. The "JBBL" (Junior Boys Baseball League) of Westerville became incorporated with the State of Ohio in 1966. In 1975, the program was broadened to provide softball for girls and grew rapidly adding a Junior Tee-Ball League in 1987.

In 1991, Bob Crain joined our program having moved from the Chicago area. For 25 years he served as a Coach, the Baseball Director, President and Treasurer. In 1995 he helped draft the WYBSL's *PROS 2000 Plan* including the league's pledge of \$175,000 to the City of Westerville to renovate and expand our playing facilities.

In 2011, the league celebrated it's 60th year with community wide events and the expansion of the "art in the parks" program with statues at three of our complexes.

This year marks our 70 year of all volunteer, non-profit operation and the 26th year of *Fall Ball*. We hope you'll join us this season!

**FALL PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

There will be 11 leagues in baseball, fast-pitch softball and co-ed Tee-Ball. Players will generally be placed in the age level league they will play in next spring/summer. This provides a great way to prepare young players who will be moving up the the next level of play with new rules, larger fields, etc..

We'll assure a place for every family who lives, works or attends school within the boundaries of the Westerville City School District and applies by the regular registration deadline (July 19th this year).

We will accept other applications at any time on a space available basis. In all past seasons, we have placed 100% of all applications received by the regular registration deadline date.

**REGISTER ONLINE @ [www.wybsl.org](http://www.wybsl.org).** Complete program information can be found in this newsletter and on our website as well. Please register as soon as possible as space is limited and there is a \$30 late fee applied after the July 19th deadline.

All players who did not play in the WYBSL during 2020 or 2021 must provide a birth certificate which can be uploaded as part of the online registration process. Players who did not play in the spring/summer 2021 season must also add a \$24 Fields Fee (spring/summer players have already paid this annual fee).



## LEAGUE AGES / FEES

League	Baseball	Softball	Registration Fee
Co-Ed Tee-Ball	4-5	—	\$79
Coach-Pitch	—	6-7	\$90
Coach-Pitch B	6	—	\$90
Coach-Pitch A	7	—	\$90
Green Hat	8-9	8-9	\$95
Red Hat	10-11	10-11	\$100
Blue Hat	12-13	12-15	\$105
Black Hat	14-17*	—	\$130

*Player age as of 4/30/21.*

*\* A player must be a full-time high school student at the beginning of the playing season.*

## FIELDS FUND FEE

Players who did not play in the spring/summer 2021 season must also add a \$24 fields fee (Spring/Summer players have already paid this annual fee).

## FAMILY PLAN

(Calculated from the highest to lowest registration fee)

First two players @ Full Fee + Fields Fund Fee  
All other players @ Fields Funds Fee only

## LATE REGISTRATION AFTER July 19, 2021

Additional \$30 per player, plus loss of family Plan discounts (if applicable)

## VOLUNTEER IN 2021

*Coaches and Staff are needed at all age levels! Use the online application to volunteer or contact Steve Polovick (hr@wybsl.org)*

## SCHOLARSHIPS

EVERY SEASON STARTS AT



The WYBSL would like to thank Dick's Sporting Goods, T. Marzetti and Lake Shore Cryotronics for their generous support that helps fund our scholarship program to help assure that more eligible players (who reside within the Westerville City School District) can participate in our league, regardless of financial circumstances.

Depending on the individual situation, this program may allow deferred payments and/or full or partial fee grants to provide assistance with Registration and Fields Fund fees, up to \$110 per year per child.

Full information and the scholarship application can be found within our online registration.

***PLEASE NOTE, all scholarship applications must be submitted by July 19th for consideration.***

## REFUNDS

We understand unforeseen circumstances may arise that might cause a player to withdraw from the league. In order to request a refund, a parent or guardian must **SEND AN E-MAIL to WYBSL@WYBSL.ORG** reporting the player's name, league, date and reason for withdrawal.

If the withdrawal is reported by July 30th, a full refund will be issued within 4 weeks. If reported after July 30th and before August 6th, a \$25 fee will be charged. After August 6th, there shall be no refunds.



**FOLLOW US**



## LEAGUE OVERVIEW

We offer young boys and girls the opportunity to spend many years in our program. Although skills and competition increase as players advance, the focus at all levels is on learning and fun. Continuous batting orders are used and all players must play a minimum number of innings in the field. And, although we base our rules on National Federation of High School standards, there are modifications for each league to provide a careful evolution and recreational focus as summarized below:

Co-Ed Tee-Ball	No scores or standings are kept, ten players bat each inning regardless of outs and ten defensive players with coaches in the field for instruction. Players placed in different field positions each inning.
Coach-Pitch	Coaches pitch to their own team, scores and standings are kept but not emphasized, batters receive up to 7 pitches, there are no walks. Ten fielders are used with coaches teaching from the field. Fielders must play 3 defensive innings and must play both infield and outfield.
Green Hat	Players are pitching, bunting and stealing (see specific rules). Baseball teams play with 9 players in the field with pitch counts. Softball pitchers are limited to 3 innings per game.
Red Hat	Competition increases but focus on instruction continues. Stealing of all bases is allowed and dropped 3rd strike is introduced. In baseball, field size increases, limited balk rules & pitch counts are added.
Blue Hat	Generally a middle school age league, certified OHSAA umpires are used, pitchers can pitch complete games subject to pitch count. In baseball, field size increases and lead-offs are allowed.
Black Hat	For baseball, generally high school young men playing on "major league" field size. Seventeen year olds must be full-time, high school students during the season.

### Baseball Overview By League

	Baseline	Pitch Dist.	Innings	Ages	Days	Balls	Umpires	IP/Game <sup>2</sup>	IP/Wk <sup>2</sup>
Co-Ed Tee-Ball	45'	n/a	4	4-5	WSa	RIF <sup>1</sup>	Volunteer	n/a	n/a
CP B	60'	36'	6	6	TuWSa	RIF <sup>1</sup>	Volunteer	n/a	n/a
CP A	60'	46'	6	7	TuWSa	RIF <sup>1</sup>	Volunteer	n/a	n/a
Green Hat	60'	46'	6	8-9	TuThSa	League	Trained	55 pitches	120 pitches
Red Hat	70'	50'	6	10-11	TuThSa	League	Trained	65 pitches	130 pitches
Blue Hat	80'	54'	7	12-13	TuThSa	League	Certified	75 pitches	140 pitches
Black Hat	90'	60'6"	7	14-17	TuWThSa	League	Certified	85 pitches	150 pitches

### Softball Overview By League

	Baselines	Pitch Dist.	Innings	Ages	Days	Balls	Umpires	IP/Game <sup>2</sup>	IP/Wk <sup>2</sup>
CP	50'	30'	6	6-7	WSa	11" RIF <sup>1</sup>	Volunteer	n/a	n/a
Green Hat	60'	35'	6	8-9	TuThSa	11"	Trained	3	n/a
Red Hat	60'	40'	6	10-11	TuThSa	12"	Trained	4	n/a
Blue Hat	60'	40'	7	12-15	TuThSa	12"	Certified	7	n/a

<sup>1</sup> Reduced Injury Factor Ball

<sup>2</sup> Innings/Pitch Limits

### GREEN HAT BASEBALL PITCH COUNTS

The WYBSL will be expanding it's use of "pitch counts" in baseball leagues now to include Green Hat. The safety and health of our your players is always of utmost priority and with this decision, all "kid pitch" baseball leagues will now have daily and weekly pitch count limits.

Please see league descriptions on page 4 for complete details.

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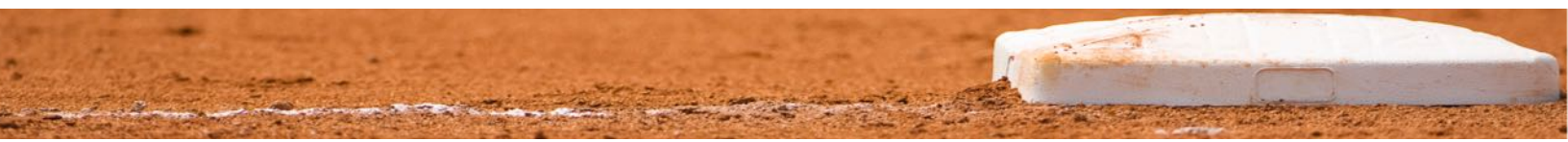
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New to Westerville or the WYBSL Fall Ball program? Or do you just have questions before registering for the season?

Join us on Saturday, July 17th for a virtual "open house" video conference. Our Staff will be online and ready to answer your

questions. Video conference details will be posted during the week leading up to this event. We look forward to seeing you then!

### SPORTSMANSHIP

The WYBSL believes good sportsmanship is the responsibility and expectation for all. If you observe negative conduct, excessive "intensity" or willful violations of the rules on the part of anyone – speak to your coach or, if appropriate, email the League (wybsl@wybsl.org).

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### PLAYING UP

A player's "Playing Age" is his/her age on 4/30/21 and we urge parents and guardians to consider that children play in the normal league for their age.

We realize that skills develop faster for some and the WYBSL provides a way for boys and girls to "play-up". To do so, **parents must complete a Play-up Application** with their registration and pay the appropriate fees for that age level. Players must also attend and pass a **mandatory play-up assessment**.

Players may play-up one age year – NOT one league. For example, a five year old may request to play Coach-Pitch instead of Tee-Ball – a four year old cannot. In summary, play-up eligibility is:

- For SOFTBALL Playing Ages of 5, 7, 9 or 11
- For BASEBALL Playing Ages of 5, 6, 7, 9 or 11

Players will be considered in the chronological order in which their registration(s) are received and space must be open after regular registration ends.

#### Players must either:

- Have played in the same WYBSL higher age division during the 2021 Spring season.
- Attend a mandatory play-up assessment session on July 21 or 27. **Times and locations are listed on the calendar on p.8.**

**The WYBSL staff must agree that the player is able to safely and competitively play at the requested level.**

If the player does not meet the above criteria, the parents will be contacted and given the option of playing at the normal age level, **if space is available.**

**If parents are not completely confident of their daughter or son's ability to play-up, we recommend not applying.**

The WYBSL reserves the right to evaluate a play-up participant at any time, before or during the season, and take appropriate action to ensure the safety of all participants. Please note, "play-down" requests to a younger level can not be honored.

## TEAM SELECTION

The WYBSL staff builds teams with the goal of "balancing" ages and skill levels based on:

- Coach and Staff member ratings of players who played in our spring/summer leagues.
- Parents' ratings of their child.

The WYBSL Staff then assembles teams by:

1. Honoring "friend" requests. Please note; adults wishing to coach together must use this procedure. See procedure at right.
2. Siblings in the same league are automatically placed on the same team, unless otherwise requested.
3. Assigning pitchers and catchers (in older leagues).
4. Allocating remaining players while attempting to achieve parity among teams.
5. In Coach-Pitch and Tee-Ball, we attempt to build teams by geographic area.

Unfortunately, requests for specific coaches or "car-pooling" groups can not be honored.

## PLAY WITH ONE FRIEND

While we again try to honor requests to play with **one** friend or coach with **one** other coach, the league uses the following process:

In order for two players to be placed on the same team, **both players** must list each other as "**1st Choice**" on their registration forms.

In order for two coaches to be placed on the same team, each coach's respective player must list the other coach's player as "**1st Choice**" on their registration forms. If a friend is not listed as first choice on both player's registration form, it will not be treated as a valid friend request.

This process is in place to avoid "chaining" of skilled players that results in a lack of team parity.

As a reminder, the spring/summer and fall leagues are independent from each other, so teams do not stay together. Additionally, last year's *Fall Ball* teams will not be kept together.

## LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Due to the short duration of the fall season, as well as the declining sunlight, games will be scheduled on Saturday and/or Sunday of Labor Day weekend. There will NOT be games scheduled on the Monday holiday.

## FALL BALL PHOTO DAY

All teams and individual players are encouraged to take part in WYBSL's Photo Day, which will be on Saturday, August 21st. In case of rain, photos will be taken on August 28th. Coaches will provide order forms and time for this event.



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## SUMMER/FALL CALENDAR

### JUNE

Fri 18	Last day to turn in Raffle Tickets at any concession stand.
Sat 26	  <b>Spring All Star Games &amp; Home Run Derbies</b>   Coach-Pitch / Green / Red / Blue Black Hat (Rain Date: 6/27)
Week of 28	<b>Summer Post-Season Tournaments Begin</b> Coach-Pitch & Older Leagues

### JULY

Sat 3	Westerville Independence Day Celebration
Sat 17	<b>Fall Ball Virtual "Open House"</b> 10AM - 11AM Video Conference Link to be posted.
Mon 19	Regular Fall Registration Deadline
Wed 21 Tue 27	<b>Mandatory Play-up Assessments</b> For Players Requesting to Play-up Huber Village Park: 6PM
Fri 30	Last day to request and receive a full refund

### AUGUST

Sat 7	Fall Head Coaches Meeting Rosters & Equipment Distributed (except Tee-Ball)
By Mon 9	Players Notified of Team Assignments - (except Tee-Ball)
Week of 9	Team Practices Begin (Tee-Ball Practices begin 8/18)
Sat 21	<b>Team Photo Day</b> at Practice Fields
Sat 28	Fall Leagues Begin Game Play (Tee-Ball Games begin 9/8)

### OCTOBER

Sat 16	  <b>Fall All Star Games</b>   Coach-Pitch / Green / Red / Blue Black Hat (Rain Date: 10/17)
Sun 17	Fall Leagues Complete

### NOVEMBER

Sat 6	<b>Fall Ball Coaches Meeting            WYBSL Annual Meeting &amp; Elections</b>
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**WATCH FOR 2022 SPRING INFO IN FEBRUARY**

[www.wybsl.org](http://www.wybsl.org)

**REMEMBER TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE REGULARLY TO:**

*Get the latest Announcements*

*Post scores (for coaches)*

*Register to play*

*See standings*

*Volunteer (coaches and staff positions)*

*Find event schedules*

*Find practice and game schedules*

*Get copies of newsletters*





**WHEN DO WE PRACTICE & PLAY**

	Practices	Games
Start	Week of August 9 (Tee-ball 8/18)	August 28 (Tee-ball 9/8)
Days	See p.4 by league	See p.4 by league
Frequency	2 times each week (practices limited after season start)	Generally 1 weeknight & 1 weekend day each week. (incl. Labor Day weekend)
Time(s)	Weeknights: 5:30p-7p or 7p - 8:30p Saturdays: vary	Weeknights: 5:00/5:30pm Saturdays: vary Sun. make-ups: after Noon

**WEATHER HOTLINE: 614-523-6220**

*The hotline is updated for GAMES & EVENTS ONLY.*

Weeknights: by 4:00p

Saturdays: 8a

Sundays: 11a

Field changes are sometimes necessary & posted (even for non-weather).

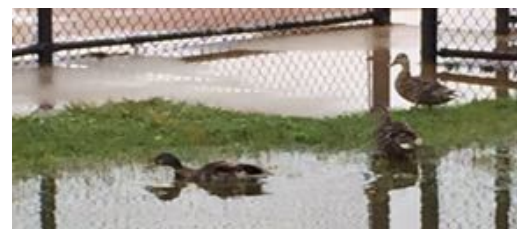
Generally, there will not be further updates on weekdays. On weekends, if conditions change and allow, additional alerts may be posted regarding later games.

**Updates also available on Twitter @WYBSLalerts & Facebook.**

**MAKE-UP GAMES**

Eight games are scheduled in Tee-ball, twelve in all other leagues. The WYBSL will reschedule as many make-up games as possible during the season.

Make-up games are traditionally scheduled on Sundays (after 12p) and Mondays.



**MAKE-UP WEEKS**

Saturday thru Thursday. For example, a Thursday rain-out will be made up 3-4 days later on Sunday/Monday. A Saturday rain-out will be made-up 8-9 days later on the following Sunday/Monday.

**ALL STAR SATURDAY**



**ALL STAR GAMES**

**HOME RUN DERBIES**

**SPRING/SUMMER SEASON**

ALL STAR SATURDAY

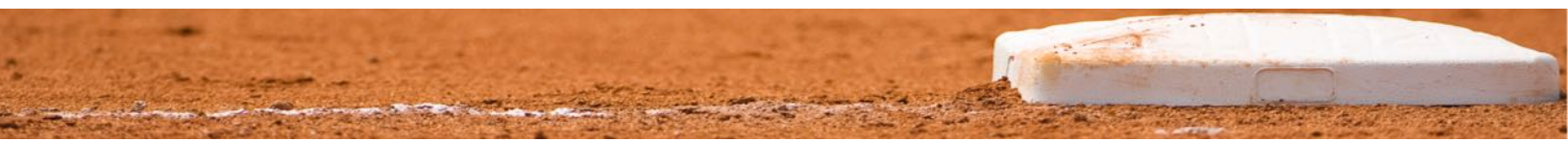
June 26th (rain date 6/27)

**FALL BALL SEASON**

ALL STAR GAMES

(No HR Derbies)

October 16 (rain date 10/17)



## EQUIPMENT

At all levels, the league supplies all team equipment necessary to play the game – bases, balls, helmets, bats, batting tee (tee-ball) and catcher's gear (coach-pitch and older). WYBSL also provides each player with a team shirt and cap or visor, which the player may keep. Optional items, such as heart protectors or special masks, are not required and, if chosen, are the family's responsibility.

**CATCHER CHEST PROTECTORS** - The WYBSL will provide improved equipment in Blue & Black Hat baseball leagues for protection against commotio cordis (impact-related cardiac arrest). All chest protectors (e.g. player owned) used in these two leagues must meet NOCSAE standards as included in NFHS rules.

Regarding gloves, we suggest a generic infielder or outfielder glove be your first purchase. Most importantly, make sure it is the right size for your player! In older leagues, pitcher's gloves cannot include white or gray. Softball gloves cannot be gray, white or optic (neon) in color.

For our Tee-Ball and Coach-Pitch leagues, gym shoes or baseball/ softball molded plastic cleats are fine. As players grow, we recommend baseball/softball shoes. Also, metal spikes are not allowed except in the Blue & Black Hat Baseball leagues.

We suggest strongly that parents consider that all boys wear cups for protection as they grow in the program. Catchers at Green Hat and older levels must wear one.



## BATS - IMPORTANT!

One of the most distressing things that a parent or player can be told is that a personal bat can't be used because it is "illegal" – especially after it was just purchased last year! In order to avoid costly mistakes, here are some simple guidelines (generally for safety):

1. In ALL softball leagues, bats must be factory marked with the ASA 2004 and USSSA logos as shown below:



2. In Tee-Ball, bats must be factory-marked "USABaseball" or "Tee-Ball" or a softball bat with ASA 2004 and USSSA logos as shown above. Tee-Ball only bats are only legal for play in the Tee-Ball league.

3. In Coach-Pitch, Green Hat and Red Hat baseball, the bats must be factory-marked "USABaseball".

4. When a boy plays Blue Hat or Black Hat ball, NFHS rules apply with the following Blue Hat modifications:

- A Non-wood bat must be 2 5 /8" or less in diameter, 36" or less in length, with a -3 differential between length and weight. The BBCOR Standard and logo will also apply to these bats.
- A bat less than 32" in length must have the new "USABaseball" logo, with a -5 differential between length and weight or meet BBCOR standard.

Most problems occur when Red Hat baseball players graduate to Blue Hat. Many expensive bats can't be used – so when buying a bat for your older boys, please buy carefully and call the League if you have questions.

## BLACK HAT BASEBALL

With the help of Westerville's Varsity Baseball Coaches, Black Hat Baseball games will once again be played on Varsity High School Fields this Fall!



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Each year, hundreds of dedicated volunteers help the WYBSL operate our program. No matter how little or much time you have available and no matter what skills or passion you have – we have place on our roster for you! Some areas of service you might consider:

**Concessions:** Work with the Concession Director to schedule managers & volunteers and maintain stock in the concession trailers. Ideal for someone who has available time during the day!

**Field Crew:** Help check field conditions on weekends for make-up games. Work with the Fields Director to prepare fields for All Star Saturday and other special events.

**Equipment Crew:** Assist the Equipment Director in organizing inventory, preparing team bags and maintaining field boxes throughout the season!

**Fall Ball Committee:** Volunteers looking to learn and help the league in important operations – and possible greater, future responsibility – are encouraged to explore this opportunity. Help with registration, team selection, scheduling or day-to-day operations throughout the fall season.

Please use the on-line application or contact Steve Polovick at [hr@wybsl.org](mailto:hr@wybsl.org) to discuss how you can help!

### CONCESSION CAPTAINS WANTED!

The WYBSL operates concession services at Huber Village and Towers Park. Training is provided and a friendly, service oriented personality is required! Concession Captains must be at least 18 years old and start earning \$10 per hour. Please contact Concessions Director Stephen Naumann at [food@wybsl.org](mailto:food@wybsl.org) for more information.

### COACHES

Without the help of our volunteer coaches, we would not be able to have a successful program. To support new and returning coaches, the league offers resources and programs including a New Coaches Meeting, NAYS Certification, Coaching Clinics and League Meetings during the season.



Lastly, coaching is a challenging responsibility that is acknowledged by the league. And as safety and security of our participants is paramount, our league policy is to conduct criminal background checks on ALL coaches and league managers. Additionally, per Ohio law, ALL coaches must complete concussion training and Lindsay's Law requirements.

You can indicate your offer to coach using our online registration application!

### UMPIRES

The WYBSL schedules over 800 games each season using the following classification of Umpires by league level:

**Green and Red Hat:** The Umpire Director schedules WYBSL trained and paid umpires.

**Blue and Black Hat:** OSHA Certified umpires are used to officiate all games at this level.

All umpires must complete concussion training.

**Tee-Ball and Coach-Pitch:** Adult volunteers are asked to count pitches, call foul balls and safe/out at bases. Please speak to your coach to help out!

**Become a "Blue" - Contact Mike Bussard at [umpires@wybsl.org](mailto:umpires@wybsl.org) if you're interested in umpiring!**

**Upon completion of required training/evaluation, compensation varies by experience and can be a great first job for high school students age 14 and above.**



## WEATHER POLICY

**The safety of our players and damage to fields should be primary concerns of all WYBSL participants.** Below is the Weather Policy:

**Rain** - Prior to a scheduled game, only the WYBSL Fields Director (or other WYBSL designee) has the authority to cancel a game. If timing is possible, the league will announce the day's field conditions on the Weather Hot Line (614) 523-6220 and Twitter page @WYBSLalerts. However, if conditions are marginal, or if rain occurs after one and one-half hours before game time, teams should go to their field. At that point, and throughout the game, the authority to stop play rests with the umpires and WYBSL staff. Games may be resumed at any time within 30 minutes of stoppage, if fields are playable.

**Lightning/Thunder** - If the City's Lightning Prediction System covers a field of play, when one continuous horn burst is sounded, all games and practices must stop and fields must be cleared. An all-clear is signaled by three short bursts. This applies at all times and in all weather conditions.

Whether a lightning prediction system is present or not, if lightning is sighted or thunder is heard, umpires will immediately clear the field and dugouts; if sighted by one umpire in a multiple diamond location, all fields will be cleared. Games may resume no less than 20 minutes after the last lightning sighting or thunder is heard, if fields are playable.



**Playability** - If a game is stopped during play, players and fans should move to shelter or cars and wait for a notice from the umpire or WYBSL staff. The final decision regarding playability rests with the umpires (in a multiple diamond location, umpires may consult each other if field conditions are marginal).

**In the case of practices, Head Coaches are responsible for following the weather policy. For all Coach-Pitch and Tee-Ball games, Head Coaches are jointly responsible for following league policy.**

**Make-Ups** - If a game cannot be played or completed, the League will reschedule it as soon as possible, with final confirmation by your Umpire Coordinator. Usually, your make-ups for the week will be played on Sunday or Monday. Once scheduled, the make-up game will be played or considered a forfeit.

## COVID PRECAUTIONS

The WYBSL is aligned with the City of Westerville regarding COVID precautions and policies. Most importantly, players, parents, umpires should continue to self assess their health and not participate in WYBSL activities if COVID symptoms\* exist.

Fully vaccinated individuals are no longer required to mask or social distance at City parks and ball fields. Those who are not yet fully vaccinated are encouraged to continue wearing masks when not actively engaged in WYBSL activities. Individuals are welcome to continue these practices voluntarily.

\* Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.



## WYBSL CONDUCT RULES

Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated in the league. Team coaches are responsible for their conduct and the conduct of their players and fans. A coach, player or fan can be ejected from a game and/or removed from the playing field area by order of an umpire, Fall Ball Committee Member or WYBSL Trustee if they violate a league rule of conduct, as follows:

- A. In a game, no coach may utilize any player(s) not currently assigned to his/her team roster by the League. Violation of this rule will result in automatic permanent suspension of the coach(es) involved.
- B. No coach, player or fan shall ever engage in a physical altercation with any player, umpire, coach or fan.
- C. No coach, player or fan shall intentionally violate or refuse to follow any league or game rules.
- D. No coach, player, umpire or fan shall come to the playing field under the influence of alcohol or an illegal drug; and no coach, player or umpire shall use tobacco products at the playing field during a game or practice.
- E. No coach, player or fan shall engage in grossly unsportsmanlike conduct, including, but not limited to, throwing equipment, use of profanity, arguing with an umpire over a call or directing remarks to a player, umpire, coach or fan which are of a degrading or distracting nature.
- F. Only the Head Coach, or his/her designee in the Head Coach's absence, may leave his/her designated area to dispute a judgment call by an umpire. This infraction may be penalized by either restriction to the dugout for the remainder of the game or ejecting the Head Coach and/or the offending coach.
- G. After each game, in the practice of good sportsmanship, all coaches and players shall form two opposing lines and proceed through a modified "handshake line" to maintain State guidelines. No coach or player shall avoid participation in this line or exhibit unsportsmanlike conduct in the line.
- H. No coach, player, parent or fan shall, at any time, threaten, intimidate, attempt to intimidate, harm or attempt to harm, any umpire, player, coach, WYBSL official or fan. Any person who violates this rule may immediately be banned from all WYBSL sites and activities for a period of time to be determined by the Board of Trustees, up to and including a permanent ban. This rule shall be applied regardless of where and when the offending conduct takes place.

If a coach, player or fan is ejected from a game and/or removed from the playing field area for conduct as described above (or in the case of G. above, does not participate as described), the person shall provide a written statement describing his/her version of the events and/or other explanation to the Committee within twenty-four hours of the incident, and may not attend or participate in any practice or game until doing so.

The Committee or Program Director shall review the statement and gather any other information from other parties that they deem necessary to determine if a further penalty should be assessed. Such further penalty, if any, shall be assessed before the team's next scheduled game.

Any coach who violates the above guidelines may be immediately removed from his/her position by the Committee. In the event of such an occurrence, each coach would be provided with the opportunity to appear before the Board of Trustees at its next scheduled meeting in order to describe for the Board his/her version of the events which may exist for reinstating the coach.

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## SOCIAL MEDIA RESPONSIBILITY

The WYBSL uses social media platforms primarily to communicate league updates in a timely and consistent fashion. It is also a conduit for parents and participants to ask questions and share feedback with the league. While these platforms are an effective means to communicate, they can also be used in negative ways. Please know that the WYBSL's conduct and sportsmanship policies also pertain to the use of social media.

Lastly, please remember we are all members of the same community participating in a recreational program for our young people. If you have significant concerns with the actions of individuals or league operations, please email us and we'll be happy to assist!

