

Wheaton Park District Youth Softball

Travel Team Guidelines

“Winning is an attitude not a score.” The philosophy of the travel program, like the in-house program, is to maintain a positive attitude if faced with a loss, build on mistakes, and go forward. To focus on losses is detrimental to mental growth of the children.

After team selection, the manager will hold a mandatory team meeting with parents to discuss costs of the program. The Travel Vice-President or another designated Board Member will also attend.

Managers will discuss team goals and projects additional costs for tournaments and travel expenses (hotel and food).

The Wheaton Park District will provide uniforms for the in-house travel teams and equipment for both pure and in-house travel teams. This falls under additional expense and will be paid from the team fund.

Schedule must be published well in advance and changes require sufficient notice to player and parents so as not to conflict with personal holidays.

The Wheaton Park District Youth Softball Travel Program is open to those residents served by the Wheaton Park District and School District 200. Out of district residents may participate if they have been enrolled in the Wheaton Park District's in-house Softball program the previous season and out of district fees will apply. If during tryouts it is determined that there is a lack of travel level pitching for a particular team, one out of district pitcher may be selected for that age group. All travel team players are required to register through the Wheaton Park District registration procedure.

Players making pure travel teams will be required to complete the registration form and waiver and to pay all required fees prior to practicing. The Wheaton Park District will provide registration information to all parent/guardians following team selection. Coaches will be informed of registration progress.

In-house travel registration fee payment information will be sent to parent/guardian following team selection.

Pure travel teams play approximately 60-65 games and in-house travel teams play approximately 30-45. Games will vary due to manager commitments, weather, and tournament availability. The Park District will contribute an amount to be determined annually for tournament play for each pure and in-house travel teams. Pure travel teams also receive an entry into the program's Red, White and Blue Tournament. ***Please note that all families of the pure travel teams participating in the Red, White and Blue Tournament are expected to provide two (2) hours of volunteer service at the tournament.*** The number of home games for pure travel will not exceed 25 games per team. In-house travel will receive 10 home games per team.

MANAGER SELECTION

The pure and in-house travel team manager selection committee will consist of the following Board Officers: Commissioner, Travel Vice-President, respective League President, and respective League Vice-President (for the respective age group, League Administrator).

In-house travel team manager candidates will be evaluated and selected by the Committee after try-outs are completed.

Managers and coaches of travel teams will be required to have a background check. This check will be done through the Illinois State Police Bureau of Identification and is mandatory to be a coach in our travel team program. Manager must be ASEP certified.

All travel team manager selections are submitted to the Board of Control for final approval.

Preference may be given to managers or coaches from the Wheaton Park District Softball program due to familiarity with the program's rules and regulations and due to known managerial skills and personality traits.

Managers will go through the selection process each year.

PLAYER SELECTION

Team selection will be determined by a tryout process on dates established by the WPD Softball Board of Control.

Tryouts will be conducted by the Travel Team Player Selection Committee for each age group, and the committee will consist of the following Board Members: the Travel Vice-President, respective League President, respective League Vice-President, WPD Administrator or his/her designated representative, and Manager, if selected. Additional Board of Control Members may be present to act as evaluators and assist as needed. All members of the Selection Committee, except the Manager, will appoint a substitute to the Committee if the Committee is selecting a team for which their child is trying out.

Pure travel players must try out for each age group they want to be considered for.

In-house Softball Travel Players must tryout for the youngest team they are eligible for under National Softball Association (NSA) Rules.

Players wishing to be considered for a travel team but who are unable to attend any of the tryout dates must notify the respective Travel Vice-President in advance. The Travel Vice-President may in his/her or sole discretion, submit that child's name for consideration to the selection committee, taking into consideration any factors known to the Travel Vice-President to be pertinent to the situation.

All players who participate in the tryouts will be notified of his or her status, by the Selection Committee, within one week.

Approved - November 13, 2008

A list of the players selected to the travel team(s) and coaches' names will be placed on file with the WPD Recreation Department and the league administrator within one week of selection.

All travel teams will select 12 players.

PLAYING RULES

Playing Time: All players will play a minimum of two (2) innings per game and have at least one (1) at bat. Exceptions to this rule will be games cancelled due to weather, darkness, or slaughter rule. Playing a specialty position allowed by a tournament such as Designated Hitter, Extra Hitter, or DEFO (Defensive Player) for a game also satisfies the playing time rule.

If this rule is not followed, the team manager may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Control.

Elimination Game Exception: One substitute may remain out of the lineup as an injury substitute in elimination games. This substitute may not sit out more than one game per tournament or consecutive games in consecutive tournaments.

Pitching Rules: All travel teams will follow the rules established by the tournaments in which the teams are competing.

PLAYER DISCIPLINE

Players may be benched only for disciplinary reasons (un-sportsmanlike conduct). Legitimate school conflicts, advance notice of family conflicts, illness or family emergencies are not grounds for disciplinary action.

Disciplinary problems concerning missed practices/games should be discussed with players and parents and if not resolved, the Travel Vice-President or League President should be consulted. Policy has been set that should a child miss any combination of three (3) practices or games due to an unexcused absence the child may be subject to a two (2) game suspension. Any more than three (3) unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the team.

Disciplinary problems concerning inappropriate behavior by a player or a player's family member should be discussed with the player and the parents and if not resolved, the Travel Vice-President or League President should be consulted. If the behavior persists, in spite of attempts to resolve the problem or behavior, the Board of Control has the authority to remove the player from the team. Inappropriate behavior is defined to be any behavior that does not conform to the Wheaton Park District Sport League Ethics Code or the Character Counts program.

ALTERNATE CALL UP POLICY

There will be no alternates for either pure travel or in-house travel teams. When 10 or less rostered players are available for a game or tournament, a player or players may be called up from the regular in-house program provided there is no conflict with their regular team play to raise the roster to 11.

A call-up player may not play more innings than a rostered player and must bat at the bottom of the order.

If a player from a pure travel team drops off of that roster prior to the in-house draft, he/she may be added to the list of players available for the in-house player draft. If that occurs, a player may be added to the pure travel team roster with approval from the Travel Vice-President.

Hardship Rule: A hardship exists when a pure travel team has 10 or less players due to unforeseen circumstances that can include a voluntary or involuntary (player discipline, family relocation, season-ending injury, etc.) drop from the roster. When a pure travel Gold team has 10 or less players due to hardship, the team may add either an in district or out of district resident. When a pure travel Blue team has 10 or less players due to hardship, the team will add an in district resident not chosen during the tryout process. If no such player exists, a pure travel Blue team may add either an in district or out of district resident.

Once the in-house draft is concluded pure travel teams may not select a player chosen for an in-house team.

Players wishing to drop after the in-house draft may be eligible to get on a waiting list for the next available in-house team.

MISCELLANEOUS

All Park District issued travel team equipment must be returned to the park district per the return policy guidelines.

Umpires will be scheduled by the Umpire Coordinator/Scheduler.

Field availability will be as scheduled by the respective League Vice-President.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES

All tournament entry fees are handled by the WPD Recreation Department. For auditing purposes, the WPD policy requires that all purchases, fees and services are to be made by WPD personnel. Manager will be issued W P D Travel Check Request forms which must be turned in when requesting tournament entry fees. When your team has exceeded \$750 in expenses, a check will not be issued until the proper form and payment is received by the Recreation Department.

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The WPD Business Office has the capability of issuing checks on a weekly basis. In order to request a check, we need paperwork. Information sheets are acceptable, and necessary for us to process the check. Team name and age group, coach's address, and phone number must be submitted with tournament information (see Check Request Form.)

If you have any questions, please call 630-668-3371. Please understand that this is park district policy and needs to be followed.

CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE

Park District Risk Management Agency issues an updated certificate of insurance each year. All requested certificates will be forwarded to the manager and tournament contact person. Please allow the Recreation Department five (5) days for certificates to be issued.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Wheaton Park District Youth Baseball/Softball Board of Control has adopted the "Character Counts!" program and all managers, coaches, players, and their parents will be required to sign program acceptance agreements.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The Wheaton Youth Softball Policies and Procedures and By-Laws apply to all travel teams, both pure and in-house.

NOTE: *In the interest of improving the Travel Program, the Board of Control may update these rules as deemed necessary.*