

# **2025 Westfield Recreational Softball GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS**

*(as of 1/2/2025)*

## **A. Equipment**

- a. For the spring season, WYSI will provide each player with a jersey, (black) softball pants and a pair of matching tall socks. Players must provide their own glove and fielding mask. Batting helmets and bats are strongly recommended, but WYSI can provide these if requested.
  - i. For 10U and older, sliding shorts (under the pants) are recommended.
- b. Batting helmet with a faceguard is required, chin straps are recommended.
- c. Facemasks are required for all players in the field.
- d. Pitchers/pitcher's helpers must wear a heart guard.
- e. All coaches will be provided with a catcher's kit (helmet, chest pad, knee/chin pads), heart guard and a bucket of regulation balls.
  - i. Depending on the level, some coaches may have a batter's helmet and bat.
- f. Each coach will be provided with game balls to use only at games.
  - i. When playing a WYSI team, each coach will supply a game ball (two total).
  - ii. When playing a county team, the home team will supply both game's balls.
- g. No metal cleats will be allowed.

## **B. Pregame/Game**

- a. Home team is decided by the schedule. Home team takes 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout.
- b. One coach from each team is required to meet with the Umpire at home plate prior to the start of each game. Any questions concerning rules must be brought to the Umpire at that time.
- c. The Umpire is the official timekeeper. Time will begin upon the conclusion of the Umpire meeting at home plate.
- d. All players present shall be included in the batting order. Any player arriving late will be inserted at the bottom of the order. Any girl leaving the game early will be removed from the lineup with no penalty.
- e. Both teams are required to keep score during the game. Scorebooks will be provided if desired, but all teams must save their score via GameChanger.
  - i. Each team should assign a scorekeeper for each game. This scorekeeper will share batting lineup with the other team's scorekeeper.
  - ii. The team scorekeepers should confirm scores between innings.

## **C. Umpires & Coaches**

- a. All Coaches, Umpires and anyone assisting teams must pass a background check with WYSI.
- b. All Umpires on the field must be at least 16 years of age.
- c. All regular season games will have one (1) Umpire on the field.
  - i. Exception: Tournament Championships will have two (2) Umpires
- d. Only Head Coaches may privately, and respectfully, discuss calls that are made on the field of play.

- i. Head Coaches are responsible for the actions of the Assistant Coaches, players and fans.
  - ii. All issues with any Umpire must be directed to the WYSI Recreational Softball Commissioner.
- e. Head Coaches are responsible for reviewing the rules with players, other coaches and fans. Umpires will issue one verbal warning to any coach, player or fan not following the objection rules.
  - i. After the first warning, the Umpire may ban a coach or player to the dugout and require their silence; or may require silence from a fan. The Umpire will inform the Head Coach if fan(s) is to remain silent. If the requested silence is broken, the Umpire may remove that coach, player or fan from the facility. This rule applies to all in attendance at the game.
  - ii. Anyone ejected from the game must immediately leave the property and could face suspension from the following game.
    - 1. If a Head Coach is ejected from a game, that coach must leave the property and will be suspended for two games.
    - 2. If an Assistant Coach is ejected from a game, the Assistant Coach must leave the property.
    - 3. If an Assistant Coach is ejected from a game, the Head Coach and Assistant Coach will both be suspended for two games.
    - 4. The two-game suspension may be appealed to the executive committee of WYSI. Any coach or Assistant Coach ejected from a game must meet with the executive board before returning to coach their team.

#### **D. General Game Rules**

- a. **Strike Zone:** From the top of the batter's shoulder to the bottom of the batter's knees.
- b. A pitcher will be allowed five (5) warm-up pitches when the game starts and when a new pitcher enters the game. Otherwise, three warm-up pitches per inning, if needed.
- c. No jewelry (unless medically necessary) is allowed on the field.
- d. **Sliding:** Runners are NOT required to slide at any base. However, the runner must avoid contact with the defender. If a runner attempts to slide (judgment call), the contact rule is not in effect. Headfirst slides are prohibited except when diving back to the base.
- e. **Interference:** If a runner makes contact with a defender during a play at a base, the runner will be called out for contact while not sliding. If a runner interferes with a fielder attempting to field a batted ball, the runner will be called out.
  - i. In both cases, the onus is on the runner to not interfere with the fielder.
  - ii. If, in the judgment of the Umpire, a runner attempting to reach any base intentionally and/or maliciously runs into a defensive player, she may be called out and ejected from the game.
  - iii. Play stops immediately at the point of collision.

- f. **Obstruction:** Obstruction will be called, at the judgement of the Umpire, if a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball and not in the act of fielding the ball, impedes the progress of any runner.
  - i. If a fielder interferes with a runner, the Umpire may grant the runner one extra base when the play has completed.
  - ii. For avoidance of doubt, the runner still may not purposely initiate contact with any obstructing fielder (see interference rule above).
  - iii. Tagging a runner out is not considered obstruction.

#### E. Other Rules

- a. No travel players are allowed to play in the recreational league games in the spring.
- b. **Farming up:** Teams may farm-up players from another team of the same age division or one division lower to make the required minimum to play a game.
  - i. All players must be rostered with WYSI.
  - ii. Those farmed up must be placed last in the batting order.
- c. Players are required to stay in the dugout during the game. (Exception: bathroom breaks)
- d. All other softball rules will be in accordance with IHSA Rules, and the Umpire's call will be final.
- e. All safety and conduct rules will be in accordance with WYSI and will be enforced by the Umpires and Commissioner.
- f. **Rainouts/Suspended Play:** Will be determined 30 minutes prior to the first game time by the League Commissioner. During game times, Coaches and Umpires will determine this.
  - i. Lightning Policy will be in accordance with WYSI Lightning Policy
  - ii. In the event the game is called prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, for whatever reason, the game will resume at a later date and will continue just as the game never stopped (runners will return to bases, after will have same pitch count and the outs will continue, etc.).
  - iii. In the event the game is called after the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, for whatever reason, the winner will be determined by going back to the last full inning and the team with the highest score wins (unless the home team is batting and is winning at the time the game is suspended, then the home team would be the winner.
  - iv. In the event the game was tied, the game will be considered a tie.
  - v. In the event of a rain-out that needs to be made up, the Recreational Softball Commissioner will coordinate the make-up dates.
- g. **Weather Info:** Follow [WYSI Softball on Facebook](#) and check for updates on GameChanger.