

## **Summer Minor League Handbook**

Thank you for participating in the WAA Summer House League. If there are any questions or concerns please contact us through the WAA web site [www.waabaseball.org](http://www.waabaseball.org)

This document serves to provide the necessary information for the WAA Summer Minor House League. The purpose of the house leagues is to provide more baseball opportunities to those players who did not participate on a tournament team. The league structure is less formal than the regular season Spring league. Still, there are rules and guidelines to be followed. What follows is a league summary followed by specific league rules. Parents and coaches can refer to this document if there are questions, or contact the league.

### **Safety**

There must be an adult in the dugout at all times. It can be a coach or parent helper.

No other kids are allowed in the dugouts (siblings, friends, etc.).

The only person on the field who can be holding a bat is the batter. There are NO on deck batters. There is no swinging bats behind the dugout or anywhere on the field.

Catchers MUST wear a cup and use a helmet/mask with a dangling throat guard. The chest protector must also have the extension to cover the groin.

Cleats with metal spikes are not allowed.

Head first sliding is not allowed unless diving back to a base. Runner is out if sliding head first.

Sliding is not required but runners must avoid contact with fielders waiting to make a tag or receive a throw. Players can be ejected for contact with another player.

In the event of thunder or lightning, the game is over immediately. There is no waiting 15 or 30 minutes and then resuming.

### **Game play**

There is a maximum of 5 runs per inning except the last inning.

Each player must play 2 innings in the infield and 1 inning in the outfield.

Players can pitch a maximum of 3 innings per game, and 3 innings per week (Sunday through Saturday).

Coaches must use 3 different pitchers in each game.

Coaches can be in the field when on defense to instruct players but there must always be an adult in the dugout at all times.

If a pitcher hits 3 batters, he/she must be removed from the game.

If a pitcher walks/hits 3 batters in an inning the offensive coach will come in and pitch to his/her batters until the innings ends (5 runs or 3 outs). The pitcher can return to the mound if he/she has innings remaining. The pitcher also stays on the field at the pitcher position.

At any time a coach can stop the game and instruct the players.

If a team has less than 9 players in attendance they should borrow players from the opposing team.

"Stealing" is allowed only if the ball goes past the catcher or umpire on to the grass. A player can never steal home. Players can steal only one base even if there is a throw/overthrow during the steal attempt.

WAA will provide a home plate umpire, the teams should supply a volunteer adult base ump.

### **Field Information**

Dugouts should be free of trash and debris before everyone leaves the park.

In the event of rain before the game, check the web site for field condition/closing information. If it rains late afternoon expect to have to come to the park and see how the fields are. Do NOT play when there is standing water on a field.

Do NOT attempt to sweep/rake or otherwise remove standing water from anywhere on the field. This violates our field usage agreement.

If the FIELD CLOSED sign is displayed, stay off of the fields. This includes the outfields.

If scoreboards are used they should be returned to the garage before leaving the park.

### **League Information**

Players who are not registered in the house leagues CANNOT participate or substitute.

Parents should never be used as players.

When the tournaments end, some of the tournament players may attempt to join house teams. Do not allow any new players on your team without permission from WAA.

## Summer Minor League Rules

The rules for the summer minor league will closely follow those of the spring minor league, which adhere to official green book Little League rules and local rules. The local rules are posted on the web site under "Online Rules". To summarize some of the local rule highlights:

- Ten players defensively; four outfielders positioned 25 feet back from the middle of the baselines before each pitch.
- Continuous batting order (all players in attendance bat).
- Infield/outfield play requirements are a minimum of 2 innings in the infield and 1 inning in the outfield for each player.
- No player sits on the bench more than 1 inning defensively.
- Base runners cannot steal unless the pitch goes behind the umpire (on the grass); then they can steal only one base even if a throw is made and is an overthrow.
- Players cannot steal home.
- Five run maximum per inning; unlimited runs in the final inning.
- A player may not pitch more than three innings in a game.
- If a pitcher hits 3 batters in a game, he/she must be removed as pitcher.
- The infield fly rule is not enforced.
- There must be at least one adult in the dugout at all times; if necessary players will coach bases and must wear helmets when doing so.
- The home team supplies the base umpire, if they cannot, the visiting team will.

While it is the goal of the summer leagues to provide more play and the opportunity to develop, we don't expect or require coaches to hold off-day practices. Families are very busy in the summer months, especially on weekends, and with the reduced emphasis on standings and competition we would prefer the kids enjoy coming to the park just to play a game of baseball.

Rules specific to the summer minor league are as follows:

- If a team has less than 9 players in attendance, they will borrow players from the opposing team to fill the defensive positions, up to a max of 2 borrowed players; if a team has less than 7 players they will borrow players from the opposing team for the entire game (offensively and defensively), and these borrowed players can change during the game. Under no circumstances should spectators (adult or child) be allowed to participate to fill a team.
- A player may not pitch in more than 3 innings in one week. A week starts Sunday and ends Saturday. Coaches are required to use 3 different pitchers in a regulation game. The intent of this rule is to give more players a chance to pitch; the goal of the house league is to encourage participation.
- Because of the above rule, the walks per inning rule will be modified: if a team in the field walks 3 batters in an inning, the offensive team's coach pitches to his/her players until 3 outs or 5 runs. While the coach is pitching there is no stealing. The batter cannot walk or be awarded first on a hit batter while the coach is pitching.
- An adult coach from the defensive team may be positioned in the outfield during the game, provided another adult coach/helper remains in the dugout if there are players on the bench.