

WASHINGTON YOUTH BASEBALL

**P.O. Box 851
Washington, PA 15301**

**Rules and
Regulations**

724-225-3610

2020

COACH'S PRAYER

Almighty God, they call me Coach. My job... to teach, train and coerce them into developing skills, and the desire, determination and dedication that will enable them to perform with a proficiency they never dreamed possible.

When I ask them to give 100 percent, Lord, I ask you to help me give 150 percent; that I may understand their needs, relate to them, communicate with them.

I tell them "Winners Never Quit," and I ask that You give me the strength to carry on when my words seem to fall on deaf ears, and their physical moves defy the laws of coordination.

When they cry out in pain and I tell them to "Keep Going... A Little Hurt Will Make You Stronger," give me the wisdom, Lord, to judge between a hard knock and a potential serious injury.

As they win and I bathe in their glory, let me also share the agony of their defeat... And when they have given their very best, only to be engulfed in the tide of the opponent's victory, let me avoid alibis, give credit where credit is due, and while reviewing mental preparation, physical performance and playing technique, help me to realize that they may have been outplayed, and just maybe, that I was outcoached.

And, when the season is over... the thrills, the hopes, the heartache, the screams and sobs... condensed into a brief entry into the record book of life... may they leave with healthier bodies, sharper intellects and greater confidence in the talents You have given them. This I ask, Lord... because I am... their Coach.

- Roy Gillespie

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Council shall be the development of character and the training in ideals of good citizenship of the youth of the Washington and Trinity School Districts, through the particular medium of baseball.

Revised 2/09

Washington Youth Baseball

Rules and Regulations

A. Council

1. The WYB Executive Board consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of Washington Youth Baseball, Inc. The WYB Executive Committee consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of WYB, six league presidents, and the WYB equipment manager.
2. The Executive Board shall have the authority to suspend, discharge, or otherwise discipline any member, manager, coach, player, league official, umpire or other person whose conduct is considered detrimental to the best interest of the league. The person(s) involved may appeal if it is done within forty-eight (48) hours of the decision. The Executive Board must act within three (3) days of the appeal.
3. As bylaws are adopted, no alternate bylaws will be acceptable, unless deemed to be legally desirable or involve the safety of the participants, until the second playing season after the adoption of the new rule. All rules and policies set forth herein are subject to final interpretation by the Washington Youth Baseball Council. A majority vote of the members present will constitute a minimum of twelve (12) voting members to enact any rule change(s).
4. Membership in the Washington Youth Baseball Council will be considered only when the Council President receives a written request. New members will be elected to the Council for a one year term at the November meeting.
5. Council members, excluding League Presidents and Executive Board Officers, shall be retained by a *simple majority* vote of not less than twelve (12) council members present and voting at the October meeting. To be eligible for the retention vote, a minimum attendance at council meetings require league Presidents eighty percent (80%) attendance and Council Members fifty percent (50%) attendance. Council president should contact seemingly disinterested members before the retention vote.
6. Council membership shall include the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Equipment Manager, Six League Presidents, and the elected members, not to exceed a maximum of thirty (30) members.
7. Executive Board members and League Presidents shall be elected for a two-year term. Executive Board members will be voted on at the November meeting in odd years for the following two-year period. League presidents will be voted on at the November meeting in even years for the following two-year period. Officers that either resign or are voted out of office will become automatic members at-large.
8. Copies of Council rules, a Council membership list and financial report of Council activities for the previous year shall be available to all families at the annual registration.
9. A quorum for the purpose of holding a Council meeting shall consist of twelve (12) members.

10. Players who reside outside the Washington Youth Baseball delineation will be allowed to participate in all Washington Youth Baseball programs excluding tournament competition sanctioned by PONY Baseball/Softball Inc.
11. The registration fee for all players shall be determined annually and is not refundable after the first regular season game.
12. Sponsors, in an agreement between Council and the sponsor, shall pay an annual fee to Washington Youth Baseball, Inc. No further solicitation by teams to their sponsor is permitted. Therefore there are to be no contributions accepted over sponsorship, unless approved by the Executive Board. Sponsor participation does not obligate Washington Youth Baseball to place sponsor's son/daughter on sponsor's team.
PENALTY: FIRST OFFENSE - written warning
SECOND OFFENSE - termination of contract
13. An HONORARY BOARD consisting of non-voting former members of WYB Council may be elected using the following criteria:
 - a. Candidate(s) must be a former member of Council.
 - b. Candidate(s) have a recommended twelve (12) years of prior service OR is a past president of at least two (2) terms of service.
Two (2) people per year will be considered for the Honorary Board, with a vote of a simple majority of WYB Council for approval.
14. By-law changes cannot be voted on without being announced at three meetings.
15. WYB prohibits the use of any surplus funds for private inurement to any person in the event of a sale or dissolution of the institution.
16. At Registration, parents must give approval that WYB will not be held liable for player injuries that occur on the field.
17. There is an up-front fee to buy out of working in the concession stand. If the fee is not paid, a child's parent or representative must work the concession stand when required or the child will not play.
PENALTY: One game suspension for the player

B. Managers and Coaches

1. All managers and coaches must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the WYB Executive Council every year.
2. League Presidents shall be responsible for the enforcement of these rules and regulations. Failure to do so will result in review of said president by Washington Youth Baseball Executive Board, and subject to disciplinary action referenced in A-2.
3. Practices for teams in Mustang, Bronco and Pony Leagues will not last longer than two hours per day, five times per week (including games), and are not to be conducted in rain, lightning, or extremely cold weather. Except Pinto practices shall not exceed one and one half hours five times per week (including games), and Shetland practices shall not exceed one hour two days per week (including games).
PENALTY: FIRST OFFENSE-written warning
SECOND OFFENSE - termination of contract

4. A manager or coach shall assess no player for the purchase of extra equipment. Special orders other than provided by WYB is the sole responsibility of the team manager.
PENALTY: FIRST OFFENSE - written warning
SECOND OFFENSE - termination of contract
5. All managers are to be held financially accountable for all equipment and uniforms signed for, and are responsible for return of said equipment and uniforms to the equipment manager after their last game each season.
PENALTY: Ineligible to vote for Tournament Team selection
NO RESPONSE - manager and coach will be billed for equipment
6. All managers are to be held financially accountable for all equipment and uniforms signed for, and are responsible for return of said equipment and uniforms to the equipment manager after their last game each season.
PENALTY: Ineligible to vote for Tournament Team selection
NO RESPONSE - manager and coach will be billed for equipment
7. Failure of the manager to comply with, or abuse of, the agreed upon Council and league rules, fund raising activities or equipment return, will be cause for Council not to renew the manager's contract.
8. Managers and coaches must be wearing proper attire, as described in their contract, when in the dugout, on the playing field or when coaching bases. Exiting the field for smoking will not be permitted.
9. Team managers, coaches and their representatives must attend not less than four workdays of at least four hours each, within the playing season. Lack of compliance will result in sanctions referenced in Section A-2.
10. Managers having league president approval must sign and submit a manager's contract to the league president 2 (two) weeks before the first scheduled game. Before any coach, assistant coach or any person stepping inside the fenced boundary must have complied with the coaches' application requirement for the current year. You may roster as many coaches as possible with the understanding that only three (3) official contracts will be allowed for Pony, Bronco and Mustang league games, one manager and multiple coaches. Batboys are permitted, if participating in the WYB Program at a lower level.
11. A manager or coach will not direct a team while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
PENALTY: FIRST OFFENSE - termination of contract.
12. A manager or coach will not "man handle" a player.
PENALTY: FIRST OFFENSE - suspended indefinitely pending Executive Board review and investigation.
13. Managers, coaches, and umpires may be suspended for use of disrespectful, abusive language, or obscene gestures directed at another person.
PENALTY: FIRST OFFENSE - Four game suspension
SECOND OFFENSE - termination of contract

14. Managers and coaches may be suspended for assaulting umpires, players, other managers or coaches, or league officials.
PENALTY: FIRST OFFENSE - Suspension until meeting of Executive Board to consider termination
15. Managers or coaches may be suspended for action that makes a travesty of the game, such as stalling tactics during a game or constant verified written reports from players or parents to league officials about the conduct of the manager or coach.
PENALTY: FIRST OFFENSE - written warning SECOND OFFENSE - Five game suspension THIRD OFFENSE - termination of contract
16. Any manager or coach ejected from a game by an umpire for any reason will be suspended for one additional game, pending review by Executive Board and the League President of WYB. This rule will be enforced in the regular season and playoffs. It will also be carried over to the next season or league, if necessary.
PENALTY: SECOND OFFENSE - Three game suspension THIRD OFFENSE - termination of contract
17. Managers and coaches shall not use tobacco or a tobacco product on or around playing fields, including practice facilities.
PENALTY: Removal from game plus one additional game suspension.
18. Players will be subject to sanctions referenced in Section A-2 for assaulting umpires, players, managers, other managers, coaches and/or league officials; drug use and any other actions deemed to be inappropriate behavior governed by reasonableness.
19. All managers and coaches are required to abide by an explicit Code of Conduct. In addition, all will accept the decisions of the organization pursuant to the Executive Board.
- The managers and coaches will place the emotional and physical well-being of their players ahead of a personal desire to win.
 - The managers and coaches will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players and officials.
 - The managers and coaches will treat each player as an individual, remembering the appropriate range of the player's emotional and physical development.
 - The managers and coaches will do their best to provide a safe playing situation for players.
 - The managers and coaches will promise to aid and comfort injured players until competent medical care can be rendered.
 - The managers and coaches will do their best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all players.
 - The managers and coaches will provide a sports environment for their team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and will refrain from their use while fulfilling their role as managers and coaches.
 - The managers and coaches will be knowledgeable in the rules and basic skills of their sport, and will patiently teach these to their players.
 - The managers and coaches will have a positive relationship with the parents and officials and communicate effectively with both.

1. All applicants, Pony age and under, who register and tryout must be drafted in the league for which they are eligible. Age requirements must be attained by May 1st; age bracketing is conducted in concert with the age brackets prepared by PONY Baseball. All teams will carry a recommended maximum of twelve (12) players if possible.
2. Pitchers participating in Bronco or Pony divisions will be restricted to four innings per day for the first two complete pitching weeks of the season (all other pitching rules still apply).
3. All players in WYB Pony age and under must play in no less than two (2) consecutive innings in each regulation game. Upon initial entry of a player into a game, that player must play twelve (12) consecutive outs (with the exception of when the “mercy” rule is enforced to shorten a game).
PENALTY: FIRST OFFENSE - removal from game and one additional game suspension of manager, including practice, and replay of the game from point of infraction (if violating team is the winner).
SECOND OFFENSE - removal from game and two additional game suspension of manager, including practice, and reply of game from point of infraction (if violating team is the winner). Council reserves the right to assess additional suspension penalties should evidence indicate act was intentional.
4. In the event no other substitutes are available, the last player removed from a game, as specified by the team manager to the opposing team manager, shall be used as a substitute to replace a player who becomes ill, is injured, or is ejected from the game. Courtesy players are not permitted.
5. All players will keep uniforms neat and clean and return them to the team manager immediately after the team’s final game.
6. There shall not be any throwing of equipment, unnecessary contact, obscene language or gestures, or abuse of playing facilities at any time.
PENALTY: FIRST OFFENSE - immediate removal from the current game and suspension for one additional game. This rule is enforceable by umpires and league officials.
7. A player who quits shall not be permitted to rejoin during the same year. Eligibility in subsequent year is unaffected.
8. Palomino baseball can carry a roster of eighteen (18) players. There will be a Palomino director who can have two coaches. A registration fee, determined by WYB Council, shall be paid upon selection of the team.
9. All teams will make the playoffs. The league will decide the playoff format. Playoff brackets will be supplied to managers prior to the first regular season game.
10. Managers’ children/grandchildren will be automatic selections to managers’ teams per league rules.
11. Coaches’ children/grandchildren will be automatic draft selections only after a coach had actually worked with the same team in the same league for two (2) consecutive years immediately preceding the automatic selection.
12. All regular season teams must use the hat and shirt issued by WYB for all games played.
13. Metal spikes are NOT permitted below the Pony League.

14. WYB Shetland (age 4-5-6) league teams are not permitted to participate in any tournament play requiring an overnight stay. For purpose of this rule, overnight stay begins outside a 75-mile radius from Washington.
15. WYB Pinto (age 7-8) league team will be permitted to participate in tournaments up to 300 mile radius of WYB. Over night stay permitted, but no travel money will be dispersed.
16. To be eligible for WYB PONY Baseball/Softball Inc. sanctioned tournament teams, a player must reside within WYB boundaries, meet all WYB and PONY requirements, submit all required documentation by the established deadline(s) and participate in 75 percent of their team's regular season games and 100 percent of playoff games. A player's attendance eligibility it to be determined by the managers present at the player's league tournament team selection meeting by means of manager scorebooks. All responsibility for determining player attendance eligibility falls on said managers and not WYB. Exceptions for illness, injury or emergency situations can be considered and granted by a simple majority vote of the WYB executive committee in extraordinary circumstances and shall require documented proof of the same.
17. W.Y.B. does not participate in Pony's AND UP LEAGUE. Any violations subject to sanctions referenced in A-2.
18. All coaches and managers must pass state-mandated child welfare clearances via childlike or the Pa. State Criminal Background Check. Those who have not lived in Pennsylvania for at least the past 10 years must pass an FBI background check or sign an affidavit. The following criteria will be used for disqualifiers but not limited to this criteria only:
 - Any sort of abuse or assault/battery - physical or sexual
 - Rape
 - Any crime of a sexual nature, including possession or dissemination of pornography
 - Homicide or manslaughter in any degree
 - Attempted murder
 - Domestic violence
 - Child neglect
 - Felony drug crimes
 - Animal cruelty
 - Theft/robbery
 - Forgery/fraud
 - Kidnapping
 - Arson
 - Weapons violations
 - Any crime, misdemeanor or felony, involving children as either an accomplice or victim
19. Conduct, behavior, or actions that are detrimental to the league, umpires, team, coaches, or players may result in disciplinary action imposed on all parties involved. Examples of actions include:

- A) Excessive disparaging social media posts or online comments that are harassing, critical, or attacking in nature.
- B) Abusive or profane language or gestures towards spectators, umpires, coaches, or players.
- C) Causing a disturbance while openly criticizing participants (Umpires, coaches, players, or spectators) during the course of the game.
- D) Recruiting players for competing baseball organizations or teams while actively in a coaching role.

Any issues or problems regarding any player, coach, umpire, field, or any other aspect of WYB, should be directed to the League President, away from the field.

PENALTY: The Executive Board will review and investigate any matter and will impose any disciplinary action based on the severity of the action. Disciplinary action may be imposed on a player from the result of the actions of a parent or guardian. Disciplinary action can be imposed in the following manner, but is not limited to:

- A) Temporary or permanent suspension from WYB for all the responsible parties involved.
- B) Temporary or permanent suspension from future team consideration.
- C) Temporary or permanent suspension from future coaching opportunities.
- D) Temporary or permanent suspension from future tournament team consideration.

Additional potential disqualifiers should be left up to individual organizations to decide:

- Driving Under the Influence/Driving While Intoxicated within last 15 years - This should be considered if there is a possibility the person will be driving a child at any time.
- Vehicular manslaughter within any timeframe - This should be considered if there is a possibility the person will be driving a child at any time.
- Multiple driving citations/accidents within last 15 years - This should also be considered if the person will be driving children.
- Misdemeanor drug charges within last 15 years - This potentially shows the presence of amoral beliefs or possible drug possession, and the person should be closely evaluated before being allowed to have a leadership position among children.
- Petty theft within last 15 years - This should be a disqualifier if the person will be handling finances in any way within the organization.

D. Umpire

1. A roster of proposed full-time umpires will be submitted to Council for approval before an umpire may work in the program.
2. Substitute umpires, when approved by the umpire-in-chief, may be used in league games.
3. Constant tardiness by an umpire will be cause for his/her dismissal from the program. Umpires should arrive at the field no later than ten (10) minutes before a game.
4. Managers, league officials and umpires will meet to discuss rules interpretations before the opening of scheduled play. The umpire-in-chief shall designate one rules interpreter who shall be the spokesperson at each league meeting.
5. Umpires requested by league presidents for assignment to post-season games shall be so assigned, if available, by the umpire-in-chief.
6. Umpires, managers and league officials will complete WYB's standard violation form for any incident involving managers, umpires, players, fans, or officials that reflect against the program. Copies of the report are to be returned to the respective league president and the umpire-in-chief. A copy of all reports should be filed at the WYB office.
7. Umpires shall not use tobacco or tobacco products on any field of play.

E. Tournament Teams

1. A TT manager will be selected by majority vote of the league managers, League President, and Executive Board.
2. Tournament Team (TT) managers will be qualified and experienced in all phases and levels of tournament play for that particular league. Any manager must be approved by WYB Executive Council and abide by the rules and regulations of Council. TT managers will select the remaining coaches from within the particular league involved.

3. TT players will be selected by a majority vote of the league managers. The TT will consist of thirteen (13) players, with the exception of the Pony League second-year team, which will consist of fifteen (15) players.
4. All TT's will appoint a financial secretary to account for all income. WYB Council must approve all expenditures. Subject to audit by a finance committee appointed by the Executive Board the TT's financial records must be auditable, therefore all receipts and disbursements must be documented. Violation of this procedure will result in sanctions referenced in Section A-2.
5. Tournament teams are not allowed to engage in fundraising until after the teams are selected.
6. WYB Council rules apply to all TT competition, behavior, eligibility, and responsibilities.
7. Managers and appointed WYB Council representatives are the only people to be present during TT selection. Managers will only vote for players in their respective league or division.
8. If a player voluntarily leaves a TT and that team is sanctioned, the player involved will also be sanctioned from TT's for the same time period.
9. No TT selection is to take place until the final championship game is complete.
10. Mustang 1st year (non-sanctioned) TT has mandatory 12 (twelve) consecutive out rule, therefore they must play unless the mercy rule is in effect.

PENALTY: **FIRST OFFENSE** - immediate removal of manager from the current game and suspension for one additional game. This rule is enforceable by umpires and league officials.
SECOND OFFENSE - immediate removal from the current game and suspension for three additional games. This rule is enforceable by umpires and league officials.
THIRD OFFENSE - immediate removal from the current game and subject to sanctions in A-2. This rule is enforceable by umpires and league officials.

11. Players who decline to participate in TT play after election will be disqualified from subsequent year nomination and participation on TT. Managers who nominate their child and withdraws the child after election to said TT shall be sanctioned by being disallowed a management and coaching position with WYB. The only exception in these instances are medical release.

*“If you teach them
to play by the rules,
they will live by the
rules.”*

- Joe E. Brown -
1st President, Pony
League Baseball