

Winterville Parks & Recreation Baseball  
Rules and Regulations



Rookie, Minor, Major  
Winterville, North Carolina  
Revised December 2021





## Foreword



### **Welcome to Winterville Baseball!**

There has never been a better time to participate in what many consider the premier baseball league in Pitt County! With just over 400 participants in baseball from ages 4-12 now is the ideal time to join Winterville Baseball and when you do, you will find the only roofed and lighted batting cage in Pitt County, outstanding concessions, tennis courts, walking trails, playground and many other park amenities.

Within the pages of this handbook you will find that we have tried to create a fun, family friendly baseball atmosphere that ensures each child has a fun, competitive, learning baseball experience. We have done our best to disperse the talent among teams, create playing rules that improve the speed of games and insure that the focus primarily is on teaching and having fun.

As we continue to evolve into a leader in the field of parks and recreation and youth baseball in Eastern North Carolina it is our hope that Winterville Baseball continues to grow and positively impact the lives of so many area families. We have examined just about every aspect that pertains to our youth baseball program. The changes we have made while subtle will ensure that your child has a fun, competitive, learning baseball experience, which is what we are all about!

So please, feel free to read this handout, ask questions, and check out the facilities. But do us a favor and get ready to become a part of the Winterville Baseball family. This will require dedication, hard work, volunteering, and fundraising on your part. But let us assure you, it will be worth it! In the end, not only will your child leave our program as a better baseball player, he or she will leave a better person filled with many great experiences spent on our baseball diamonds.

If you haven't caught it yet! Just wait, you will.

Winterville Baseball  
Catch the Fever!



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## Rule Discussion

Department Staff has final say for all local league rules and reserves right to change as necessary. Anyone who has a question regarding a rule or suggested rule change should submit in writing.

## Player Eligibility

- All players must be ages 7-12 as defined in the Babe Ruth League Birth Chart, unless otherwise noted within this handbook. The birth chart can be found on our website.
- It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**, that all players play with their appropriate age group. The following age participants **ONLY**, as defined by Babe Ruth Birth Chart, may play up one age group:
  - Six year old players may play in the Rookie League (7-8 yr olds).
  - Eight year old players may play in the Minor League (9-10 yr olds).
  - Ten year old players may play in the Major League (11-12 yr olds).
  - Twelve year old players may play in the Jr Babe Ruth League (13-15 yr olds)
  - **Players must play in age group for all other ages and divisions.**
- All players must live within Winterville Cal Ripken League boundaries. If you have a question regarding your location, please contact our Department.
- Players may only play in 1 recreation league during the regular season (i.e. a player is not permitted to be on a roster in Winterville and Greenville simultaneously). If a player is found to have dual participation they will be disqualified from participating in Winterville for applicable season.
- A player who is ejected by an umpire for any reason from a game must sit out a mandatory 1 game suspension. Additional penalties may apply at the discretion of Department.

## Player Evaluation

- The Department will set evaluation dates annually.
- All registered players (old and new) must participate in player evaluations in order to be selected on a team. The only exception is those players frozen by managers, children of managers and selected assistant coach (if any). Players will be rated by coaches and an independent staff of the Department's choosing. Players will be rated on hitting, fielding, throwing and overall athleticism. Players not able to attend evaluations will be placed in the supplemental draft taking place during the regular draft for their age group. These players names are randomly drawn for team assignment.
- If a registered returning player fails to be evaluated, they will be placed in the supplemental draft taking place during the regular draft for their age group. These players names are randomly drawn for team assignment
- If a registered new player fails to be evaluated they will be placed in the supplemental draft which takes place during the regular draft. These players names are randomly drawn for team assignment.
- Late Sign-ups (Signed up after evaluation days are over) shall be assigned to team only if spots remain open. If team's rosters are capped, due to size, by Department, then said prospective participants will be placed on a waiting list. Placement will be made by the Department and will be assigned to teams by random draw of teams with open roster slot. Note: Team rosters will never exceed 13 players for any reason. The Department will strive to keep rosters at 12 players per team. Being placed on a waiting list does not ensure that your child will get to participate. Sign up on time to ensure that he/she has a spot!

## Player Selection / Drafting Procedures

Developing parity among teams is of the highest priority to Winterville Baseball. While this involves re-drafting every season, several factors are taken into consideration. First, is the age division in an expansion year? If no, we draft via the non-expansion year rules. If the answer to expansion is yes, we draft via the expansion year rules. The reasoning behind this is that, as the league expands, there is a need to diversify the talent. Finally, as always, our

goal in Winterville is parity entering each draft. The Department reserves the right to make changes that in their opinion will ensure that we get as close to parity as possible.

### **Assistant Coach Pick**

A manager may utilize the Assistant Coach Pick. This is when manager names an assistant coach whose child is new to the roster. When Assistant Coach Pick is used, assistant's child is automatically first round draft pick. If an assistant coach's child is a returner to the roster then player may be frozen normally. Once Assistant Coach Pick is used by manager, said coach remains assistant coach each season as long as manager remains, same age group.

Example: Coach Fred uses Assistant Coach Pick for Bob's son Greg in Minor League. Bob will be Fred's assistant coach as long as Fred is coach of same Minor League roster.

Assistant Coach Pick may not be used to obtain player/coach from another returning roster, same age group. In other words, Assistant Coach Pick may only be used on players new to the league, age group, or, in the case of a contraction year, those players that would have returned to team that is contracted.

In reality, Assistant Coach Pick places roster one (1) player behind those teams not using Assistant Coach Pick. This difference is made up in catch-up round during draft. Catch-up round takes place two (2) rounds prior to last round of draft.

Example: If last round of draft is ten (10) then catch-up would be round eight (8).

Note: Assistant Coach Pick is counted as a frozen player.

### **Request for Player(s) to be Placed Back in Draft**

Parent(s) may request for their child(ren) to be placed back in draft even though returning to roster in same age group. Must send formal letter or e-mail to both Director and Recreation Program Supervisor, may be same document. Department Staff will review request and notify parties of decision. There must a very specific reason or extenuating circumstance for request to be granted. If request is granted, player may not be drafted by former team/coach.

### **Non-Expansion Year Draft Rules**

A manager may choose to freeze up to four (4) players. If manager chooses to freeze less than four (4) players, then they will fill spots via early supplemental draft. Assistant Coach Pick counts as frozen player.

Permissible Manager Freeze Options:

1. Manager's child or children– Required
2. Returning players
3. Assistant Coach Pick

In the case of a season that results in a contraction (reduced) amount of teams, the existing rosters that would be eliminated will be determined by the Department.

### **Expansion Year Draft Rules**

A manager may choose to freeze up to three (3) players. If manager chooses to freeze less than three (3) players, then they will fill spots via early supplemental draft. Assistant Coach Pick counts as frozen player.

Permissible Manager Freeze Options:

1. Manager's child or children – Required
2. Returning Players
3. Assistant Coach Pick

When new teams are added to the league, those teams will participate in a supplemental draft (see Supplemental Draft), prior to the actual draft in order to enable their rosters to reach the desired three (3) player limit.

If during an expansion year the league exceeds 10 teams, the teams will be broken into divisions. This division assignment will be made at the discretion of the Department.

### **Draft Rules**

- All managers must submit to the Department, their list of frozen players by date and time set forth by Staff. This includes Assistant Coach Pick (coach and player), if utilized. Assistant Coach Pick counts as a frozen player.

- The drafting order will be determined based on the previous year's regular season standings. In the case of an expansion year, new teams will be treated as a last place team or teams (if more than one expansion team) and a drawing will take place to determine expansion team(s) seeding.
- A serpentine draft will be used. As an example, in an 8 team league, the order would be as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> round would be 1 thru 8, 2<sup>nd</sup> round would be 8 thru 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> round would be 1 thru 8 and so on.
- Siblings:
  1. All siblings shall be placed on the same team. They shall count as two (2) or more draft picks. If team drafts sibling, one round will be skipped then must draft other sibling. If more than two (2) siblings, then process would continue until all are drafted.  
Example: Siblings Joe and Fred. Joe drafted in round four (4) then Fred must be drafted by same team in round six (6).
  2. Siblings returning to roster: Manager may freeze one child then draft the sibling. In this case, sibling would be drafted in round two (2). Freeze counts as round zero (0), coach drafts a player in round one (1) then takes sibling in round two (2).
  3. Siblings with at least one returning to roster and at least one new to age group: Manager may freeze returner then must draft sibling as described in item two (2).
  4. Child with sibling may be drafted in early supplemental draft. Early supplemental draft would count as round zero (0), coach drafts a player in round one (1), then takes sibling in round two (2)
  5. If manager has more than one child, all must be frozen.
  6. If assistant coach, obtained via Assistant Coach Pick, has more than one child, one child will be drafted in round one, skip a round, draft sibling in round three (3), etc.
- Players will be divided by the Department into maximum age and minimum age players and listed for purposes of the draft by age group in descending order according to the composite scores assigned by the independent evaluation team.
- Teams will be permitted to draft in either age. Close attention will be paid to ensure that teams remain at or below the maximum amount of older age players (8). See Roster size.

### **Supplemental Draft**

- A supplemental draft is held in three cases only. (1) When new teams are added to the league. (2) When new managers choose not to retain players from previous years' roster. (3) When players fail to show for the evaluation date(s).
- Supplemental Draft 1 & 2: Supplemental draft is needed due to new teams being added to league and/or players not being retained by managers. Teams will draft based on the reverse order of previous years' standings. New team(s) would be considered last place finishing team(s) from prior year. If more than one (1) new team then new teams would be drawn at random for seeding. This supplemental draft shall take place prior to regular draft and will consist of players not retained by teams in the league (i.e., older aged kids in that age group).
- Supplemental Draft 3: If a supplemental draft is needed due to players missing evaluations, this will take place during the regular draft. It will be based on a random draw (i.e., names drawn from a hat). This ensures that players who consider themselves to be above average do not skip evaluations under the premise that they can hide their talent and go unnoticed so that they can be drafted by a coach who "knows them".

### **Roster Size**

- Rosters shall consist of no more than eight (8) older players in each age group. Only under certain conditions approved by the Department prior to the draft, will any team be permitted to have more than eight (8) older players on a roster.
- Roster limits will be 13 per team Preferred roster size for all age groups is 12 players.

## Managers / Coaches

In order to manage or coach in Winterville, all coaches must fill out a coaching application. Every manager must successfully pass the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) Certification course. This is to be completed each year and will be paid for by Department. Assistant coaches are encouraged to obtain the NYSCA certification though the Babe Ruth / Cal Ripken Baseball Certification will be accepted in lieu of. Assistant coach certification will be obtained at own expense. In addition, because youth sports coaches are so instrumental in the development of a child, we will be running background checks on our coaches as well. By doing so, we hope to ensure that our coaches focus on effort, good sportsmanship, skill development and fun. If you're not on a roster, you will not be permitted to be in the dugout or on the field of play during game. This includes scorekeepers. Exception is "dugout parent/coach" at Rookie level.

- Managers will be assigned teams by the Department via random hat pick. No manager shall pick roster to inherit. Exception: Manager will automatically inherit roster if their child is returning to roster in same age group.
- Managers / coaches must be at least 18 years of age.
- Managers may use one (1) Assistant Coach Pick to select one (1) assistant coach. The other coach (assistant #2) will have to be chosen after all teams have been drafted, unless assistant #2 has child returning to roster.
- All managers and coaches will be required to wear the uniform shirt and hat of their assigned team. These uniforms and hats are not transferable to others in case of your absence.

## Game Schedules, Cancellations, & Game Rescheduling

The Winterville Parks & Recreation Department will create and manage baseball schedules. Each team should play one (1) to two (2) games per week and in some instances may play three (3). All regular season games will be scheduled during the week (Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.) and on occasional Saturday's. Wednesday evenings will be utilized as rainout / makeup nights on a regular basis. Weeknight game times will be 6:00pm and 7:45pm, 8:00 pm on Friday. The Department does not intend on scheduling games on Sunday's however, if the need arises we reserve the right to do so. Every effort will be made to play games as scheduled however, in the case of inclement weather please call our **Rainout Line: 353-8697** or contact your manager.

Game cancellations and rescheduling games affect many including, but not limited to, players, parents, coaches, game officials, Department Staff, etc. As a result, it is standard practice to play games unless doing so puts those involved at an unnecessary risk. Department Staff (only) has the right/ability to cancel games. On weekdays, decision to cancel games will typically be made by 4:00 p.m., day of. If games are cancelled or rescheduled, Department Staff will communicate cancellations with coaches. Coaches will communicate information with players and parents. Department staff will also make cancellation info available on website, via text (must sign up with cell phone number and agree to receive texts in ActiveNet) and rainout line, (252) 215-2441.

Below are the only circumstances under which games will be cancelled or rescheduled.

1. Weather or other unforeseeable circumstances which make field unsafe for play.
2. Weather or other unforeseeable circumstances which make travel to/from game unsafe.
3. Official school functions including, but not limited to: school dances, open house, parent-teacher conference, graded school function, etc. Under this circumstance games would only be cancelled if enough players are affected that result is lack of players to field regulation team.
4. Lack of players to field a regulation team due to illness.

The Department reserves the right to adjust the schedules as needed for unusual, unforeseen, or extenuating circumstances.

## Game Rules

### **Game Time / Length**

Our goal is to complete 6 innings of play. By doing so we hope to ensure that each player is assured of reaching the minimum playing time rule. **For specific game lengths please see age group specific rules below.**

### **Extra Innings**

If the game is tied after 6 innings or time is up, we will use international tie breaker rules to complete the game. One runner (last player out in previous inning) will be placed on second base with zero outs. We will play by this rule each extra inning until a winner is determined.

### **Players Required to Begin Game**

A team may begin a game with eight (8). If team begins a game with eight (8) players, then first time ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) player would come up it is an automatic out. After first (1<sup>st</sup>) time, no additional automatic outs. Game played as normal.

### **All Play Rule**

Every player must have batted once and played in the field for 6 defensive outs in every game. **The ONLY exception** is when the game is called due to the 10-run rule or a game is called due to time. If game is called early (prior to 6 complete innings), every player must have one at bat **or** played in the field for 3 defensive outs, if 4 complete innings. If the Department determines that a child would not have received their minimum time even if the game went a complete 6 innings, this will be treated as if the rule was broken. If a player does not get his/her required playing time, they must start the next game. The penalty for not adhering to said rule for the manager is as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> offense: Player plays every inning of next game

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Player plays every inning of next game and manager suspended 1 game.

3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Removal from coaching.

**Note:** A player may be disciplined and not receive his/her minimum playing time. Both the Department and parents of said player should be notified of this action prior to it being taken. If there is a dispute about the coaches' decision to discipline a player, the Department will determine whether the action is justified.

### **Major and Minor League Game Rules (9-12 yr old)**

The following rules govern game play for the Winterville Cal Ripken League during the Spring Season. Unless stated below, the league will be governed by the Babe Ruth League Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules

1. Time limit: No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 25 minutes. The umpire keeps the official game time on a timer located on the backstop and shall alert both managers as to when the clock starts and stops prior to the start of the game. Friday and Saturday games, no new inning starting after 1 hr 50 min.

**Note:** A player may be disciplined and not receive his/her minimum playing time. Both the Department and parents of said player should be notified of this action prior to it being taken. If there is a dispute about the coaches' decision to discipline a player, the Department will determine whether the action is justified.

2. Free substitution is allowed on defense.
3. However **legal**, it is highly recommended to teach the kids to not slide head first into home plate.
4. There will be an EH (only), allowed in the Winterville Cal Ripken League. No AH or Designated hitter will be allowed.
5. Teams may use a courtesy runner for their catcher with two (2) outs in an inning. The person selected to run must be a bench player or a player who has been removed from the game. They cannot be a player in or among the nine (9) currently listed in the lineup. The only exception to this would be if only nine (9) players are at the game. Then the courtesy runner would be the player who made the last out.



6. Pitchers will be permitted to throw six (6) warm up pitches to begin the game. Each subsequent inning they will be permitted to throw three (3) pitches prior to the inning beginning. Relief pitchers will be given unlimited pitches to warm up. The umpires will be instructed to enforce this rule in order to speed up game play.
7. Umpires will enforce twenty second rule as it applies to pitchers.
8. There will no more than three (3) coaches in the Dugouts. This includes scorekeepers. When a Team is batting, only the base coaches will be allowed outside of the dugout on the playing field. When on defense, a team may have only 1 coach outside the dugout on the playing field. Parents and siblings are NOT PERMITTED in the dugouts while games are in progress.
9. The official book will be kept by the home team. The umpire crew will handle and solve all problems.
10. Each manager is responsible for turning in a scorecard at the conclusion of their game. The collection boxes for the scorecards are located in concession stands.
11. The Director has the final say in any ruling in regards to the Winterville Cal Ripken League.

### **Rookie League Game Rules (7-8 yr old)**

The following rules govern game play for the Winterville Cal Ripken League during the Spring Season. Unless stated below, the league will be governed by the Babe Ruth League Rules and Regulations and Official Playing Rules.

1. Time Limit- No new inning may start after 1 and 25 minutes.
2. Innings- Each inning consists of 3 outs or 5 runs whichever comes first.
3. Free substitution is allowed on defense.
4. 10 players will be allowed on defense; the 10<sup>th</sup> player will play in the outfield. All players must maintain their position regardless of the batter. Unlimited substitution allowed on defense.
5. Everyone bats on offense. However, every team must declare at the beginning of the game (plate meeting) how many players they have for that game. If one team has more players in attendance than opposing team, team with more players may choose to bat the same number of players as opposing team, or all players in attendance. For example, if team A has 13 players and Team B has 10 players then Team A may bat 10 or 13 players. This will be set at the plate meeting and cannot be changed for duration of game. If Team A were to bat 10 players, this team will actually have 3 players on the bench and will have to substitute those 3 players into designated lineup positions throughout the game in order to ensure that every child has batted at least once. These substitutions will be unlimited but must be declared to the umpire and opposing team.
6. Only the Head Coach will be allowed to address the umpire.
7. Batting out of turn- If a player is caught batting out of turn, the child is not out. Have the proper batter bat and return to the proper order.
8. Defense players must play either in front of or behind the base paths. The pitcher must be beside or behind the machine and be within arms length (players arm), of the machine. The pitcher may not break (i.e., move forward, backward, left or right) until the ball reaches the plate/batter.
9. Domination Rule-The purpose of this rule is to prevent older, faster players from dominating the game on defense. The spirit of this rule is to prevent plays, which are not “normal” or “reasonable” baseball plays. If the umpire determines that the defense has broken the domination rule, they may call the base runner in question safe.
  - Shortstop or 1<sup>st</sup> baseman may not run down a runner at home plate. This rule is in effect for all positions. In other words, any infield position may not run a player down more than 1 base from their position (i.e., 2<sup>nd</sup> base can't run home).

- The pitcher may not cover home plate for a force out or play at the plate unless the catcher is (a) hurt and lying immobile on the field or (b) throwing the ball to the pitcher.
  - All balls should be thrown and not rolled. Encourage the kids to throw for the out.
  - The defense must stop the lead runner for play to stop. Players are not permitted to field the ball and run in calling time. This does not stop play. The lead runner must, in the judgment of the umpire, have stopped his/her forward progress. Only the umpire may call time.
10. Bunting will be allowed in a modified form. Each team is permitted to bunt one (1) time per inning. If the team has already used their bunt and a second batter bunts, the batter will be considered out and no runners will be allowed to advance. Unintentional “swinging bunts” are not considered a bunt. This is a judgment call by the umpire. The department highly encourages coaches to not ask the same player to bunt every time he/she comes to the plate.
  11. If a batted ball hits the machine or person-loading machine, the ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base. All other runners advance 1 base.
  12. There will be **no** stealing bases. Players must remain on base until ball is hit.
  13. Teams may use a courtesy runner for their catcher with two (2) outs in an inning. The the courtesy runner would be the player who made the last out.
  14. Each player will receive 5 pitches from the pitching machine. If after 5 pitches the batter has not hit the ball, he or she is out. **Exceptions:** On the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch, if it is foul tipped the batter receives another pitch. No limit to foul offs. There are no walks at this level.
  15. The pitching machine designated as the game use only machine will be used during all rookie ball games. These machines will be plainly marked and all managers will have access to the machines. It is the responsibility of the home team manager to set up the machine prior to each game and the visiting manager’s job to put the machine up after every game. The machine must be secured to the ground using the tools provided in the bucket beside each game machine.
  16. The pitching machine shall be set at notch (8) for all games played for the first half of the season. For the second half of the season, through the conclusion of the end of season tournament, the machine shall be set on notch (10). Exact will be determined and conveyed to managers by Department each year.
  17. All pitches count as thrown pitches unless they are above the chest or hit the dirt before the plate. If the machine throws 2 consecutive bad pitches, the game shall be halted and the machine adjusted. This is the judgment of the umpire.

### **Practices / Attendance**

While practice schedules and times are at the discretion of every manager (slots will be assigned prior to the start of official practices), it is the intent of the Department that each team practices a minimum of 2 times per week prior to the start of the regular season and no more than 5 times per week. Due to field availability issues, it may require your team to look for somewhere to practice (i.e., batting cage, someone’s yard, etc.).

Once the season begins, each team is expected to practice at least once per week, not more than 3 times per week, including weekends. Violations of this rule could result in suspension of the manager for their team’s next game played. Further violations could result in termination of the manager’s duties. Practices are necessary in every athletic activity and it is the responsibility of every parent and child to make sure that they attend each and every practice unless otherwise excused by the manager. If your child fails to participate in a substantial amount of practices, it may affect his or her playing time during games. If this occurs, the Department will be contacted by the manager prior to a game so that we are aware that said child may not meet the minimum playing requirements due to team rule violations. We ask for your support on this issue because it is imperative that everyone who practices plays and if you fail to practice there may very well be consequences.

Please abide by the rules set up below regarding the use of our fields. If anyone is caught breaking these rules, access to the fields will be limited to games only. PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN! While using the

McLawhorn Field, Kiwanis Field, and the new field, please follow these rules. Failure to follow said rules will result in your teams' field usage being removed.

- Infield Protection Tarp in place on McLawhorn Field. It may be rolled back to work on bunt defense but must be returned prior to ground balls being hit.
- No scrimmage games may be played without the approval of the Department.
- Batting Practice is discouraged on the McLawhorn Field though due to field space, it is not prohibited. Teams are encouraged to utilize a different field (if available) for aforementioned practice/drill.
- All equipment bags in dugouts (not on grass)
- Horseplay (i.e., sliding in outfield grass, digging in field, throwing of equipment, etc.) is prohibited.
- Hitting into fences is not permitted (AKA Soft toss)
- All trash is to be placed in appropriate trash bins
- All equipment removed from dugouts
- Ensure that you have knowledge that the lights (if on) are set to go off. When in doubt call!

### **Standings & Tiebreakers**

Standings will be made available in the Department lobby as well as on Town's website. The Department will publish scores in the local newspapers and on the website on a weekly basis. It is imperative that each coach turn in a scorecard, as it will have all pertinent information and will be what we publish.

In the case of any ties, we will use the following methods to determine the order of finish.

1. Head to head competition
2. Runs Allowed in league play
3. Runs Scored in league play
4. Coin flip

### **Team Names**

The Department will assign team names to each team. We will be using MLB and MiLb team names and jerseys. Ages 9-12 will wear MLB team uniforms. Ages 7-8 will wear Minor League team uniforms. Team names will be confirmed after the draft has taken place in order to prevent teams from implying that they must have a certain player because a sponsor wants them to coach their kid. Sponsorships of our teams are just that. They do not in any way provide for additional privilege or rights for any player or coach.

### **Equipment**

- Each manager will be issued one complete set of equipment and one (1) dozen practice baseballs for use prior to the first scheduled practice. Each manager is requested to assure proper care of the league's equipment while in his custody and control. If for whatever reason, your equipment is damaged or lost, please contact the Department.
- At the conclusion of the End of Season Tournament, each manager shall be responsible for turning in their equipment, except balls.
- Uniforms, scorebooks, equipment and game report forms will be issued to every team prior to the first game.

### **Batting Cage Policy**

- The Department utilizes as many as four (4) or five (5) fields on any given night. There are three (3) full length cages which can be divided to form six (6) cages. Please be respectful of all as there are many teams wanting to use the cages, with limited space. Priority use is given to League teams for use during scheduled games/practice.
- On game days, teams will split cages based upon field assignment. Visitors will be utilizing the ½ cage on the southern end of the assigned cage. The Home team will utilize the ½ cage on the northern end (see table below).
- On practice days, teams will have priority in the assigned cage 30 minutes prior to their field practice time.

- Each team is limited to 30 minutes in the batting cages. However, if no team is waiting at the end of the 30 minutes, a team may continue to use the cages until another team comes. At that time, the team must immediately forfeit the cage.
- Aside from the above rules, batting cages are available on a first come, first served basis. **If there is no conflict**, teams may use any batting cage at any time for as long as they like.

Field Assignment	Cage	Description
McLawnhorn	1	Cage #1 North End
McLawnhorn	1	Cage #1 South End
Ruritan	2	Cage #2 North End
Ruritan	2	Cage #2 South End
Kiwanis	3	Cage #3 North End
Kiwanis	3	Cage #3 South End

### **All-Star Manager/Player Selection (All Divisions)**

Other than the draft very few things are as controversial as the selection of an all-star team to represent a league. Why is that? Well in most cases only 12 or 13 players are chosen to represent an entire league. And at least half of the parents believe that their child belongs on the all star team. Now, they may not believe that their child is an all star but they know that their son or daughter is at least as good as one of the players they see selected to the team. Well, he did out-hit that other boy in the two games when they played my son's team - didn't he? It is not the first eight or nine players chosen that are controversial (everyone knows they belong) but rather the last two or three. Here in Winterville, there are two reasons that all-stars are selected: First, to honor those who had outstanding seasons and secondly, to put together a team that will be competitive with other teams in the areas or regions where the all-star competition is held.

Therefore, in order to alleviate some of the misconceptions among parents as to how all stars are selected we have listed our rules concerning all stars in its entirety. As you will see, we try very hard to eliminate any collusion or improper player selections to our all star teams. While this process may not be perfect, it is up front, self explanatory and fair to all players in our league.

#### **Manager Selection**

- The All Star Manager will be the manager from the team with the best regular season record in each division.
- The manager from the second best team will be awarded the other all star team in that age group. If no manager wants to manage an all star team, the Department will accept application (verbal) to become manager. If this happens the Department will determine the manager based on applications. In some rare instances, the Department reserves the right to name the manager or manage a team.
- Each All Star Manager must name 2 official assistant coaches. One of which must be a manager from another team in the league. If no other manager wishes to serve as an assistant coach, then assistant coach may be chosen from regular season roster aside from that of the managers.

#### **Player Selection**

- If players are playing up, outside of their age group, they will be eligible for all star team in league's (age group) closest available age:
  - Example: A six year old playing in Rookie League would eligible for seven year old all star team.
- Each manager may nominate as many players from their regular season roster for all star consideration as they wish. Managers should be prepared to justify their nominations.
- Managers are also asked to confirm with the parents of players of who they are nominating as to whether the player and parent can commit to the demands of an all star team schedule (i.e., 6 or 7 practice days a week for 3 weeks straight, multiple scrimmage games, travel, long hours at the field).....note these are examples of teams from prior years.
- **All managers must attend an All Star Vote.** This meeting will be attended by the managers and the Department ONLY. **No alternative person may fill in for a manager.**

- Only 12 players will be selected per team. No alternates will be selected. If an alternate is needed for any reason, the manager will make the selection from the list of remaining all star nominee's.

### **Voting**

- All managers will vote for 9 (minor & major) or 10 (rookie) players in the first round of voting. Only players who were nominated by their manager are on the all star ballot.  
Note: Managers may not vote for players from their teams.
- Any player receiving a unanimous vote will make the team (9 maximum).
- In the second round of voting, managers will vote for however many slots remain open (i.e., if 5 players make the team in the first round, that leaves 4 slots to vote for in the second round).
- This procedure will continue until all 9 spots are filled.
- The manager of the All Star team then has 24 hrs. to notify the Department of his final 3 selections to the team.

### **All-Star Player & Coach Commitment**

- All-Star teams that qualify to advance to next tournament in tournament trail (ex. qualifying for State Tournament in Area Tournament) must compete in said tournament. While some parents, coaches, players, etc. may not want to participate in the next tournament, for any given reason, many or most will want to.
  - If, at any time, a player selected to, and participating on, an all-star team quits, that child will not be permitted to participate on an all-star team the following season. This is not fair to the team as a whole, players, coaches, and other prospective all-star players.
    - Exception: If child has to leave team due to extenuating circumstances. This will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
  - If, at any time, a coach selected to, and participating on, an all-star team quits, that coach will not be permitted to participate on an all-star team the following season. This is not fair to the team as a whole, players,, coaches, and other prospective all-star players.
    - Exception: If coach has to leave team due to extenuating circumstances. This will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

### **Responsibilities of an All Star Player and Parent**

- First and foremost, being selected an all star team is a privilege and an honor. It is however a big responsibility in regards to time and money. If for any reason you do not believe that your child can commit his or her time, effort and resources to pursue all stars, please let the manager and the Department know immediately.
- Upon making an all star team, every all star player contributes \$30 towards the purchase of his or her uniform shirt, hat, and socks. This contribution will help to offset the enormous cost incurred by the Department in regards to all star uniform, and travel.
- Every player selected to an all star team in Winterville is expected to attend every practice. It is the player and his or her parent's responsibility to get them to practice on time. Failure to practice can and will result in a reduction of playing time and or removal from the team.
- Cal Ripken All Star play does not have a minimum playing time requirement. Over the years Winterville has followed this rule. However, we have decided that it is in the best interest of the players involved that we guarantee each player some form of minimum play if that player has been participating in scheduled team activities (i.e., practices, scrimmages, etc.) This means that every player must participate in each game in the following manner: All players will play at least 3 defensive outs or have at least 1 at bat during each official all star game. Failure to follow this rule will result in the following penalty: 1<sup>st</sup> offense (player must start and play 3 innings of the following game, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense player must play entire following game and manager is suspended for that game. If an infraction occurs during the last game played in a tournament (i.e., championship game or elimination game), manager will be prohibited from being manager for an all star team the following year (may assist).
- Players who do not conform to all star team rules (i.e., excessive absence from practices, poor sportsmanship, etc.) do not fall under the aforementioned playing time rule as long as the Department and parents of said player have been consulted with (prior to game), regarding the reasons why player is sitting the bench for the entire game.
- Winterville Parks & Recreation frequently hosts All Star tournaments (District and State). If your child makes all stars, please be prepared to volunteer your time to help out at these events. It is the only way we can afford to send teams to all star tournaments (i.e., fundraising).

### Field Preparation & Maintenance

Facility preparation and maintenance is a top priority for WPR. The following responsibilities are instituted for baseball managers and participants. Therefore, we are asking that every team complete these rules following every game.

- Trash pickup: It is the managers' responsibility to ensure that his or her dugout is clean and orderly following the conclusion of their game. In addition, each manager is responsible for ensuring that the trash around their home/visitor side of the field has been picked up prior to departing the park. Failure to obey this rule constitutes a one game suspension for the manager from the park for the following game on the first and second offenses. The third and following offenses will result in forfeiture of the next following game.

**Note to Parents:** While it ultimately is the manager's responsibility, they have given a lot to coach your child. Please help ensure this task is done correctly every time.

### Scorekeeping

**Unless scorekeeper is provided by the Department, the home team from each game is required to provide a scoreboard operator.** This person MUST be at least 16 years old and must be willing to work the game in its entirety. In addition, only the scoreboard operators and the team's official bookkeepers will be permitted in the press box. **There will be no children, and no loitering in the press box area.** Scoreboard operators will be responsible for cleaning up after themselves at the conclusion of each game. In addition, whenever there is a difference of more than 12 runs in any game at any level, the scoreboard operator will not add any more runs to the winning teams total unless the difference becomes less than 12 runs officially. In other words, regardless of the actual score, we will not post a margin of more than 12 runs on our scoreboards.

### **Official Book**

The official book will be kept by the Department, if scorekeeper provided or home team if no Department scorekeeper. The umpire crew will handle and solve all problems. If there is not a Department scorekeeper, each manager is responsible for turning in a scorecard at the conclusion of their game. The collection box for the scorecards will be located in the concession stand.

### Fundraising

In case you were not aware, the registration fee that you paid for your child to participate does not cover all the costs incurred by Winterville Parks & Recreation in the operation of this baseball league. Each year we identify several projects that we as a Department would like to accomplish and without the aid of fundraising, these projects would not happen. Some successful fundraisers over the past few years have aided in the funding of the following projects: Batting cages, field renovations, reel mower, playground safety surfacing and much more.

As you can imagine, it is impossible for us to accomplish these and other projects without the help of each and every child and family. So please do your part and sell every fundraising ticket your child has. That money will go a long way to helping our Department provide a great facility for your child and for the children that follow in their footsteps.

### **Team Sponsorships**

Every year the Department is in need of team sponsors. Since we use MLB replica jerseys, we will place the sponsors name on the back of the uniforms across the shoulders. Specific team's names and sponsorship are assigned after the draft takes place in late February. The Department will strive to ensure that every sponsor is assigned to the team their child is drafted on (if applicable). However, we do not guarantee that this will be the case in every situation.

Cost for a team sponsorship is as follows:  
7-8 yr old (rookie).....\$300

9-10 yr old (minors)...\$325  
11-12 yr old (majors)...\$325

In order to sponsor a team, you must complete, sign, and return a contract provided by the Department. By signing the contract, you are agreeing to pay the Department the aforementioned sponsorship fees no later than April 1, 4013.

### **Field Signs**

In order to generate further revenue the Department is selling signage on all three outfield fences at the park. Cost for a sign is \$300 for the initial year and \$200 for every year thereafter. Sign contracts can be picked up at the Parks & Recreation Department or on the league website.

### **League Conduct Rules and Zero Tolerance Policy**

1. Due to the national attention youth sports sometimes receives due to poor sportsmanship, the Department has taken a proactive no tolerance stand towards any unsportsmanlike act or conduct. Our goal is to provide a FUN, positive and supportive atmosphere for the players, staff and spectators.
2. No team, team member, coach or assistant coach that is under suspension shall be eligible to compete in any league play which is sanctioned by the Winterville Parks and Recreation Department.
3. A team, team member, coach or spectator may be disqualified from play or the park for a number of infractions including, but not limited to, those listed below:
4. **Ejection from a game** will result in an automatic (1) one game suspension for the first offense. Second offense is a (2) game suspension. Any further infractions will result in automatic suspension from league. All suspensions will roll over into the next season.
5. **Using flagrant obscene language or displaying flagrant actions considered as unsportsmanlike gestures or other unsportsmanlike conduct.** Penalty – (2) Two game suspension for first offense. Second offense is automatic suspension from league. All suspensions will roll over into the next season.
6. **Physical violence involving a player, coach, spectator, scorekeeper or official during time of play, preceding or following a game.** Penalty – up to (5) five-year suspension-Automatic season suspension.
7. **Verbal threats or harassment made by a player, spectator or coach directed to another player, coach, spectator, or game official.** Penalty – (1) one game suspension for first offense. Second offense is automatic suspension from league. All suspensions will roll over into the next season.
8. **Commission of Fraud** – Any false information (name, address, birth date, school they attend) concerning a participant that make them ineligible to participate in the Winterville Parks and Recreation Department. **Penalty** – Removal of that participant and team will forfeit all games that participant played in.
9. **Use of tobacco or alcoholic beverages is prohibited at all Winterville Parks and Recreation Department youth activities (on field).** Penalty – Verbal warning for the first offense. Second offense is a (1) one game suspension. Any further infractions will result in automatic suspension from league. All suspensions will roll over into the next season.
10. **Failure to provide Winterville Parks and Recreation Department, officials and/or proper club authorities with the name/s of player/s, coach/s or spectator/s involved in any infraction when requested to do so.** Penalty – two (2) game suspension for first offense. Second offense is automatic suspension from league. All suspensions will roll over into the next season.
11. **Any player, coach, spectator, official, scorekeeper or supervisor bringing any firearm or weapon that is not a Law Officer into any Town facility or park, except as permitted in Town Ordinance.** Penalty

- automatic indefinite suspension from all Winterville Parks and Recreation sponsored Events and the Winterville Police Department will be contacted.

12. **Coaches and Officials MUST stand at mid-/field and supervise teams shaking hands at the end of games. Anyone acting in an unsportsmanlike manner.** Penalty - (1) one game suspension for first offense. Second offense is automatic suspension from league. All suspensions will roll over into the next season.

**Winterville Parks and Recreation Department has instructed officials to issue this warning to teams at the pre-game conference.**

- Players and coaches, who use foul language that can be clearly heard by spectators, coaches or officials will be ejected without any additional warning.
- Player, coaches or spectators displaying unsportsmanlike conduct will be ejected without any additional warning.
- Coaches and Recreation Clubs are responsible for team or fans actions directed towards league officials. Coaches will be given one (1) verbal warning for spectator conduct. For everyone's safety and enjoyment, it is important for you to control the problems a few players, coaches or spectators may create.
- If a coach pulls their team off the field during a game. The game will be forfeited to the opposing team and the coach will be suspended for the next two games and will be on probation for the remainder of the year.