

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 WBL Board of Directors, which includes a Travel Commissioner and Assistant Travel Commissioner.

C. TEAMS

1. The WBL will attempt to support as many teams as there is interest by players who meet minimum skill requirements at the following age groups: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15-18.
2. The number of teams supported during any given season for a particular age group will be dependent upon the number of qualified players trying out, the number of coaches who volunteer and the availability of fields offered by the city and school district.
3. Every effort will be made to sponsor at least one team per age group.
4. The number of teams supported each season will be determined jointly by the WBL President, Travel Commissioner and the Westlake Recreation Department by November 1st.
5. All teams are responsible for purchasing their own uniforms. It is encouraged, but not mandatory to purchase uniforms with WBL current year vendor to qualify for bulk pricing.
6. All travel teams must be registered and paid up to date on their WBL yearly dues prior to December 31st of the previous year. For example, if you are playing in 2019, registrations must be in prior to December 31, 2018. Yearly dues payable to WBL are for team insurance, reimbursement of league dues, field prep and game balls.
7. Travel teams can participate in any competitive league as long as it is approved by the commissioner. Recommended leagues are CVBA and PURITAS.
8. Travel team dues are to be handled by the manager or team treasurer. It is the team's responsibility to pay for their own expenses.
9. When a player pays to play on a team there are NO REFUNDS due to injuries on or off the field, deciding not to play, etc..
10. WESTLAKE BASEBALL LEAGUE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY TEAM OR INDIVIDUAL PLAYER'S FINANCES.

D. TEAM NAMES

If there is one team in an age group they will be called "Westlake". If there is more than one team playing in the same age group they will be "Westlake" and coach's last name.

Example: "Westlake Nash," "Westlake Romaine," "Westlake Valore," etc TEAMS THAT HAD NAMES IN 2018 SEASON MAY CONTINUE TO USE THEM UNTIL THE TEAM IS NO LONGER PLAYING.

E. TRYOUTS AND ROSTER

Each prospective player must submit a completed application for participation in the WBL Travel League. Completed applications should be submitted at or before the teams announce tryouts. Tryouts will take place in the fall, allowing for teams to be formed for winter training. Special tryouts may be held between January 1st - February 15 to allow players who are new to the area after the start of the school year the opportunity to try out. 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 conduct tryouts in an objective and equitable manner, the Travel Commissioner shall appoint a Tryout Coordinator responsible for enlisting tryout consultants to assist with 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 8 and 9 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. If there is not a Manager in a specific age group the Travel Commissioner will put a group together to tryout and evaluate players until a Manager is found at that time the new Manager will use the evaluations and input from group to help form their team.

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 will 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 WBL will avoid placing teams in leagues that are considered too competitive or not competitive enough. Player growth is dependent upon 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. Players already rostered may not be cut. Any late registrant will pay the applicable WBL late registration fee.

J. 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

K. PLAYING UP

The WBL strongly encourages individual players to participate in their age-appropriate division, but will allow players to enter a team at a higher division as 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.

L. TWO-LEAGUE PLAYERS

The WBL highly discourages a player from playing for more than one team during a single season. If a player and his parent(s) decide to play on a Westlake Travel team and another team, their first allegiance must be to the Westlake Travel Baseball team. If he/she allows the player to play on another team, the travel manager must obtain a signed, written understanding from the manager of the other team that he/she 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.

M. MANAGERS, COACHES AND ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- In addition to mandatory background checks, all managers, coaches and assistant coaches must complete concussion training every three years, and provide their Concussion Training Certificate number to WBL in order to participate. To acquire or renew your certificate, go to: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61037/concussion-in-sports>
- All managers are responsible for their team finances (revenue and expense) uniforms, umpire fees, scheduling indoor and outdoor practice spaces and fields, scheduling tournaments, etc. Team managers are responsible for collecting fees for all team activities directly from team players, and a manager may suspend a player from practices, games or any team activity if a player is current on team dues.
- WESTLAKE BASEBALL LEAGUE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN PLAYERS AND MANAGERS.
- When a player is notified that he/she made the team, they are required to pay the same full amount paid by all other players by the same established due date. For example: Jerome is a all-star and must pay the same amount as Ken, who is not.
- 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 WBL Travel League to read, understand and agree in writing to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the League.
- Managers and coaches must 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 termination of managerial responsibilities.
- Managers and coaches are responsible for the conduct and control of baseball players and followers
- Managers and coaches are responsible for role modeling good sportsmanship and setting an example for players and spectators.
- Managers, coaches and staff of the WBL are prohibited from smoking, chewing tobacco products, drinking 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, managers, coaches and staff of WBL who engage in the use of or distribution of illegal substances shall be suspended indefinitely from participating in the WBTL. 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. The determination of such misconduct is at the sole discretion of the Westlake Baseball League Board of Directors.

N. MANAGERS AND COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE

See required attachment to be signed by each prospective manager and coach.

O. 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 convictions 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 of 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, the above-named parent/guardian, do hereby agree individually and on behalf of the above-named player, do give my approval to his/her participation in any, and all, of the scheduled practices, activities or games offered during the current season. I assume all risks and hazards incidental to the conduct of and transportation to the scheduled practices, activities or games. 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, managers, and supervisors appointed by them. I likewise accept the sole responsibility to transport my child to or from WBL scheduled practices, activities or games."

LINDSAY'S LAW: SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST IN YOUTH ATHLETES:

In accordance with this law, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology and other stakeholders jointly developed guidelines and other relevant materials to inform and educate students and youth athletes participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity, their parents, and their coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest.

Additional information at: <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/Lindsays-Law.aspx>

LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a 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 practicable.

UNIFORM AGREEMENT

I hereby agree that my child will wear the official uniform that their team has provided for them. If it is lost, stolen or damaged it is the player's responsibility to purchase a replacement. A PLAYER WHO IS NOT PROPERLY UNIFORMED MAY NOT PLAY, AS DETERMINED BY THE TEAM MANAGER.

USE OF PHOTO AGREEMENT

I hereby authorize Westlake Baseball League and its officers to use my child's photo taken during his/her 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 regulations 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. 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 agree to volunteer or assist as a coach or assistant coach in the Westlake Baseball League, I will be background checked, 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.

I VERIFY THAT 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 BY WBL.

All coaches must agree to the following code of conduct and consent form at the time of registration. Its agreement will be enforced by WBL.

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.

Additionally, I agree to support an enthusiastic and positive environment for parents, players, coaches and referees. I agree that 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,

manager, 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.
- I understand that Westlake Baseball League is not responsible for any financial transactions between coaches, managers, and their players.
- I understand that there are no refunds for player registration fees or team dues after they are accepted/paid.

UPDATED: December 17, 2018