

WCRL Minor League Rules-2019

COACHES BEHAVIOR:

*No swearing or obscene gestures at practice or games.

*Smoking or chewing tobacco products on the field or in or around the dugouts is prohibited. **Penalty:** 1st offense is automatic ejection from the present game and the following game. 2nd offense the coach is banned from participation in any league function, I.E. coaching, scorekeeper, etc. **The umpire(patch or non patched)/commissioner will call the coaches conduct.**

COACHING:

*Coaches cannot touch base runners.

*When on defense, all defensive coaches must be off the playing field and/or in the dugout or behind the fence. Only the base coaches are allowed on the field.

UMPIRES RESPONSIBILITIES:

*Any Verbal abuse of umpires, players/coaches or spectators, such as profanity, name-calling, belittlement or excessive harassment is considered unsportsmanlike behavior and will be reason for ejection/removal from premises.

*If the individual(s) refuse to leave, their team will forfeit game.(Balls and strikes calls and judgment calls are not debatable.)

*Anyone causing a disturbance with Umpires or Coaches will be asked to leave the property of the ball diamond. If they refuse to leave, their team will forfeit the game. If offending Spectator is a parent, then both parent and player will be ejected from that game and the commissioners will be notified. If the same parent repeatedly causes issues, they will be banned from all WCRL properties for one year. The player may return to the next game.

*The umpire is in control of the game. If a call is made and the coach continues to complain then the coach will be given a warning and restricted to the bench. If he is given a second warning then the coach is automatically ejected. If it's a coaches first offense then a verbal/written warning will be given to that coach in question with their league commissioner. A second offense will result in a punishment decided by the league commissioners.

*Games cannot be started without umpire(s) on the field.

- A. Team/Coach/Commissioner Responsibility
- B. Player Eligibility
- C. Game-Innings/Time Limit
- D. Field Setup
- E. Defensive Team /Coaches/Players
- F. Offensive Coaches/Players/Team
- G. Pitchers
- H. Postponed/Rescheduled Games
- I. Weather-Lighting/Thunderstorm

Minor League will be following High School Rules except for the following:

A. Team/Coach/Commissioner Responsibility:

1. Must have at least **1 IHSAA patched umpire** on the field.
2. **Both coaches and umpire(s) will meet before the start of the game to discuss ground rules and answer any questions before the game starts.**
3. Any team 15 minutes late will forfeit.
4. If no one calls visiting team or is not at the ballpark to tell the visitors the game is cancelled, home team will forfeit.
5. All rain games must be rescheduled (not necessarily played) within 7 days & must be played prior to the tourney. All scheduled games must be played. Please contact your league commissioner with any problems in rescheduling games.

B. Player Eligibility:

1. Any child not turning 11 prior to January 1st of the current season is eligible to play.
2. Players who are registered with league commissioner by first regular season game.

Every player listed on the roster must play at least 50% of the regular season games to be eligible for the season ending tourney. Every team is required to keep a scorebook for every game for proof of the above if necessary.

3. Players may **move up** a division to field a team (**not for subs**) but **cannot be moved down** a division to complete a team. You also may not bring any player over to field your team (from another team - same league, softball player, etc). **Move-up players may not start until the beginning of the 4th inning, unless a position cannot be filled by a player on the original team roster.?**

C. Game-Innings/Time Limit:

1. Six-inning game- six run rule per inning. 13 run lead after 4 innings, 7 run lead after 5 innings. This also applies to 3 1/2 or 4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead. If run rule has been called, then game is over. Four innings, or 3 1/2 if home team is ahead, is a complete game if cancelled due to weather or darkness. If four complete innings have not been completed the game starts over from beginning. There will be a **1 Hour & 45 minute time limit** on all regular season games. In the season ending tourney, all games will be played to completion, except for run rule. If a game is stopped due to weather or darkness, it will pick up exactly where it left off except for ball/strike count.

D. Field Setup:

All diamonds will have:

1. **Pitching rubber is to be 46 feet** from front of pitching rubber to point/back of home plate.
2. **60'** baseline
3. A **running lane** chalked along first base line. **Distance:** 45 feet from first to home and 3 feet wide.

E. Defensive Team /Coaches/Players

1. Will play 10-man team and must have 4 outfielders (not 3 outfielders and a rover). If team has only 9 players they will not be charged for the out. (Example—one team has 9 players, they can play normal infield positions and 3 outfielders or 4 outfielders, short 1 infield position).
2. All players must play six consecutive defensive outs and bat once per game. If game is called early due to run rule and player does not play his six consecutive outs, team is not penalized
3. **The catcher must wear complete catching gear including a protective cup**

4. Infield fly rule: Ball is popped up in the infield with runners on first and second bases or bases loaded, and less than two outs, batter is out; runners can advance at own risk. Cannot be a bunt attempt. Must be an easily catchable fair ball.

Coaches

5. When on defense, all defensive coaches must be off the playing field and/or in the dugout or behind the fence. Only the base coaches are allowed on the field.

6. If coach crosses foul line and goes on to playing field, this counts as a trip to the mound even if coach doesn't talk to the pitcher. Only exception is when a player is hurt

7. Coach is allowed two trips to the mound in one inning. Third trip in same inning and pitcher must be removed as pitcher.

F. Offensive Coaches/Players/Team

Coaches

1. Coaches: please remember that by IHSAA rules, there is a 1 minute time limit between innings. Please hustle your teams on and off the field as soon as the 3rd out is made. This could affect how many warm up pitches your pitcher is allowed to throw.

2. A team must start a game with a minimum of 7 players; the empty slots in the batting order (8 and/or 9) will be automatic outs.

3. **All teams will bat their lineup** . A substitute can be entered and a starter re-entered anywhere in the line-up as long as the substitute plays six consecutive defensive outs and bats once, then a starter can be re-entered in the lineup for any player. Starters can only re-enter one time. This does not apply to any player who is brought up to use only in case of injury.

4. open leadoffs are allowed

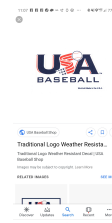
5. **SlideRule:**Slide must be legal per IHSAA rules. Runners must avoid contact with a fielder who has the ball, which is why we have a slide rule. Instead of calling a runner out for not sliding, the call should be based on whether intentional contact is made. Any contact involved with a play, runner may be called out. This is at that the umpire's discretion. Headfirst slides into any base going forward shall be called an out. Diving back to the base is okay

6 BAT RULE:

Bats must be 2-1/4 diameter wood or non-wood or batter MAY/CAN USE AN OFFICIAL USA 2-5/8 DIAMETER BAT IF ENGRAVED/STAMPED WITH OFFICIAL LOGO. All divisions are required to have USA stamp on big barrel bats. Peewee and minors can use up to 2 5/8 and majors can use up to 2 3/4 with USA stamp. NO BAMBOO BATS ALLOWED IN ANY AND ALL LEAGUES

Use of illegal bat:

*****Penalty:** Batter is automatically out with coach restricted to dugout



7. Any player throwing bat will be warned on 1st offense, and the play stands. 2nd offense batter is out—and all runners return to original base. **The warning is an individual warning against each batter.** If the umpire determines that the throw was an intentional act in anger, the player may be ejected by the umpire without warning

8. A BATTER IS OUT IF:

A 3rd strike is NOT caught by the catcher, provided a runner occupies first base with less than two outs **OR** if the catcher catches the 3rd strike

A BATTER IS NOT OUT ON A DROPPED 3RD STRIKE IF:

There are two outs or if no runner occupies first base. The batter is entitled to try and reach first base before being tagged out or thrown out.

G. Pitchers

1. Pitchers can pitch three innings a game. Starting pitcher only may be non- consecutive. All pitchers are entitled to one additional inning only in extra inning games whether they have used there three innings during regulation or not. Any player, who has not pitched at all, may pitch 3 innings of an extra inning game. One pitch equals one inning

2. Pitcher cannot wear batting glove under his glove while pitching. **The pitcher position must use chest protector/heart guard before the game can be started**

3. Pitcher can straddle rubber and throw to base as long as he is not in contact with the rubber. Balks will be called: First Balk: Penalty-warning 2nd Balk: Penalty-Base runners advance one base

4. If pitcher hits two batters in the same one inning, pitcher must be pulled from the mound. Pitcher can come back later to complete his three innings. If batter is hit by a ball in the strike zone this does not count as a hit batter.

H. Postponed/Rescheduled Games

1. There are only 2 reasons where a game may be postponed and rescheduled. The first is due to weather. If a team feels they have another legitimate reason to postpone a game, they must request that their town commissioner notify the other board members to get permission. Just being short 1-2 players is not a legitimate reason. That is why we have the move up rule.

I. Weather-Lighting/Thunderstorm

The following ISHAA rule will apply to ALL boys and girls teams for **LIGHTNING OR THUNDER DISTURBANCES:**

1. **Suspension of play criteria:** when thunder is heard or lightning in any form (cloud-to- ground, cloud-to-cloud, etc.) is seen, which means that the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning, play will be **suspended immediately.**
2. **Return to play criteria (thirty-minute rule):** once play in a contest or practice has been suspended, resumption of play, if warranted, should not occur until at least **thirty (30) minutes** has passed since the last thunder was heard or the last flash of lightning was witnessed. Note that any thunder heard or lightning seen after the

beginning of the 30- minute count **resets** the clock and **another thirty (30) minute** count begins..