

Official Whiffle Ball Rules

I. THE FIELD

A) The infield will be a forty-five (45) foot square. Home plate and three (3) bases will be placed in normal baseball fashion. A fair play line will be drawn in front of home plate; the line will intersect each foul line at fifteen (15) feet creating a "fair play triangle".

B) The pitching distance is thirty-five (35) feet from the rubber to home plate (back point) and thirty-eight (38) feet to the strike zone target.

II. EQUIPMENT

A) The strike zone target will be twenty-three (23) inches wide by twenty-seven (27) inches high/long and will stand thirteen (13) inches off the ground. The target will be three (3) feet behind the back point of home plate.

B) Proper footwear required. Metal spikes/cleats are prohibited. Turf shoes are allowed.

C) Baseball gloves/mitts are not allowed. Only batters may wear batting gloves.

III. TEAMS & ROSTERS

A) Teams consist between four (4) and six (6) players. Four players will play defense at all times. If a team cannot field the minimum requirement, the game will end in a forfeit.

B) The pitcher and all fielders must bat. The batting order will not change during the game. All roster players for that particular game will bat. Batting out of order will result in an out ([standard MLB rule](#)).

C) All players may change positions at any time defensively (excluding pitcher), however defensive substitutions can only be made between innings.

IV. THE GAME

- A)** Six (6) innings equal a normal game. A ten (10) run "mercy rule" is in effect after 4 complete innings. A six (6) run rule per half inning will be enforced, excluding the last inning, (which may also be any inning where the ten run rule may be in effect).
- B)** Each team receives three (3) outs per inning. The pitchers hand rule is in effect; pitcher must be in designated circle to make an out. Throwing the ball at a runner will not result in an out.
- C)** Four (4) balls equal a walk. Three (3) strikes equal an out. Fouls are unlimited unless a foul tip with two (2) strikes hits the strike zone target. This will result in an out. Strikes result from a swing and miss or a pitch hitting the strike zone target.
- D)** There are no restrictions with pitching speeds. A pitcher can throw as fast or slow as he/she likes. Pitchers can throw a maximum of 2 innings per game. In the case of extra innings, each player will get 2 additional innings to pitch.
- E)** There are no stealing bases.
- F)** Fair and foul balls adhere to standard baseball rules unless otherwise stated.
- G)** All ground balls must reach the fair play line. If a batted ball does not cross the fair play line it will be ruled a foul ball. Infielders may NOT record ground ball outs until the ball passes the fair play line.
- H)** If a batted ball (in the air) is dropped by the pitcher, and the ball falls on the ground, it will be ruled a hit. This rule does not apply to other defenders.
- I)** A fly ball hitting the wall first and then caught by a fielder before hitting the ground is considered a live ball.
- J)** No "infield fly" rule.
- K)** A runner headed home can be thrown out by the defense if the ball hits the strike zone target (in the air) prior to the runner touching home plate.
- L)** A maximum of one (1) extra inning will be allowed. International tiebreak will be in effect (last out on 2nd base to start inning). If the game is still tied, the team with the most total bases will be declared the winner. If the total bases are tied at the end of the extra inning, the game will be ruled a tie. .

V. THE PITCHER

- A) A pitcher will get ten (10) warm-up pitches before the start of the game, and five (5) between innings. A relief pitcher will receive seven (7) warm-up pitches
- B) A pitcher must start his wind-up from the pitching rubber. The pitcher must have at least one (1) foot touching the rubber when he releases the ball.
- C) A pitcher entering the game must face one complete batter before being replaced.

VI. THE BATTER

- A) The batter may NOT intentionally move into the path of a pitch. If he/she does, he will be called for batter's interference, and the pitch will be called a strike. There is no "hit by pitch" rule. If the batter is hit by a pitch, the pitch will be considered a ball.
- B) A batter must move out of the way of a fielder's throwing attempt to the strike zone. If the batter is standing in front of the backstop and/or the strike zone target and is hit by a fielder's throw while the ball is in the air, a successful fielding play will be recorded.
- C) The batter will NOT touch foul balls until they come to a complete stop. If the batter does touch a moving foul ball and the ball is determined to have a chance of rolling into fair territory the batter will be ruled out.
- D) Bunting is not allowed.

VII. WHO MAKES THE CALL

- A) Fair and foul calls will be the responsibility of both teams. A "replay" will result in any arguments.
- B) Check swings will be the responsibility of the pitcher.
- C) Foul balls off the batter's hands will be the responsibility of the batter.
- D) Batter's interference will be the responsibility of the pitcher.
- E) Whether a thrown ball hits the Strike Zone Target for throwing plays, will be the offensive team's responsibility.

- F)** Legal pitch determination will be the offensive team's responsibility.
- G)** Keeping and reporting the official score will be the home team's responsibility.
- H)** Consult your field supervisor for calls not mentioned herein.

IIX. GENERAL RULES

- A)** All teams and players will respect and adhere to the rules of The Players Choice of the Fox Cities. All players will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike fashion. Taunting, berating or other type of disrespectful conduct towards opponents and/or league officials will not be tolerated. Any violations may result in an ejection from the game.
- B)** No Carry-Ins food/beverage in whiffle ball area unless purchased at The Players Choice of the Fox Cities. Anyone caught breaking this rule will be subject to a team disqualification. A single water bottle or jug per player is allowed during the game.
- C)** Formal protests must be lodged to the field supervisor and only prior to the next pitch. Judgment calls cannot be protested. All decisions made by the field supervisor will be final.
- E)** Rules not stated herein, will follow the rules of Major League Baseball.