INDEX

Published 2024

[ESTABLISHED 1995 3](#_Toc316978358)

[2024 RULE CHANGES AND EDITORIAL COMMENTS 4](#_Toc316978359)

[1.0 TEAM REGISTRATION 5](#_Toc316978360)

[2.0 VERIFICATION OF AGE 10](#_Toc316978361)

[3.0 SCHEDULING 10](#_Toc316978362)

[4.0 UMPIRING 13](#_Toc316978363)

[5.0 CONDUCT 14](#_Toc316978364)

[6.0 RULES VIOLATIONS AND PROTEST PROCEDURES 17](#_Toc316978365)

[7.0 RULES CHANGES 19](#_Toc316978366)

[8.0 POST SEASON TOURNAMENT 20](#_Toc316978367)

[9.0 GENERAL BASEBALL RULES 25](#_Toc316978368)

[10.0 BASEBALL PLAYING RULES 31](#_Toc316978369)

[11.0 BASEBALL PITCHING MACHINE RULES 34](#_Toc316978370)

[12.0 GENERAL SOFTBALL RULES 36](#_Toc316978371)

[13.0 SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES 44](#_Toc316978372)

[14.0 SOFTBALL PITCHING MACHINE RULES 45](#_Toc316978373)

WKBSA

West Kentucky Baseball and Softball Association

# ESTABLISHED 1995

The aim of our program is to provide education and instruction in the fundamentals of baseball and softball. We are a non-profit, charitable organization offering a sports program for the youth and young adults in our community. Through these team activities the participants can develop courage, self-reliance, self-confidence, and appreciation of their own worth as individuals and grow as responsible members of their families and as citizens of their community. Fair and honorable play shall rule supreme.

Your cooperation in this endeavor is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for choosing WKBSA.

# 2024 Rules Changes and Editorial Comments

1. Rule and editorial changes are highlighted in grey shadows. See the actual rule change for exact wording.
2. Minor administrative changes were made to clarify or remove any obvious errors.
3. Rule changes for 2024 season:
   1. Rule 9.2.2 and 12.2.2 were changed to allow players to play down with the grade or graduating class in which they are enrolled in school.
   2. Rule 9.7.2 and 12.7.2 were changed to utilize the international tie breaker rule. The international tie breaker rile will NOT be utilized in post season play.
   3. Changed the boys pitching distance from 44’ to 43’ in the B7 –B9 divisions.
4. Point of Emphasis:
   1. Player and Coach Conduct has increasingly become an issue at all levels of all sports. WKBSA will not tolerate any players who use profanity, threatening words or actions. Sportsmanship is required by all players and coaches at all times.
   2. Fan behavior continues to be a point of emphasis at all levels in all sports. This was a particular focus of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA). Simply put the conduct of fans has increasingly driven away officials from the game and as a result there is a significant shortage of officials. Officials that have left the officiating ranks expressed very clearly it is due to fan abuse. Our Umpires are generally high school students who are trying their best to do a good job. Be assured they will miss calls and make mistakes, but this is never an acceptable excuse for fans to act inappropriately. Everyone needs to be reminded that fan conduct issues will not be tolerated. This is a zero tolerance policy for fans and they will be removed from the facility and could face additional suspension from the WKBSA.
   3. Games are progressing to slowly. It has become a concern that game are not progressing as they should. Time between innings is way longer than the 1 minute in and out time. While we do not want to be super strict on this, we must improve in this are in order to allow teams to play the maximum amount. We will be instructing umpires to speed up the game, particularly in between innings.

# 1.0 TEAM REGISTRATION

## 

## Section 1.1

All teams desiring to play during the current season must complete a team roster. Each team roster is subject to approval by WKBSA League and must be received by the date prescribed annually by the WKBSA league officers. Each application (roster) must be in ink, and must include:

1. The official name of the team applying,
2. The name, address, and phone number of the team manager and two coaches and all players.
3. Copy of players birth certificate, this shall be kept by the team manager, but be available upon request. *Failure to do so may result in suspension of player.*
4. Signature of managers and coaches for child abuse/molestation risk program.
5. Signature of parents or guardians for:
   1. Liability waiver
   2. Rule concerning ineligibility for playing with other teams during season.
6. Every roster submittal must be accompanied by a certificate verifying completion of the Concussion Awareness Training by at least one listed Manager or Coach.
7. Upon approval, two copies of the roster will be returned to the area president. One will be given to the team manager and the other held on file by the area president.

## Section 1.2

Entry fee for teams and players will be established annually by each local league.

## Section 1.3

The WKBSA reserves the right to reject any area, team, manager, coach, or player’s application to become a part of the association. In such an event the local league will be obliged to return to the applicant any and all entry fees previously paid to that league by those so rejected for that current season.

## Section 1.4

1. Players will stay with the team of the preceding year, unless the league is unable to secure a manager for the team. This applies to the entire year, year to year. Definition of an “old” team is the retention of more than 50% of the previous year’s players.

**Exception:** *Baseball and softball - Fifteen year old divisions and older including the high school division regardless of the age of the players.*

1. Any manager or coach not contacting their players from the previous roster shall be suspended for one calendar year.

**Exception***: Baseball and softball - Fifteen year old divisions and older including the high school division regardless of the age of the players.*

## 

## Section 1.5

1. WKBSA Protest Committee has the right to declare any player a "Free Agent" at any time for just cause.
2. In the event a player is declared a "Free Agent", the team manager must upon written notification, submit to the WKBSA a new Official Roster containing this change. When a player is declared a "Free Agent", he/ she will be placed into the pool and be placed on the team picked by the local league.
3. No player shall be eligible to play with another WKBSA team unless he/she has been properly released and placed. This rule does not apply to: *Baseball/ Softball – 15 and older Divisions including the high school division regardless of the age of the players*.

**Penalty:** *Any player, free agent, or manager who violates this section shall be automatically suspended from play in the WKBSA for the balance of the current year.*

## Section 1.6

1. Each area must place all registered players on a team through a draft, if there are openings available.
2. A player may be placed on a team in another area if all teams in his/her home area are at the maximum number allowed.
3. The maximum number of players a team is required to carry on their roster is 13. Voluntary maximum shall be 15 players on any team. Permission for more than 15 players may be obtained from the League Board.
4. In the thirteen (13) and fourteen (14) year old divisions, a player may be added to rosters without the use of a draft, however the local league may add players from the draft to teams up to the maximum number and such player must be properly released.

**Section 1.7**

1. Any team wishing to play up an age division is subject to league approval. Any team playing up an age division shall not play back down in any WKBSA area. If a player chooses to play up a division, they may not play down unless doing so will not have an adverse effect on the division they are coming from or going to.
2. Players that wish to play back down in their correct age group will be placed via a supplemental draft after the normal draft has been completed.
3. Those wanting to play up will require WKBSA approval. **Note:** exception for players falling under Section 9.3 or 12.3 in General Playing Rules.

**Section 1.8**

1. Player(s) may be registered with or play with any other organized baseball or softball organization or team at any time during the current season.
   1. Games will not be rescheduled to accommodate players who will miss a game for travel ball purposes.
2. Current season is from the first day of regular season through post-season tournament.
3. In order for any player to be eligible for the WKBSA post season, they must have played in a least 50% of the regular scheduled season games played for which they were eligible to play.
   1. Teams must produce their team scorebook upon request of the opposing team manager at any time as evidence the player(s) have played in the required amount of games as noted above. This request is not considered a protest.
      1. **Penalty:** Failure to provide the scorebook will result in the player(s) being ineligible for the postseason.
   2. If a team has reason to doubt the scorebook provided as evidence, then the team requesting the verification may file a protest as outlined in section 6.0 in order to compare scorebooks for opposing teams played during the season.
      1. **Penalty:** A coach knowingly using an illegal player may be suspended for the remainder of the season and subject to dismissal of the following season.

## Section 1.9

In case of an emergency, non-registered coaches may be used in a game, provided they sign the official line up and notify the umpire in chief.

## Section 1.10

Changes in a team’s Official Roster must be filed with the WKBSA League on or before the third day prior to the regularly scheduled or rescheduled league game in which the change is to become effective, and no change will be recognized if filed later than the time specified, except that such change shall then become effective for the next following game of the team.

## Section 1.11

No new player shall be registered in the Association during the last six (6) regularly scheduled league games.

## Section 1.12

1. In the event of an emergency, a manager desiring to make an addition to his/her Official Roster after the time limit set forth in (Section 1.11) herein.
   1. Must receive the unanimous written consent of ALL team managers in the division in which his team participates.
   2. Said consent shall be delivered to the WKBSA and shall be subject to the approval of the WKBSA League President before such player is eligible to play with that team.
   3. The requested addition must not be in violation of any rule of the Association.
   4. There will not be any additions during post-season play.

## Section 1.13

1. Registration of a player on an Official Roster does not exempt him/her from protest at a later date for ineligibility due to age.
2. The WKBSA Protest Committee, upon proper evidence by a bona fide member of the Association must declare the player in question ineligible.

**Penalty:** *team automatically forfeits any and all games in which such player has played as a member of that team.*

## Section 1.14

1. Teams are to be formed through a Player Draft system. All new players to a team must be added through the Player Draft. An existing team coming into the League shall retain all players on the previous year’s roster upon meeting the proper requirements and League approval. This includes T-Ball teams moving into the 7 year age divisions. Draft is to be held as follows:
2. No later than the January meeting, the WKBSA Board of Directors shall determine the calendar for the new season. The calendar shall include:
   * At least 2 registration dates (areas may add additional dates at their discretion;
   * Pool Draw date;
   * Roster Turn-in date;
   * Start of Regular Season;
   * End of Regular Season;
   * Start of Post-Season Tournament;
   * Post-Season Championship date with awards presentation.

c. Player draft for all areas is to be held on the Pool Draw date, at a location designated by the league.

d. League Officials will determine number of players to be added to each team to maintain a balanced number for each team.

e. Each team starting with the last place team from previous year’s standings going in order up to the first place team will draw one player at a time until each team has reached the amount of players as determined in Section 1.14d. New teams that come into an area will draw last in each round. In the event that it becomes evident that there are not enough roster positions to place all players in the draft on a team, then that draft shall be performed “face down”; otherwise it will be performed “face up”.

**Example:** *third place team (C) has 10 players, second place (B) has 12, and first place (A) has 11. With three players in the pool, each team will finish the draft with 12 players. Team (C) draws one player first, team (B) will not draw; Team (A) draws one player giving them 12 players. Team (C) now draws the last player giving all three teams 12 players. If there had been four players in the draft team B would pick the fourth player since they are next in the pick order, giving team B 13 players. Team C now has the next pick for any late sign ups. Teams do not have the option to refuse their pick up to the maximum number of players as outlined in Team Registration rule 1.6.3 above.* **Note:** *there will be no draft for baseball 13, and 14 year old divisions, unless there are players still in the pool that cannot find a team.*

f. Once the initial draft has been completed a supplemental draft to place any players that wish to return to their proper age division will then be performed as outlined above provided they meet the requirements of section 1.7.

1. The placement of any additional players signing up in the league after the player draft will be based on the draft order as outlined in e above. In the event teams loose players and fall below the number as determined in d above, the players will be placed at the discretion of the WKBSA.
2. All Tee ball teams in the T6 divisions must turn a roster into the WKBSA. This is to ensure teams that are entering the 7 year old age division the following year comply with the requirements of section 1.14. **Penalty:** Failure to do so will result in all players being placed in the pool and the team formed at the draft. Example: 2012, T6 teams will be required to turn a roster in with all other 2012 rosters for use in 2013 season.
3. If a player voluntarily withdraws from the pool draw (draft), then said player will not be allowed to sign up late in any area of the WKBSA unless approved by the WKBSA.

**Section 1.15**

It is recognized there could be errors in rosters as they are completed. Such errors will be corrected regardless of who (Manager, Local Area, WKBSA) made the error even though the rosters have been approved once the error has been discovered.

# 2.0 VERIFICATION OF AGE

# 

## Section 2.1

Managers of all teams will be held accountable for statement of their players in regard to age.

## Section 2.2

A birth certificate must be submitted to WKBSA league upon registration or roster sign up. A copy of these shall be kept by the team manager.

## Section 2.3

Teams fielding players contrary to the age limits prescribed for the various divisions shall be liable to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by WKBSA league officers.

# 3.0 SCHEDULING

## Section 3.1

Official schedules must be made available prior to the beginning of the league season, showing the dates, starting times, locations, and opposing teams for all regular season league games.

## Section 3.2

Unless due to rainouts, there will be no games rescheduled after 2 weeks from the season starting date. Coaches should get any courtesy reschedules done as soon as possible after receiving their schedule. Note: As noted in Team Registration Section 1.8.3; games may not be rescheduled to accommodate travel ball.

## Section 3.3

If a game is rescheduled for any reason the same team shall be the "Home" team for the rescheduled game.

## Section 3.4

Because of continuous batting in the WKBSA, any game that is rained out will start over from the beginning on the rescheduled date.

**Note:** *Games cannot be rained out after 3 ½ innings with the home team leading or 4 innings with the visiting team leading, unless tied. After 4 complete innings, if rain halts play, the score from the last completed inning shall stand.*

## Section 3.5

1. The Home Team’s rainout coordinator will be responsible for the rescheduling of games.
2. It will be each manager’s responsibility to contact the coordinator within 24 hours to find out date, time, and location of the rescheduled games.
3. *Failure to comply with this section may cause the teams to be charged with a loss.*
4. If one team fails to appear on the day and at the time and location scheduled by the WKBSA the team failing to appear shall be charged with a forfeited game to the opposing team.
5. Rainout Score Determination

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Inning | Leading Team | Result |
| 3rd inning or earlier | Either | Game is rained out |
| Top of 4th Inning | Either | Game is rained out |
| Bottom of 4th inning | Visitor | Game is rained out |
| Bottom of 4th inning or later | Home | Home team wins |
| Top of 5th or later inning | Either | Score reverts to the last complete inning |
| Bottom of 3rd inning or earlier | Tie | Game is rained out |
| Top of 4th inning | Tie | Game is rained out |
| Bottom of 4th or later inning | Tie | Game is a tie |
| Top of 5th or later inning | Tie | Score reverts to the last complete inning |
| **Note:** Association games *ending*in atie will not be replayed unless the outcome of the game will determine First or Second place in season standings. Tie games count as ½ win and ½ loss. | | |

## Section 3.6

## If teams are tied for 1st or 2nd place after the close of the regular season, a tie breaker will be used to determine the final standings as follows:

1. If a two way tie:   
   a. Head to Head in regular season.

b. If still tied then a one game series to determine the winner.

1. If a three way tie or more:   
   Use the head to head cumulative win-loss-tie percentage of the teams involved to determine seeding (The number of times teams have played each other is not a relevant factor.) The highest seeded team will play the lowest seeded team if there is an even number of teams. If the numbers of teams are unequal, then the highest seeded team will get the bye. A single elimination tournament format shall be used to determine the Champion.

**Note:** If via the head to head record of the teams tied shows that a team has not beaten the other teams involved in the tie, then this format will exclude that team for the tie-break.

**Example:** 3 teams are tied at 11-3. Team A has beaten team B once. Team B has beaten team A once. But, team C has lost to both of the other teams, then team C is not considered as tied with the other teams since they have lost to team A and B and have not beaten either team during the regular season.

1. The WKBSA rules and protest committee may use a different format in extra ordinary situations with the majority approval of the WKBSA Board.
2. Teams tied for 3rd place and lower shall remain tied for final regular season standings.

#### Section 3.7

If the scheduling committee deems necessary, where there is a low number of teams in any division they may combine two divisions as long as they play by similar rules.

**Example:** *Thirteen (13) and Fourteen (14) year old divisions*

# 4.0 UMPIRING

## Section 4.1

A player, manager, coach, or relative is prohibited from umpiring in any officially scheduled or rescheduled league game, or in any officially scheduled elimination game in the division in which his/her team participates.

## Section 4.2

1. Home plate umpire in all games shall wear protective facemask, shin guards, and chest protector.
2. All umpires shall have a ball, strike and out counter, and home plate umpire should have a brush for home plate.

## Section 4.3

For all scheduled and/or rescheduled league games, an umpire in chief shall be determined prior to the start of the game. The umpire in chief thus determined shall remain such during the entire game.

**Note:** *The umpire in chief shall have authority over all other umpires on the field.*

## Section 4.4

1. An umpire has the right to expel a player, manager, coach, spectator, or team for the remainder of the current game, when in his judgment, such player, manager, coach, or team has committed an offense against the rules. Clarification: Umpires do not have the authority to cancel, suspend or call a game complete for any reason. See section 4.5
2. Further action will be taken in accordance with Section 5.0, Conduct.

## Section 4.5

1. The field coordinator shall assist in an advisory capacity to the umpire.
2. The field coordinator shall be responsible for accessing reasonable standards of sportsmanship and, that they are observed.
3. Field coordinators shall have the authority to remove persons from the ballpark who, in their judgment, do not meet these standards.
4. Field coordinator has the authority to suspend any game at any time.
5. A Field Coordinator must be present at all WKBSA games. Failure to have a field coordinator at a game may result in automatic win of protest due to the team not being able to comply with the protest procedure. In the event a FC has a conflict of interest in the game in which there is an issue it is acceptable to call another off-site member for a ruling.

**Section 4.6**

1. An umpire’s registration exam will be offered to umpires from all areas.
2. Every area is encouraged to provide at least one registered umpire (and preferably 2) for each league game.
3. Umpires that are registered by other recognized bodies such as NHFS may be considered as registered but should familiarize themselves with the additional rules of the WKBSA.
4. If no registered umpires are available, the field coordinator may at his discretion assign unregistered umpires that he feels are qualified. Regular use of this practice is discouraged.

# 5.0 CONDUCT

## Section 5.1

1. All that is dishonorable, un-sportsman like, and unbecoming a lady or gentleman is condemned. The use of intoxicants in any form or profane language by managers, coaches, players, spectators, game or league officials, is prohibited. This restriction applies to the field of play, the player’s benches, or anywhere in close proximity of the field of play.

*Anyone guilty of such conduct may be removed from the game, and from the area surrounding the field, at the discretion of the umpire in chief and such person may be subject to disciplinary action by the WKBSA board.*

2. If there is a threat of physical violence by a manager, coach, player, spectator or umpire; that person will be removed from the property, and not associated with any team for one calendar year. If that manager, coach, or player resumes an active role, the team forfeits the season or if in a tournament the team will be ejected from the tournament and all fees will be forfeited.

## Section 5.2

The manager of a team is responsible for the proper conduct of his players, coaches, and followers of his team.

##### Section 5.3

Any person who directly or indirectly approaches a player for the purpose of inducing that player to leave the player’s team shall be liable to such penalty as is deemed proper by the WKBSA. The standard for determining this should be interpreted as the appearance of recruiting. There will be no attempt to meet the standards of a “Court of Law”.

## Section 5.4

1. Food and refreshment rules must be observed in all host areas.
2. No coolers are allowed at the ballpark except those in the dugouts containing water or sport drink for the players.
3. Most leagues will have refreshments available for teams to purchase after their games. It is requested that teams buy team drinks from the concession stands, (if the team indulges in after game refreshments).

**Failure to abide will be***: Warning to the manager (1st offense) Forfeit Game (2nd offense)*

Section 5.5

1. Coaches must stay at or in the dugout or in designated coaching areas while on the field when the ball is in play.
2. Coaches may not stand outside the field in the area of home plate when the ball is in play.

Section 5.6

1. Teams are responsible for cleaning up dugouts and bleacher areas following games.
2. Umpires shall not sign official season scorecard (Blue Card) following games until dugout and bleacher areas have been cleaned.
3. Umpires should verify the win / loss result marked on the blue card prior to signing the card.

# 

# 6.0 RULES VIOLATIONS AND PROTEST PROCEDURES

## Section 6.1

LEAGUE PLAY: The WKBSA Protest Committee shall have the authority to act on all rules violations and protests involving leagues, teams, players, managers or coaches under its jurisdiction. The Committee has the authority to decide any suspensions or game forfeitures.

## Section 6.2

A team manager shall be obligated to secure a copy of the most recent National Federation of High School rules for Softball or Baseball and the “Official WKBSA Rule Book of the Association”. He shall acquaint his players and coaches with the contents of both rulebooks. Ignorance shall not be a valid excuse for violation of such rules.

## Section 6.3

A protest can only be made on alleged rules violation or player eligibility. NO PROTEST CAN BE ACCEPTED WHEN IT INVOLVES A QUESTION OF AN UMPIRE'S JUDGMENT.

## Section 6.4

Each protest must be in writing, signed by the manager or coaches making the protest and accompanied by a protest fee of Fifty dollars CASH ($50). The protest fee must be paid to the Field Coordinator at the time the protest is declared. In the event that a protest is disallowed, or declared NOT VALID, the fees shall not be refunded. In the event a protest is allowed, the fee shall be refunded.

Clarification: If the protesting team wins the game the protest is void and fees are returned unless the game is being protested due to player eligibility.

## Section 6.5

Protests on a violation, or violations of any rule of the Association governing eligibility may be filed by any bona fide member of the Association against any other member of the Association, provided: All protests on a violation, or violations of eligibility rules during the regularly scheduled league season must be filed not later than forty eight (48) hours after the close of the regularly scheduled or rescheduled league game of the current season. Such protest shall be filed with the WKBSA Protest Committee.

## Section 6.6

Whenever an alleged violation of a PLAYING RULE occurs during the progress of an official regular season game, a rescheduled game, or league tournament game, the manager or a duly registered coach of the protesting team must call “time” and IMMEDIATELY notify the umpire in chief and the manager of the opposing team that the game is being continued under protest. This enables all interested parties to take notice of the exact conditions prevailing at the time and will aid in proper determination of the issue. Failure of the complaining manager to comply exactly with this Section will nullify and render void any future protest regarding the alleged violation of playing rules referred to herein.

**Exception:** *If a protest occurs on a game ending play, the umpire in chief and the opposing team’s manager must be notified no later than ten (10) minutes after the end of the game.*

## Section 6.7

A protest involving an alleged violation of a PLAYING RULE as referred to in Section 6.6 must be made in writing, signed by the authorized person making the protest on the field, and filed with the WKBSA Protest Committee having jurisdiction within forty-eight (48) hours following the date of the game in which the alleged rules violation occurred.

## Section 6.8

Decisions of the WKBSA Protest Committee are FINAL, and there can be no further appeal or review of such decisions.

## Section 6.9

Protest filed by players, managers, coaches, or teams not properly registered shall be declared NOT VALID and the protest fee shall be forfeited to the WKBSA.

## Section 6.10

1. In the event the protest referred herein is withdrawn by the team that won the game, at the end of the game involved, and the umpire in chief is so informed by the manager or coach making the original complaint on the field, there shall be no protest and such action will nullify and render void any future protest regarding the alleged violation of rules referred to herein. The losing team does not have the option to withdraw a protest once it is made.
2. If, however, the protest is not withdrawn, it shall become the obligation of all umpires working the game to file a written report of the incident causing the protest, with the Protest Committee having jurisdiction, within forty-eight (48) hours following the date of the game in which the alleged rules violation occurred. It shall also become the obligation of the “opposing manager” to file a written report of the incident causing the protest with the Protest Committee, within forty-eight (48) hours following the date of the game in which the alleged violation of rules occurred.

## Section 6.11

The Protest Committee receiving the protest and the written reports, shall render its decision within five (5) days following the date of the game in which the alleged rules violation occurred and/or five days following the receipt of such written reports described.

# 7.0 RULES CHANGES

## Section 7.l

Any section of these Rules may be amended, altered or repealed only by the action of the Rules Committee and League Officials.

## Section 7.2

Any player, manager, coach, WKBSA League Official or Coordinator has the right to recommend changes in these rules. Any change in these Rules, which is contemplated by the WKBSA League, must be submitted in writing to the Association and approved by the Association before it shall become effective.

## Section 7.3

Any matter not expressly covered by these Rules shall be left to the discretion of the WKBSA Rules and /or Protest Committee.

## Section 7.4

The Rules Committee and WKBSA League Officials shall be the final authority on any rules of the Association. The WKBSA Executive Board has the authority to correct any contradictory errors found in the rulebook as needed.

7.5 Rules changes shall normally be proposed and presented in writing at a regularly scheduled meeting of the WKBSA. Except in cases where immediate action is required, no proposal for rules change should be proposed and accepted in the same meeting. Area representatives should take the proposal to their home areas where it is then presented to the local board.

The proposal may then be moved, seconded, and voted on at the next regular or special meeting of the WKBSA.

# 8.0 POST SEASON TOURNAMENT

**Section 8.1**

1. There shall be a tournament committee consisting of the WKBSA president, vice-president, baseball commissioner, softball commissioner, and one representative from each area.
2. The committee shall be responsible for applying, enforcing, and interpreting the tournament rules, subject only to the oversight of the protest committee in a matter legally brought before it.

Section 8.2

The tournament will be seeded according to the won-loss record of the teams at the time of the “Blue Card” turn in.

Teams tied for either 1st or 2nd place will be seeded based on the results of the season tie breaker as defined in section 3.6

Teams tied for 3rd place or lower will be seeded in a manner to be determined by WKBSA at the time of the tournament scheduling. Such method could include a coin toss.

## Section 8.3

1. In order for a team to be eligible for post-season play:
   1. They must submit their blue card, complete with record to date, to the WKBSA tournament committee on or before the date, time and location(s) specified by the WKBSA and posted on the blue card regardless of whether or not all regular season games have been played.
   2. Local Areas have the right to deny teams eligibility to play in the post season for just cause. Example: Failure to support concession stand duty, picnic days, clean-up days, etc.
2. It is the responsibility of each area to insure compliance, and there will be no exceptions made absent a catastrophic circumstance, to be determined by the tournament committee.

## Section 8.4

1. Teams that have not completed all of their regular season games at the time of blue card turn-in shall be charged a loss for each un-played game for the purpose of seeding.
2. This will not affect their regular season standings if a playoff is necessary for determination of their final standing.

## Section 8.5

The tournament committee will assign tournament dates, determine seeding, and handle any other duties set out in these rules or delegated by the WKBSA in the rules or by board action.

## Section 8.6

Any protest during the Post Season Tournament must be resolved prior to resumption of play. Exception: If the protest is for player eligibility it must be resolved prior to the next scheduled tournament game for that team.

## Section 8.7

When there is more than one division in an age group, separate tournaments will be held for each division.

## Section 8.8

The higher seed shall be the home team in each game, and shall have choice of dugouts.

## Section 8.9

The host area shall provide balls for each game.

## Section 8.10

The decisions of the committee on locations for games shall be final and not subject to protest.

Section 8.11

There will be no time limit for post-season championship games; however run rules will remain in effect.

**Section 8.12**

Any post season game that is terminated for cause prior to becoming an official game will be re-started from the beginning of the game.

**Section 8.13**

In order to be eligible to participate in post season play, a player must have participated in at least 50% of their team's regular season WKBSA games after they’ve been officially placed on that team’s roster.

Exceptions to this rule may be considered by the WKBSA Protest Committee upon request from the manager.

**Section 8.14**

A team shall declare when they circle yes to play in the tournament, to play the entire tournament up to the point of elimination and/or championship game. A team that forfeits a championship game will not receive a 2nd place tournament. Individual kids that are available to play may come and receive a trophy upon request to their area president.

**West Kentucky Baseball & Softball Association**

The following is the policy of:

**West Kentucky Baseball & Softball Association.**

     **West Kentucky Baseball & Softball Association** is committed to provide a safe environment and to prevent child abuse and sexual misconduct.

     **West Kentucky Baseball & Softball Association** will make every reasonable effort to ensure that every person involved in coaching/training a sports activity will abide by these guidelines.

      **West Kentucky Baseball & Softball Association** will make every reasonable effort to exclude any adult with a legally documented history of child abuse/molestation or any other record that would bring unnecessary risk to the health and safety of the participants of this organization. Therefore, every person applying for a position as a coach/trainer must complete an Employee Disclosure statement (See back of roster).

      **West Kentucky Baseball & Softball Association** will take appropriate action on all allegations of child abuse and/or sexual misconduct. All allegations will be reported immediately to the authorities for investigation and will cooperate fully with any such investigation.

**To follow is a list of preventive measures, which should be taken:**

     Physical, mental, and verbal abuses are forbidden.

     Inappropriate touching is forbidden.

     Coaches/trainers should not socialize with the participants outside of the sponsored activities of the organization.

     Coaches/trainers should not ride solo with a child.

     Parents are encouraged to attend sponsored activities.

     If a child needs special attention ("one-on-one"), do it with the assistance of another adult.

## 

Sadler & Company Sports Insurance

Provided courtesy of Sadler & Company…

Simplified Child Abuse/Molestation

Risk Management Program

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge that on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Date) I was given a copy of the organization’s Simplified Child Abuse/Molestation Risk Management Program and that I have read the statement and voluntarily agree that as a condition of future participation, employment or involvement in this organization, I will abide by all the terms, conditions, policies, and procedures contained within the statement.

I willingly sign this form on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in (Place).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

# 9.0 GENERAL BASEBALL RULES

**Section 9.1**

All games of the Association are to be governed by the National Federation High School rules, except where such rules are at variance with any rules of the Association. Official WKBSA rulebook shall apply.

**Section 9.2**

1. The Association shall consist of regularly organized leagues composed of teams, classified as follows:

7-year-old division - turning 7 years old by April 30th current year

8-year-old division - turning 8 years old by April 30th current year

9-year-old division - turning 9 years old by April 30th current year

10-year-old division - turning 10 years old by April 30th current year

11-year-old division - turning 11 years old by April 30th current year

12-year-old division - turning 12 years old by April 30th current year

13-year-old division - turning 13 years old by April 30th current year

14-year-old division - turning 14 years old by April 30th current year

15-year-old division - turning 15 years old by April 30th current year

16-year-old division - turning 16 years old by April 30th current year

17-year-old division - turning 17 years old by April 30th current year

18-year-old division - turning 18 years old by April 30th current year

 Senior/High School division – Must be 18 years old or younger on July 31st of previous year.

1. Players may request to the WKBSA to play down in their grade/graduating class with the following conditions being meet:
   1. Player must provide evidence from their school showing the grade they are in such as a report card, student ID or official government document stating their grade level. The manager must maintain this paperwork along with the birth certificate and must be able to produce upon request as in rule 9.7.5.
   2. No player may turn 2 years older than the division their grade is in by August 1 of the current year. Example: if playing in the 8u division, the player cannot turn 10 prior to August 1.
   3. The WKBSA board must vote and approve this on a case by case basis.

**Section 9.3**

1. Some teams may not have enough players to allow them to play.
2. If needed, players may play up one or more divisions to fill out a team’s roster, but no more than five per team. However, players in the next lower division will be moved up prior to any player moving more than one division up.
3. These players must register to play back down into their correct age division after the end of the season.
4. In extraordinary circumstances only (which is defined by children who have documented special needs), players will be required to have prior WKBSA approval before playing down in a younger age division than their current eligibility.

## 

## Section 9.4

* 1. The official baseballs for the Association will be determined by the WKBSA League Officials (size, weight & color).
  2. Home associations will provide game balls for each game, one of which must be a new ball.

**Section 9.5**

* 1. Bats designated for T-ball may be used in the Seven (7) Year Old Division.
  2. Boys age division 7 – 14 (see 9.5.1 for exception for 7 year olds) must use bats that:
  3. Bear the USA Baseball stamp, or
  4. Be a one-piece wooden bat, or
  5. Be NFHS approved

**Note:** The WKBSA reserves the right to reject the use of any equipment that might be judged unsafe.

* 1. All areas shall use safety bases for first base in all age groups. The defensive player shall use only the white base. The offensive player may use either base but is encouraged to use the orange base when overrunning first base down the baseline.

## Section 9.6

1. Uniforms are not required but player identification is mandatory. Each player will wear a number (4” minimum height) on their shirt with no duplication of numbers on the same team. Each player’s number will be listed on the batting order given to the opposing manager.

**PENALTY:** Player is not eligible until compliant with 9.6.1

1. Players in all divisions must wear full batting helmets while at bat and while running or coaching bases. If the runner, while in the act of running the bases intentionally removes his/her helmet, they will be called out. While play is stopped, runners will not be called out for temporarily removing helmets.
2. All catchers, in any division, must wear a catcher’s helmet and a catcher’s mask which has a throat protector, (also applies to any player warming up the pitcher between innings), and a chest protector. The use of a protective mouthpiece is encouraged, but not required. All players must wear a protective cup. It is the manager or coach’s responsibility to make sure all players follow this rule. Umpires will give players the opportunity to produce needed equipment. Failure to do so will result in a player being removed from the game.
3. Coach’s boxes at first and third shall be adjusted so as to be in the same relative position of a regulation field for each age division.

**Section 9.7**

1. Games shall be seven innings or one hour and forty-five minutes in length, whichever comes first. Time will start from the time of the first official warm-up pitch. (Point of emphasis: NFHS rules allow that at the beginning of each half-inning or when a pitcher relieves another, no more than one minute of play may be used to deliver no more than five balls to the catcher or other teammate. The one-minute time limit begins from the third out of the previous half-inning. In baseball, the rule allows for eight warm-up pitches at the beginning of the game.)

**Note:** At least one umpire should have a digital timing device and will be designated as the official timekeeper.

1. No new inning shall begin after the end of regulation play (7 innings or 1 hour 45 minutes, whichever comes first), unless a game is tied, then play continues until the tie is broken utilizing the international tie breaker rule. When using the international tie breaker rule, the player who is scheduled to bat last in the current batting line up will be placed at 2nd base as a runner. Example the 5th player in the batting lineup will lead off for the top of the inning, therefore the player who is in the 4th position will be the runner placed on 2nd base. The tiebreaker rule will NOT be utilized in post season play.
2. No inning will begin after 2 hours and 15 minutes of play, if this may cause a delay in the next scheduled games start.

**Note:** Association games *ending*in atie will not be replayed unless the outcome of the game will determine First or Second place in season standings.

1. The umpires will call a game complete if during the progress of any game in the Association:
2. The home team, after four and one-half (4 1/2) or more innings have been played, is leading by ten (10) or more runs; or
3. The visiting team, after five (5) or more innings have been played, is leading by ten (10) or more runs at the end of any complete inning.
4. Either team is leading by twenty (20) or more runs at the end of any complete inning.

**Note:** a half inning begins immediately following the third out of the previous half inning.

1. In case of inclement weather all games can be delayed by the field coordinator ONLY. Manager or Coaches should report to the field coordinator to receive official confirmation of said delay or postponement. Failure to comply with this section could result in enforcement with forfeiture of the game.

**Note:** *In case of lightning, game may be delayed if both managers feel there is a danger to their players.*

1. Each manager must have their copy of the team roster and players birth certificate with them to be reviewed by the umpire in charge and opposing manager upon request. Teams failing to present an approved roster or birth certificate at the request of the umpire in charge will forfeit the game automatically.
2. Each team must keep a scorebook for review by the home plate umpire at the end of every half inning of play. Umpires shall sign the Official Season Scorecard (Blue Card) before a game is considered official and for the team to be eligible for post-season tournament play or season trophies.
3. The time as ruled by the umpire in chief shall be the Official Time in all games.
4. In those areas where municipal laws or other regulation require, it may be necessary to establish ending times for games. Such restrictions must be made known to the managers of both teams by the umpire in chief prior to the start of the game and this requirement must be observed by them.
5. The umpire-in-chief shall have discretion to stop the game clock if a situation warrants it, but must notify both teams of stopping and re-starting the clock.

**The following rules Section 8A through Section 8E do not apply to Baseball age divisions 13 years and older**

**Section 9.8**

* 1. Players should be available and willing to play. Managers must have a valid reason for withholding any players from a game.
  2. All eligible players on a team that are present for their game must be listed in the batting order line-up and must take their own turn at bat regardless of whether they are playing in the field.
  3. The batting order cannot be changed after the start of a game. Any player not present when it is their turn at bat will not be eligible to participate in that game.
  4. In divisions with continuous batting order and free substitution all players must play three (3) outs of defense by the end of the fourth (4th) inning, and six (6) outs by the end of the seventh (7th) inning, in a seven (7) inning game.

**PENALTY:** noncompliance will result in a forfeit game. In the event the losing team is in violation and a forfeit would make no difference; the losing team’s manager will be put on suspension by the League for as long as deemed necessary.

* 1. Any player listed in the batting order may be substituted for a player in the field at any time. He may play any field position, but must bat his turn in the batting order position as per lineup.
  2. A courtesy runner will be allowed for the pitcher or catcher of record from the previous inning. The courtesy runner will be someone from the bench (not in the lineup), or the last batter not on base, if no one else is available. A courtesy runner for continuous batting order must be the last batter not on base.
  3. Players in the line-up are automatically out if they do not take their turn at bat, unless due to an injury or illness. A field coordinator will decide as to the player’s ability to continue to play. This is to determine if an out is to be charged should the player not continue in the game. After missing a time at bat, the player will NOT be permitted to re-enter the game.
  4. A team will not be charged an out for the loss of a player to injury or illness if it causes the team to have one player less than official number required to play. Example: losing the ninth player.
  5. If a player leaves a game for any other reason other than injury or illness, an automatic out will be charged to his place in the batting order.
  6. Starting a game with one less than the official number of players required to field a team is allowed, however, an automatic out will be charged in the last place of that teams batting order.
  7. If a team plays with one less than the official number required and a player has to leave the game due to injury, illness, or any other reason, the team will be forced to forfeit the game.
  8. Should either team not be ready to start the game within ten (10) minutes after the scheduled start time, the field coordinator shall forfeit the game to the opposing team. Should BOTH teams violate this rule, each shall be charged with a loss. (This includes elimination or tournament games)
  9. ACCIDENT TO BATTER / RUNNER - The substitute runner will be the last batter not on base.

**Section 9.9**

For safety purposes, a coach or manager can place the on-deck batter in either of the two (2) on deck circles.

## 

## Section 9.10

**THROWING THE BAT:** (judgment call by the umpire)

1. First Offense: the team shall be warned.
2. Second Offense: the player will be called out; the ball is dead.
3. Flagrant or Intentional: player may be ejected from the game.

**Section 9.11**

Any pitcher who hits 3 batters in any inning or 5 batters during any game shall be removed from the mound and not be allowed to pitch for the remainder of that game.

**Note:** A pitcher shall only be charged with a hit batsman if the batter is awarded first base.

**Section 9.12**

When a defensive player fakes a tag when he/she does not have possession of the ball, obstruction will be called.

**Section 9.13**

**CONTACT RULE:**

Base runners should attempt to avoid contact with defensive players. Anyone initiating deliberate violent contact shall be called out. (Example: slapping the glove, pushing or jarring the defensive player so that he might drop the ball.) If a base runner deliberately and with great force, crashes into a defensive player with intent to dislodge the ball, or cause harm, and the umpire determines the collision was a flagrant act on the part of the runner, the violator shall be ejected from the game. Any other contact, violent or non-violent as long as it is not deliberate will be considered incidental. This rule will be enforced at all three bases and home plate. Players should still be encouraged to slide or avoid contact on close plays, but will not be called out only for not sliding.

**Note:** It is the duty of the umpire to enforce the obstruction rule and not give the defense an unfair advantage.

**Section 9.14**

If a player, coach, manager, or spectator is ejected from a game, they are out for the remainder of that game and the next WKBSA game. Umpire in chief shall notify field coordinator of any ejection and coordinator or area president shall notify the baseball/softball commissioner as set out on the approved WKBSA ejection/protest form. Any player, coach, manager, or spectator ejected from a game shall leave the area surrounding the field and not be present at the next regularly scheduled game, playoff game, or tournament game. Any person violating this rule will be suspended for one calendar year from the date of the infraction, subject to review by the WKBSA board. The manager shall be responsible for implementation of this rule.

**Sec 9.15 is for 7, 8, and 9-Year-Old Divisions Only**

**Section 9.15**

* 1. During the first 3 innings, each half inning will end after three outs or five runs are legally scored, whichever comes first.

**Exception:** *If the last batter during any of the first three innings hits a home run out of the playing field, the batter and all runners on base are permitted to score. The offensive teams turn at bat ends when the batter touches home plate.*

* 1. The first batter of each inning after the first inning shall be the batter whose name follows that of the last player who legally completed their turn at bat in the preceding inning.
  2. The ball is dead after each pitched ball is not hit.
  3. Whenever a third strike is not legally caught by the catcher, the batter will be called automatically “out”.
  4. Base runners may not lead off or steal any base.
  5. Base runners may leave the base after each pitched ball, (when the ball crosses the plate, or in the 9 year old division, when it leaves the pitcher’s hand) but must return immediately to the base if the ball is not hit. Violation will result in one team warning per game, with the second offense resulting in the player being called out. If the umpire rules that the runner left early, the ball is dead, and any resulting play does not count.

*(9 year old division: the runner may advance one base if forced by a walk. Batters may not advance beyond first base on a walk. They are awarded first base only.)*

* 1. Once a ball is hit, runners may advance at their own risk until all play is stopped and time is declared by the umpire. *The ball is not dead when returned to the pitchers position with runners still in motion.*
  2. The infield fly rule is not in effect.

**Section 9.16 – Balks**

The intent of the WKBSA is not to call hyper-technical balks. Balks that gain an advantage for the pitcher or place the base runner at a disadvantage shall be called.

1. 9 Yr old divisions – Balks shall not be called, however, umpires should notify the coach at the end of the inning.
2. 10 Yr old Division – One warning per pitcher, then strictly enforced.
3. 11 yr old division and older – Balks will strictly be enforced with no warnings.

# 10.0 BASEBALL PLAYING RULES

## Section 10.1

1. Nine (9) is the official number or players to be used in all games. *Exception: 7, 8, and 9-year-old division may play an extra player in the outfield if they wish. If a team starts with ten (10) they must finish with ten. Playing with only nine players will not cause a team to be charged an automatic out as in General Playing Rules 9.8.10.*
2. In all boys divisions 13 years old and older, the coach, at his option, may use an *extra hitter* (EH). The EH is considered a position player and extends the batting order to 10 players. The EH position is fully interchangeable with all 9 other position players. (Example, switching the shortstop and the EH in the field is not considered a lineup change). The intention to use the EH must be announced at the start of the game. If the game starts with an EH, it must end with an EH. If during the course of the game, a team using the EH loses a player, giving them only 9 or then 8, the rules will be the same as for a 9-man roster when their roster drops to 8 and then 7.

**Section 10.2**

## 

Division Pitching / Base Basic Rules Ball

Distance

7 Year Olds 43’ / 60’ Pitching Machine 9”

8 Year Olds 43’ / 60’ Pitching Machine 9”

9 Year Olds 43’ / 60’ No Stealing\* 9”

10Year Olds 43’ / 60’ Stealing Allowed 9”

11Year Olds 48’ / 70’ High School Rules 9”

12Year Olds 48’ / 70’ High School Rules 9”

13Year Olds 54’ / 80’ High School Rules 9”

14Year Olds 54’ / 80’ High School Rules 9”

Or 60’6” / 90’ High School Rules 9”

15Year Olds 60’6” / 90’ High School Rules 9”

16Year Olds 60’6” / 90’ High School Rules 9”

17Year Olds 60’6” / 90’ High School Rules 9”

18Year Olds 60’6” / 90’ High School Rules 9”

Senior/High School division – Must be 18 years old or younger on July 31st of previous year

**\*Note:** Up to and including the 9 Year Old division, when a third strike is not legally caught by the catcher the batter will be automatically called “out” and may not attempt to advance to first.

* 1. In the 13-year-old & upboys divisions, all areas have the option to use a pitcher’s mound.

## Section 10.3

Shoes with metal spikes or metal cleats are only allowed starting with the 13 Year Old division.

**Penalty:***Players in 12 Year Old division and younger wearing metal spikes or metal cleats will be ejected from the game.*

## Section 10.4

* 1. All scheduled and/or rescheduled League or post League play off games:

1. Pitchers in the Nine (9) Year Old up to and including the Twelve (12) Year Old age division may pitch up to twelve (12) outs or twenty-five (25) batters, whichever comes first, per calendar day.
2. Pitchers in the Thirteen (13) or Fourteen (14) Year Old division may pitch up to fifteen (15) outs per calendar day.
3. Pitchers in the Fifteen (15) Year Old and older divisions may pitch up to twenty-one (21) outs per calendar day.

**Penalty:** *Pitcher is considered illegal if he delivers one pitch after the maximum pitching limit. Penalty for this is forfeiture of game.*

**Note:** If a team turns a double or triple play and those outs cause the pitcher to go beyond the limit he will only be charged with the maximum number of outs. Automatic outs are not charged as a batter faced or as an out to the pitcher.

## Section 10.5

* + 1. Two trips to the mound by a manager and /or coach in one inning, the pitcher must be removed from the mound and not allowed to return to the mound for the duration of that game.
    2. A pitcher that is removed from the mound during the course of an inning will not be eligible to pitch again in the same inning.

**Section 10.6 - Thirteen (13) Year Old Division and older:**

* + 1. Will use the play nine; bat nine rule as with high school rules.
    2. Any player substituted for may re-enter the game one time, but must return in the same batting order as originally placed. Substitute players may also re-enter the game one time in the same batting order.
    3. In all boys divisions 13 years and older, the coach, at his option, may use a continuous batting order. If this option is taken, section 9.8 paragraphs 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 9 shall apply

**Section 10.7 - Nine (9) Year Old Division only:**

1. Defensive pitchers will be charged earned outs as they occur. Unearned outs will be charged, in reverse order, in number equal to or less than the number of batters faced by the last pitcher of the inning. The total number or earned and unearned outs each half inning must equal three

**Example:** *The last pitcher of the inning faces two batters when the fifth run is scored. That pitcher is charged with two (2) outs and the previous pitcher is charged with one (1) out.*

# 11.0 BASEBALL PITCHING MACHINE RULES

## Section 11.1

* + 1. All machines must be a Jugs single-wheel machine. Pitching machine speeds will be measured by any commercial available radar detector provided by the area.
    2. The speed of the machines will be set as follows:

1. Baseball 7 Year Old Division 36 mph plus or minus 1 mph
2. Baseball 8 Year Old Division 39 mph plus or minus 1 mph
   * 1. Machines may be set ahead of time but either manager has the right to verify machine speed prior to the first pitch. After the first pitch, machine speed shall not be adjusted except as allowed in 11.1.5.
     2. Pitching Machines may be adjusted for accuracy at any time, at the discretion of the umpire.
     3. Machine speed may not be adjusted during the course of the game except in the case of a malfunction or similar instance. In-game adjustment must be approved by the field coordinator and is subject to verification per 11.1.3.
     4. If there is a machine malfunction, the game may be treated as a rain out or if both managers agree, it may be coach pitched.

## Section 11.2

* + - 1. The umpires shall be stationed so that there is one umpire in the field and one umpire behind home plate. Note: A coach from the batting team will put the ball in the pitching machine. If the coach operating the pitching machine interferes with the defensive player in order to protect him/her from the machine while making a play on a batted ball, the play is dead and the ball shall be replayed. The coach operating the machine cannot “coach” runners on the bases. Umpires will give one warning for such violation, and on the second offense, the coach shall be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.
  1. The defensive player in the pitchers position shall stay within the eight-foot radius circle and must be behind a line drawn through the pitching rubber (five feet either side) until the ball is hit. He may have one foot outside of the circle.

**Violation:** *the offensive team has the choice of play or rebat.*

* 1. Any batted ball that hits the machine, or comes to rest within perimeter of the legs of the pitching machine or hits the operating coach within the eight-foot radius circle will be a dead ball; the batter will be awarded first base. The runners on base advance only if forced.

**Exception:** *If a defensive player touches the ball first, then it is a live ball. This exception* ***does not*** *apply to a ball that comes to rest within the perimeter of the pitching machine legs.*

* 1. Any thrown ball that unintentionally comes to rest within the perimeter of the legs of the pitching machine will be treated as a ball that has gone out of play and awarded as such.
  2. A coach will be called for interference if they interfere with, obstruct, impede, hinder or confuse any fielder attempting to make a play.

## Section 11.3

A batter will receive 3 swinging or non-swinging strikes before being declared out. If the third strike is fouled, he continues to bat, unless the ball is caught. If the batter is hit by a pitch, this is declared a no pitch and batter must continue.

## Section 11.4

Walks are not awarded in the Seven (7) and Eight (8) Year Old Divisions

## Section 11.5

Bunting is not allowed.

## Section 11.6:

In the 7 year old age division, two (2) coaches will be allowed to stand behind the outfielders to coach the defense. Umpires will give one warning for a violation of this rule, and on the second offense, the coach shall be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.

## Section 11.7:

In 7 and 8yr divisions, time may only be granted once there is no play in progress. The umpire must ensure before granting time that there is no play in progress (i.e. runners in motion, etc.). The position of the ball in relation to the lead runner is not relevant as to when time may be granted.

**Section 11.8:**

Runners may not leave the base until after the pitched ball crosses home plate.

**Section 11.9:**

Only 1 defensive timeout or trip to the field is allowed per inning. Injury trips do not apply.

# 12.0 GENERAL SOFTBALL RULES

**Section 12.1**

All games of the Association are to be governed by the National Federation High School rules, except where such rules are at variance with any rules of the Association. Official WKBSA rulebook shall apply.

**Section 12.2**

The Association shall consist of regularly organized leagues composed of teams, classified as follows:

* + 1. The player’s age as of January 1st, current year will determine which age group they will play in.

7-year-old division - 7 years old on January 1st, current year

8-year-old division - 8 years old on January 1st, current year

9-year-old division - 9 years old on January 1st, current year

10-year-old division - 10 years old on January 1st, current year

11-year-old division - 11 years old on January 1st, current year

12-year-old division - 12 years old on January 1st, current year

13-year-old division - 13 years old on January 1st, current year

14-year-old division - 14 years old on January 1st, current year

15-year-old division - 15 years old on January 1st, current year

16-year-old division - 16 years old on January 1st, current year

17-year-old division - 17 years old on January 1st, current year

18-year-old division - 18 years old on January 1st, current year

**Example 1:** A player turns 13 years old on January 1 of this year. Her correct age division would be the 12 year old division.

**Example 2:** A player will turn 13 years old on November 15 of this year. Her correct age would also be the 12 year old division.

1. Players may request to the WKBSA to play down in their grade/graduating class with the following conditions being meet:
   1. Player must provide evidence from their school showing the grade they are in such as a report card, student ID or official government document stating their grade level. The manager must maintain this paperwork along with the birth certificate and must be able to produce upon request as in rule 12.7.5.
   2. No player may turn 2 years older than the division their grade is in by August 1 of the current year. Example: if playing in the 8u division, the player cannot turn 10 prior to August 1.
   3. The WKBSA board must vote and approve this on a case by case basis.

**Section 12.3**

1. Some teams may not have enough players to allow them to play.

a. If needed, players may play up one division to fill out a team’s roster, but no more than five per team.

b. These players must register to play back down into their correct age division after the end of the season.

c. In extraordinary circumstances only (which is defined by children who have documented special needs), players will be required to have prior WKBSA approval before playing down in a younger age division than their current eligibility.

## Section 12.4

1. The official softballs for the Association will be determined by the WKBSA League Official (size, weight & color).
2. Home associations will provide game balls for each game, one of which must be a new ball.

**Section 12.5**

1. Bats designated for T-ball may be used in the Seven (7) Year Old Division.
2. Only ASA or USA approved softball bats may be used or bats with barrels made entirely of wood that do not exceed 2-1/4 inches in diameter.

**Note:** The WKBSA reserves the right to reject the use of any equipment that might be judged unsafe.

1. All areas shall use safety bases for first base in all age groups. The defensive player shall use only the white base. The offensive player may use either base but is encouraged to use the orange base when overrunning first base down the baseline.
2. All infielders, including pitchers, shall wear a protective face mask while on defense.

## Section 12.6

1. Uniforms are not required but player identification is mandatory. Each player will wear a number (4” minimum height) on their shirt with no duplication of numbers on the same team. Each player’s number will be listed on the batting order given to the opposing manager.

**EFFECT:** Game shall not continue until this rule is satisfied. Refusal to comply with this rule will result in forfeiture of the game.

1. Players in all divisions must wear full batting helmets while at bat and while running or coaching bases. In all age divisions, all offensive players and player/coaches are required to have a commercially manufactured facemask attached to the batting helmet. If the runner, while in the act of running the bases intentionally removes his/her helmet, they will be called out. While play is stopped, runners will not be called out for temporarily removing helmets.
2. All catchers, in any division, must wear a catcher’s helmet and a catcher’s mask which has a throat protector, (also applies to any player warming up the pitcher between innings), and a chest protector. The use of a protective mouthpiece is encouraged, but not required. It is the manager or coach’s responsibility to make sure all players follow this rule. Umpires will give players the opportunity to produce needed equipment. Failure to do so will result in a player being removed from the game.
3. Coach’s boxes at first and third shall be adjusted so as to be in the same relative position of a regulation field for each age division.
4. Shoes with metal spikes or cleats may be worn in the 13 year old and older divisions.

**Penalty:***Players in 12 Year Old division and younger wearing metal spikes or metal cleats will be ejected from the game.*

**Section 12.7**

1. Games shall be seven innings or one hour and forty-five minutes in length, whichever comes first. Time will start from the time of the first official warm-up pitch. (**Point of emphasis:** NFHS rules allow that at the beginning of each half-inning or when a pitcher relieves another, no more than one minute of play may be used to deliver no more than five balls to the catcher or other teammate. The one-minute time limit begins from the third out of the previous half-inning. In baseball, the rule allows for eight warm-up pitches at the beginning of the game.)

**Note:** At least one umpire should have a digital timing device and will be designated as the official timekeeper.

1. No new inning shall begin after the end of regulation play (7 innings or 1 hour 45 minutes, whichever comes first), unless a game is tied, then play continues until the tie is broken utilizing the international tie breaker rule. When using the international tie breaker rule, the player who is scheduled to bat last in the current batting line up will be placed at 2nd base as a runner. Example the 5th player in the batting lineup will lead off for the top of the inning, therefore the player who is in the 4th position will be the runner placed on 2nd base. The tiebreaker rule will NOT be utilized in post season play.
2. No inning will begin after 2 hours and 15 minutes of play, if this may cause a delay in the next scheduled games start.

**Note:** Association games *ending*in atie will not be replayed unless the outcome of the game will determine First or Second place in season standings.

1. The umpires will call a game complete if during the progress of any game in the Association:
2. The home team, after four and one-half (4 1/2) or more innings have been played, is leading by ten (10) or more runs; or
3. The visiting team, after five (5) or more innings have been played, is leading by ten (10) or more runs at the end of any complete inning.
4. Either team is leading by twenty (20) or more runs at the end of any complete inning.

**Note:** a half inning begins immediately following the third out of the previous half inning.

1. In case of inclement weather all games can be delayed by the field coordinator ONLY. Manager or Coaches should report to the field coordinator to receive official confirmation of said delay or postponement. Failure to comply with this section could result in enforcement with forfeiture of the game.

**Note:** *In case of lightning, game may be delayed if both managers feel there is a danger to their players.*

1. Each manager must have their copy of the team roster and players birth certificate with them to be reviewed by the umpire in charge and opposing manager upon request. Teams failing to present an approved roster or birth certificate at the request of the umpire in charge will forfeit the game automatically.
2. Each team must keep a scorebook for review by the home plate umpire at the end of every half inning of play. Umpires shall sign the scorebook and Official Season Scorecard before a game is considered official and for the team to be eligible for post-season tournament play or season trophies.
3. The time as ruled by the umpire in chief shall be the Official Time in all games.
4. In those areas where municipal laws or other regulation require, it may be necessary to establish ending times for games. Such restrictions must be made known to the managers of both teams by the umpire in chief prior to the start of the game and this requirement must be observed by them.
5. The umpire-in-chief shall have discretion to stop the game clock if a situation warrants it, but must notify both teams of stopping and re-starting the clock.

**Section 12.8:**

**The following rules Section 1 through Section 5 do not apply to Softball age divisions 13 years and older**

1. Players should be available and willing to play. Managers must have a valid reason for withholding any players from a game.
2. All eligible players on a team that are present for their game must be listed in the batting order line-up and must take their own turn at bat regardless of whether they are playing in the field.
3. The batting order cannot be changed after the start of a game. Any player not present when it is their turn at bat will not be eligible to participate in that game.
4. In divisions with continuous batting order and free substitution all players must play three (3) outs of defense by the end of the fourth (4th) inning, and six (6) outs by the end of the seventh (7th) inning, in a seven (7) inning game.

**PENALTY:** noncompliance will result in a forfeit game. In the event the losing team is in violation and a forfeit would make no difference; the losing team’s manager will be put on suspension by the League for as long as deemed necessary.

1. Any player listed in the batting order may be substituted for a player in the field at any time. She may play any field position, but must bat her turn in the batting order position as per lineup.
2. A courtesy runner will be allowed for the pitcher or catcher of record from the previous inning. The courtesy runner will be someone from the bench (not in the lineup), or the last batter not on base, if no one else is available. A courtesy runner for continuous batting order must be the last batter not on base.
3. Players in the line-up are automatically out if they do not take their turn at bat, unless due to an injury or illness. A field coordinator will decide as to the player’s ability to continue to play. This is to determine if an out is to be charged should the player not continue in the game. After missing a time at bat, the player will NOT be permitted to re-enter the game.
4. A team will not be charged an out for the loss of a player to injury or illness if it causes the team to have one player less than official number required to play. Example: losing the ninth player.
5. If a player leaves a game for any other reason other than injury or illness, an automatic out will be charged to her place in the batting order.
6. Starting a game with one less than the official number of players required to field a team is allowed, however, an automatic out will be charged in the last place of that teams batting order.
7. If a team plays with one less than the official number required and a player has to leave the game due to injury, illness, or any other reason, the team will be forced to forfeit the game.
8. Should either team not be ready to start the game within ten (10) minutes after the scheduled start time, the field coordinator shall forfeit the game to the opposing team. Should BOTH teams violate this rule, each shall be charged with a loss. (This includes elimination or tournament games)
9. ACCIDENT TO BATTER / RUNNER - The substitute runner will be the last batter not on base.
10. In all girls divisions 13 years and older, the coach, at his option, may use a continuous batting order. If this option is taken, section 12.8 paragraphs 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 9 shall apply.

**Section 12.10**

For safety purposes, a coach or manager can place the on-deck batter in either of the two (2) on deck circles.

## Section 12.11

**THROWING THE BAT:** (judgment call by the umpire)

1. First Offense: the team shall be warned.
2. Second Offense: the player will be called out; the ball is dead.
3. Flagrant or Intentional: player may be ejected from the game.

**Section 12.12**

Any pitcher who hits 3 batters in any inning or 5 batters during any game shall be removed from the mound and not be allowed to pitch for the remainder of that game.

**Note:** A pitcher shall only be charged with a hit batsman if the batter is awarded first base.

**Section 12.13**

When a defensive player fakes a tag when he/she does not have possession of the ball, obstruction will be called.

**Section 12.14**

**CONTACT RULE:**

Base runners should attempt to avoid contact with defensive players. Anyone initiating deliberate violent contact shall be called out. (Example: slapping the glove, pushing or jarring the defensive player so that he might drop the ball.) If a base runner deliberately and with great force, crashes into a defensive player with intent to dislodge the ball, or cause harm, and the umpire determines the collision was a flagrant act on the part of the runner, the violator shall be ejected from the game. Any other contact, violent or non-violent as long as it is not deliberate will be considered incidental. This rule will be enforced at all three bases and home plate. Players should still be encouraged to slide or avoid contact on close plays, but will not be called out only for not sliding.

**Note:** It is the duty of the umpire to enforce the obstruction rule and not give the defense an unfair advantage.

**Section 12.15**

If a player, coach, manager, or spectator is ejected from a game, they are out for the remainder of that game and the next WKBSA game. Umpire in chief shall notify field coordinator of any ejection and coordinator or area president shall notify the baseball/softball commissioner as set out on the approved WKBSA ejection/protest form. Any player, coach, manager, or spectator ejected from a game shall leave the area surrounding the field and not be present at the next regularly scheduled game, playoff game, or tournament game. Any person violating this rule will be suspended for one calendar year from the date of the infraction, subject to review by the WKBSA board. The manager shall be responsible for implementation of this rule.

**Sec 12.16 is for 7, 8, and 9-Year-Old Divisions Only**

**Section 12.16:**

1. During the first 3 innings, each half inning will end after three outs or five runs are legally scored, whichever comes first.

**Exception*:*** *If the last batter during any of the first three innings hits a home run out of the playing field, the batter and all runners on base are permitted to score. The offensive teams turn at bat ends when the batter touches home plate.*

1. The first batter of each inning after the first inning shall be the batter whose name follows that of the last player who legally completed their turn at bat in the preceding inning.
2. The ball is dead after each pitched ball is not hit.
3. Whenever a third strike is not legally caught by the catcher, the batter will be called automatically “out”.
4. Base runners may not lead off or steal any base.
5. Base runners may leave the base after each pitched ball, (when the ball crosses the plate, or in the 9 year old division, when it leaves the pitcher’s hand) but must return immediately to the base if the ball is not hit. Violation will result in one team warning per game, with the second offense resulting in the player being called out. If the umpire rules that the runner left early, the ball is dead, and any resulting play does not count.

Note: *(9 year old division: the runner may advance one base if forced by a walk. Batters may not advance beyond first base on a walk. They are awarded first base only.)*

1. Once a ball is hit, runners may advance at their own risk until all play is stopped and time is declared by the umpire. *The ball is not dead when returned to the pitchers position with runners still in motion.*
2. The infield fly rule is not in effect.

**Section 12.17 – Illegal Pitches**

The intent of the WKBSA is not to call hyper-technical Illegal pitches. Illegal pitches that gain an advantage for the pitcher or place the base runner at a disadvantage shall be called.

1. 9 Yr old divisions – Illegal pitches shall not be called, however, umpires should notify the coach at the end of the inning.
2. 10 Yr old Division – One warning per pitcher, then strictly enforced.
3. 11 yr old division and older– Illegal pitches will strictly be enforced with no warnings.

# 13.0 SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES

## Section 13.1

In the WKBSA fastpitch softball will be in effect.

## Section 13.2

Nine (9) is the official number of players to be used in all games.

Exception:*7, 8 and 9-year-old division may play an extra player in the outfield if they wish. If a team starts with ten (10) they must finish with ten. Playing with only nine players will not cause a team to be charged an automatic out, as listed in General Playing Rules 12.8.10.*

**Section 13.3**

Division Pitch/Base Pitching Basic Rules Ball

Distance Circle

7 Year Olds 30’ / 60’ 8’ Radius Pitching Machine 10”

8 Year Olds 30’ / 60’ 8’ Radius Pitching Machine 10”

9 Year Olds 33’ / 60’ 8’ Radius No Stealing\* 11”

10Year Olds 36’ / 60’ 8’ Radius High School Rules 11”

11Year Olds 36’ / 60’ 8’ Radius High School Rules 12”

12Year Olds 43’ / 60’ 8’ Radius High School Rules 12”

11/12 Yr Olds 43’ / 60’ 8’ Radius High School Rules 12”

13Year Olds 43’ / 60’ 8’ Radius High School Rules 12”

14Year Olds 43’ / 60’ 8’ Radius High School Rules 12”

15Year Olds 43’ / 60’ 8’ Radius High School Rules 12”

16Year Olds 43’ / 60’ 8’ Radius High School Rules 12”

17Year Olds 43’ / 60’ 8’ Radius High School Rules 12”

18Year Olds 43’ / 60’ 8’ Radius High School Rules 12”

Senior/High School

**\*Note:** Up to and including the 9 Year Old division, when a third strike is not legally caught by the catcher the batter will be automatically called “out” and may not attempt to advance to first. In the 9 Year Old division, runners may not advance past 1st base on a walk.

## Section 13.4

The second charged pitcher conference in any one inning shall result in the removal of the pitcher from the pitching position for the rest of the inning. The pitcher may return in this position in any later innings.

# 14.0 SOFTBALL PITCHING MACHINE RULES

## Section 14.1

1. All machines must be a Jugs single-wheel machine. Pitching machine speeds will be measured by any commercial available radar detector provided by the area.
2. The speed of the machines will be set as follows:
3. Softball 7 Year Old Division 27 mph plus or minus 1 mph
4. Softball 8 Year Old Division 30 mph plus or minus 1 mph
5. Machines may be set ahead of time but either manager has the right to verify machine speed prior to the first pitch. After the first pitch, machine speed shall not be adjusted except as allowed in 14.1.5
6. Pitching Machines may be adjusted for accuracy at any time, at the discretion of the umpire.
7. Machine speed may not be adjusted during the course of the game except in the case of a malfunction or similar instance. In-game adjustment must be approved by the field coordinator and is subject to verification per 14.1.3.
8. If there is a machine malfunction, the game may be treated as a rain out or if both managers agree, it may be coach pitched.

**Section 14.2**

1. The umpires shall be stationed so that there is one umpire in the field and one umpire behind home plate. Note: A coach from the batting team will put the ball in the pitching machine. If the coach operating the pitching machine interferes with the defensive player in order to protect him/her from the machine while making a play on a batted ball, the play is dead and the ball shall be replayed. The coach operating the machine cannot “coach” runners on the bases. Umpires will give one warning for such violation, and on the second offense, the coach shall be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.
2. The defensive player in the pitchers position shall stay within the eight-foot radius circle and must be behind a line drawn through the pitching rubber (five feet either side) until the ball is hit. She may have one foot outside of the circle.

**Penalty:** *the offensive team has the choice of play or batting again.*

1. Any batted ball that hits the machine, or comes to rest within the perimeter of the legs of the pitching machine or hits the operating coach within the eight-foot radius circle will be a dead ball; the batter will be awarded first base. The runners on base advance only if forced.

**Exception:** *If a defensive player touches the ball first, then it is a live ball. This exception does not apply to a ball that comes to rest within the perimeter of the legs of the pitching machine.*

1. Any thrown ball that unintentionally comes to rest within the perimeter of the legs of the pitching machine will be treated as a ball that has gone out of play and awarded as such.
2. A coach will be called for interference if they interfere with, obstruct, impede, hinder or confuse any fielder attempting to make a play.

## Section 14.3

A batter will receive 3 swinging or non-swinging strikes before being declared out. If the third strike is fouled, she continues to bat, unless the ball is caught. If the batter is hit by a pitch, this is declared a no pitch and batter must continue.

## Section 14.4

Walks are not awarded in the Seven (7) and Eight (8) Year Old Divisions

## Section 14.5

Bunting is not allowed.

## Section 14.6:

In the 7 year old age division, two (2) coaches will be allowed to stand behind the outfielders to coach the defense. Umpires will give one warning for a violation of this rule, and on the second offense, the coach shall be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.

**Section 14.7:**

In 7 and 8yr divisions, time may only be granted once there is no play in progress. The umpire must ensure before granting time that there is no play in progress (i.e. runners in motion, etc.). The position of the ball in relation to the lead runner is not relevant as to when time may be granted.

**Section 14.8:**

Runners may not leave the base until after the pitched ball crosses home plate.

**Section 14.9:**

Only 1 defensive timeout or trip to the field is allowed each inning. Injury trips do not apply.