

2025 Westport Major League Recreation Rules

Games:

1) Teams can start and play with 8 players.

1.1) If a team cannot field 9 players, the opposing team will lend the last out of the previous inning.

2) There are no run limits per inning.

3) Game duration: The time of game starts with the first pitch, no new inning after 1 hour and 45 minutes. The home team should confirm the start time and enter time in the scorebook for games that start late or early. The home team's entry in the scorebook is the official game start time. In the event that no time is noted in the home team's scorebook, then the scheduled game start time shall be the official start of the 1 hour 45 minutes.

4) The next inning starts as soon as the third out has been made in the previous inning, not when the teams have retaken the field.

5) Mercy Rule – A game will be terminated if one team is ahead after 3 innings by 15 or more runs or 10 or more runs after 4 innings and have had equal times at bat or the home team is leading.

6) No player, manager, coach or substitute shall object to any judgment decisions. This is to include but not limited to whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or a ball, or whether a runner is safe or out. However, if there is a questionable call on a **ruling on the field** the head coach will respectfully ask for an appeal to the Umpire who made the call. As stated in the Umpire Babe Ruth Guide, *“If there is any doubt an umpire's decision may be in conflict with the rules, a manager or coach may appeal the decision and ask that a correct ruling be made. Such appeal shall be made only to the umpire who made the protested decision.”* Again the focus is not the result of the play; but teaching and improving to both junior umpires and to the WBRL players.

7) Home and Away will be pre-determined by a schedule devised by the Major League Director.

8) Any rules not listed within this listing will follow Cal Ripken rules or at the Discretion of the League Director.

Pitching:

1) A pitcher cannot pitch more than 6 innings per week. A week is defined as Sunday through Saturday. A pitcher may pitch in multiple games in a week permitting there is rest and they do not go over their 6 innings per week as referenced before. (Using Pitch Smart is recommended)

2025 Westport Major League Recreation Rules

2) Balks will be called.

2.1) This is from the rule book *“Umpires should bear in mind that the purpose of the balk rule is to prevent the pitcher from deliberately deceiving the base runner. If there is doubt in the umpire’s mind, the “intent” of the pitcher should govern.”*

2.2) The umpires will notify the pitcher, but not issue a base to the runner unless it blatantly obvious they were trying to be deceiving. We will revisit this if needed.

3) The second trip in the same inning to the same pitcher shall automatically result in the removal of that pitcher from the game AS A PITCHER ONLY.

4) 3 hit batters in an inning or 5 in a game will result in removal of pitcher.

5) Pitchers cannot return to the mound in the same game once he has been removed.

6) No curve ball penalty but we strongly recommend no curve balls at this level.

Hitting:

1) All teams are batting in a continuous batting order.

2) In the event of an injury, a player can be removed without penalty. (The players’ position in the lineup will just be skipped.) This rule is the same for playoffs unless the batting order falls below 9 hitters.

2.1) If batting 8 in the playoffs an out will be recorded in the 9th spot in the order or in the injured players spot.

3) Bunting is allowed.

3.1) No slash bunting. Squaring up for a bunt, pulling back and making a full swing to put into play. If this is done the hitter will be called out and a warning will be issued to the offensive coach who violated this rule.

Base running:

1) Infield fly rule is in effect.

2) We will not be enforcing the dropped third strike rule however we might revisit this later in the season.

2025 Westport Major League Recreation Rules

- 3) Leading off and stealing are allowed.
- 4) A courtesy runner may be used for a catcher if the catcher is on the bases with two outs.
- 5) A runner can be removed for an injury and replaced by a courtesy runner. However, in the play-offs this may only be done once. A second removal will remove the player from the game.
- 6) A courtesy runner is the previous batter in the batting order who is not already on the bases.
- 7) Slide or avoid contact is in effect, players should be encouraged to slide if there is any type of play.
- 8) No head first sliding unless returning to a base.

Fielding:

- 1) Due to continuous batting, teams will have free (unlimited) defensive substitution.
- 2) All players **must** play 3 defensive innings in the field, Due to unlimited substitution, consecutive innings will not be required. No penalty if the game is not 6 complete innings.

Ejections:

Any coaches ejected will be removed for an additional week. If the manager does not comply, the team will forfeit and the game will be canceled. All managers are responsible for their own fans as well as their own actions. If a fan is ejected, then the Head Coach will also be ejected if the Head Coach was warned of the fan behavior before the fan ejection. It should be noted that we are all human and we do let our emotions supersede our actions. Nevertheless, as Coaches and adults we need to be reminded that this is a game. This game in and of itself is being taught to young children who should be excited to come to the baseball field to either practice or play an official game. Our actions, words and non-verbal cues are picked up by these young players, which should reflect nothing but positivity.