

2023 Season Major League - 5th & 6th Graders

70' base distance and 50' Pitching Rubber/Mound Distance - see Westlake City Ball Field Use Doc for the Permanent Mound Distance on specific Westlake Fields. Pitch in front of the mound when permanent mound distance is too far and if available, utilize a temporary pitching rubber.

DO NOT REMOVE THE PERMANENT PITCHING RUBBER

League Play rules are as follows:

1. Schedules can be found on the league website at www.westlake-baseball.com under the Major League tab choose Schedule.
2. All leagues follow professional American League rules, except for as listed. Umpires should be paid at the home-plate meeting before each game.
3. The Westlake Recreation Center is responsible for the Westlake fields and will decide playable conditions. The rain out number is (440) 808-5710 and is only updated until 4:00pm. The Westlake Recreation Center's decision is final. Should weather change the field conditions prior to the start of a game and after 4:30pm, it is then the umpire's and coach's decision whether the field is playable. If the game is called by an umpire and coaches at the field because of field conditions, then the umpires at the field are still paid. If you do not have enough players at the field at game time, your team will record a forfeit.
4. Coaches are responsible for all equipment and uniforms given to them by Westlake Baseball League. Equipment return procedure will be communicated at later date.
5. Games rained out or suspended due to rain are NOT made up.
6. Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of managers, coaches, parents or players and spectators can be the cause for ejection from any or all further competition. Any player, manager, or coach ejected from any game will be suspended for the next 2 games (playoffs and All-Star included), upon review by the commissioner. A second ejection during the same season will result in a suspension for the remainder of that season. Suspended individuals will not be permitted in the park 30 minutes prior, during, and 30 minutes after a game. Failure to adhere to this penalty will result in automatic suspension for the remainder of the season and forfeit of that game.
7. Use of ineligible player by a manager is a serious matter and results in forfeiting any, and all games the ineligible player participated in. The manager is subject to disciplinary action and/or removal from manager position.
8. Umpires should be paid even if the game is forfeited or cancelled at the field due to weather. If a game is forfeited and the two teams can split players to have at least 8 on a side the umpires are to stay to umpire the game. Coaches will be NOT responsible for paying the umpires this Fall season.
9. Home teams will use the third base bench. Each team will provide one NEW GAME ball to the umpire. An adequate number of NEW GAME ball are provided by the WBL in the team equipment bag. DO NOT use these game balls for practice.

10. If a team does not have 8 players within 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, that team must forfeit. If neither team has 8 players, both receive a loss. If there are 16 combined players, an unofficial game should be played. The umpires are still paid.

11. The visiting team may practice on the field 15 minutes prior to the game. The home team may practice on the field 30 minutes before the game until 15 minutes before the game. If both teams have 8 players before 30 before the game, then time on the field must be split evenly.

12. All batters and base runners must wear batting helmets. Additionally, any player acting as base coach must also wear a helmet. All catchers must wear a catcher's helmet and plastic cup/sliding shorts. The umpire will confirm this prior and during each game. Either coach can request the umpire to confirm for proper player's equipment.

13. The team at bat shall have only the batter and the on-deck batter outside the dugout bench area. All other player will remain seated on the dugout bench.

14. Additional players arriving once a game has started must be placed at the end of the batting order. Players may be added on defense as soon as they arrive.

15. A player may re-enter the game defensively at any time during the progress of any game. However, a player who is unable to bat cannot play the field, and, conversely, if a player is unable to play the field he cannot bat, and is thus out of the game.

16. If a player leaves during the game, his at bat is passed without an out being recorded.

17. 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 (all provided by the WBL) and plain white baseball pants and cleats. No metal cleats permitted. Any player not wearing the complete official uniform will not be permitted to play.

18. There are no bat restrictions.

19. No more than two intentional walks per game, per team will be allowed. Announce the intention to walk to the umpire, umpire will allow the batter to go to first without pitches being thrown. No player can be intentionally walked more than once per game.

20. Head First Sliding is OK if it is going back to the bag and not when advancing to a base. I.E during a pickoff back to the bag.

21. The League is enforcing a no malicious contact rule. Malicious contact is defined as contact between a runner and fielder with the intention of causing harm, and is up to the umpire's judgment. Runners may not make contact with any fielder (including the catcher) with the intention of preventing the fielder from tagging him out or of forcing him to drop the ball. Fielders may not tag runners with excessive force. The penalty for malicious contact is that the runner is automatically out, and may be ejected by the judgment of the umpire.

22. Runners are not required to slide, but if they chose to do so the slide must be legal. A legal slide is one in which the runner does not slide so as to make malicious contact with a fielder. (No Head first slides into the next base) Head first slides are only OK when going back to the bag the runner occupies.

23. A pitcher who hits 3 batters during the course of a game, MUST be removed immediately and cannot re-enter the game as a pitcher.

24. Manager's sons are automatically on their team. The same rule applies to one coach and to one additional player if a sponsorship is attained. All other players go into a draft process.

25. Protests cannot be made after the game. All issues are to be resolved by the umpires on the field during the game.

26. Injury. Notify the Major League Commissioner of any significant injury using the contact number provided or this email majorcomm@westlake-baseball.com

End of Season Tournament: A tournament will be played after the conclusion of the regular season. Based on the number of teams, field availability, and length of time allotted for the tournament, a format will be determined prior to the start of the season. All rules for the tournament are the same as during the regular season. Incomplete games will be reconvened from the point of interruption.

Rules which vary among divisions:

TIME LIMIT: No NEW inning will start after 2 hours from the start time of the game. A new inning begins when the third out of the previous inning is recorded. Ex. - The bottom of the 6th inning finishes at 2 hours 4 minutes after the start time the game is over. The third out of the 6th is made 1 hour 59 minutes after the start of the game. Both the top and, if necessary, the bottom of the 7th will be played UNLESS the umpire calls the game due to darkness or inclement weather. Please keep in mind the safety of the players first. If the inning is not completed (and the home team is losing) the game will revert back to the last full inning completed to determine the winner. If the last complete inning is a tie, a tie will be recorded.

It is the League's desire to play as much baseball as possible in the allocated 2 hours.

If a game is approaching the 2-hour mark and the Visiting team is behind, they CANNOT concede the bottom half of the inning unless it is the last regulation inning of the game. Both teams should continue playing until the final regulation inning is complete or the umpire announces that time has expired. If time has expired and the home team has not taken the lead with its final at bats, then the final game score reverts to the score at the last completed inning.

Complete Game: Losing team must have batted at least 4 innings. The score will revert back to the last complete inning. If that is a tie, then both teams will be credited with a tie.

Innings: 7 innings, plus extra innings if the game is tied and only if time permits. If time does not permit an extra inning and game is tied, both teams are credited with a tie.

Mercy Rule: The game is over if either team is winning by 10 runs after 5 innings. If a team scores 8 runs in one inning that team stops batting and the opposing team has their turn at bat.

Bats: No bat restrictions.

Innings per game per player: No player is to sit out two or more consecutive defensive innings. A player is to play at least every other inning in the field.

Pitching per game: A pitcher may not pitch more than 3 innings per game. All innings pitched must be consecutive and to all consecutive batters. One pitch in an inning is considered pitching an inning. Once a pitcher is removed as pitcher, he can't return as a pitcher, but may play any other defensive position.

Warm-ups: The pitcher gets 10 warm-up pitches before his first inning, and 6 each inning after. Warm-ups may not take more than 2 minutes.

Balks: A warning shall be in play for the first occurrence per pitcher, enforced thereafter.

Infield Fly: Major League rules.

Dropped Third Strike: Not in effect. Batter may not advance. Base runners may steal as describe below.

Defense: Major League rules.

Stealing: A runner may steal anytime the ball is "in play" this includes the return throw to the pitcher etc... Lead offs are allowed for every base. Head First Sliding is OK if it is going back to the bag and not when advancing to a base.

Lead-offs: Runners may lead off at will. No restrictions on any base.

Pinch Runner: may be used for a player injured during an at bat or while running bases. The pinch runner must be the player who made the last out on that team.

Pinch Runner Courtesy Rule: As a courtesy to keep the game moving, a pinch runner may be inserted for the catcher of the next inning if he is on base and there are two outs. The pinch runner must be the player who made the last out on that team. This rule does not apply if the time limit for the game has been reached and there won't be another inning to catch.

GUEST PLAYER RULES:

The Guest Player Policy goal for the Rec League is to avoid a forfeit at all costs.

All registered players in our league can be a guest player for any game during the regular season. When calling upon a guest player, the player that you are substituting for should have an equal or lesser evaluation rating. All players that did not attend evaluation camp are to be given a 2.2 rating.

Guest players during the playoffs are allowed after review with the commissioner. The upper bracket guest players must come from a lower bracket team and cannot be an All-Star or of All-Star caliber. Lower bracket guest players may come from either upper or lower brackets after review with the commissioner.

Coaches will obtain a guest player by contacting another coach or parent of a player. There is no need for the commissioner to get involved with a guest player request, unless you need my help in obtaining a guest player.

A team needs at least 8 players for an official game. Umpires have left in the past for unofficial games because of liability concerns. A coach should plan on having a guest player if he cannot be certain of having 9 players for a game. You could still play with 8 players, but this is not ideal.

A Player contacted to become a guest player for a game has three rules:

- 1) The player cannot pitch.
- 2) The player bats last in the batting lineup.
- 3) If a guest player shows up for a game, he will play the entire game even if a 9th player shows up later. The late player(s) would bat after the guest player.

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. 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.

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.