

# Western Iowa Boys Baseball League

## Bylaws

### Article I- Name

This boys baseball league shall be known as “Western Iowa Boys Baseball League” referred to as WIBBL in the rest of these bylaws and rules.

### Article II- Objective

To provide a safe, fun, and organized means for towns in Western Iowa to promote and improve baseball.

### Article III- Members

Section 1. Any town in Southwest Iowa shall be eligible to participate in the league pending a league vote.

Section 2. A new town requesting to become part of WIBBL must submit a letter to the Board requesting such along with the name of the coordinator and the number of teams they are requesting to register.

Section 3. The member fee shall be \$75 per team to play in WIBBL. It is up to each association as to what to charge each participate within their respective towns. The fee for WIBBL will be used for medals for tournament, and administrative costs. The WIBBL fee will be paid to the league secretary by April 10<sup>st</sup>. Failure to do so will disqualify that team from participating in the league tournament. Payment to WIBBL will come from each town’s respective association.

Section 4. A town must be a Member for two seasons before they are eligible to host the league tournament after the 2019 season.

### Article IV- Meetings

Section 1. A preseason meeting shall be held at a location and time designated by the Board on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in March for the purpose of bylaw and rules clarification, game scheduling, and any other business that shall be deemed necessary.

Section 2. Tournament hosts will be in contact with the Board regarding updates on how the tournament is coming along. Tournament host will be provided with team

seeding one (1) week prior to the beginning of the tournament (Monday). This will be done via e-mail.

Section 3. A Board meeting shall be called by the President prior to the preseason meeting for the purpose of season preparation and organization. Board meetings may also be called as needed by the President.

Section 4. Communication will be done via e-mail and phone as this is the most efficient manner. As much as possible, WIBBL will not be using the mail as it is an added cost and it takes too much time.

#### Article V- Organization

Section 1. WIBBL will have a board consisting of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and one at large board member. Each position will carry a two year term.

Section 2. All deposits from the WIBBL team fees will be deposited in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board directs.

#### Article VI- Amendments to Bylaws

These bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new bylaws adopted by 2/3 vote of the members present

Attest:

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Secretary of WIBBL

# Western Iowa Boys Baseball League

## Administration of Rules & Rules of Play

The following rules, supplemented by the official rules of the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) shall govern play and conduct of players and team officials in all games.

### **Article I- League Organization**

- Section 1. WIBBL shall be divided into two divisions, called the 'North' and 'South'
- Section 2. WIBBL is composed of four participation divisions. These divisions are determined by age as of May 1 of the playing year.
- a. 13u (a 14 year old can play if not on a high school team and is going into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade)
  - b. 12u
  - c. 10u
  - d. 8u (WIBBL will not organize the 8u but will provide contacts as necessary)
- Section 3. If any age group has sufficient number of teams to form divisions, the Board will determine the breakup of each division based on geography as best as possible.

### **Article II- Team Rosters and Insurance**

- Section 1. A team roster shall be sent to the League by the first week of the season yearly.
- Section 2. A player must play for town team that they attended school at the time of the roster deadline (April 10th, 2019) or live in (year round). However, if a player is in 7th or 8th grade, the player must attend the school district which the community is in.
- Section 3. Rosters shall include the uniform number, player name, date of birth, grade, and hometown. Rosters should be e-mailed to League prior to start of League season. Each team should have birth certificates available if an appeal is made to verify the age of a player.

- Section 4. A player may appear on more than one roster under the following conditions:
- a. Any player playing up a division can pitch or catch however that is the **only roster they are on.**
  - b. **The League will not make special arrangements for a player/town who has a player that is on two different rosters.**
  - c. The sole purpose of this is to make sure each town has enough players to field a team. It is not meant to give a team a competitive advantage over another.
- Section 5. **A player must appear on the verified team roster and have played in at least half of the league games played to be eligible for tournament play.**
- Section 6. All teams playing in WIBBL must have insurance.
- a. Insurance must include liability and accidental medical.
  - b. Copies of insurance must be provided to the Board.
  - c. Failure to have insurance or proof of insurance to the League shall make that town/team ineligible for league or tournament play.

### **Article III- Team and Player Equipment**

- Section 1. All equipment must follow NFHS standards and guidelines
- Section 2. Chin straps or facemasks on helmets are at the discretion of each town/team.
- Section 3. Catchers must wear the hockey style facemask with a throat protector.
- Section 4. Molded spikes are allowed. **NO METAL SPIKES WILL BE USED IN WIBBL.**
- Section 5. All players on the same team must wear like uniforms shirts, like pants and a ball cap. 8u will be allowed to wear a uniform top and ball cap only if applicable.
- Section 6. WIBBL is not responsible for outfitting or equipping any team. This is the responsibility of each town/team or parent.

### **Article IV- Game and Field Equipment**

- Section 1. All age groups will use regulation baseballs.
- Section 2. **\*\*\*New 2019\*\*\* Bat size will be 2 ¾ diameter barrels.**
- Section 3. Two new, or near new, baseballs will be provided by the home team to start each game. Game balls must be regulation size (9 oz.) and genuine leather. **No**

**synthetic baseball should be used in league games.**

Section 4. It is the responsibility of the home team to provide and set-up the playing field prior to game time. Setting up the field includes:

- a. Chalk the field with all appropriate markings.
- b. Placement of bases and the pitching plate at the correct distances for that division.

Section 5. Field Specifications

- a. Base distance will be as follows:
  - a. 13u : 75 ft.
  - b. 12u: 70 ft.
  - c. 10u: 65 ft.
  - d. 8u: 60 ft.
- b. Pitching distance will be as follows:
  - a. 13u: 54 ft. (must have either a portable mound, live mound or may throw off flat ground if needed). Portable mound must meet NFHS regulation standards and be purchased from a reputable manufacture.
  - b. 12u: 50 ft. (must have either a portable mound, live mound or may throw off flat ground if needed). Portable mound must meet NFHS regulation standards and be purchased from a reputable manufacture.
  - c. 10u: 45 ft. (flat ground)
  - d. 8u: Coach Pitch (N/A).

Section 6. Field markings will be in accordance to NFHS rules and guidelines.

#### **Article V- Officials, Scorekeepers and Scorekeeping**

Section 1. All towns are to schedule their own umpires according to the following:

- a. 13u: **strongly recommended to have at least 1 certified plate umpire, but not required, and 1 umpire on the bases.**
- b. 12u: **strongly recommended to have at least one certified umpire but not required and 1 umpire on the bases.**
- c. 10u: **one plate umpire does not need to be certified and will officiate from behind the mound.**
- d. 8u: one plate umpire does not need to be certified and will officiate from

behind the mound.

- e. WIBBL understands that umpires are hard to come by so it is at the discretion of the home team as to whether or not they can supply two umpires from 12/13 u.

Section 2. Each town is required to have a current copy of NFHS rules and guidelines.

Section 3. The home team will be the official book.

Section 4. Game length and scores will be as follows:

- a. 13u/12u: 6 innings or 10 run rule after 4 innings or 1:50 hour time limit
- b. 10u/8u: 5 innings or 10 run rule after 3 innings or 1:40 hour time limit
  - a. The time limit may be changed upon agreement from each coach prior to the game.
  - b. No new inning will begin after 1:50 for 12/13u
  - c. In the event of a tie there will be one extra inning. If it is still a tie, a runner (the person who made the last out the previous inning) will be placed at second base with no outs.

#### **Article VI- Team and Player Rules**

Section 1. Taunting, smoking, drinking, and swearing is prohibited

Section 2. All coaches are to be in the dugout when their team is on the field (defense). Coaches shall remain in the coach's box when at bat unless it is to tend to an injured player. Exception to this is when time has been called.

Section 3. A team of nine (9) players shall be fielded. Positions are: pitcher (1), catcher (2), first base (3), second base (4), third base (5), short stop (6), left field (7), center field (8), right field (9).

- a. A team may field eight players but will be assessed an out when that ninth spot occurs in the order.
- b. Anything less than 8 on the field will result in a forfeit.

Section 4. A designated hitter may be used.

Section 5. Players may start, enter, or re-enter (one time) as long as they remain in the same batting order.

Section 6. There will be no infield prior to the game **unless** the infield is available and it does not hinder the scheduled start time of the game. If one team takes infield,

both teams will be allowed to however it won't hinder the beginning of the scheduled start time for the game or the next scheduled game.

Section 7. With regards to base running and blocking the plate, please reference NFHS rules and guidelines.

Section 8. Playing guidelines for teams:

- a. 13u/12u: All kids will not necessarily play. However, coaches are encouraged to 'play' each kid at least in a portion of the game. "Playing" is defined as being on the field (designated hitter, pinch runner, pinch hitter, courtesy runner, defensive replacement etc.). Re-entry rules will apply.
- b. If a coach opts to bat all players, he has free substitution (all hitters will hit in their respective batting order but the players can play any position) throughout the game. **This must be agreed upon during the home plate meeting prior to the game. If this is opted for, both teams do not have to follow this. This is strictly a team by team decision.**
- c. 10u/8u: All kids will play a minimum of 2 innings. Re-entry rules will apply. **This includes tournament play. No exceptions.**

#### **Article VII- Rules of Play**

Section 1. Base running

- a. 13u/12u will play "full baseball" with regards to advancing on a passed ball, dropped third strike or any other circumstance a ball would be live.
- b. 10u: **\*\*\*New 2018\*\*\*** 10u will now play "full baseball". (USSSA rules in regards to baserunning. Home plate is open. No more lead off lines.) Dropped third strikes will be automatically dead. **Passed balls do not count as dropped third strikes.** (Note: 7 run rule still applies per inning).
- c. 8u no stealing will be allowed.
- d. Sliding rules will be in conjunction with NFHS rules and guidelines.

Section 2. The infield fly rule will be enforced in the 13u-10u divisions.

Section 3 At the 8u division, 5 pitches constitutes an "at-bat". If the ball is not put in play after these 5 coach pitched, pitches, the batter can hit off the tee. If tee is used, runners may only advance 1 base.

Section 4. All divisions will play full baseball in accordance with batting 9 batters. Unless it's agreed upon at the beginning of the game to bat everybody (open lineup). This CANNOT change throughout the game with regards to hitting order and or not

allowing a player to hit.

Section 5. Pitching limitations: 8 innings pitched and/or 3 appearances in 3 consecutive calendar days

### **Article VIII- Tournament Play**

Section 1. At the end of the season, a tournament will be held for teams 13u-10u. 8u is pending amount of interest.

Section 2. Tournament sites will be based on alphabetical order and the willingness of the town/team to host. In the case that a town does not want to host, it will be offered to the next town alphabetically.

Section 3. Each town will only be allowed to host one division tournament.

Section 4. 13-10u will be single elimination tournaments.

Section 5. The host team shall be responsible for scheduling umpires and scheduling fields.  
**All umpires MUST BE CERTIFIED.**

Section 6. Tournament host will pay for tournament umpires but will keep all proceeds earned from said tournament after paying of umpires.

Section 7. WIBBL will provide game balls for tournament games.

Section 8. Game times shall not be scheduled before 5:00 pm on weeknights and 9:00 am on weekends. A game shall not be scheduled after 9:00 on any night.

Section 9. All tournament games will be completed by the second weekend in July 4th if possible. If weather or any other circumstance makes this not possible, there will be no tournament.

Section 10. Admission to the tournament will be no more than \$5 per adult and \$2 per child but minimum is at locations discretion.

Section 11. In order for a team to play in the tournament, 80% of their games must be completed AND sent into WIBBL for updated standings. Extenuating circumstances (weather) will be discussed and decided by the WIBBL board.

Section 12. In order for a player to play, he must play in 50% of the scheduled games. If this becomes a question, WIBBL will ask for score sheets from all teams that are



affected by the player. If WIBBL deems the player did not play in the required amount of games, his team will forfeit.

### **Article IX- League Scheduling**

- Section 1. All League games must be completed by June 22, 2019 in order to determine seeding for tournament.
- a. Seeding will be based on winning percentage of each team based on a minimum of 80% of League games played. Failure to do so will eliminate your team from the tournament. Extenuating circumstances i.e. weather will be reviewed by the board. Only league scheduled games are considered for seeding. Extra games played will not count towards seeding. Team must identify league games at the time of scheduling and upon score turn ins.
- Section 2. Coaches need to e-mail score and opponent from the previous week by Sunday evening. This is important so the website can be updated. Failure to do so will result in a lower seeds at tournament time.
- Section 3. Game schedules will be up to each town/team. A list of towns/teams within the division will be sent out to each coach. It is the coach's/associations responsibility to schedule games. This will take place in Underwood usually in late March.
- Section 4. You may schedule as many games as you want but you are only credited for tournament play with the teams in your division twice and the other division once.
- Section 5. League games will begin April 14, 2019 (Sunday) and end June 22, 2019. Tournament will begin June 24, 2019.
- Section 7. There will be a 20 team limit per division.
- Section 8. The tournament schedule/seed will be the Board's responsibility. All other game scheduling is at the discretion of the coach/town or team.