

# WEST PLAINS PARKS AND RECREATION Youth Baseball/softball – U14 – Rules Summary 2021

Except for the rules covered in these by-laws, Competitive League will be governed by USSSA (United States Specialty Sports Association) Softball Rules.

- NUMBER OF INNINGS PLAYED: 5
- TIME LIMIT: 90 minutes
- MINIMUM REGULATION GAME: 3 INNINGS (2 1/2 IF HOME TEAM IS AHEAD)
- 7 Players must be present to start game
- Molded Cleats Only **No Metal Spikes** (players with metal cleats will not play)

## RUN LIMITS

- When the batting team has scored 5 runs during any at bat, the at bat will end. Any runs that may have been scored beyond 5 will not be counted.

## BATTING ORDER

- Bat entire line-up (late arriving players must be placed at the bottom of the lineup) Play 9 in the field. (Free substitution in the field Frozen batting line-up)

## BATTING/BASERUNNING

- **DROPPED THIRD STRIKE.** Runners can advance to 1<sup>st</sup> on dropped third strike.
- Infield fly is in effect
- A courtesy runner for the catcher is mandatory with two outs.
- **Baserunners may lead off when the ball releases from the pitchers hand.**
- In the event of a close play at home, the runner must make an attempt to slide. If they do not slide, they will receive a COACHES WARNING. On the next foul committed, the runner will be called out.

## RUN RULE

- 15 runs after 3 innings
- 11 runs after 4 innings

## PITCHING

- Umpires shall give a warning on illegal pitches and then proceed.
- Pitchers shall have 5 warm up pitches before each inning.
- New pitchers will receive 8 warm up pitches.

## Base & Pitching Distance

- Base and pitch distance shall be governed by the USSSA by-laws. A warning shall be given on the first balk. All balks following the initial shall be penalized according to Official Baseball rules. Only the starting pitcher will be given this courtesy.

## COACHES

- Under no circumstances will coaches or players argue judgment calls including balls and strikes. After a warning, a coach or player will be ejected.
- The team designated by the schedule to be the home team shall be the official scorekeeper for the game. The official scorekeeper must use a regulation scorekeeping book and must keep track of the following:
  - Count (balls, strikes, outs)
  - Score of the game (5 runs per inning, run rule, etc.)
  - Line up used by both teams.
  - COMMENT: The umpire's focus should always be on administering the rules of the game of baseball/softball. The scoreboard is not an official account of the score and should not be treated as such.

## TIES

- If the game is tied at the end of regulation, **ONE** extra inning will be played to determine a winner. If no winner exists following that extra inning, the game will end in a tie.

## GENERAL

- For rules not covered in these bylaws, the USSSA rules will be in effect.
- The home team will be designated to keep the scores of all games for record keeping purposes only.
- The West Plains Parks and Recreation Staff will determine the readiness of the field for play of all ball games.
- In the event of lightning, players will head to dugout and play shall resume when lightning is no longer visible for 15 minutes.
- Unsportsmanlike behavior may result in penalties being imposed upon the offending individual, including coaches, participants, or spectators. Penalties will be decided by a committee made up of Director of Parks and Recreation, Sports Coordinator, and the West Plains Parks and Recreation Staff person in charge of the activity.
- No batboys or batgirls are allowed in the dugout or on the field. This rule is instituted solely for safety's sake. All players must stay behind dugout pole during live play.
- **The Manager is ultimately responsible for the team's crowd and their actions. If a problem occurs in your team's crowd, you will be given a warning to take care of the situation. If the problem persists, the coach will once again be notified and the umpire will eject the offending spectators. Further problems will result in forfeit of the game and possible suspensions of team, coaches or fans.**
- The West Plains Parks Department requires that players, parents and coaches sign a "Code of Conduct" prior to the season that relates to behavior and sportsmanship to which ALL will be held accountable. Sportsmanship violations, including foul language, intimidation, and threat of infliction of bodily harm against game officials, staff or other participants, coaches and spectators will not be tolerated and those in violation will be subject to ejection from the game and suspension from future games at the discretion of the Parks Staff.

- The Sports Coordinator & Director will make final determination on any rules or interpretation that may arise throughout the season.
- Any rules not covered in this rules packet will be left to the discretion of the Recreation Specialist in charge of the program.