



2023 Whiteford Baseball

July 4th Tournament Rules

On behalf of Goltz Park and Whiteford Baseball, we thank you for participating in our Annual Whiteford July 4th Tournament. We ask that you please respect the park and the fields while you are here. Teams are expected to throw all trash in the trash cans provided in each dugout at the end of their game. Fans are expected to put all trash in the trash cans located throughout the park. Please note that **PETS** are not permitted at the park.

I. Rules and Policies

- A. Check-In:** Please check-in 45 minutes prior to your first game. All required paperwork must be submitted and verified prior to or at check-in. Teams failing to check-in are subject to forfeiture of all games until properly checking in your team.
- B. Paperwork:** The following documents are required
 - 1. Proof of Insurance
 - 2. Birth Certificates for Each Player
 - 3. Team Roster
- C. Rosters:** Teams may carry a minimum of 10 players and maximum of 15 players on their roster. Each team must submit their roster to the tournament director via Tourney Machine, email (whiteford704tourney@gmail.com) or at check-in. No changes are permitted to rosters after check-in 45 minutes prior to your first game. Each team is limited to a maximum of 4 non-players in the dugout serving as coaches and managers.
- D. Eligible Players:**
 - 1. Players who are not older than the age level registered based on their age as of April 30, 2023. Players must be registered with the participating team's league. A player may only be on one roster, regardless of the age division.
 - 2. Team rosters contain personal information such as player date of birth and full name, etc. In the interest of protecting player and coach privacy, rosters can only be viewed by Whiteford Baseball staff. Only a Head Coach may ask the Tournament Director if a player is rostered and meets age eligibility requirements.

II. Playing Rules

A. Game Rules: Rules will be applied in this order

1. Tournament Rules supercede
2. Pony Baseball Rules supercede
3. Rules of Major League Baseball

B. Length of Game

1. Innings
 - a) Ages 8U- 12U will be 6 inning games
 - b) Ages 13U-14U will be 7 inning games
2. Time Limit
 - a) Pool Play through quarterfinals will be 1 hour 45 minutes for all levels
 - b) Semifinals will be 2 hours
 - c) Championship Games will have no time limit
 - d) Tournament Director reserves the right to alter time limits
 - e) The official game clock shall start with the first pitch of the first inning. The umpire will record and announce the official game start time. It is recommended that coaches request the start time if the umpire fails to make an announcement.
 - f) Expiration of the time limit shall be ruled upon the moment the final out in a half inning is recorded.
 - g) Games may start up to 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Please have your team ready to play 30 minutes early, if necessary.

C. Home/Visitor

1. For pool play home and away will be determined by coin flip
2. For bracket play higher seed is home
3. Dugout choice belongs to the home team unless a team is playing back to back games, in that case, a team will retain the dugout from the previous game

D. Lineups

1. Starting the Game - Each team must have a minimum of 9 players to start each game. If 9 are not ready to play 15 minutes after the scheduled start time (by the umpires watch), a forfeit will be declared. The final score shall be 6-0(8u-12u) or 7-0(13U and up).
2. Continuous Batting Order - All players in uniform (unless injured) in the batting order and listed on the lineup card. If a late player arrives after the lineup cards are exchanged, the player must be entered into the last spot in the batting order (The player must be listed on the official tournament roster). Free defensive substitutions are allowed for all players throughout the game. **All players must play a minimum of 2 innings in the field on defense.**
3. Batting Out of Order - If a player bats out of order, the batter is out and runners are returned to the bases at which they started the at-bat.
4. If a team drops below 9 players during the course of a game, that spot will be an automatic out.

- E. Official Scorer** - If no official scorer is present, the home team will keep the official score book. To avoid any discrepancies, teams are required to verify the score and pitch counts at the end of each half inning. After the game managers must meet with the official scorekeeper to sign pitching logs and game score documentation.
- F. Courtesy Runners** - Running for the catcher is optional, but encouraged to speed up the game. If a player reaches base and will be catching the next half inning, the last recorded out may run for him after 2 outs (or at any time if mutually agreed upon by the managers during the ground rules meeting). The player who was replaced must catch the next half inning.
- G. Sliding** - Runners are obligated to avoid contact (defensive players must be out of the basepath and off of the bases, if they are not part of the defensive play). Collisions may occur on a wild throw, but, if in the judgment of the umpire, the runner did not have the opportunity to avoid the contact, he may rule there was no foul on the play.
 - 1. No contact = No foul
 - 2. Any contact, even slight, which causes the ball to be dropped because the runner did not slide, results in the runner being called out and any other runners will be returned to the last base that they left prior to contact being made.
 - 3. Slides must be directly to the base.
 - 4. Malicious contact will be called for rolling slides, leading with a shoulder or elbow, or sliding with spikes at or above the fielder's knees. In these instances, the runner is out and ejected from the game.
- H. Pitching Rules and Limitations**
 - 1. Any pitcher removed from the mound, for any reason, shall not return to the mound to pitch during that game.
 - 2. Any pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that game.
 - 3. Any player who has played the position of catcher in 4 or more innings is ineligible to pitch during that game.
 - 4. Tournament management will not be involved with counting pitches.
 - 5. All pitchers' total game pitch counts must be accurately recorded. Managers must have this information readily available for inspection by tournament directors or an opponent. Any manager who fails to keep an accurate pitching log, does not adhere to rest requirements, or fails to allow an opposing manager to verify pitching logs, will forfeit the game.
 - 6. Pitch logs shall include:
 - a) Player's name and jersey number
 - b) Player's pitch count for the game
 - c) Opposing manager's initials for verification
 - 7. No pitcher may exceed their daily pitch limit. Any pitcher who has exceeded the daily limit will be required to be removed from the remainder of the game.
 - 8. Each rest threshold is a hard stop. Pitchers may not "finish the batter" and still qualify for the threshold that started the plate appearance. Example:

pitcher A has thrown 26 pitches. On his next batter he throws 4 pitches, 2 balls and 2 strikes, for a 2-2 count. If the pitcher completes the plate appearance by striking the batter out on pitch 5, he has exceeded the threshold and is required to have 1 day of rest. Alternatively, if he is removed with the 2-2 count, he is eligible to pitch the next day, as he did not exceed the 30 pitch limit for the day.

| Rest | 7U/8U | 9U/10U | 11U/12U | 13U/14U |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 0 days | 1-30 | 1-30 | 1-30 | 1-30 |
| 1 day | 31-40 | 31-45 | 31-45 | 31-45 |
| 2 days | 41-50 | 46-60 | 46-60 | 46-60 |
| 3 days | N/A | 61-75 | 61-75 | 61-75 |
| 4 days | N/A | N/A | 76-85 | 76-95 |
| Daily Limit | 50 | 75 | 85 | 95 |

9. Balks will be enforced as follows:

- a) 7U/8U - No balks
- b) 9U/10U - one warning to each pitcher prior to calling a balk
- c) 11U and up - all balk rules apply, no warnings

I. Bat Restrictions

1. Stamp and Weight

- a) For 7U through 10U, all tournament bats must comply with Pony Baseball rules and be stamped with the USA stamp.
- b) 11U through 14U players may use USA, USSSA, BBCOR or wooden bats.
- c) 13U players must use a drop 3, drop 5, or drop 8.
- d) 14U Players must use a -5 if using a USSSA bat in accordance with USSSA Rules.

2. Definition and Penalty for Illegal Bats

- a) A batter is in violation of the rule when said batter steps into the batter's box with an illegal bat. An illegal bat must be pointed out to the umpire prior to the first pitch of the next batter, or before all defensive players leave fair territory.
- b) Penalty: The batter is out. All outs recorded during the at bat count. Runner(s) will not be allowed to advance on a batted ball. If there are two (2) infractions by the same team during a game, the team's Head Coach will be ejected.

J. Footwear

1. Metal Spikes are prohibited at Whiteford for all age levels. Any player wearing metal spikes will be called out and removed from the game until he has acceptable shoes.
2. Acceptable footwear includes Turf Shoes, Plastic Cleats, Molded Cleats or Gym Shoes.

K. Mercy Rules

| Inning | 7U/8U | 9U/10U | 11U | 12U | 13U | 14U |
|--------|-------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 3rd | 15 | 15 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 4th | 10 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| 5th | 8 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| 6th | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 10 | 10 |

L. Tie Breakers

1. Win-Loss Record
2. Head to Head Record
3. Fewest Runs Allowed in all games
4. Greatest Run Differential in all games with a maximum of 12 runs in a single game
5. Most runs scored in all games
6. Coin Flip

M. Game Protest - Formal protests are not allowed. However, Head Coaches are allowed to request a rules interpretation by the Tournament and/or Site Director. The procedure for getting a rules interpretation is to ask for time, prior to another pitch being thrown and informing the Home Plate Umpire that you would like a rules interpretation by the Tournament and/or Site Director. The Tournament and/or Site Director will come to the field to discuss the ruling. The game clock will NOT be stopped for rule interpretation. Head Coaches may NOT request to stop play for judgment calls. Our primary goal is to make sure that rules are enforced properly, if you have a question please ask a Whiteford Director.

N. Games Called Due to Weather or Field Conditions

1. 6 inning games are considered completed after 3 innings or 2.5 if the home team is leading
2. 7 inning games are considered completed after 4 innings or 3.5 if the home team is leading
3. If the game is not official as described above, the Tournament Director will either (a) suspend the game and arrange to have it resumed where it left off, or (b) cancel the game such that it does not count toward tournament standings. Should a Championship

game be interrupted by weather, darkness, or unplayable field conditions, and is not an official game per the above Rule, then the Championship team will be determined by the score at the end of the last full completed inning. If the score was tied at the end of the last completed inning or if the first inning of the game is not completed, the higher seed shall be named Champion.

O. Refund Policy

1. Tournament Withdrawal Policy
 - a) Whiteford Baseball will provide a full refund minus a \$150 withdrawal fee for any team withdrawing from a tournament up to 14 days prior to the scheduled start of the event.
 - b) Tournament withdrawals within two weeks from the start date forfeit all tournament fees.
 - c) No withdrawal refunds will be given once a tournament is sold out.
2. Rainout Policy
 - a) 0 games started = Full refund minus \$100 administrative fee
 - b) 1 game started = refund will be 2/3 of tournament entry fee
 - c) 2 games started = refund will be 1/3 of tournament entry fee
 - d) Whiteford Baseball will make every effort to issue refunds within 90 days, however it may take up to 180 days.
3. Act of God/Illness Policy
 - a) Any Act of God or Illness Cancellation will result in a \$100 administrative fee kept by Whiteford Baseball. This goes for any tournaments canceled due to local or national government rules and guidelines.
 - b) The fee is subject to change without notice.

P. Additional Rules for 7U and 8U Only

1. Pitching - Any pitcher who hits three batters must be removed.
2. Stealing - Stealing will be allowed only when the catcher has total control of the ball. Stealing on a pass ball or dropped balls by the catcher is prohibited. No stealing once the catcher is throwing the ball back to the pitcher. Runners may not advance on an overthrow to any base on a steal attempt.
3. Base runner advancement - Runners may not advance once the pitcher has control of the ball with at least one foot on the dirt of the mound. If runners were past the previous base prior to the pitcher having control of the ball, they may advance to the next base at their own risk. Otherwise, the runner(s) will be sent back to the appropriate base once play has stopped.
4. Scoring - Scoring will be limited to 8 runs in any inning.

Q. Field Dimensions and Other General Rules

| | 7U/8U | 9U/10U | 11U/12U | 13U | 14U |
|--------------------|-------|--------|---------|-----|-------|
| Innings Played | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| Base Distance | 50' | 60' | 70' | 80' | 90' |
| Pitching Distance | 40' | 46' | 50' | 54' | 60'6" |
| Infield Fly Rule | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Dropped 3rd Strike | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Base Stealing | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Lead Off | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Bunting | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

****Please note if for any reason 13U and 14U are combined, 14U Rules will apply****

- R. Sportsmanship** - Whiteford Baseball emphasizes that our goal is to provide a quality tournament experience in a positive environment. All adults (coaches, parents and officials) should conduct themselves with this fundamental notion in mind. All teams (coaches, players and fans) should be respectful of the game and their opponents. Unsportsmanlike conduct by anyone will be cause for removal from the tournament facility. We ask that you remind your fans that alcohol, smoking, and pets are prohibited on Whiteford property. Again, thank you for visiting Whiteford Baseball.