



# WHEATON PARK DISTRICT YOUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

## Pre-K Co-ed T-Ball League

### 2025 OFFICIAL RULES

The Wheaton Park District Youth Baseball / Softball Board of Control established the **Co-ed T-Ball League** to introduce both boys and girls of pre-kindergartner age (entering Kindergarten in the fall) to organized T-Ball without being concerned with having to hit a pitched ball.

**Co-ed T-Ball** is an introduction to organized youth team sports. Neither game scores nor league standings will be kept.

The intent of Wheaton Park District Youth Baseball / Softball Board of Control is to introduce the rules of the game, develop skills, provide an opportunity for fun, and to teach teamwork and sportsmanship. League play will be governed by the following rules:

#### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Coaching Youth Sports (CYS) has been adopted for use by the Wheaton Park District Youth Baseball/Softball Board of Control (Board of Control). The Wheaton Park District will provide CYC class prior to the start of the spring season. New managers are encouraged to complete this class within one year of entering the program. CYC managers will be given first priority in team assignments throughout all levels of this program.

It is the responsibility of each manager or their replacement to see to the proper conduct of themselves, their coaches, players and team fans. Failure to carry out this responsibility may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the program.

#### II. THE GAME

- A. The home team is responsible for setting up the field prior to the game (see diagram on page 4), and making sure the equipment is put back into the equipment box following the game.
  - Bases are located 50 feet apart
  - Pitching rubber is 36 feet from home plate (the back point of the plate)
  - Fair ball arc is located 15 feet in front of home plate between the foul lines
- B. The home team will bat last and use the third base side dugout (bench).
- C. There are no umpires assigned or scheduled in this league of the program. It is the responsibility of the managers and their assistants or selected parents to officiate the game.

- D. Games are scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and at various times on Saturdays. If a team is unable to field a full team by 15 minutes after the scheduled game start time, the coaches shall split up the players, make up two (2) teams, and play a practice game.
- E. Game duration will be four innings unless time restraints prohibit completion. The game should last approximately 1½ hours (90 Minutes). No new inning should be started that cannot be reasonably completed within the 90 minute time limit on a week night or by the 90 minute time limit from the start of a Saturday game.
- F. Bad weather or field condition may result in the postponement or cancellation of a game. Prior to the scheduled game start time, if no league official is present, the Home Team Manager will make the final decision to play, postpone or cancel the game due to field condition or weather. **See the Wheaton Park District's "Storm Policy" in the *Wheaton Park District Youth Baseball/Softball Policies and Procedures*.**
- G. Players, managers, coaches or spectators are not allowed to stand behind the backstop in the area directly behind home plate. It is the responsibility of both managers to keep this area clear.
- H. Any player who has a bleeding injury **must** leave the field immediately. A player may return once the bleeding has been contained. This rule must be followed to insure the safety of all players and officials.

### **III. EQUIPMENT**

- A. Batting helmets must be worn by the batter, and all base runners. There are NO defensive catchers in this league.
- B. League approved uniforms, bats, balls and helmets will be provided by the WPD.

### **IV. OFFENSE**

- A. All players in attendance will bat once in each inning regardless of the number of outs recorded. Acknowledge outs made by the defense, but player stays on the base.
- B. The batting rotation shall consist of all team players in attendance at the game. All players arriving late to a game must be inserted at the bottom of the batting order as it was at the beginning of the game and shall bat the first time that position comes up.
- C. There will be no "on deck circle" for practice swings either inside or outside the field fencing. All practice swings will be done at home plate. This is a safety issue due to the number of siblings and small children who attend the games.
- D. A ball is hit fair if it is between the foul lines and is at least fifteen (15) feet in front of the tee (i.e. beyond the arc in front of home plate) when it rolls dead or is first touched by a defensive player. All other hit balls or missed swings are considered to be foul balls. There are no strike outs.
- E. Only the "hitting" coach at home plate is allowed to adjust the tee for the batter. The coach behind the plate is required to remove the tee from home plate after the ball has been hit.
- F. A batter who throws the bat, even accidentally, shall be given a warning. Subsequent offenses by the same batter shall result in an automatic out, and all base runners must return to their original bases.
- G. Base stealing is **not** allowed. Base runners must be in contact with the base at the time the ball is hit.
- H. Adult coaches are allowed at first and third base. These coaches must remain at least three (3) feet from the base line.

## **V. DEFENSE**

- A. A team must play a minimum of five (5) players and a maximum of nine (8) players on the field, with no more than six (6) players playing the infield.
- B. There shall be NO defensive catcher for these games due to safety concerns.
- C. The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> players shall be positioned on both sides of 2<sup>nd</sup> base or as short center fielders.
- D. No defensive player, except the pitcher, shall be closer than forty-five (45) feet to the batter when the ball is hit. The pitcher shall remain in contact with the pitching rubber until the ball is hit.

### **D. Definitions:**

"**Infield area**" is defined as the imaginary rectangle formed by the extension of the backstop to a point five (5) feet beyond first and third base and turning at 90 degree angles to intersect approximately seven (7) feet behind second base (see diagram on page 4).

The "**outfield area**" is the area beyond the "infield area" and within the imaginary extension of the backstop (see diagram on page 4).

- E. Teaching the fielders to make basic plays without fear of the impact of potential failure is important to the development of the defensive player. Therefore the following rules apply to what base a runner is entitled to as a result of a hit fair ball:
  - A hit fair ball initially hit to the "**infield area**" or "**outfield area**": The batter is entitled to only one base, regardless of whether the retrieved ball is held or thrown. No extra bases will be allowed for overthrows.
  - Any existing base runners are also entitled to advance only one base on a hit fair ball.
- F. Time out shall not be called until the ball is considered "dead".
- G. Players cannot change positions during an inning except in the event of an injury. In this case players can switch positions.
- H. All attending players shall receive equal playing time. It is required that managers rotate all players to different positions each inning.
- I. No player shall play the same position more than one (1) inning in any game.
- J. A maximum of two (2) adult (at least 18 years old) defensive coaches may be positioned on the "field" for the purpose of giving placement, fielding and throwing advice to the defensive players on the field.

## **VI. EQUIPMENT RETURNS**

All equipment is to be returned in accordance with the Equipment Managers published schedule. Managers who fail to do so may not be allowed to manage the next season.

**NOTE: Please remember to lock the Equipment Box & Port-a-Potty prior to leaving the field.**

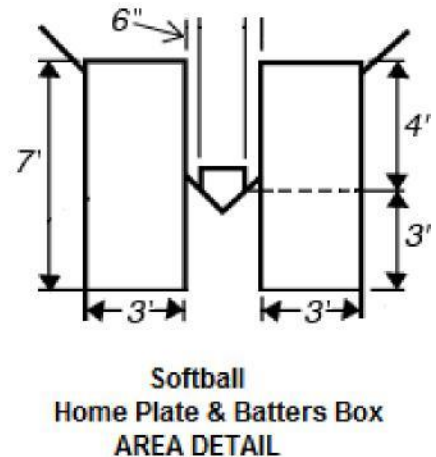
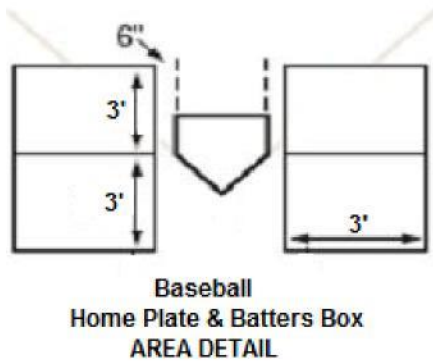
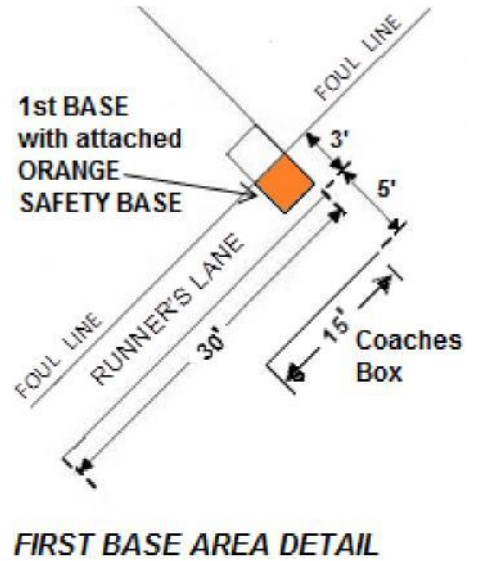
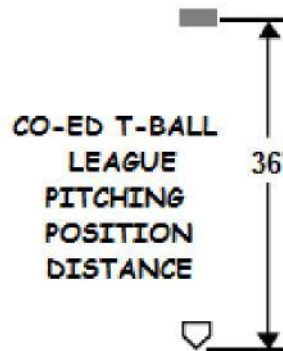
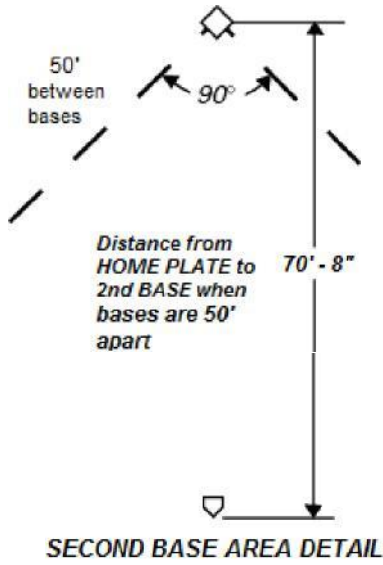
**NOTE: Inform the league VP's of any problems or missing equipment at the field.**





# Wheaton Park District Youth Baseball / Softball

## CO-ED T-Ball LEAGUE Specific Field Area Detail





## **Wheaton Park District Youth Baseball / Softball**

### **Rules for Safety Bases (whether orange or white)**

#### **Softball & Baseball Rules for Orange Safety Bases**

In youth softball and baseball, one integral step toward safety is the use of the safety base at first. This innovation leads to fewer collisions along the base line and less risk of injury. The first baseman makes the play by standing on the original base while the runner will run over the orange safety base.

#### **Description**

The safety base is built as two standard bases in one. A standard baseball or softball base measures 15 inches by 15 inches. A safety base measures 15 inches by 30 inches. Half the base is the standard white color and the other half is fluorescent orange.

#### **Placement**

The safety base is used only at first base and is placed directly on the first base foul line. The white portion of the safety base is placed inside of the foul line - in fair territory, the orange half is placed in foul territory.

#### **Rules**

The safety base is designed to prevent collisions and other contact incidents at first base. The first baseman and other defensive players are only allowed to touch the white portion of the safety base during play. If a defensive player's foot touches the orange portion of the base, the umpire may call interference and award the runner a free base. This is an umpire's judgment call.

The orange base can be used by the fielder if the throw is coming from foul territory. In this case the runner would use the white base.

On offense, the batter runner must use the orange portion of the base during infield or close plays. Because a batter runner is allowed to run through first base, he/she must run straight through the orange half, remaining in foul territory. If he/she touches the white half on a play at first, the defensive team may appeal the play. If the umpire noticed the runner's foot placement, he/she will be called out. If there is no play to be made at first base, such as on a hit that will result in a double or better, the batter runner may touch the white half of the base while making the turn toward second. Batted balls that hit the white portion of the base are fair, while balls that hit the orange half are foul.

#### **Summary**

The use of the safety base not only limits potential dangerous collisions at first but also incidences of ankle injuries caused by one player stepping on another's ankle as they both stretch for the same base. When the first baseman has his/her foot on the white, and the runner sprints over the base, there's a chance of the runner rolling his/her ankle by stepping on the first baseman's foot.