

P.O Box 277, Dalton, GA 30722

Director: bechastain@whitfieldcountyga.com
Athletics:
rhollingsworth@whitfieldcountyga.com
Office: wcrd@whitfieldcountyga.com



(706) 226-8341/FAX:/(706) 279-1515

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WHITFIELD COUNTY YOUTH SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES (9-10)and(11-12) Divisions

I. PURPOSE

The Whitfield County Youth Softball Program is organized to provide a recreational activity for girls' ages 9-12. The program is designed for the following purposes:

1. To aid in the physical development through fun and exercise.
2. To teach the basic fundamental skills of the game of softball.
3. To aid in the social development through good sportsmanship and moral character
With adult guidance
4. To teach good attitudes and discipline to our youth participants.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

A. Governing Authority

1. The governing body of this league will be composed of one (1) Community Leader or Representative from each Community with the Whitfield County Parks and Recreation forming a rules making body.
2. The program shall be carried out under the guidance and direction of the Whitfield County Parks and Recreation and the Community Leaders.

B. Governing Rules

1. The Whitfield County Recreation Department Youth Softball League will be governed by the Whitfield County Recreation local rules and current Dizzy Dean Softball rules.

C. Coaching Requirements

1. A person of high moral character who is a respected member of the community.
2. A coach should have a basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of softball.
3. A coach should never use profanity, use tobacco in any form during any activity with the players and shall not use alcoholic beverages during or before activities with the players.

4. A coach must never incite players or parents by criticizing an official.
5. A coach should not be overly concerned with winning, but more concerned that each child has a fun and learning experience and learns the fundamentals of the sport.
6. A coach is expected to be present at all practice sessions, games, and meetings or have an approved assistant present.
7. A coach should try to the best of their ability to keep each player actively interested and participating through the season.
8. It is the responsibility of each coach to be knowledgeable of all rules governing the sport that they are coaching.
9. A coach is responsible for having a scorekeeper at each game.
10. Each coach must be National Youth Sports Coaches Association Certified (NYSCA). For Certification go to www.nays.org/nyscaonlineclinic
11. A coach must have a **Back Ground Check** on file with the Whitfield County Recreation Department.
12. A coach is now required to report suspected child abuse to their local authority. This is a state law HB1176.

III. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. **Age control date is prior to January 1st of current year. A legal aged player Participating in the W.C.R.D. softball program may "Play Up" one (1) year beyond their age and must be approved by W.C.R.D.**
- B. A completed Whitfield County Recreation Department Roster accompanied by birth certificate and registration form (Green Card) must be on file before any team is eligible to compete in regular season games.
- C. Each participant must have insurance, whether private or through the Recreation Department.
- D. Playing ineligible players shall result in the forfeiture of all games in which illegal players participated. Any coach that allows an illegal player to participate will be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season and for a one year time period.
- E. **Any player suspended or absent from school should not be allowed to participate in a Whitfield County Parks and Recreation activity during the period of suspension or absenteeism.**

IV. LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

- A. Team rosters shall consist of no more than 12 players. Community Leaders should Encourage fewer players per team to speed up the game and give each child more one on one coaching. Players will not be added to a roster unless a team drops below the recommended number of players.
- B. The type of play, age divisions, base path and pitching distances, and time limits are as follows:

AGE GROUP	SOFTBALL	BASES	PITCH. DIST.	TIME LIMIT
9/10	11 INCH	60	35	1 HR. 20 MIN
11/12	12 INCH	60	40	1 HR. 20 MIN
13/14	12	60	40	1 HR. 20 MIN

- C. Any Official size DSI, ASA, NSA, ISA or USSSA approved ball may be used.
- D. The recommended uniform shall be matching T-Shirts in color and style with numbers.
- E. Shoes should be rubber cleats or tennis shoes. No metal cleats will be allowed.
- F. All (9-10) Division games will consist of five innings, (11-12) games will consist of six Innings or the designated time limit.
- G. **All leagues will be limited to five runs per inning on offense.**
- H. The 9-10 and 11-12 Fast Pitch leagues may play 10 (ten) players on defense, four (4) of these defensive players must play in the outfield grass as outfielders.
- I. Each team is required to turn in their line-up five minutes before game time.
- J. **Every player on the roster and present for the game should play three (3) outs on defense and bat at least one (1) time.**
- K. A team may start and/or finish a game with eight (8) players with no penalty. (Exception) An ejection will result in the vacated batting position being called an out.
- L. Any player (starter or substitute) who has been removed for a substitute may reenter the game once provided:
 - a. She occupies the same position in the batting order she originally occupied.
 - b. The substituted player has batted one (1) time and played defense three (3) outs.

- M. If all players have entered the game and no legal substitute can be made because of injury or illness, then the opposing coach may select a substitute from the bench to replace the injured player.
- N. A team at bat, may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher . If there are players on the bench and not currently in the game one of these players must be used as the courtesy runner. (This will not affect their substitution status). If all players are listed in the batting order, then the player that made the last out will be the courtesy runner.
- O. A coach may hold a player out of a game for disciplinary reasons if he announces to the opposing coach before the game.
- P. Catchers are required to wear a face mask with throat protector, approved helmet with ear flaps, shin guards which protect the knee caps and chest protector.
- Q. Batting helmets with ear flaps chin straps and face mask must be worn by batters and base runners. **A player sliding head first will be called out, a “Dive Back” is not considered a slide.**
- R. Intentional walk: Pitcher does not have to pitch to the batter.(Speed up rule)
- S. Base Runners may leave base when ball **passes the batter in 9-10 division.** In **11-12 division base runner may leave base when ball leaves pitchers hand.** **If the base runner leaves too soon (Umpires judgment) The base umpire shall give the signal to indicate the violation at the time it occurs. The defensive team shall have the privilege of having nullified any portion of the play.**

T. **Dropped third strike:**

1. 9-10 Division – Batter is out – Base Runners may advance at their own risk.
 2. 11-12 Division – Batter is out – Base Runners may advance at their own risk.
- U. Base Stealing : 9-10 Division and 11-12 Division: A base runner may steal more than one (1) base and may steal home.
- V. An extra player (EP) is optional, but if one is used, it must be made known prior to the Start of the game and be listed on the scoring sheet in the regular batting order.
- If the EP is used, the EP must be used the entire game.
 - The EP must remain in the same position in the batting order the entire game.
 - If the EP is used, all eleven (11) must bat and any ten (10) of those (11) may play defense.
 - Defensive positions may be changed, but the batting order must remain the same.
 - Re-entry substitution applies to the EP the same as any other player.

- W. The home team scorekeeper will be the official scorekeeper. It is recommended both scorekeepers sit as close as possible to make sure they have the same score.
 - X. The winning coach is responsible for calling in the publicity information to the Recreation Department before noon the following day (226-8341 or FAX 279-1515).
 - Y. **Mite 9-10 Girls Pitching - A modified pitch will be used for this league. A full revolution is an illegal pitch(Windmill). One foot must be on the rubber at all times while the ball is in the hand. A pitchers arm may only reach back from the underhand motion to pitch. If a pitcher is facing the plate, the non-pivot foot must be behind the rubber. A pitcher may have her non-pivot foot in front of the rubber only when her shoulder is facing the plate (X position). Penalty is a ball called on the batter, no runners move up unless forced.**
- C. Activities
- 1. Practice sessions should be limited to ninety minutes and finished by 10:00 p.m.
 - 2. There will be no practice on Wednesdays after 5:00 p.m. and no games will be scheduled on Wednesdays except during post season tournaments.

V. GAME POSTPONEMENT

A. Postponement for Inclement Weather

- 1. The Recreation Department will cancel games if fields are too wet.
- 2. If coaches, players and officials are not notified of a postponement, they must report to their designated field prepared to play.
- 3. If rain occurs before game time or during the game, the decision shall be the responsibility of the umpire to play or postpone the game.
- 4. Rained out games will be rescheduled by the Recreation Department.
- 5. If the Recreation Department cancels games because of inclement weather it will be announced on the rain-out hotline.706-876-2570 and WYYU 104.5 FM.
Receive TEXT Alerts: Text "WCRDsoftball" to the phone number 91011

B. Postponement for Other Purposes

- 1. Any schedule conflict should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Coordinator before season schedules are complete. **Only school and/or church functions will be considered as a conflict.**
- 2. Games will not be rescheduled after the official schedule has been published.

VI. PROTESTS

- A. All protests must be submitted by the manager to the Recreation Department Athletic Coordinator in writing before 5:00 p.m. the following workday.
- B. The only protest acceptable will be concerning player participation or rules misinterpretation and must be announced to the umpire and opposing coach before the next pitch.
- C. All protests shall include any and all pertinent information and facts leading up to the protest,

i.e. involved players, score of the game, name of umpires, date, location and the rule misinterpreted.

D. All protests will be decided by the Whitfield County Recreation Department.

VII. CONDUCT

- A. No profanity or abusive language is allowed. If a coach is ejected from a game the ejected coach must leave the bench area. A coach and or a player that is ejected from a game must sit the remainder of that game and must sit out their team's next scheduled game. If a spectator is ejected from a game they must leave the playing area. If a player, coach or spectator are ejected two (2) times during the course of a sports season, they will be suspended from Whitfield County Parks and Recreation activity for a period of one (1) year starting from the time of the second ejection.
- B. There shall be no smoking or use of tobacco or alcoholic beverages permitted.
- C. All coaches or managers will be held responsible for fan and team conduct.

VIII. AWARDS

League Medallions: 1st and 2nd Place Individuals

End of Season Tournaments: 1st and 2nd Place Individuals

Ties for standings of first or second place in league play will be broken as follows:

1. Head to head regular season competition.