

# WEST HARTFORD YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE



## BY-LAWS MAJOR & MINOR LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

February 2015

BY- LAWS  
OF  
WEST HARTFORD YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE  
(WHYBL)

(Revised April 2015)

ARTICLE I - NAME AND LOCATION

- Section 1      The name of this organization shall be the West Hartford Youth Baseball League (WHYBL) which has been organized as a member of the West Hartford All Sports Council, Incorporated. WHYBL is a charter member of the Cal Ripken Division of Babe Ruth League, Inc.
- Section 2      The location of this organization shall be the Town of West Hartford, Connecticut.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVE

The objective of this organization is to instill in the youth of those living in or attending school in the Town of West Hartford principles of good citizenship and good sportsmanship through knowledge of and play and association in the competitive sport of baseball.

### ARTICLE III - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 The Board of Directors shall be composed of the following members:

1. The President of the WHYBL.
2. A Vice President for each playing league.
3. The Treasurer of the WHYBL.
4. The Secretary of the WHYBL.
5. The Immediate Past President, if any, of the WHYBL.
6. The league Chief(s) of Umpires of the WHYBL.
7. Director of Concessions.
8. Director of Rules/By-Laws
9. Parent Coordinator
10. Fundraising Coordinator
11. All Major, Minor, Instructional and Training League managers
12. Such Directors-at Large as may be duly elected annually.

Section 2 Except as otherwise expressly provided, Directors and Officers shall be elected by a majority of the incumbent board eligible to vote.

Section 3 A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of ten members and may act at all times by simple majority vote of the quorum. Members of the Board of Directors holding multiple positions on the Board shall only have one vote.

Section 4 The Board of Directors shall formulate the policies of the WHYBL, adopt organizational and playing rules, shall act in an advisory capacity to the Executive Board, and shall have full power to approve or disapprove action taken by the Executive Board.

#### ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Section 1 The Executive Board shall be composed of the Officers and the Immediate Past President of the WHYBL.
- Section 2 It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to organize and carry out the playing program of the WHYBL.
- Section 3 If the President or any other Officer shall be unable to complete their term of office, it shall be the responsibility of the Executive Board to appoint a successor for the interim.

#### ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

- Section 1 The President shall be the chief executive officer of the WHYBL, shall have general executive management of its affairs, and shall decide and execute all matters not otherwise provided for by action of the Board of Directors or its Executive Board.
- Section 2 There shall be a Vice President, in charge of the playing program of the Major League, who shall be responsible for the fields and the decorum at the Town Championship series, the playoffs, and President's Cup game. In addition there shall be a Vice President in charge of the program for the Minor League, the Instructional League, Training League, Summer League, and any other leagues established by the WHYBL. A Vice President shall perform other duties as may be delegated to him by the President or the Board of Directors.
- Section 3 The Treasurer shall have charge of the deposit and disbursement of any funds belonging to the League. His duties shall include the purchase of uniforms and equipment. He shall make an annual report and be prepared to render other reports as requested by the President. Any expenditure in excess of \$200 must have prior approval of the President and be reported to the Board of Directors at their next meeting. The Assistant Treasurer shall act for the Treasurer during periods of his absence. This individual shall be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Treasurer.
- Section 4 The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings, handle all correspondence, and distribute copies of the minutes of any meeting and other reports as required by the President.
- Section 5 The Directors of Concessions shall be responsible for stocking, staffing, and managing the finances of the Wolcott Concession Stand.

Section 6 The Chief (s) of Umpires

- a. shall assign all League approved Umpires;
- b. shall ensure that the appointed Umpires are reliable, knowledgeable about the game of baseball, familiar with WHYBL'S Playing Rules, Special Rules and Official Baseball Rules, and willing to abide by the Umpire's Code of Ethics;
- c. shall annually conduct an Umpires Clinic, taking particular care to identify and explain any rules; and
- d. shall be responsible for the scheduling of Umpires for all games.

Section 7 The Parent Coordinator shall be responsible for coordinating the activities of team parents as deemed necessary by the WHYBL.

Section 8 The Fund Raising Director shall be responsible for coordinating all fund raising efforts of the WHYBL.

Section 9 The Director of Rules/By-Laws shall be responsible for soliciting new rule and by-law requests from the Board of Directors, establishing a committee to review new rule or by-law requests, submitting new rule or by-law requests to the Board of Directors for a vote and maintaining the By-Laws and Major & Minor League Playing Rules. They shall also have the responsibility for conducting the assessment and the draft.

#### ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee made up of three members of the Board of Directors to select a slate of officers and directors to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. There shall be a committee on rules and By-Laws who shall meet not less frequently than annually to review the By- Laws and to prepare and submit to the Board of Directors a set of playing rules for the next playing season. They shall hold such meetings as may be directed by the President for the purpose of considering changes in or interpreting rules. There shall also be a Screening Committee to review qualifications of potential managers and there shall be such other committees as the President may appoint from time to time.

#### ARTICLE VII - PROTESTS

When a protest is made of a rule infraction and it has been properly submitted to the President, he will convene a Protest Committee consisting of three board members of an uninvolved league, one of whom shall be an umpire. Procedures are covered in the WHYBL Rules.

## ARTICLE VIII - PARTICIPATION

Section 1      Participation in the program of WHYBL as a ball player shall be open to:

- (1) Any youth whose parent(s) or legal guardian legally reside in the Town of West Hartford; or
- (2) Any youth who attends a West Hartford public or private school (proof of attendance at school shall be provided at time of registration); or
- (3) Any youth whose parent(s) or legal guardian legally reside in the Towns of Avon, Bloomfield, Farmington, Newington and Hartford subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Youths who meet the condition in sub-section (1) above who register by the league established deadline shall have registration priority over youths from the towns in this sub-section and shall not be denied participation in WHYBL.
  - b. The President, along with the respective WHYBL Vice Presidents, shall establish the annual number of participants for each league for purposes of applying this sub-section.
  - c. Immediately after the league established registration deadline, the President will accept or deny registration of youths from the towns in this sub-section, based on a first come, first serve basis subject to the limitations described in a. and b.
- (4) Any child or grandchild of registered non-playing participants, as defined in Section 3 below, who have been active in the League for at least three (3) years and are currently still active; or
- (5) Any youth, rostered on a WHYBL team, that moves outside of the Town of West Hartford. In this case, the player may finish his playing career in the respective league (i.e., Majors, Minors, Instructional or Training) of the WHYBL and shall not be permitted to play organized baseball in the town the child resides in while participating in the WHYBL.

Section 2 League age is as of April 30 (December 31 for five year olds).

- (1) Major League participation shall include those players whose league age is not more than twelve (12) years old nor less than ten (10) years old, subject to the assessment and draft;
- (2) Minor League participation shall include those players whose league age is not more than eleven (11) years old nor less than eight (8) years old, subject to the assessment and related assignment;
- (3) Instructional League participation shall include those players whose league age is not more than eight (8) years old nor less than seven (7) years old; and
- (4) Training League participation shall include those players whose league age is not more than six (6) years old or less than five (5) years old.

Players whose league age is ten (10) may not elect to play-down in the Minors, prior to the assessment, without approval of the Major League Vice President, President and Minor League Vice President.

All players whose league age is eight (8) or nine (9) shall participate in an annual assessment for purposes of assigning players to Minor League rosters.

All new registrants should present an original record of birth or a certified copy of original record of birth before being accepted for registration.

Section 3 Members of the Board of Directors, managing personnel, umpires, scorekeepers, and such other non-playing personnel as may be associated with the program of WHYBL with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall be deemed to be participants in the program.

Section 4 The Executive Board by vote of a majority of its members, may suspend any participant in the program whose conduct is considered detrimental to the best interest of the program. Prior to suspension of any player, notification shall be given to the manager of the team of which the player is a member, or to said participant if he or she be someone other than a player. Said persons shall be apprised of the pending action, and be given an opportunity to present their views at a hearing before the Executive Board.

Section 5 All Changes to the Official Roster must be submitted in writing to the President. It will be the Team Manager's responsibility to be sure that the President has made the changes to the Official Team Roster.

## ARTICLE IX - MANAGING PERSONNEL

Every team shall be supervised by one manager and coaches, the number of which shall be at the sole discretion of the manager, all of whom will need to complete the Cal Ripken certification, a successful background check and sign the WHYBL code of conduct. Major League Managers shall be appointed on an annual basis and shall require the approval of the Board of Directors. The Executive Board shall annually appoint Major League Managers on the basis of their ability and desire to work with youth to accomplish the objectives of the league as defined in Article II and that their actions and conduct, whether while acting in their manager capacity or not, is not or has not been detrimental to the WHYBL. Appointment to the position of Major League Manager shall also be conditional upon a successful background check. Managers from the prior year who have not been appointed by the Executive Board shall be given the opportunity to address the Board of Directors prior to a vote. In addition to the managers and coaches, indicated above, each team may have one individual who shall act as a scorekeeper who may sit on the team bench during a game.

WHYBL managers, assistant managers and coaches are required to complete coaching education and certification supplied by Babe Ruth League, Inc.

## ARTICLE X - UMPIRES

The Umpire shall be responsible for the conduct of the game in accordance with the WHYBL's Playing Rules and Special Rules and the Official Baseball Rules. He shall also be responsible for maintaining discipline and order on the playing field during the game. It shall be the responsibility of the Chief Umpire to report to a member of the Executive Board when any participant is ejected from the game so that the Board may take appropriate action.

## ARTICLE XI - MEETINGS

- Section 1      The Board of Directors shall meet annually during the month of October on the call of the President for the purpose of receiving reports on the season which has ended, to elect officers and directors for the following year and to conduct any other business proper to come before the meeting.
- Section 2      Additional meetings may be called by the President or upon written request by three members of the Board of Directors.
- Section 3      All meetings shall be open to all adult personnel associated with any part of the program of the WHYBL, but only members of the Board can vote.

Section 4 No meeting shall be held without prior written notice to the members of the Board five (5) business days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Section 5 No action shall be taken on any subject involving a change in the By-Laws or Organization rules unless all members of the Board have been given written notice five (5) days before the scheduled meeting.

#### ARTICLE XII - FINANCIAL POLICY

Section 1 All monies received by the WHYBL shall be expended in a fashion which will give no individual or team an advantage over any other individual or team.

Section 2 No contribution of money or equipment shall be made or accepted by any team unless it is being contributed to and used for the benefit of the entire WHYBL.

#### ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws, or any section thereof, may be amended or repealed only by a vote of two thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors in attendance.

#### ARTICLE XIV - PRONOUN

The word "he" when used in these By-Laws or the WHYBL's Playing Rules shall mean either "he" or "she".

#### ARTICLE XV - TRAVEL AND SUMMER LEAGUE

The WHYBL may form tournament teams composed of youth who are members of the League. The travel teams shall be coached by any qualified league manager, coach, or adult participant approved by the Tournament Committee. Only players who participate in the WHYBL spring program can play in the WHYBL travel program.

The WHYBL has formed a Summer League division to provide a program of baseball for the Major and Minor League players after the conclusion of the Major League season and playoffs. Rules and schedules for the Summer League program will be established and maintained by a League Vice President. Summer League rosters shall not exceed 15 players per team.

The Summer League shall prioritize acceptance in the league as follows: (1) WHYBL Spring Players; (2) Waiting List for Spring Players; (3) Children who did not play baseball in the Spring season; and (4) all other children.

#### ARTICLE XVI - TRAINING LEAGUE

The WHYBL has established a Training League. Rules and schedules for this program will be established and maintained by the League Vice President.

## ARTICLE XVII - INSTRUCTIONAL LEAGUE

The WHYBL has established an Instructional League. Rules and schedules for this program will be established and maintained by the League Vice President.

## ARTICLE XVIII - MINOR LEAGUE

The WHYBL has established a Minor League. Schedules for this program will be established and maintained by the League Vice President. The League may be divided into one or more divisions and teams shall consist of players who live in the same general area. The Selection Committee shall attempt to distribute an equal number of players of each age to each team. Minor League Rosters shall not exceed 14 players per team. Participants shall be those youths who registered for the Minor League (if allowed) and those youths who were not selected to participate on a Major League team.

## ARTICLE XIX - MAJOR LEAGUE

The Major League of the WHYBL shall be comprised of ten (10) teams consisting of an American League and National League having five (5) teams in each league.

## WEST HARTFORD YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

(Revised – February 2015)

### MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYING RULES AND SPECIAL RULES

#### ARTICLE I - BASIS OF RULES

All Official Baseball Rules and Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations shall apply except as otherwise specified in the WHYBL Major League Playing Rules or By-Laws. The WHYBL Major League Playing Rules shall apply in all games (Regular season, Championship Series, and President's Cup).

The Official Baseball Playing Rules and Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations include those listed below to be followed for the current year:

1. Trips to the mound shall be governed by Official Baseball Rule 8.06 with the exception that 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. A manager or coach may instruct a pitcher, at the mound, at the beginning of every inning or at the time when a new pitcher enters the game, without such instruction at the mound counting as a "trip to the mound".
2. A regulation game consists of six innings unless extended because of a tie score, or shortened (1) because the home team needs none of its half of the sixth inning or only a fraction of it; (2) because one team is ahead by 12 or more runs after the fourth inning or 10 or more runs after the fifth inning, provided both teams have had equal times at bat or the home team is leading in the fourth or fifth inning, respectively (if both managers agree, all six innings may be completed, with no impact on the final score of the game, provided there is not another game scheduled to immediately follow at the same field); or (2) because the umpire calls the game. If the score is tied after six complete innings, play shall continue until (1) the visiting team has scored more total runs than the home team at the end of a completed inning; or (2) the home team scores the winning run in an uncompleted inning. If the game is called by the umpire, it is a regulation game (1) if four innings have been completed; or (2) if the home team has scored more runs in three and half innings than the visiting team has scored in four completed half innings. If a game is called before it has become a regulation game, but after one (1) or more innings have been played, it shall be resumed exactly where it left off. All records and statistics, including pitching, in a game that has been called by the umpire before it becomes a regulation game shall be counted. In the event a regulation game is less than 6 innings, neither team shall be required to comply with Article V, Section 1- Three Inning Rule or with Article V, Section 6 – Must Bat Rule.

3. A half inning will be considered complete if the batting team scores six runs or the defensive team records three (3) outs, whichever comes first. Except in the sixth or any subsequent inning where as many runs as possible may be scored before 3 outs are recorded by the defensive team. However, should a home run be hit over the fence or in the event of a ground rule double, in any inning, all runs driven in by the home run or ground rule double will count.
4. If a game is forfeited, all innings and pitches pitched will apply against each pitcher used in any part of the forfeited game.
5. If a runner attempting to reach home plate or another base intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate or a base, he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. The objective of this is to penalize the offensive team for deliberate, unwarranted, unsportsmanlike action by the runner for the obvious purpose of crashing the defensive player, rather than trying to reach the base. Obviously, this is an umpire's judgment call.
6. The batter is out when a third strike is not caught by the catcher when first base is occupied before two are out. The batter becomes a runner when the third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied, or (2) first base is occupied with two outs. A batter who does not realize his/her situation on a third strike not caught, and who is not in the process of running to first base, shall be declared out once he/she leaves the dirt circle surrounding home plate.
7. Games must start with a minimum of 9 players from each team. If a team loses a player due to injury or any other reason, the game may continue with 8 players on a team. However, the vacant spot in the batting order will be an automatic out when that spot is up.
8. Official Baseball Rule 6.10 regarding the designated hitter does not apply.
9. Balks as defined in Official Baseball Rule 8.00 shall be enforced, however, two warnings per pitcher per game shall be allowed without penalty.
10. If any bat cannot be clearly identified for its make and model to determine the barrel composition, then the bat should be removed from the game.
11. Only rubber cleats are permitted.

In addition, other WHYBL Major League Playing Rules and Special Rules include the following:

1. Anyone warming up a pitcher at any location shall wear a mask. A throat protector is considered part of the catcher's mask.
2. The On Deck area shall be permitted.
3. A batter who squares or pivots to bunt can either (1) bunt or attempt to bunt or, (2) pull the bat back and take the pitch. Once the batter has squared or pivoted to bunt the batter shall not be permitted to swing at the pitch. The batter will be called out by the umpire if he "slash bunts".

## ARTICLE II - LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

Uniformed teams participating in the program shall be organized into two Leagues; one designated American League and the other to be designated National League. Games may be scheduled in such fashion as to provide for both intra and inter League play.

## ARTICLE III - TEAM MAKEUP

### Section 1 - ROSTERS

Each Major league team shall consist of twelve uniformed players. Once the roster is set at twelve, it must remain at that number for the remainder of the season unless a change is necessary as a result of a situation as outlined elsewhere in the Rules. There shall be at least three (3) players placed in each of the age brackets of eleven (11), and twelve (12). There shall be no more than six (6) players in each of the age brackets of eleven and twelve. Each major league team roster must also include two (2) players whose league age is ten (10). Legacies and manager's child will be included in the count of the two ten year olds.

The above maximum and minimum player number restrictions may be modified from time to time, as circumstances warrant, upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote by major league managers in advance of the annual major league draft.

Each Major League manager must turn in his team roster to the League President, not later than one week before the start of the season. No youth may participate in any game until he is registered with the WHYBL. Teams failing to comply with the rules above are subject to forfeiture of games.

### Section 2 - HOLDOVERS

Players on the official Major League roster at the end of the prior season, who are eligible the following season, shall be classified by the Major League Manager as holdovers. All returning holdover player's names shall be placed on the Major League Team's roster by the manager and submitted to the League President. Holdovers must complete a registration form and cannot be reassigned to the Minor Leagues by the manager. In the event a holdover wishes to play in the WHYBL, but does not want to return to his/her Major League team, in rare circumstances and at the unanimous agreement of the President of the WHYBL, the Manager of the holdover's team and the VP of the Major League, said holdover will participate in the annual draft which includes an assessment. The timing and selection of a compensatory draft pick by the holdover's former team, if any, will be determined by a majority vote of the WHYBL major league managers in advance of the annual draft.

### Section 3 - BAT PERSONS

Bat boys or girls are not allowed

#### Section 4 - LEGACIES

A qualified child of a Major League Manager, or any younger brother or sister eligible for the Major League draft, whose older sibling is a returning Major League holdover shall be defined as a Legacy. Children of parents who sponsor a Major League Team shall be a Legacy on that team with no loss of a draft pick. All Legacies shall be placed on the Major League team's holdover roster and submitted to the League President prior to the draft night. A parent may take a Legacy off the holdover roster, for the purpose of putting the Legacy in the minors, by written request to the Major League Manager with a copy to the President. In lieu of a written note, the parent may telephone the President directly to make such request. The child shall only be eligible to play in the Minor Leagues for that entire season.

#### Section 5 - RESIGNING PLAYER

If a player resigns from his/her position on a Major League team, during the season, the Major League Manager shall immediately notify the respective league Vice President that the player has resigned. The Major League Manager shall turn over to the Vice President any letters or e-mails he has received from the parents of the child regarding the resignation.

If a player whose league age is eleven or ten resigns during the season from his/her position on a Major League team, that player will be reassigned to a Minor League team if possible for the balance of the season in which he/she resigns. If the resigning player registers for the following season to play in the WHYBL then players whose league age is now twelve shall be eligible for the Major League draft. Players whose league age is now eleven shall be eligible for the Major League draft if the Review Board determines that there was sufficient cause for the resigning player to leave his/her Major League team.

If the Review Board determines that there was insufficient cause for the player to resign from his/her Major League team and the resigning player registers to play for the following season the player shall be deemed ineligible for the Major League draft for that one season and automatically assigned to the Minor Leagues and play in the minors for the entire season. The resigning Player cannot become a Replacement Player. Thereafter, the resigning player may register and fully participate in the Major League draft process.

The won-loss record of a Major League team shall not be sufficient cause for a player to resign. A hearing to determine whether there was sufficient cause for the player to resign from his/her team may be requested by the Review Board or the manager of the team.

## ARTICLE IV - PLAYER SELECTION

### Section 1 – Annual Assessment and Draft

All potential players, excluding Major League holdovers and legacies, must register with the WHYBL, and participate in the annual draft which includes an assessment consisting of some or all of the following: fielding, infield grounders, throwing to a base, base running, and batting.

After the annual assessment the major league shall hold its annual draft and select players for the Major Leagues. A team shall stop drafting when it has reached a roster size of 12 players. The players selected shall be automatically placed on the Major League roster. During the period from the draft to the start of the Major League season, the selected players are not subject to reassignment to the Minor Leagues unless there is Cause.

Cause shall be defined as insubordination, behavior or attendance problems. The skill level of the player shall not be considered cause for reassignment. Prior to the reassignment, the Major League Manager shall notify the League President in writing of his intention to reassign the player to the minors and state the grounds for the action. The League President will forward the written notification to the Review Board. The team manager shall wait 48 hours, from the date the written notification was given to the League President, before notifying the player and his parents of the reassignment. A hearing before the Review Board to determine whether there is sufficient cause to remove the player from the team may be requested by the League President or the parents of the player that is being reassigned.

The Major League draft shall be conducted in inverse order of the previous season's finish with picks alternating between the American and National Leagues. Major League teams that were tied in last season's standings shall flip a coin to determine the draft order. Standings will include play down games for the first four positions within each division. The first pick in the Major League draft will be determined by which league is the home team for the All Star Game and Playoffs for the upcoming season.

Ten (10) year old legacies must be designated by their manager as a member of their team in advance of the draft and will take one of the two required 10 year old slots.

Each team will be allowed to draft one rated no show (a player who played in the minors last year but was unable to make the tryouts) and one non-rated no show (players who did not play in the league last season and did not show up for tryouts) if they desire. The Vice President of the Major League will provide as much information as possible about these players to all teams on draft night. All youths not chosen, except twelve (12) year olds, on draft night will be automatically assigned to the Minor Leagues by the League President and the Minor League Vice President

Those youths registering after tryouts will be assigned to the Minor League and cannot be called up to the Major Leagues until after May 15<sup>th</sup> or listed on the opening day roster of a Major League team, except as provided below.

Players whose league age is twelve (12) that are not selected for a major league team will not be placed in the Minor League and their league registration fee will be refunded, unless otherwise approved at the discretion of the President and Vice President, Minor League.

## Section 2 – Special Supplemental Draft

From time to time, the major league may be forced to contract the number of major league teams due to declining participation in the WHYBL by youths of West Hartford. In the event of contraction assignment of players to remaining major league teams will be performed by a special sub-committee of the Executive Board to be assigned by the President. The sub-committee will consider talent level of existing teams and age distribution in making assignments in an effort to balance teams.

## ARTICLE V - PLAYER PARTICIPATION

### Section 1 - THREE INNING RULE

Every uniformed player must have entered the game for the first time by the top half of the fourth inning and must play at least eighteen outs of every game in which his team participates, unless the game terminated prior to the commencement of the sixth inning. The requirements of this rule shall be met if a player enters the game at the beginning of the fourth inning and fails to play eighteen outs because of the termination of the game after the top half of the sixth inning. If a team fails to adhere to said rule the game shall be forfeited.

### Section 2 - RE-ENTRY RULE

If a team fails to adhere to the following re-entry rule as prescribed in Little League Rule 3.03, the game shall be forfeited.

A player in the starting line-up who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game once, in any position in the batting order, provided:

1. his or her substitute has completed one time at bat and;
2. has played defensively for a minimum of six (6) consecutive outs;
3. pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers;
4. only a player in the starting line-up may re-enter the game;
5. a starter, (S1) re-entering the game as a substitute for another starter (S2) must then fulfill all conditions of a substitute (once at bat and six defensive outs) before starter (S2) can re-enter the game.

### Section 3 - INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

No ineligible player shall participate in any Major League game. If an ineligible player shall participate in a Major League game, his team shall automatically forfeit that game. Ineligible players include (a) any youth not registered with the WHYBL and (2) a player wearing a hard cast.

### Section 4 - REMOVAL OF PLAYER FROM TEAM ROSTER

A Major League Manager may submit written documentation to the Review Board requesting that a Major League player be removed from his Major League team for lack of commitment (poor attendance) and/or continued discipline problems.

### Section 5 - ABSENT AND REPLACEMENT PLAYERS

The Major League Manager shall immediately notify the respective league representative Vice President when he becomes aware that there is a player that will be absent for a period in excess of two weeks (called the Absent Player) and will reduce the Major League roster to eleven (11) players.

If a player is lost after the draft, the manager may replace the Absent Player by a 10 or 11 year old player from the minors (called the Replacement Player); or leave the roster at eleven (11) players. Rosters, at all times are required to conform to the roster minimums and maximums defined in Article III, Section 1.

All Replacement Players added to Major League team rosters must be reported to the League President and Minor League Vice President prior to their first game in the majors. A Minor League player called up to the majors may play on his or her existing Minor League and new Major League team with parent and both managers' permission.

The Replacement Player shall remain with the Major League team for the remainder of the season. If the Absent Player returns during the season the team must keep both players for the remainder of the season. If the Absent Player returns during the season so that the Absent Player now becomes the twelfth or thirteenth player on the roster the "two inning" and "must bat" rules shall continue to apply.

In the following season, both Absent and Replacement Players shall be considered as holdovers and placed on the holdover roster if they meet the age requirements for league play.

If a Minor League player refuses the first opportunity offered by a Major League manager to move up to a team in the majors, and become a Replacement Player then that player may not subsequently move up to the majors later in the season.

If a team fails to adhere to the rules above, then after the two week period expires for replacing the Absent Player, any game shall be forfeited until such time as the team is in compliance with the rules.

#### Section 6 - MUST BAT RULE

Every player must bat at least once in a regulation game, as defined in Article I – Basis of Rules, Number 4, unless the regulation game is shortened due to circumstances described in Article I – Basis of Rules, Number 4. This may be accomplished by the manager inserting any player, who has not batted, in the batting order as an additional extra hitter for that inning (see optional Extra Hitter rule in Section 7) after the third inning of the game. The inserted batter must bat out of that spot for the entire inning. If a team fails to adhere to said rule the game shall be forfeited. There is one exception to this rule: 1) if a player plays 9 defensive outs and is on the home team and they are winning the game and he does not bat in the bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup> inning there is no violation.

#### Section 7 – EXTRA HITTER RULE

If ten or more players are in attendance at a team's game, a tenth hitter shall be added to the batting order before the beginning of any game. This position in the batting order will be indicated in the line-up as the "EH". The player initially occupying the "EH" position in the batting order will be treated as any other starter. Players occupying the "EH" position in the batting order, during the course of a game, must also play a minimum of 9 defensive outs in the field. In the event a team starts a game with only nine players, at the manager's discretion a tenth hitter may be added to the batting order if a tenth player becomes available. In the event a team loses players, for any reason, resulting in only nine remaining players, the tenth hitter spot in the batting order will be removed without penalty (an out shall not be recorded when that spot in the batting order is due up).

In the Minor League, the Extra Hitter Rule shall not apply, rather, there will be a continuous batting order that will include all players in attendance at the game.

## ARTICLE VI - PITCHING RULE

Players are limited to a pitch count and rest as prescribed in the following table:

Age	Daily Max Pitches	Required Rest (Pitches)				
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	n/a	n/a
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+

If a pitcher reaches said pitch count limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, without increasing the required rest days, until any one of the following conditions occurs: the batter reaches base; the batter is put out; or the third out is made to complete the half-inning. For example, if the pitcher reaches 20 pitches while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue pitching to that batter until the batter reaches base, the batter is put out or the third out is made to complete the half-inning. For purposes of determining the required rest for that pitcher, the pitch count will be assumed to be 20 and the pitcher will be allowed to pitch the next day as zero days rest is required.

Each manager will record the official pitch count for their pitchers. The home and away manager shall confer at the end of each half inning to compare pitch count totals. In the event of a discrepancy in pitch count of two or less between that recorded by the home team and the away team, the lower pitch count will be the official pitch count. In the event of a discrepancy in pitch count of greater than two, the official pitch count will be an average of the conflicting amounts, rounded to the lower individual pitch.

Managers are required to post the final pitch count for each player that pitched in a game on the league website prior to their next game.

No player may return to the mound after being removed as a pitcher.

All other Official Baseball Rules pitching rules shall apply. Once a pitcher has been removed from a game, in the event that game is suspended, the pitcher may not return to pitch in the resumed game.

If a team fails to adhere to the above pitching rules, the game shall be forfeited.

A player who pitches 41 or more pitches in a game is recommended not to play the position of catcher for the remainder of that game.

## ARTICLE VII – SCHEDULE, SCHEDULING & MAKEUPS

Each American and National League team's schedule will consist of 15 games. Eight (8) such games will be scheduled against opponents in the same league resulting in two games scheduled against each opponent in the same league. Each Major League team will also play seven "inter-league" games scheduled against each opponent from the opposite league. League standings will be determined in accordance with the tie-breaking procedures described in accordance with Article X – TIE BREAKERS.

If a team cannot field nine players for a regularly scheduled game and has failed to notify the opposing Team Manager of its inability to field a team at least one day prior to the scheduled date, the Major League team shall forfeit the game. Teams that want to reschedule a game for other than weather problems must have a verifiable reason for not playing. The manager who wishes to reschedule the game must email the names of the players who are not available to the Major League Vice President at least 24 hours before the game. The game will not be rescheduled without the Vice President clearing the change with the President. If the team has nine or more players available to play the game, the team will forfeit the game if it does not show up.

All postponed games and tie games must be immediately rescheduled in order of postponement and played within seven (7) days, unless a series of weather delays makes it impossible. The Scheduling Chairman in coordination with the Chief of Umpires is responsible for such rescheduling. Such rescheduled games must be played on the designated date. If either or both teams fail to field 9 players as rescheduled, either or both teams will be given a loss and the game cannot be played at a later date. Teams can be required to play up to 4 games per week. In extreme cases of inclement weather, any necessary schedule changes shall be determined by the Executive Board. With respect to any ties at the completion of the regular season for positions for playoff games, all tie breaker games will be played as part of the regular season schedule.

## ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS & ATTENDANCE

Each manager or a team representative will be required to attend at least ½ of all of the League Meetings held between the annual meeting and the draft meeting, not inclusive.

If a team is not represented at ½ of these meetings, the team will forfeit its draft position for that year and be placed at the bottom of the draft list. If more than one team is in violation, the one with the most absences will pick last in the draft. If more than one Major League team is tied, a coin toss will determine the respective draft order.

## ARTICLE IX - ALL STAR GAME

An All Star Game shall be played at some point during the season at least halfway through the season. The pitchers in this game shall not have their innings counted toward their pitching innings in Major League games insofar as Article VI of these Rules is concerned.

The All Star Coaching Staff shall be composed of the prior year's American and National League winning Managers, supported by the remaining current Major League Managers of the other teams in each League. The All Star Game shall be a nine inning game. The All Star team will be composed of 12 year old players only. The total team will be 18 players from each League.

Each player shall play a minimum of 24 outs (4 innings) and a maximum of 30 outs (5 innings). The requirement of the 24 out rule shall be met if a player enters the game at the beginning of the sixth inning and fails to play 24 outs because of the termination of the game before the end of the ninth inning.

Pitchers used in the All Star game cannot pitch more that two (2) innings in the game. One pitch constitutes an inning. Elements of the selection process for players to the All Star Team are as follows:

- a) All 12 year old players will be considered for selection to their league's All Star Team.
- b) There is no maximum number of selections from each Major League team.
- c) The minimum number of selections from each Major League team is two.
- d) At least one week prior to the All Star Game, the current year's American and National League managers and the respective All Star game manager (the All Star Game Selection Committee) will each meet to select 18 players to represent their respective league in the all star game. The All Star Game Selection Committee shall ensure a minimum of two players from each Major League team is selected. In the event of a tie when voting is used to select the all star team, the all star game manager shall break the tie. The All Star Game Selection Committee will also select the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> player to be used if a replacement player is needed (see below). It will be the sole responsibility of the All Star Team Manager and/or coaches to contact the players selected to the All Star team.

If a selected player is unable to participate in the All Star Game, the next player listed (19<sup>th</sup> then 20<sup>th</sup> then 21<sup>st</sup>) by the All Star Game Selection Committee will be offered the available spot.

## ARTICLE X – TIE BREAKERS

Ties for determining playoff positions One through Five as per Article XI will be determined using the following, in order:

- a. Best head to head record
- b. Best division record
- c. Least runs scored against during the season
- d. Most runs scored during the season
- e. Coin toss

NOTE: ONCE DETERMINATION IS MADE, THE FINAL STANDINGS WILL ALSO REFLECT THE DRAFT POSITION FOR THE NEXT SEASON!

## ARTICLE XI – MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

Immediately following completion of the Major League's regular season, there shall be a double elimination playoff schedule to determine the Town Champion.

1. A regulation Major League Playoff game consists of six innings unless extended because of a tie score, or shortened (1) because the home team needs none of its half of the sixth inning or only a fraction of it; or (2) because one team is ahead by 15 or more runs after the fourth inning or 12 or more runs after the fifth inning, provided both teams have had equal times at bat or the home team is leading in the fourth or fifth inning, respectively (if both managers agree, all six innings may be completed, with no impact on the final score of the game, provided there is not another game scheduled to immediately follow at the same field). If the score is tied after six complete innings, play shall continue until (1) the visiting team has scored more total runs than the home team at the end of a completed inning; or (2) the home team scores the winning run in an uncompleted inning. If the game is called by the umpire before it has become a regulation game, but after one (1) or more innings have been played, it shall be resumed exactly where it left off. All records and statistics, including pitching, in a game that has been called by the umpire before it becomes a regulation game shall be counted.

## ARTICLE XII - PROTESTS

When a Manager protests a rule or infraction, he must declare his intention to protest the game to the opposing team manager, the plate umpire and the base umpire at the time the infraction occurs.

The protest must be submitted in writing to the President, postmarked or delivered to the President no later than 48 hours after the date of the game in question. For games at the end of the regular season involving playoff positions or playoff games, said protest must be received by the President or by whomever he designates to receive said protest by 9:00 A.M. on the day after the game in question. The written report must substantiate the protest from the Rule Book and indicate the name of the home plate and base umpires who were in attendance.

The President will convene the Protest Committee who shall give each Manager and the Umpire involved in the protest an opportunity to jointly meet with the Committee and present their views.

A decision will be reached and all parties notified within seven (7) days of receipt of the protest. In games at the end of the season involving playoff positions or playoff games, said protest must be decided no later than 9:00 A.M. on the day after the protest is received and the opposing managers will be notified immediately of the decision.

There is no Appeal from the Protest Committee's decision. When a protest is upheld, the game will be replayed from the point of the infraction.

## ARTICLE XIII - GENERAL

One individual (manager, co-manager, assistant manager, coach or scorekeeper) shall be designated as "In Charge" and identified to the umpires at each game. Each manager, co-manager, assistant manager and coaches are encouraged to wear some identifying insignia of the Major League Team. Each manager, co-manager, assistant manager, coaches and Scorekeeper shall annually sign and abide by the Major League's Code of Ethics.

No team shall be required to play any game in the absence of at least one League approved Umpire.

All scheduled and postponed games which affect the League Championship or President's Cup must be completed as soon as possible following the regular season schedule.

All Major League Managers shall be required to submit an evaluation form for all of his 12 year-old players to the President of the League by July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

The winning team manager of a regular season game shall report the results of each game played to the designated official responsible for publicity.

The visiting team manager shall:

1. Have his team sit on the third base side of the diamond and be responsible for putting the bases on the field and taking them off.
2. Turn the playing field over to the home team not later than thirty-five (35) minutes before game time. In the case of a doubleheader, the available time prior to the start of the second game shall be split evenly between the two teams.
3. For night games at Wolcott Park, turn on the field lights and turn them off when leaving.

The home team manager shall:

1. Supply three new balls for each game. Balls will be supplied to the Major League managers at the start of the season.
2. Make appropriate payments to both umpires. Checks will be supplied at the start of the season to Major League Managers by the League Treasurer.
3. In the event of postponement or a tie game, immediately notify the Chief of Umpires so that the game can be rescheduled in accordance with Article VII of the Major League Playing Rules.

#### ARTICLE XIV - REVIEW BOARD

The Review Board shall be comprised of the major league vice president, the minor league vice president and the umpire in chief. If any of these three are involved in the issue at dispute, that review board member shall recuse themselves from the process and will be replaced by the President.

The purpose and function of the Review Board shall be to:

- (1) Review and determine the issue of cause regarding players who resign from his/her Major League team during the season and wish to play in the WHYBL the following year.
- (2) Review and determine whether there is sufficient cause to permit a Major League Manager to remove a holdover player from his team.
- (3) Review and determine whether there is sufficient cause to permit a Major League Manager to reassign to the minors a player that was selected in the Major League draft.

#### ARTICLE XV - RULES CHANGES AND ACCEPTANCE

The Major League Playing Rules for the WHYBL may be temporarily modified by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Major League Managers and At Large Directors present at a meeting, but permanent changes to the WHYBL Major League Playing Rules require a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Major League Managers and At Large Directors at the next scheduled meeting following receipt of written notice to all board members.

## WEST HARTFORD YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

### MINOR LEAGUE

(Revised February 2010)

### PLAYING RULES AND SPECIAL RULES

#### ARTICLE I-BASIS OF RULES

All Official Baseball Rules and Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations shall apply except as otherwise specified by the Playing Rules or By-Laws. Regular rules will apply in all games unless otherwise specified.

Official Baseball Rules and Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations for the current year shall be followed with the exceptions shown below:

1. If the game goes beyond 6 innings or if a player becomes injured, than any player may re-enter the game.
2. Rule 4.05 (1) shall be deleted and the following substituted: Each manager shall have the option of using an adult coach on the first and/or third-baseline.
3. When a base runner leaves his base before the pitched ball has reached the catcher, the ball is declared dead (no pitch) and the base runner shall be declared out. However, on the first occurrence for each team, there will be a warning, the ball will be declared dead (no pitch), and the player will not be called out but required to return to his base.
4. Balks by the pitcher or catcher shall not be called.
5. Adults can warm up the pitcher.
6. Stealing of all bases will be allowed with the following exceptions:
  - I. No stealing of home is allowed.
  - II. Play will be considered dead once the ball is in control of the pitcher in the mound area and the base runner has stopped his/her forward progress.
  - III. A player, who is attempting to steal a base, may only steal that base, and may not advance in the event of an overthrow or fielding error by the defensive team.
7. The On Deck Circle shall be permitted
8. A batter who squares or pivots to bunt can either (1) bunt or attempt to bunt or, (2) pull the bat back and take the pitch. Once the batter has squared or pivoted to bunt the batter shall not be permitted to swing at the pitch. The batter will be called out by the umpire if he "slash bunts".
9. When further clarification of a playing rule is necessary, reference may be made to the more complete Major League Rules of the WHYBL.

10. Other exceptions to the Official Baseball Rules and Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations shall be determined annually by the League Vice President prior to the start of the season.

11. A minor league team may start a game with 8 players.

12. A half inning will be considered complete if the batting team scores five runs or the defensive team records three (3) outs, whichever comes first. Except in the last inning where as many runs as possible may be scored before 3 outs are recorded by the defensive team. However, should a home run be hit over the fence in any inning, all runs driven in by the home run will count. The same rule shall apply for a ground rule double.

13. If a team is winning a game by 12 or more runs after the end of the 4th inning, (or if the home team is ahead by 12 or more runs after the end of 3 ½ innings) or at the end of any full inning thereafter, a mercy rule will be invoked and the team which is ahead by 12 runs or more will be declared the winner. The game should continue, if both managers agree, to ensure each player receive maximum development opportunities. Score will not be kept once the official game has concluded.

14. The defensive team must play a maximum of 10 players in the field. A team must not exceed fielding 6 infielders. Infielders include the pitcher and catcher. Outfielders must be a minimum of ten (10) feet from the outfield grass.

## ARTICLE II-LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

The League may be divided into one or more divisions and teams shall consist of players who live in the same general area. The Selection Committee shall attempt to distribute an equal number of players of each age to each team. Minor League Rosters shall not exceed 14 players per team. Participants shall be those youths who registered for the Minor League (if allowed) and those youths who were not selected to participate on a Major League team.

## ARTICLE III-PLAYER PARTICIPATION

Every player must play at least eighteen (18) outs of every game in which his team participates, unless the game terminated prior to the end of the sixth inning. The requirements of this rule shall be met if a player enters the game at the beginning of the fourth inning and fails to play eighteen outs, because of the termination of the game before the end of the sixth inning. If the game goes into extra innings, the players who participated earlier may be returned to the lineup.

If a player is injured during the game, then any player may be returned to the lineup and he shall be considered eligible.

A player wearing a hard cast is not eligible to play in a league game.

There will be a continuous batting order that will include all players in attendance at the game.

#### ARTICLE IV-PITCHING RULE

Anyone on the roster, except twelve year olds, is eligible to pitch.

I: Pitch counts will be tracked and recorded for every game.

II: A pitcher may not pitch more than three (3) innings in any game and up to six (6) innings in any week.

III: A pitcher must have two (2) calendar days reset between pitching assignments if he/she pitches three (3) innings in any one game.

IV: One (1) pitch constitutes pitching in an inning, including those declared “no contest”. Any inning pitched shall be charged in the week actually pitched.

VI: Nine (9), Ten (10) and Eleven (11) years old pitchers may not pitch more than 75 pitches in any game.

Seven (7) and Eight (8) years old pitchers may not pitch more than 50 pitches in any game.

If a pitcher reaches said limit for his age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: the batter reaches base, the batter is put out or the third out is made to complete the half inning.

#### ARTICLE V-SCHEDULING & MAKEUPS

All scheduled and postponed games should be completed as soon as possible following the regular season schedule, if at all possible. All postponed games and tie games will be rescheduled by the Minor League Vice President. Such rescheduled games must be played on the designated date. If either or both teams fail to field nine (9) players as rescheduled, either or both teams will be given a loss and the game cannot be played at a later date. No team shall be required to play in more than three (3) games in any one week.

#### ARTICLE VI -GENERAL

One individual (manager, assistant manager, coach or scorer) shall be designated “in charge” and identified to the umpires at each game. Managers, assistant managers, coaches and scorers are encouraged to wear some identifying insignia of the team. Each manager, assistant manager, coach and scorer shall, annually sign and abide by the League’s Code of Ethics.

Each manager must turn in his team roster (with registration forms attached) to the Minor League Vice President, not later than one week before the starting date of play, and no youth may participate in any game until he is registered. Use of an unregistered or ineligible player shall result in a forfeit.

The winning team manager shall report results of each game played to the designated league official responsible for publicity.

The manager will be required to submit an evaluation form for all of his 9-11 year old players to the President of the league by July 1 of the current year.

The Visiting Team Manager shall:

1. Have his team sit on the third base side of the diamond and be responsible for putting the bases on the field and taking them off the field.
2. Turn the field over to the home team not later than thirty-five (35) minutes before game time.

The Home Team Manager shall:

1. Supply three new balls for each game. Balls will be supplied to managers at the start of the season.
2. In the event of postponement or a tie game, immediately notify the Minor League Vice President to reschedule the game.

#### ARTICLE VII-RULE CHANGES

The Rules may be temporarily modified by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Director members present at the meeting, but permanent changes require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting following written notice to all Board members.