**2018 WESTLAKE BASEBALL TRAVEL LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS**

A. MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Westlake Travel Baseball ("WTB") program is to regulate, supervise and administer athletic competition in baseball among its member teams under the bylaws of the Westlake Baseball League ("WBL"). The organization works closely with the City of Westlake, Westlake Recreation Department, the Westlake City School District and other agencies and organizations concerned with the health, recreational experience and the well-being of the youth in the Westlake Community.

B. ADMINISTRATION

The WTB program is administered by the Westlake Baseball League Board of Directors, which includes a Travel Commissioner and Assistant Travel Commissioner.

C. TEAMS

1. The Westlake Baseball Travel League will attempt to support as many teams

as there is interest by players meeting minimum skill requirements at the following age

groups: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15-18. The number of teams actually supported for any

given season for a particular age group will be dependent upon the number of qualified

players trying out, the number of coaches that volunteer and the availability of fields

offered by the city and school district. Every effort will be made to sponsor at least one

team per age group. The number of teams supported each season will be determined

jointly by the Westlake Baseball League President, Travel Commissioner and the

Westlake Recreation Department by November 1st.

2. All teams will purchase one complete set of WBL approved uniforms. This

set will be agreed on by the managers and approved by the travel commissioner for the

upcoming season. Uniforms must include the most current WBL logo on all player and coach’s jerseys.

3. All travel teams must be registered prior to December 31st of the previous year. Example: Playing in 2018, registrations all in Dec. 31, 2017.

4. Travel Teams can participate in the CVBA (Cuyahoga Valley Baseball Association) or Puritas Baseball League or participate in Tournaments Only.

D. TEAM NAMES

Teams may select their team name ensuring it is in good taste, does not conflict

with other team names, and the name "Westlake" precedes the team name. The team

name shall be approved by the Travel Commissioner. Or if there are 2 10U teams, then each team may be named Westlake Demons Green 10U and Westlake Demons White 10U.

E. TRYOUTS AND ROSTER

Each prospective player must submit a completed application for participation in

the Westlake Baseball Travel League. Completed applications should be submitted at

or before the teams announce a tryout. Tryouts will take place in the fall, thus allowing for teams to be formed for the benefit of winter training. Special tryouts may be held after January 1st, but before February 15th allowing for players who moved into the area after the school year started to have an opportunity to tryout. These special tryouts will be conducted in the presence of the Travel Commissioner or his designee who will perform an evaluation using the player evaluation form. Copies of final official rosters will be given to the Travel Commissioner for submission to the Westlake Baseball League and Westlake Recreation Department on or before March 1st.

F. TRYOUT CONSULTANTS

To effectively conduct tryouts in an objective, equitable manner, the Travel Commissioner shall appoint a Tryout Coordinator, who will be responsible for enlisting Tryout Consultants to assist in the evaluation of potential players. Each tryout will have at least one Tryout Consultant present at the 10 to 14-year-old tryouts and two Tryout Consultants at the eight and nine-year-old tryouts, including the Travel Commissioner or the Tryout Coordinator. Players 15 to 18 years-old tryouts are completely independent and can determine the tryout format and evaluators with Travel Commissioner approval.

For existing teams, the Travel Consultants and incumbent managers (if previously approved to continue with the team) will evaluate each player on predetermined, age-appropriate skills using a scale that will be applied consistently. The manager, giving consideration, to the input from the Travel Consultant(s), will make the final roster decision. At the 8 and 9-year-old levels the Travel Consultants and Travel Commissioner or Tryout Coordinator will select approximately two-thirds of the team rosters. Once a manager is selected for each team, the manager, giving consideration, to the input from the Travel Consultant(s), will make the decisions on the remaining roster selection.

G. MANAGER SELECTION

Any person interested in managing a travel team is invited to complete a Manager’s Application form. Forms can be obtained from the League website or by contacting the Travel Commissioner. Applicants may be required to go through an interview process. Final candidates will be subjected to a background check. Managers will be selected from the applicants based on the strength of their application and the results of the interview process and background check. If necessary, the Travel Commissioner will appoint a 4-member selection committee. The Travel Commissioner will only vote in the event of a tie. Final decisions on managers for each team will be made no later than November 1st.

H. LEVELS OF PLAY

Based on prior seasons (for existing teams) and the level of talent as determined at tryouts, the specific league and level of play will be determined by the Managers and the Travel Commissioner. Managers will agree on the level of play with the Travel Commissioner having the final decision. Ideally the level of play will be determined based on the level of talent. The second team formed in an age group will typically play in the non-bid or lower division; however, the level of talent may dictate otherwise. Two Westlake teams should avoid playing in the same level.

The level at which a team plays is important to the enjoyment and development of the team as a whole. The travel program is intended to provide players a level of competition suited to the overall talent of the team. The League will avoid placing teams in leagues that are consider too competitive or considered not competitive enough. Player growth is rooted in the challenge of an even match. Every effort will be made to honor the challenge.

I. LATE REGISTRANTS

Late registrants will be accepted at the managers' discretion on an individual basis. If a late registration is accepted the player must go through the special tryout process as described in 'E' above. Managers may pick up additional players after the team has been selected, but not cut players already on the roster. Any late registrant will pay the applicable League late registration fee.

J. RESIDENT/NON-RESIDENT PLAYERS

Each team participating in the Westlake Baseball Travel League shall be comprised of a suitable number of players at the discretion of the team manager. Teams shall be comprised of players who are residents of the city or attend a public or private school within the city.

*Exception:* Out-of-Community Players. Upon recommendation by the Manager,

approval of the Travel Commissioner and approval by a board member who is not

involved in the travel program (such board member selected by the board by a majority

vote of all members), as applicable and subject to applicable league rules, a team may

roster up to two players ("Out-of-Community Players") not meeting this residency / school

requirement. An Out-of-Community Player may be rostered on a travel team prior to

March 1st only if one of the following applies:

(1) Previously on Team. The player was previously rostered on the same travel team

during the same or immediately previous season and subsequently lost the requisite

residency/school status, or

(2) Insufficient Number of Players. An insufficient number of otherwise eligible,

competitive players exist to staff the team roster.

(3) Out-of-Community Players, once rostered as such on a travel team, for at least a

portion of a season, shall be eligible to tryout and to be rostered on the same team in

continuous subsequent seasons at the discretion of the Manager, *even if a sufficient*

*number of resident school-eligible competitive tryout candidates exist.*

(4) Out-of-community players will pay a fee equal to one-hundred and fifty (150%) of

the regular WBL base registration fee.

K. AGE REQUIREMENTS

Any player who, before May 1st, reaches the below-listed birthday is not eligible to participate in that division:

 8 & under 8 years old on or before April 30, 2017

 9 & under 9 years old on or before April 30, 2017

10 & under 10 years old on or before April 30, 2017

11 & under 11 years old on or before April 30, 2017

12 & under 12 years old on or before April 30, 2017

13 & under 13 years old on or before April 30, 2017

14 & under 14 years old on or before April 30, 2017

L. PLAYING UP

The Westlake Baseball Travel League strongly encourages individual players to

participate in their age-appropriate division, but will allow players to enter a team at a

higher division so long as league rules permit it and the Travel Commissioner, Manager,

and the player's parent(s) agree. The Travel Commissioner is responsible for fully

disclosing to the manager and the parent(s) the differences and the impact playing at a

different age level are i.e. base distances, pitching rubber distance, pitch speed.

M. TWO-LEAGUE PLAYERS

The League highly discourages a player from playing for more than one team during the course of a season. If a player and his parent(s) willfully decide to play on a Westlake Travel team and another team, their first allegiance must be to the travel team. The Travel Manager, if he allows the player to play on another team, must obtain a signed, written understanding from the manager of the other team that the other manager is aware the player is playing for a Westlake Travel team and that the player's first allegiance is to the travel team for all games and practices. This form must also be signed by the parent(s) of the player. If the two-team situation becomes undesirable, at the sole discretion of the Manager, he may require the player to drop the other team, or remove the player from his roster. If a player is removed from a roster, no refund will be given.

N. MANAGERS, COACHES AND ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBILITIES

The manager and assistant coaches must be good examples for the youth and

conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times, on and off the field. All

managers will abide by the guidelines below.

 1. Managers and Coaches

● All managers and coaches must complete and pass a background check prior to coaching. It is the obligation and duty of all baseball coaches in the Westlake Baseball Travel League to read, understand and abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the League.

● Managers and coaches should be on time and be prepared for games and practices, thereby setting an example for your team.

● A manager will only use eligible and properly rostered players for any and all league, playoff and tournament games. Violation of this regulation is cause for immediate relief of managerial responsibilities.

● Managers and coaches are responsible for the conduct and control of baseball players and followers.

● Good Sportsmanship. Set a good example for all players.

● Managers and coaches and staff members of the Westlake Baseball Travel League are prohibited from smoking, chewing tobacco products, drinking of alcoholic beverages, and the use of profanity or any illegal substance on the baseball fields and in the presence of the baseball teams during the progression of scheduled league games and practices.

● Pursuant to the code of ethics for youth managers and coaches who engage in the use of or distribution of illegal substance shall be suspended from participating in the Westlake Baseball Travel League. There is no course of redress on this issue.

● Managers are to have with them at all games and practices the medical release forms, team roster and player birth certificates. No manager or coach will conduct themselves in a manner that damages the Westlake Baseball Travel League's reputation or

public perception of which the determination of such conduct is the sole discretion of

the Westlake Baseball League Board of Directors.

O. MANAGERS AND COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE

*See attachment which needs to be executed by each prospective manager and coach.*

P. WESTLAKE BASEBALL TRAVEL BASEBALL PROGRAM BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY

Any prospective manager or volunteer of any member team who is found to have committed any of the following or whose submitted criminal background check, as required by the Rules and Regulations of the Westlake Baseball Travel League, discloses any of the following criminal conviction s shall be barred from participation in any Westlake Baseball Travel League Event:

1. Any felony criminal conviction for assault, domestic violence, child abuse, molestation, rape, sexual assault, any sex crime, child endangerment, and/or any other criminal felony conviction in which a person was physically injured, harmed, and/or intimidated;

2. Any criminal conviction involving the trafficking or sale of any drug,

narcotic or other illegal substance.

3. Any criminal felony conviction of possession of any drug, narcotic, or

other illegal substance; and any other criminal conviction, action, or behavior in which

Travel Commissioner of the Westlake Baseball Travel League, in its absolute

and sole discretion, determines shall preclude a person from participating

as a coach or volunteer o f a member team at any event sanctioned by the

Westlake Baseball Travel League. The Travel Commissioner will contact prospective

managers and / or coaches. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

**WESTLAKE BASEBALL LEAGUE**

**LIABILITY WAIVER:**Having been informed of the organization of the Westlake Baseball League Co., to provide supervised baseball games for children, I, a parent of the abovenamed applicant, do hereby give my approval to his/her participation in any, and all, of the activities during the current season. I assume all risks and hazards incidental to the conduct of and transportation to the activities. I assume any, and all medical costs incident thereto. I do further hereby release, absolve, indemnify, and hold harmless the Westlake Baseball League Co., the organizers, sponsors, and the supervisors appointed by them. I likewise release from responsibility any person transporting my child to or from the activities. The Westlake Baseball League Co. insurance supplements whatever coverage exists for payment of injuries incurred because of participation in scheduled practices or games. It does not cover any other activity or any unscheduled practice or game.

**LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY**As parent, I authorize representatives of the Westlake Baseball League Co. to seek emergency medical care for my named child. I also agree that in an emergency, medical services be allowed to transport and care for my child as long as reasonably practical.

**UNIFORM AGREEMENT**

I hereby agree that my child will wear the official Westlake Baseball League uniform in order to play. The official Westlake Baseball League uniform will be a baseball cap, game jersey and socks (provided by the WBL) and plain white or gray baseball pants (provided by parents) and cleats (not metal spikes). Any player not wearing the complete official uniform will not be permitted to play.

**USE OF PHOTO AGREEMENT**

I hereby authorize Westlake Baseball League and its officers to use my child’s photo taken during our participation in Westlake Baseball League activities and events. Westlake Baseball League may use the image in perpetuity, alone or accompanied by other material, in any manner on its website or social media outlets. I hereby waive any right to inspect and approve the finished image. I agree that the image is owned by Westlake Baseball League.

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

I agree to uphold the rules and regulation of the Westlake Baseball League. I agree to ensure that my child(ren) will uphold the rules and regulations of the Westlake Baseball League. I certify that I have read and understand the rules and regulations as detailed at

[www.westlake-baseball.com](http://www.westlake-baseball.com). I agree to support an enthusiastic and positive environment for parents, players, coaches and referees. I agree that the use of any unsportsmanlike conduct, profanity, intimidation, threats, or violence, whether physical or psychological will not be tolerated and the Westlake Baseball League reserves the right to expel any spectator, participant, parent or coach from current and /or future Westlake Baseball League activities for displaying any of these behaviors.

* I understand my child will play in his age or grade appropriate league.
* I understand the league is mixed-competitive and participants of all skill levels are encouraged to play equally.
* I understand that I will supervise or arrange for another adult to supervise my child(ren) at all Westlake Baseball League practices, games or events.
* I understand the league is an all-volunteer organization and I will treat all participants, coaches, board members, referees and volunteers with dignity and respect, at all times.
* I understand as the parent/guardian of a participant, I may be asked to volunteer and assist with an activity.
* I understand that if I volunteer or assist as a coach or assistant coach in the Westlake Baseball League, I will complete a Kid Safe Risk Management Form bi-yearly as required by the Westlake Baseball League and the Westlake Baseball League may be billed directly for the fee.

THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE. IF ANY OF THE INFORMATION IS NOT CORRECT, I UNDERSTAND THAT MY CHILD (PLAYER) MAY BE INELIGIBLE TO PLAY. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS INFORMATION MAY BE VERIFIED.

All coaches have agreed to the following code of conduct and consent form at the time of registration.  Its agreement will be enforced.

**COACH, ASSISTANT COACH AND VOLUNTEER CONSENT**

By agreeing below, I agree to uphold the rules and regulation of the Westlake Baseball League.  I certify that I have read and understand the rules and regulations as detailed at

[www.westlake-baseball.com](http://www.westlake-baseball.com).

Additionally, I agree to support an enthusiastic and positive environment for parents, players, coaches and referees.  I agree the use of any unsportsmanlike conduct, insults, profanity, intimidation, threats, or violence whether physical or psychological will not be tolerated and the Westlake Baseball League reserves the right to evict any spectator, participant, parent or coach from current and/or future Westlake Baseball League activities for displaying any of these behaviors.  I will report any such incidents to the Westlake Baseball League President/Vice President.

I understand the league is mixed competitive and participants of all levels of skill are encouraged to play equally.

I understand the league is an all-volunteer organization and I will treat all participants, coaches, board members, referees and volunteers with dignity and respect, at all times.

I understand that I must complete a Kid Safe Risk Management Form bi-yearly as required by the Westlake Baseball League and that I am unable to coach or participate as a volunteer until the form is completed and reviewed by WBL.

UPDATED: December 13, 2017