

WESTLAKE TRAVEL BASEBALL PROGRAM

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 by-laws of the Westlake Baseball League (“WBL”). The organization works closely with the City of Westlake, Westlake Recreation Department, the Westlake Public School System 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 Travel Baseball Program 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 and 14. 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 the league approved uniform. This set will be agreed on by the managers and approved by the travel commissioner for the upcoming season.

D. TEAM NAMES

Teams may select their team name as long as 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.

E. TRYOUTS AND ROSTER

Each prospective player must submit a completed application for participation in the Westlake Travel Baseball Program. 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 try out. 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

In an effort to 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 10-14 year old tryouts and two Tryout Consultants at the eight and nine year old tryouts, including the Travel Commissioner or the Tryout Coordinator. For existing teams, the Travel Consultants and incumbent managers (if previously approved to continue with the team) will evaluate each player on pre-determined, 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 web site 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. 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 the tryouts, the specific league and level of play will be determined by the Travel Commissioner. Teams will be formed, typically, by placing the top 11 or 12 players (based on talent, coach-ability and commitment) on the first team, referred to as the Pick-One Team. Typically, this team will play in the bid (higher) division. However, if there is only one team at a particular age group, the level of play will be determined based on the level of talent.. The second team formed in an age group, referred to as the Pick-Two

Team,, will typically play in the non-bid (lower) division, however, the level of talent may dictate otherwise.

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 considered 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 Travel Baseball Program 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 try out and to be rostered on the same team in continuous subsequent seasons at the discretion of the Manager, *even if a sufficient number of residency/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	Ninth Birthday
9 & under	Tenth Birthday
10 & under	Eleventh Birthday
11 & under	Twelfth Birthday
12 & under	Thirteenth Birthday
13 & under	Fourteenth Birthday
14 & under	Fifteenth Birthday

L. PLAYING UP

The Westlake Travel Baseball Program 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 Travel Baseball Program 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 the youngsters.
- Managers and coaches and staff members of the Westlake Travel Baseball Program 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 Travel Baseball Program. 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 Travel Baseball Program'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 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 Travel Baseball Program, discloses any of the following criminal convictions shall be barred from participation in any Westlake Travel Baseball Program 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
4. Any other criminal conviction, action, or behavior in which Travel Commissioner of the Westlake Travel Baseball Program, 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 Travel Baseball Program.

The Travel Commissioner will contact prospective managers and/or coaches. All information will be kept strictly confidential.