

# West Blount Park Baseball/Softball Policy and Procedures

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## A. Rules Committee

- a. Will act on behalf of the Park Board in settling daily operation issues (as needed).
- b. Will assist commissioner in issues regarding Park Board input.
- c. Committee will be composed of five (5) members:
  - i. Park President, Baseball Commissioner, Softball Commissioner,
  - ii. One (1) other Park Board member chosen by the committee and confirmed by Park Board vote
  - iii. One (1) public member (preferably a current coach) chosen by the committee and confirmed by Park Board vote

## B. Chain of Command

- a. Every effort should be made to resolve team related issues with the coach or parent in question. If the issue cannot be resolved, the following chain of command shall be followed:
  - i. Baseball Commissioner / Softball Commissioner
  - ii. Rules Committee
  - iii. Park Board

## C. Coach Selection

- a. A deadline will be established for a person to submit an application to the commissioner to be eligible for consideration as a head coach.
- b. The commissioner shall present ALL manager applications to a quorum of Park Board members for discussion and selection
- c. All managers and coaches will be evaluated at the end of the season. No one is guaranteed a team just because they managed or coached the prior season.
- d. The Park Board must approve all coaches PRIOR to player evaluations.
- e. Approved coaches will be allowed to select assistant coaches subject to approval of the Park Board.
- f. Head coaches will be responsible for the conduct of his/her assistant coaches, players, and the parents or guardians of his/her players.
- g. League officials, coaches, and umpires will conduct themselves in a manner (both on and off the field) that will reflect positively on themselves and the league in accordance with the West Blount Park Code of Conduct.

#### **D. Player Eligibility Process**

- a. An appropriate time frame (beginning date and ending date) will be established for the purpose of registering a child for eligibility in the upcoming baseball/softball season.
- b. Once the player evaluation process has been completed, additional signups WILL NOT be allowed except for the following exceptions:
  - i. Children new to the area
  - ii. Replacing injured players
- c. The commissioner will establish and retain a list of all players wishing to sign up after the cutoff date. If replacement players are needed, the replacement players **MUST** come from the established list.
- d. A date shall be set for the purpose of evaluating every player participating in the upcoming baseball/softball season.
- e. All players shall attend the scheduled evaluation session in order to be eligible to participate in the baseball/softball program. In the event a player cannot attend the evaluation session:
  - i. If the player has played in the park before and is known by all coaches, they will eligible to be selected in the draft
  - ii. If the player has not played in the park before, his name will be drawn out of a hat at the end of the draft in accordance with the draft policies contained in this document
- f. Players added to any team following the evaluation/draft process must be added by the Rules Committee with available players on the waiting list.

#### **E. Player Evaluation Process**

- a. Each coach will be given a roster of players listing age and number of years played.
- b. Coach's children
  - i. Children of head/assistant coaches are required to participate in the evaluation process.
    1. If a coach's child does not participate in the evaluation process, they **MUST** be selected in the draft prior to selecting any children that attending the evaluation.
  - ii. Children of head and assistant coaches will be graded by all head coaches in reference to what round that child should be selected in. All recommendations will averaged to determine what round each head and assistant coach's child will be selected in.

#### **F. Drafting Order Criteria**

- a. Draft order will be determined by randomly drawing a number. Repeat managers in the same age division will draw first. In the event of multiple repeat managers, the manager with the most years as a head coach will draw first, followed by the

manager with the second most years as a head coach, and so on. In the event of additional ties, the coach with the worst record the previous year will draw first.

- b. All non-parent coaches will be allowed to represent one child as his/her own during the team selection process. This must be stated and approved by the Rules Committee prior to the evaluation process.

### **G. Draft Process**

- a. The selection round of all head and assistant coach's children will be determined prior to the beginning of the draft.
- b. If a selected player has a sibling, the same coach must select the sibling in the following round.
- c. Draft order reverses in even numbered rounds
  - i. Example of a five (5) team draft
    - 1. Round 1 – 1,2,3,4,5
    - 2. Round 2 – 5,4,3,2,1
    - 3. Round 3 – 1,2,3,4,5
    - 4. Round 4 – 5,4,3,2,1
    - 5. Round 5 – 1,2,3,4,5
- d. After all eligible players have been selected; players that require being selected by blind draw will be drawn in the continuing draft order.
- e. Requests to be placed on a specific coach's team will be noted on the form but do not have to be honored.
- f. Trading or swapping of players following the draft IS NOT ALLOWED.
- g. Requests to NOT be on a particular coach's team will be addressed by the Rules Committee only if the parent/guardian submits such request in writing at least 48 hours prior to the evaluation/draft listing the reasons for the exclusion. Only one (1) exclusion is allowed.

### **H. Playing Time Requirements**

- a. All players present and in uniform must play at least one defensive inning and bat at least once (excluding events beyond anyone's control, i.e. rainout, early mercy rule, etc)
- b. Players who do not attend scheduled practices (without a valid reason) forfeit the minimum playing time guarantee.
- c. Exception to these rules may be allowed only for player injury or disciplinary action approved by the commissioner prior to the game.
- d. Violations of these rules may result in a suspension of the manager depending upon an assessment of intentions as determined by a quorum of Park Board members.

## **I. All-Stars**

- a. All parents/guardians will give their consent or decline the availability of their children for eligibility in all-stars during the registration process. After the registration process, changes in all-star eligibility status will not be allowed. Any player who is registered as available for all-stars and does not participate if chosen and without substantial reasoning approved by the Park Board will not be eligible for all-stars the following year.
- b. If a parent excludes a coach from coaching their child during the regular season and that coach ends up coaching the all-star team, that child is not eligible for all-stars, even if they had previously elected to be eligible for all-stars.
- c. Only those players listed as eligible for all-stars during the registration process can be selected to the all-star team.
- d. Any player who begins practice as an all-star and does not complete the all-star season will not be eligible for all-stars the following year.
- e. Any player who misses a scheduled all-star practice will not be eligible for participation in the following game. If multiple practices are missed, the player will be removed from the all-star team. (Exceptions are for conflicts with church, death in the immediate family, or serious illness in the immediate family). The Rules Committee MUST approve any other unexcused absence.
- f. The winning coach of each age group will manage the all-star team unless they decline. If the winning coach declines, the remaining eligible coaches will be given the option to coach the all-star team based on the order they finished in the regular season. If no coaches from that age group want to coach the all-star team, the Rules Committee will choose the coach from all interested parties.
- g. The all-star coach will determine how many players he/she will select and what coaches will be assisting.
- h. Although every effort should be made to play each and every player on the roster, there are NO minimum playing time requirements in all-stars.
- i. The assistant coaches for an all-star team must have been approved as a head or assistant coach during the regular season. Exceptions can be made if approved by the Rules Committee.
- j. The other coaches in the age group will vote on all-star players ONLY as a recommendation in an effort to assist the all-star coach in picking his/her team. The all-star coach will be allowed to select whoever he/she desires for the all-star team.

## **J. Sportsmanship**

- a. The commissioner shall have the authority to privately reprimand any coach or player. If the suspension of a coach or player is in order, the Rules Committee or a quorum of Park Board members must handle the situation. Anytime an individual is ejected from a game, they must appear before the Rules Committee with all parties involved before being allowed back on the playing field.

- b. The Park Board, by two-thirds vote, shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any coach, player, league official, umpire, or other person whose conduct is considered detrimental to the best interest of the league.
- c. The Park Board, by two-thirds vote, may suspend or revoke participation in the league from any player upon evidence of misconduct. In the event of reported misconduct, the commissioner shall notify the coach and parent/guardians of the player within 24 hours of the act. The coach may appear with the player before the Rules Committee for consideration of appropriate action. The player's parents/guardians shall be advised of, and invited to attend, such meeting.
- d. Any suspension or disciplinary action may be appealed to a quorum of Park Board members at a regular meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose.

#### **K. Rules**

- a. The official playing rules published by Major League Baseball, Dizzy Dean Baseball, USSSA Softball, and/or 31 North shall govern league operation and play. Modifications or exceptions to these rules may only be made by approval of the Park Board.
- b. The record against other teams in regular season play will determine the final league standings. In the case of a tie, determination will be the result of head to head meetings. If there is still a tie, a playoff game will be scheduled and shall be the determining factor.

#### **L. Disciplinary Guidelines**

- a. Enforcement of playing rules at league games shall be the sole responsibility of the umpire(s) who have been assigned to the game (or any relevant official from the appropriate governing body)
- b. Enforcement of additional league conduct rules shall be the joint responsibility of the baseball/softball commissioner, Rules Committee, and umpires assigned to that game.
- c. Violation of conduct rules for coaches, players, and/or fans include (but are not limited to) the following:
  - Fighting
  - Foul language
  - Derogatory remarks made to umpires, coaches, or league officials
  - Cheating of any kind
  - Destruction of league property
  - Malicious conduct of any kind
  - Violation of West Blount Park Code of Conduct

Thus, if any coach, player, or fan is ejected from a game for any of aforementioned violations, he/she must leave the playing field immediately. If the ejection is from the park, the coach, player, or fan must exit the park within 5 minutes of the

ejection. Failure to act accordingly will result in the forfeiture of the game and suspension from the league for the rest of the season. Additionally, the league may pursue criminal trespass charges if the police are required to remove someone from the park.

In addition to the ejection from the game, the coach, player, and/or fan will receive the following suspension and penalties:

First offense:	suspension for the next team game
Second offense:	suspension for one calendar week including any games played in that time frame
Third offense:	suspension for the remainder of the season
Fourth offense:	lifetime expulsion from all West Blount Park leagues

- d. If the offense is deemed of serious nature, the Park Board, by two-thirds vote, may invoke any penalty necessary without following the multiple offense guidelines.
- e. If the offense occurs in the last game of the season, the suspension will be effective for the following season or the next season the violator participates in.
- f. These penalties are automatic and do not require a ruling by a league official or a vote by the Park Board. The coach, parent, player, or fan may appeal the suspension to the Park Board.

## **M. Special Rules**

### **a. 5/6 age group**

- i. Running with the ball instead of throwing the ball in an effort to make an out will not be allowed. A player **MUST** throw the ball unless the player is close enough to make the tag on the player or the base using ordinary effort (excluding run downs/goose chases).
- ii. Outfielders must throw the ball before reaching any part of the infield.
- iii. A fielder is not allowed to cross over another fielder to make a play (excluding run downs/goose chases)
- iv. If the pitcher fields the ball and is closer to 1st base than the rubber, he can tag the runner. If he is closer to the rubber, he **MUST** throw the ball. Same rule applies to 3rd base.

VIOLATION OF ANY OF THESE RULES WILL RESULT IN THE RUNNER  
AUTOMATICALLY BEING CALLED SAFE

### **b. All age groups**

- i. League champion and all-star coach will be determined by in park play
- ii. The commissioner and/or a Rules Committee member must approve all substitute players. Substitute players must have been drafted in the same round or in a lower round than the absent player.
- iii. All approved substitute players must play outfield and bat last in the roster.