

Pony 7th Grade, 8th Grade and 9th Grade

Pony Division

When a head coach and assistant coach request the same team, their children shall automatically be paired together as buddies. If either the head coach or assistant coach has two sons eligible for the same league (3 players in total), then a sponsor shall be assigned at random by WBL without a designated 4th player.

54.0' Pitching Rubber / Mound Distance. See Westlake Field Details Tab for Permanent Mound Distance on specific Westlake Fields. Pitch in front of the mound when permanent mound distance is too far and utilize a temporary pitching rubber, if available. **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 **Rec Program choose Schedule.**
2. All leagues follow professional American League rules, except for as listed. Certified high school student field umpires should be paid (\$25.00) at the home plate meeting by the Home team head coach before each game. Home plate umpire will be paid directly by the WBL.
3. The Westlake Recreation Center is responsible for the Westlake fields and will decide playable conditions. The rainout number is (440) 808-5710. The Westlake Recreation Center's rainout hotline decision is final. Should the weather change and the field conditions deteriorate prior to the start of a scheduled game, but after the last Westlake Recreations rainout update at 4:00pm, it is then the umpire's decision to cancel a game. Please show up to the field ready to play at the scheduled time unless the Westlake Recreation hotline has cancelled the game. If the game is called by an umpire at the field because of weather or the field conditions, the umpires at the field are still paid. (Rainout number for Fairview Park's Bolken Park is 216-670-0660 and Bay Village is 440-899-3439).
4. Coaches are responsible for all equipment and uniforms given to them by WBL. Equipment return procedure will be communicated at a later date.
5. Games rained out or suspended due to rain are NOT made up.
6. Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of any managers, coaches, parents, players or 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. Home teams will use the third base bench. Each team will provide one NEW game ball. An adequate number of NEW game balls are provided by WBL with your equipment. **DO NOT** use these game balls for practice.

9. If a team does not have 8 players within 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, that team will receive a loss for the purpose of season standing. If neither team has 8 players, both receive a loss for the purpose of season standing. If there are 16 combined players, an official game shall still be played, however game result will not be recorded in season record. The umpires are still paid.
10. Each team gets 15 minutes of practice time before the start time of the game. The home team may start practice on the field 30 minutes before the start time of the game and until 15 minutes before the game. The visiting team may start practice on the field 15 minutes prior to the start time of the game. If both teams have 8 players 30 minutes before the start of the game, then time on the field must be split evenly.
11. 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. The umpire will check that all players are properly dressed and equipped prior and during each game. Either coach can request the umpire to check for proper player's equipment.
12. The team at bat shall have only the batter and the on-deck batter outside the benches. All other players will remain seated on the bench.
13. 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.
14. 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, a out will not be given in his batting position and his batting position only skipped.
15. If a player leaves during the game, his at bat is passed without an out being recorded.
16. Players must be in complete WBL uniform (WBL provided hat, game jersey). Players should wear plain white or gray baseball pants and cleats. No metal cleat's permitted.
17. All bats must have a 2 5/8 inch barrel or smaller diameter.
18. 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.
19. There is no head first sliding into the next base. The runner will be called out. A runner can slide headfirst back to the bag they are leading off of, or just came from.
20. WBL 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.
21. 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 with intent to make malicious contact with a fielder.
22. 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.
23. Protest:. Protests cannot be made. All issues are to be resolved by the umpires on the field, during the game.
24. Injuries. Notify the Pony League Commissioner of any significant injury (or any injury that involves a doctor) at ponycommishwbl@gmail.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 WBL'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 or 9 runs after 6. If a team scores 8 runs in one inning that team stops batting and the opposing team has their turn at bat. This rule **does** apply after the sixth inning.

Bats: Must be no larger than 2-5/8 inch diameter barrel. Maximum of 33 inches and -3 differential. 9th graders are strongly encouraged to use a -3 bat.

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: Each pitcher is limited to 9 consecutive outs. Once the 9th out is recorded and the current play has concluded the pitcher must be removed as pitcher. Once a pitcher is removed as a pitcher, he can not return as a pitcher in the game 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: Warning for the first balk per pitcher. Major league rules after that.

Infield Fly: Major league rules.

Dropped Third Strike: Major league rules.

Defense: Major league rules.

Stealing: Major league rules.

Lead-offs: Major league rules

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.

9th graders playing on High School team: 9th graders playing on a High School team cannot play or participate in any capacity in this league until the High School season is over.

Guest Player Rules:

1. No limit on Guest Players per team per game in order to avoid forfeits. Eight players at a minimum are required per team to start a game.
2. Guest Players can only be used if regular players on your team are unavailable for that game.
3. Guest players cannot pitch and are placed last in the batting order
4. If a guest player arrives at a game, then they will play even if a regular player shows up later.
5. Guest players can be any player registered in **Westlake Baseball League's Pony division (preferred) or Major Division (if no Pony division players are available).**

Additionally, all players have agreed to the following consent form at time of registration. Its agreement will be enforced.

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, and the 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 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, and game jersey 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. 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.

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.

