



Coach/Player Pitch Manual

General Information

All participants are responsible for the information contained in this manual. Rules and regulations not contained in this manual or in any handout materials will be governed by the NFHS rules manual. When possible officials will be NFHS certified.

Elastic Clause: The League Manager shall have complete charge of the Youth Baseball League. Any and all situations not specifically covered by these rules shall be acted upon by the League Manager, and all actions by the League Manager will be FINAL.

If there are any further questions or ideas regarding the Youth Baseball League, please contact the league manager.

Amendments

1. This manual or any section thereof, may be amended by the Town of Wellington Parks and Recreation through evaluation by, and with the feedback from, coaches, referees, etcetera, as deemed necessary.
2. If you have questions, ideas, or need information on the Youth Baseball League, please call our office at (970) 568-7410 Monday through Thursday 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM and Friday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM.



Wellington Recreation modification to the National Federation of High Schools Baseball rules. Visit www.nfhs.org to purchase a rulebook.

Purpose

The purpose of the league run by Wellington Recreation is to provide kids with the opportunity for learning and fun in a safe environment. Friendly competition and sportsmanship will be emphasized. Our main goal is for all participants (players, coaches, parents, etc.) to have fun while building athletic, team, and social skills.

1. Rule 1 – Players, Field, and Equipment

- a. There must be nine (9) defensive players on the field at a time: three (3) outfielders, five (5) infielders and a catcher. Players on defense must be rotated every inning. **One coach will be on the field to help with instruction and development of players as the game is played. This is to help with placement at the beginning of the innings. As the season progresses, we ask that coaches spend less time on the field for placement assistance.**
 - i. Infielders must assume a position like those used in traditional baseball.
 - ii. Outfielders must be evenly dispersed in the outfield.
 - iii. Wellington Recreation considers placing players in positions not used in traditional baseball to be a violation of Wellington Recreation Sportsmanship Policy.
- b. Metal cleats are not allowed.
- c. Each player is required to wear a Wellington Parks and Recreation blue and white reversible jersey (overtop of any other clothing) to participate in games. White will be the home team and blue will be the away team.
- d. Jewelry is not allowed. Exceptions will be made for medical ID bracelets and religious medals which must be taped and approved by the referee or official. In addition, taping over any other jewelry is not permitted.
- e. The diamond should be sixty (60) feet between bases.
- f. The pitcher's rubber or mound must be thirty-five (35) feet from the point of home plate.
- g. The catcher must be positioned behind home plate. The catcher must always wear catcher's gear.
- h. Bases will be provided by Wellington Parks and Recreation.
- i. The official ball to be used is a safety ball provided by Wellington Parks and Recreation to coaches for games.



2. Rule 2 – Player Terms and Definition
 - a. There will be no balks or base on balls.
 - b. Bunting will not be allowed.
 - c. There are no infield flies.
 - d. A half inning is over when one or two of the following happens.
 - i. There are three (3) outs or,
 - ii. There have been as many batters as there are players on the team with the largest number of present players.
 1. A coach announces the last batter prior to them being at bat.
 - e. Outs must be counted.
 - f. A batter is out when the umpire, regardless of whether the ball is caught by the catcher or not, calls the third strike.
 - g. Sliding is allowed. Any slide must be feet first and should be attempted only after proper training.
 - h. The strike zone is the length between the neck and the knees, the width of the plate plus three (3) inches to either side of the plate.
3. Rule 3 – Substituting – Coaching – Bench & Field Conduct
 - a. On Defense, free substitutions are allowed, however, all players must play at least every other inning.
 - b. On offense, the batting order must contain the entire roster of players.
 - c. A player who carelessly or unintentionally throws their bat or helmet receives one (1) warning. Further infractions by the same player will result in the player being called out.
 - d. If a player intentionally throws their bat or helmet, the player will be called out (if not already out).
4. Rule 4 – Starting and Ending the Game
 - a. A regulation game consists of six (6) innings or seventy-five (75) minutes, whichever comes first. No innings may start after seventy-five (75) minutes of play.
 - b. Ties will not be completed.
 - c. Wellington Parks and Recreation will do everything in their power to reschedule canceled games.
 - d. A team may start a game with a minimum of eight (8) players. If a team has less than nine (9) players present at the game time, it can borrow the needed players from the other team so long as the opposing team would still have at least nine (9) players. A team should always have at least seven (7) players when a game concludes.



5. Rule 5 – Dead Ball – Suspension of Play
 - a. On an overthrown ball that goes into foul territory, base runners are only awarded the bases to which they were attempting to advance at the time the ball crossed the baseline.
 - b. Play on a batted ball ends when an infielder is in control of the ball and base runners are no longer attempting to advance.
6. Rule 6 – Pitching
 - a. Pitchers may pitch no more than three (3) innings per week.
 - b. Once a player has been replaced as a pitcher, they may not re-enter the game as a pitcher.
 - c. An adult pitcher shall be used during even numbered innings and players will pitch odd numbered innings.
 - d. Adult pitchers will take over during odd numbered innings after three (3) walks have been given up in one inning.
 - e. When an adult is pitching, the pitcher stands beside the adult pitcher.
 - f. If a batted or thrown ball hits the adult pitcher, the ball remains live, and play continues unless the ball becomes lodged in the pitcher's clothing. In which case the batter will go to first base and all runners will advance one (1) base.
 - g. If a batted ball hits the adult pitcher and bounces into foul territory without going past first or third base and without being touched by a defensive player, a dead-ball single is awarded to the batter, and base runners will not advance unless forced by the batter going to first.
 - h. The adult pitcher should be either the coach or manager of the team and should pitch to the players of their team. If a coach or manager is unable to pitch, any adult may assume the pitching duties.
 - i. Adult pitchers will pitch with at least one knee touching the ground. There are no restrictions as to how many adult pitchers are used in one game, or how many times the pitcher may be replaced. If a change is made in the middle of an inning, no warm-up pitches shall be permitted.
 - j. Bases on balls are not awarded when an adult pitcher is pitching. If any adult pitcher is not able to throw strikes consistently, a new adult pitcher should be brought in. Bases on balls shall be awarded only when the player is pitching.



- k. Adult pitchers are prohibited from fielding any batted or thrown ball, except in self-defense, other than a return throw from a fielder at the end of playing action. If a batted or thrown ball inadvertently strikes the adult pitcher, refer to rule 6(g) as it pertains to dead balls. If an adult pitcher, in the judgment of either umpire, intentionally fields a batted or thrown ball, all runners, including the batter-runner, shall be awarded home.
7. Rule 7 – Batting
 - a. All players must bat continuously without substitution while on offense.
 - b. There is no penalty for batting out of order. Try to keep the same order in fairness to the players.
 - c. Any batted ball that does not go at least ten feet from the point of home plate is treated as a foul ball. If such an arc is not physically drawn on the field, the home plate umpire determines if the ball passed such a distance.
 - d. A swing that misses the ball counts as a strike. Players cannot strike out on foul balls.
 8. Rule 8 – Base Running
 - a. Once the pitcher has control of the ball within eight (8) feet radii of the pitcher’s rubber, runners must remain in contact with their bases until the ball crosses home plate.
 - b. The first time a runner leaves too soon, a warning shall be issued to the runner.
 - c. The second time, the runner shall be called out.
 - d. Each runner is issued one warning per time on base.
 - e. Warnings and penalties are called immediately, and the ball will be considered dead before the pitch.
 9. Rule 9 – Scoring – Record Keeping
 - a. Official game scores and team standings will not be kept.
 10. Rule 10 – Umpiring
 - a. Wellington Parks and Recreation will provide one (1) umpire standing behind the pitcher to call balls, strikes, and outs at bases.



Communicable Disease Rule (Blood Rule)

Teams are responsible for supplying their own clothing and first aid supplies.

1. Whenever a player suffers a laceration or wound where bleeding or oozing occurs, the game will be stopped immediately.
2. The player will be removed from the game until the bleeding has stopped and the wound is adequately covered.
3. If a legal substitute is available, he/she will replace the injured player and play will continue.
4. If no substitute is available, the game clock will be stopped for up to five (5) minutes to enable the injured player to dress his/her wound.
5. The player may re-enter the game only with the official's approval. This means bleeding must be stopped and/or wound covered.
6. Any article of clothing that is saturated with blood must be removed and replaced.

Sports Code of Conduct

The Sports Code of Conduct applies to all sports organized by the Town of Wellington Parks and Recreation Department, whether taking place on Town-owned property, or on any other property that the Town has arranged to use.

Definitions:

Town: The Town of Wellington

Coach: The person designated as a team's spokesman. This person may be either a player or non-player.

Field of Play: The part of a court, field, ring or other sports venue that is considered within the boundaries of regulation play of a particular sport.

Site Supervisor: A Town employee in charge of the operation and staff of a scheduled sports game, match, or event, as well as this Code of Conduct.

Coordinator: The Town's Recreation Coordinator or other person as appointed by the Town of Wellington Parks and Recreation Department.

League Manager: The Town's Recreation Manager or other person as appointed by the Town of Wellington Parks and Recreation Department.

Official: A person who the Town has arranged to be present at a sports venue for the purpose of administering the rules of the game, match, or event, as well as this Code of Conduct.



Parent: The legal guardian or other family member responsible for a child who is under the age of eighteen (18) and is participating in a sport sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Participant: Any coach, player, parent, spectator, official or any other person involved in any way with any sport sponsored by the Town of Wellington Parks and Recreation Department.

Participation: Any involvement in a Town of Wellington Parks and Recreation Department sport, including spectating, officiating, playing, coaching, volunteering, or attending a sporting event.

Player: A person who physically participates in a sport or is on the roster of the team or group participating in the sport.

Probation: A period of time during which a person who has previously violated the Sport Code of Conduct may have no further violations.

Parks and Recreation Department: The Town of Wellington Parks and Recreation Department.

Sport: Any Parks and Recreation Department organized activity or event that is listed under the category of “sports” in the most recent catalog of offerings or a new yet to be advertised activity that is run by a recreation staff member who is specifically designated by organizational chart as a member of the sports team.

Spectator: A person who watches a sport for entertainment with no physical involvement.

Sportsmanship: Conduct, such as fairness, respect for one’s opponent and officials, and graciousness in winning or losing, that are appropriate to one participating in a sport.

Sports Venue: An area improved with fencing, buildings, bleachers, goals, turf or other landscaping, lines or other markings or any other facilities intended for use by players, officials, spectators or anyone else participating in a sport. Examples of sports venues include but are not limited to fields, courts, tracks, gymnasiums, field houses, arenas, pools, ice rinks and bowling alleys.

Suspension: Loss of the privilege to participate in any manner in a Parks and Recreation Department sport.

Unsportsmanlike: Exhibiting poor behavior through negative, disruptive or inappropriate actions.



Prohibited Acts:

1. Physically attacking any other participant or any Town staff person. This includes but is not limited to striking, shoving, kicking or otherwise touching or subjecting another person to physical contact in a threatening or alarming manner.
2. Refusing to abide by an official's decision and/or contest such decision in an unsportsmanlike manner.
3. Using racial slurs, ethnic slurs, sexual slurs, or obscene, threatening, or challenging language or gestures.
4. Harassing, insulting, taunting, or unsportsmanlike demonstrations of dissent in any form.
5. Using unnecessary roughness in the play of a game against an opposing player.
6. Throwing or cause to be deposited any object onto the field of play.
7. Violating the Town of Wellington's open container ordinance, or other state or local alcohol or drug laws, while at a sports venue, or enter the field of play while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
8. Smoking in/on any sports venue, or while coming off or going on the field of play, or while on the field of play, whether indoors or outdoors.
9. Display other unsportsmanlike conduct before or after games or events, or while at a sports venue during a scheduled activity, game, match or event.

Enforcement:

1. The minimum penalty for smoking is a warning, and the maximum penalty is ejection from the game, or prosecution according to facility policies.
2. Minimum Penalties: Ejection from the current sports activity or event and suspension from the next scheduled game, activity, or event. Any participant who is ejected must leave the sports venue immediately. This means going far enough away, that he or she cannot be seen or heard by any participant within the sports venue. Minimum penalties may be imposed onsite by an official or field supervisor.
3. Medium Penalties: Suspension for up to the remainder of the scheduled season of up to one year, and one or more years on probation. After review of the alleged violation by Parks and Recreation Department staff, medium penalties may be imposed if (1) another infraction has occurred by the individual resulting in a penalty within the past calendar year; (2) the individual violated more than one section of this Code during the current incident; and/or (3) in the judgment of staff, the severity of the infraction justifies penalty beyond the minimum but not to the maximum level. Medium penalties may be imposed in addition to minimum penalties.



4. **Maximum Penalties:** Suspension for one to five years. Maximum penalties may be imposed if, after review of the alleged violation by Parks and Recreation Department staff, it is determined that the severity of the violation justifies the maximum penalty, based on negative impact to the program, other participants, spectators, and/or staff. Maximum penalties may be imposed in addition to minimum and/or medium penalties.
5. Any behavior that is also a violation of law may result in criminal charges.
6. Any participant who engages in three or more of the prohibited acts described above during any twelve-month period shall be suspended for up to five years, followed by two years of probation.
7. Any participant who engages in a prohibited act while on probation shall be suspended for one to five years.

Appeals

Appeals of any enforcement decision may be made by submitting a written statement of appeal to the Parks and Recreation Manager within fifteen (15) calendar days of the issuance of the decision to be appealed. If an enforcement decision is not appealed within fifteen days of issuance, it is considered final.

The statement of appeal must include a description of the decision in question and related events, and the basis for the appeal. The appealing party may provide any additional information he or she believes is relevant in support of the appeal.

The Parks and Recreation Manager will conduct such investigation as he or she determines to be appropriate, given the basis of the appeal and the related facts, and may conduct an informal hearing on the matter at his or her discretion. In the alternative, the Recreation Manager may convene an Appeals Board made up of Town staff who have no personal involvement in the decision being appealed, and such board shall conduct an appropriate investigation.

The Parks and Recreation Manager or Appeals Board, if one is convened, shall issue a written decision on the appeal within thirty (30) days from the filing of the appeal. The written decision shall include an explanation of the basis for the conclusion reached.



Miscellaneous:

- Parents and spectators are encouraged to retrieve balls that go out of play to restart the game quickly.
- All players have a right to play every game and an equal amount of time if they have attended regular practices.
- Playing Conditions: Field Supervisor will determine if games will or will not be played. Game will be called when there is a safety concern.
- Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- The Recreation Staff will make every effort to reschedule missed games. Make up games may not be played at the same time or days as regularly scheduled games.
- Participation awards, when given, shall be given to ALL players.
- Parents, coaches, non-playing players, and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- All coaches and officials are volunteers and as such are not employees of the Town of Wellington.
- No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be allowed or used in the parks during games or practices.
- **All domesticated animals, except Service Animals as defined under the American with Disabilities Act, are prohibited within 100 feet of all Wellington Parks and Recreation sporting event as well as prohibited on diamond fields.**
- Foul language will not be tolerated by fans, participants, or coaches. All adults need to remember they are role models and need to be positive in their words and actions.
- A parent or fan that is loud, obnoxious, or disrupts the event will be asked to leave the premises and will be expected to comply immediately.
- Elastic Clause: The League Manager shall have complete charge of the Youth Sports League. All situations not specifically covered by these rules shall be acted upon by the League Director and all actions by the League Director are final.
- The League Manager reserves the right to change or amend any of the rules or regulations contained in this manual. Any questions concerning Youth Sports should be directed to:

Town of Wellington Parks and Recreation
8225 3rd Street
Wellington, CO 80549
(970) 568-7410
recreation@wellingtoncolorado.gov

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