



2019

Whitfield County Parks & Recreation Department

BASEBALL

10U Live Arm, 10U Machine, 12U Live Arm & 14U Live Arm

## 1. PURPOSE

1. The Whitfield County 9–14 Boys Baseball program is organized to provide a recreational activity for the participants. The program is designed for the following purposes.
2. Aid in the physical development through fun and exercise.
3. Teach the basic fundamental skills of the game of baseball.
4. Aid in the social development through good sportsmanship and moral character with adult guidance.
5. Teach good attitudes and discipline to the participants.

## 2. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

### *Governing Authority*

- a. The governing body of this league will be composed of one (1) Community Leader or Representative from each Community along with the Whitfield County Parks and Recreation, forming a rules making body.
- b. The program shall be carried out under the guidance and direction of the Whitfield County Parks and Recreation and the Community Leaders.

### *Governing Rules*

- a. The Whitfield County Youth ages 9-14 Baseball Programs will be governed by the Whitfield County Recreation local rules and current GRPA rules.

## 3. COACHING REQUIREMENTS

1. Coaches must have a Background Check.
2. A person of high moral character who is a respected member of the community.
3. A coach should have a basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals and rules of baseball.
4. A coach should never use profanity, use tobacco in any form during any activity with the players and shall not use alcoholic beverages during or before activities with the players.
5. A coach must never incite the players or parents by criticizing an umpire.

6. A coach should not be overly concerned with winning but stress that each participant have fun and learn the fundamentals and rules of the game while participating.
7. A coach is required to be present at all practice sessions, games and meetings, or have an approved assistant coach present.
8. A coach should try to the best of his ability to keep each player interested and participating through the season.
9. It is the responsibility of each coach to be knowledgeable of all rules governing the Whitfield County Youth Baseball Program.
10. Each coach is responsible for having a scorekeeper at each game.
11. Each coach must be National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) Certified. Go online to [www.nays.org/nyscaonlinecoaches](http://www.nays.org/nyscaonlinecoaches).
12. A coach is now required to report suspected child abuse to their local authority. This is a State Law HB1176.
13. Coaches need to remember that posting derogatory comments towards fans, officials, or the department will be deemed as unsportsmanlike. (anyone with concerns is encouraged to contact department staff)

#### 4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- a. Age control date for baseball is September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- b. A completed Whitfield County Recreation Department Roster accompanied by birth certificate and registration form (Green Card) must be on file before any team is eligible to compete in regular season games.
- c. Each participant must have insurance, whether private or through the Recreation Department.
- d. Playing ineligible players shall result in the forfeiture of all games in which illegal players participated. Any coach that allows an illegal player to participate will be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season and for a one year time period.
- e. Any player suspended or absent from school should not be allowed to participate in a Whitfield County Parks and Recreation activity during the period of suspension or absenteeism.

#### 5. GENERAL RULES

- a. A team roster shall consist of no more than 12 players. Community Leaders should encourage fewer players per team to speed up the game and give each child more of an opportunity for one on one coaching. Players shall not be added to a roster without permission from the Whitfield County Parks & Recreation and a team drops below the recommended number of 11 players. A player cannot be added after the third week of the season without a director's approval.
- b. All available players at the game should bat at least one (1) time and play three (3) outs on defense.

#### 6. PLAYING FIELD

Age Group	Batter's Box	Base Lines	Pitching Distance	Time limit Innings
10U Live Arm	3'W x 4'L	60 FOOT	46 FOOT	1 Hr. 20Min/6 Inn.
9-10 Machine Pitch	3'W x 4'L	60 FOOT	46 FOOT	1 Hr. 20Min/6 Inn.
12U Live Arm	3'W x 4'L	65/70 FOOT	50 FOOT	1 Hr. 20Min/6 Inn.
14U Live Arm	3'W x 4'L	80 FOOT	54 FOOT	1 Hr. 30Min/6 Inn.

## 7. EQUIPMENT

1. Baseball bats should be an unaltered baseball bat with the following requirements: All non-wood bats “MUST” possess a “clearly identifiable” manufacture’s USA certification stamp. Exception: Drop 3 bats for older age group can just have the BBCOR Stamp .05
2. The batters helmet must be made of Ultra High Impact Plastic or High Impact Shell with a heavy rubber padding or similar product. (Face mask is recommended) No other hat or cap may be worn underneath the helmet.
3. Catchers must wear a catcher’s mask attached to a helmet. A hard plastic protector manufactured for the purpose of protecting the throat shall be securely attached to the mask unless the mask has one built on to mask.
4. Catchers are required to wear athletic supports with protective cup and it is recommended that all players wear athletic supporters.
5. Any player warming up a pitcher shall wear a facemask.
6. If a player coaches the bases, they must have a batting helmet on.
7. No metal cleats or shoes with removable female cleats are allowed.
8. Pitchers gloves must be one color, but cannot be white or gray.
9. The recommended uniform shall include baseball cap, jersey numbered on back with 6 inch numbers.

## 8. THE GAME

1. Any time two teams matchup with twelve (12) or less they must bat all players. If teams have more than twelve (12) it will be left up to the coaches. Lineup options for when teams have more than twelve (12) are as follow: (1) Continue to bat all players (2) List only ten (10) players using the EP or (3) List nine (9) players. All available players must bat one (1) time. Players may be rotated to defensive positions to satisfy playing requirement but the batting order cannot be changed.
2. Any player re-entering the game must re-enter in the same position in the batting order, except in the case of replacing an injured or ill player after all substitutes have been used.
3. If a player becomes ill or is injured and there are no substitutes available and their turn comes to bat, that spot will be skipped. If that spot is vacant because of an ejection, an out will be declared.
4. A team may start and finish a game with only eight players with no penalty. The game is a forfeit if a team has less than eight (8) players to start or finish a game.
5. A regulation game shall consist of six innings or one (1) hour and twenty (20) minute time limit. A team may only score five (5) runs per inning.
6. A coach may hold a player out of a game for disciplinary reasons if announced to the Opposing coach before the game.
7. Three (3) strikes is an out even if the ball is dropped on the third strike. The batter may not advance but existing base runners may attempt to advance. If the catcher catches the third strike foul tip, the batter shall be out but the ball shall remain in play and base runners may advance at their own risk. **14U can run on dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.**
8. Charged Conference : If a manager calls time and goes on to the playing field more than twice (2 times) in one inning per pitcher (not game) to talk to a player or players, will be required to remove the current pitcher. The pitcher may return to the mound after the side has been retired if he is eligible. ( A pitcher removed from the mound for any reason , other than ejection, may return to the mound to pitch one (1) time during the same game). Time granted for an obviously incapacitated player shall not constitute a charged conference nor shall a conference be charged whenever the pitcher is removed as pitcher.
9. Each team, when on offense, may be granted not more than one charged conference per inning to permit the coach or any of that teams personnel to confer with base runners and/or the batter. The umpire shall deny any subsequent offensive team requests for a conference.

## 9. PITCHING RULES

1. The pitching of one (1) pitch shall be counted as pitching one (1) complete inning.
2. A pitcher shall not pitch more than eight (8) innings in the 10U/12U divisions and no more than ten (10) innings in the 14U division between Monday and the following Saturday.
3. If a pitcher has pitched more than three (3) innings in a game, he will be required to rest thirty-six (36) hours before returning to the mound, beginning at the time he left the mound.
4. If a pitcher pitches no more than three (3) full innings in a GAME OR DAY he may be used as many consecutive games or days as desired.
5. A pitcher may only pitch seven (7) innings in a game or day.
6. The penalty for using an ineligible pitcher is forfeiture of the game.
7. Any relief pitcher shall be allowed a minimum of ten (10) warm-up pitches regardless of whether or not he becomes the pitcher during or the beginning of an inning.
8. In the 9-12 division there are no Balks.

## 10. BASE RUNNING

1. When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate, with the ball in his possession and the catcher is in the catcher's box in position to receive the pitch, all runners shall be in contact with their bases and shall not leave their base until the ball has reached home plate. 14U will play off base.
2. There shall be a circle (8 foot from center of pitching circle) 16 foot radius drawn around the 46 foot and 50 foot pitching station for 10U/12U Live Arm. If there are base runners on base at the time the ball is returned to the pitcher in the circle, the base runners must immediately return to their occupied base or attempt to reach the next base or the base runner will be called out.
3. If a base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball reaches home Plate. The player will be called out.
4. A courtesy runner may be used at any time for the pitcher or catcher. If there are players on the bench not currently in the game, any one of these players must be used as the courtesy runner.
5. (This will not affect their substitution status). If all players are listed in the batting order, then the player that made the last out will be the courtesy runner.

## 11. Special Mite Machine Rules

1. All Pitching will be done by an electric powered pitching at 46 feet and speed of 46 miles per hour. The machine must be a minimum of 24" off the ground with a maximum of 36" from the bottom of the wheel.
2. When a batted ball hits a pitching machine, the umpire feeding the machine, or the extension cord off the ground, it is considered a "DEAD BALL SINGLE" and batter/runner will be awarded first base with all runners moving forward if forced. If a batted ball hits defensive player then hits the machine, the batter is awarded first base and all other runners move up one base, if forced. Ball is dead when ball hits machine. When a thrown ball hits the pitching machine or the extension cord off the ground, it is considered a "DEAD BALL" and played as if thrown out of bounds.
3. Players in pitchers position must be within six (6) feet of the pitching plate but never any closer than forty (46) feet of home plate when the pitch is delivered. A half circle shall be drawn at the pitching machine for the infielder to start prior to a pitch. Players in pitchers position must wear an infield face mask.
4. Pitcher will receive 5 pitches from machine. If fifth pitch is fouled you will keep getting a pitch. No base on balls allowed. Count remains 3 and 2 until ball is hit or a strikeout occurs.
5. Bunting is allowed. (Fake bunts are not allowed. If a batter shows bunt and then swings, an out will be called)
6. Stealing is allowed with the following limitations:
  - a. A player cannot steal home.
  - b. A base runner can steal when the ball reaches home plate, and then only one base advance is allowed.

- i. If a throw becomes an overthrow during a stolen base attempt, the one-base restriction will apply for stolen bases only.
    - ii. If the machine throws a ball that is uncatchable (to wide or too high) it will be called no pitch and runners cannot advance.
  - c. Runner must maintain contact with the base until the ball crosses the plate. Penalty is an out.
  - d. If a thrown ball hits the machine or umpire feeding machine, each base runner is awarded a base.
7. Infield fly rule is in effect.
  8. A courtesy runner may be used for catcher only.
  9. When play has ceased the umpire will call time and all play will be stopped.
  10. 10 Defenders in the field.

## 12. CONDUCT

- a. Infield chatter is allowed but it cannot be personal or directed towards the other team.
- b. Coaches are responsible for their team and fans conduct.
- c. If a coach is ejected from a game, the ejected coach must leave the bench area. A coach or player that are ejected from a game, must sit out the remainder of that game and must sit out the next game their team plays. If a spectator is ejected from a game they must leave the playing area. If a player, coach or spectator are ejected two (2) times during the course of the season they will be suspended from Whitfield County Parks & Recreation activity for a period of one (1) year starting from the time of the last ejection.

## 13. PROTEST

- a. All protest must be submitted, in writing by the team coach to the Recreation Department Before 5:00 p.m. the following work day.
- b. The only protest acceptable will be concerning player participation or rules misinterpretation. A protest for a rules misinterpretation must be announced and noted in both scorebooks before the next pitch.

## 14. AWARDS

- a. Post Tournament: Individual Awards for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place
- b. End of season tournament: TBA

## 15. WEATHER

- a. The Recreation Department will make the determination if fields are too wet to play
- b. If coaches and umpires are not notified of a postponement, they must arrive at their designated field prepared to play.
- c. If rain occurs before game time and both coaches are at the field, then both coaches must agree to play or postpone. When the umpire arrives and game time is reached, then the decision shall be the responsibility of the umpire to play or postpone the game.
- d. Rained out games will be rescheduled by the Recreation Department
- e. Any game suspended and not played the required innings to become official (four, or three and a half if home team is ahead) will be played from the point of suspension until the game is finished.
- f. If the Recreation Department cancels games because of inclement weather it will be announced on the rainout hotline 706-876-2570. You may receive TEXT ALERTS text "WCRDBASEBALL" to the phone number "84483"
- g. Postponement for Other Purposes:
- h. Any schedule conflict should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Coordinator before season schedules are complete. *Only School and Church functions will be considered as a conflict.*
- i. Games will not be rescheduled after the official schedule has been published.

## 16. ACTIVITIES

- A. There will be three activities allowed per week, including games and practices, plus one activity on the weekend. Practice sessions should be limited to ninety minutes and finished by 9:00 p.m.
- B. No Practices or Game on Wednesday or Sundays.

## 17. CONTACTS

WCRD Office: 706-226-8341 or [wcrd@whitfieldcountyga.com](mailto:wcrd@whitfieldcountyga.com)

Director: Brian Chastain/ Email- [bechastain@whitfieldcountyga.com](mailto:bechastain@whitfieldcountyga.com)

Athletic Coordinator: Ryan Hollingsworth/ Cell- 706-671-9882 or Email- [rhollingsworth@whitfieldcountyga.com](mailto:rhollingsworth@whitfieldcountyga.com)

Sports Coordinator: Freddie Ownbey/ Cell- 706-671-5918 or email- [fownbey@whitfieldcountyga.com](mailto:fownbey@whitfieldcountyga.com)

Weather Hotline: 706-876-2570