



2020 BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL RULE ADDENDUM

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, guidance from the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago, the Welles Park Parents (WPPA) implements the following rule changes for the 2020 baseball and softball seasons (spring and fall ball). The rules contained in this addendum will expire on November 1, 2020. In the event of any conflict between the rules in this Addendum and those in any other WPPA Rules, the rules in this Addendum shall control.

All Baseball Leagues

- WPPA will furnish balls, bases, pitching rubber, catcher's equipment, tees, and a **limited** number of batting helmets, which are to be assigned for the duration of the season to an individual player who does not have their own helmet. **Helmets are not to be shared between players.**
- IHSA Rule 6 (Pitching), Section 5, Art 1a, is revised to read: "the pitch count limits and recovery days below are based on the player's age **as of July 1, 2020.** Even if the player has a birthday that would move them into a different age group during the season, the player's age at the start of the season controls for the duration of the season."
- The minimum number of players for a team to start a game shall be seven (7). No automatic outs will be charged for a team that plays with fewer than nine (9) players. Rookie rules regarding teams that cannot field seven (7) players remain in effect.
- Max game time limits:
 - Rookie: 75 minutes.
 - Junior: 1h 45 minutes.
 - Minor: 1h 45 minutes.
 - Major: 1h 45 minutes.
 - Senior: the longer of 1h 45 minutes or 30 minutes before the next scheduled WPPA activity on the field of play.



WELLES PARK PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Youth Baseball and Girls Softball



No baseball may be played once time expires, but innings may begin up until the time limit is reached. The umpire shall keep the official clock for each game.

- Players are **not** required to all remain in the dugout or the bench while sitting out or while their team is batting. The WPPA encourages coaches to find ways to spread players a minimum of 6 feet, whether that means having some players on the bench and some sitting with families in foul territory, or otherwise using the space available on the fields and consistent with WPPA's return to play guidelines.

Major Division Baseball

- Prior to Labor Day, the first time a base runner leaves the base early, he or she will be warned. This will be a "Team Warning." The next time this base runner or any other base runner from that team leaves the base early, the offending runner will be called out. (The "Team Warning" is considered the first warning for all members of that team.) On or after Labor Day, the first time a runner leaves the base early, he or she will be called "out" without warning.

Minor Division Baseball

- Prior to Labor Day, the first time a base runner leaves the base early, he or she will be warned. This will be a "Team Warning." The next time this base runner or any other base runner from that team leaves the base early, the offending runner will be called out. (The "Team Warning" is considered the first warning for all members of that team.) On or after Labor Day, the first time a runner leaves the base early, he or she will be called "out" without warning.

Junior Division Baseball

- Tee will be used for each team's first turn through its lineup for all games played prior to Labor Day.



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Rookie Division Baseball

- No team shall field a catcher. Each team shall designate an assistant coach or parent who will be responsible for (1) returning balls to the tee for each batter and (2) removing the tee after a batter puts the ball in play.
- There will be no “home run” on the 10th batter of an inning. Instead, after the 10th batter bats and the ball is made dead, the half-inning will end.

All Softball Leagues

- WPPA will furnish balls, bases, pitching rubber, catcher’s equipment, tees, and a **limited** number of batting helmets and fielder’s masks, which are to be assigned for the duration of the season to an individual player who does not have their own helmet or fielder’s mask. **Helmets and fielder’s masks are not to be shared between players.**
- The minimum number of players for a team to start a game shall be seven (7). No automatic outs will be charged for a team that plays with fewer than nine (9) players.
- Max Game time limits:
 - 8u: 1h 45 minutes.
 - 10u: 1h 45 minutes.
 - 12u: the longer of 1h 45 minutes or 30 minutes before the next scheduled WPPA activity on the field of play.
 - 14u: the longer of 1h 45 minutes or 30 minutes before the next scheduled WPPA activity on the field of play.

No softball may be played once time expires, but innings may begin up until the time limit is reached. The umpire shall keep the official clock for each game.



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Youth Baseball and Girls Softball

- Players are **not** required to all remain in the dugout or the bench while sitting out or while their team is batting. The WPPA encourages coaches to find ways to spread players a minimum of 6 feet, whether that means having some players on the bench and some sitting with families in foul territory, or otherwise using the space available on the fields and consistent with WPPA's return to play guidelines.

8U Softball

- No team shall field a catcher. Each team shall designate an assistant coach or parent who will be responsible for (1) returning balls to the tee for each batter; (2) returning balls to the pitcher during coach pitch; and (3) removing the tee after a batter puts the ball in play.
- Tee will be used for each team's first turn through its lineup for all games played up to and including July 19, 2020.