

2022

WARNER ROBINS PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL RULES

Dear Parents:

We, the staff of the Warner Robins Parks & Recreation Department are asking for your full cooperation and understanding during the upcoming program in which your child will be involved.

We hope that each of you will realize that any type of decisions we make concerning our program will be in the best interest of the youth. We strive to please everyone, but as you know, this is a difficult task. Also, we welcome any suggestions that you may have because we sincerely want our program to be the best for the youth of Houston County.

A great deal of time has been spent to prepare this booklet to enlighten you as to how the baseball and softball program is operated, what the rules are, and what important dates you need to keep in mind. Please give us a few minutes of your time and read this material.

Thank you

The playing rules as adopted by the Warner Robins Parks & Recreation Department will be the governing rules of the program, and all involved in the program, be it player, coach, or spectator, shall abide by these rules.

The Field Director is the Departments' staff member in charge of that particular field. It is his responsibility to see that the rules set forth by the departments are followed. He has the authority to suspend coaches, players, and spectators for flagrant violations of any rules.

Any suggestions for improvement of the program shall be referred to the respective department in writing.

AGE CONTROL DATE: Girls (4-17) age prior to January 1 of 2021; Boys (4 – 17) -age prior to September 1 of 2022. The age of a child on December 31 or August 31 will determine which division he or she will compete in. Certification of age may be by birth certificate, regulation military identification cards, State of Georgia driver's license, and learning permit, government I.D. from U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization, and passports.

LEAGUES: (Boys) Blast Ball - 4 year olds; Tee Ball - 5 & 6 year olds, fundamental training program; Minor League Coach Pitch - 7 & 8 year olds; Minor League Live Pitch - 9 & 10 year olds; Major League - 11 & 12 year olds; Junior League - 13 & 14 year olds; Senior League - 15,16 & 17 year olds.

(Girls) Blast Ball - 4 year olds; Tee Ball- 5 & 6 year olds; Minor League Coach Pitch - 7 & 8 year olds; Minor League Softball - 9 & 10 year olds; Major League - 11 & 12 year olds; Junior/Senior League – 13 - 17 year olds.

SUSPENDED GAME: All rained out games, or games called off due to light failure, etc., will be replayed according to little league, high school, ASA or USSSA rules, as pertaining to our local rules. Games will be resumed from the point they were interrupted, if the game cannot be considered a complete game by the number of innings played.

GRACE PERIOD: A ten-minute grace period will be allowed for the first game only. If a team cannot field their required amount of players after this grace period, the game will be forfeited.

ALL LEAGUES -- EVERY GAME:

1. After outs, ball must be returned to mound.
2. Three warm ups per inning for same pitcher including throw down.
3. One minute to get on field and be ready to play after last out.
4. Next batter due up must stay in the on deck circle behind batter.
5. All equipment issued by Recreation Departments is to be considered legal equipment.

SUSPENSION:

1. Any coach or player being ejected from a game will be suspended from the next game also. This suspension includes park attendance. However, depending on the act, a coach/player/spectator may be suspended for more than one game. On the second offense, suspension from the program.

2. Any player or coach who is caught abusing equipment (throwing helmet, sitting on a helmet, throwing bat or hitting rocks or fence posts with bat) will be suspended from the game in progress and from the next game also.

RESCHEDULED GAMES: There will be no rescheduled games once the original schedule is published. Teams that are unable to field the necessary number to start the game on that date will have to forfeit. Rained out games will be rescheduled depending on field and staff availability. (COACHES WILL NOT HAVE A SAY IN THE SCHEDULING OF MAKE-UP GAMES)

NO STEEL CLEATS ALLOWED in all of girls' softball and boys' baseball ages 4 - 12.

NO PRACTICES ON SUNDAY!!

TEAM MEETINGS: Limited to 3 times per week (Monday-Saturday).

PLAYING FIELDS: The overall responsibility of the upkeep of the playing Fields will be under the supervision of the recreation department.

Distances between all bases shall be as listed below according to League, under "BASES", and the distance between home plate and the front side of the pitcher's rubber shall be as listed under "PLATE/MOUND":

<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>BASES</u>	<u>PLATE/MOUND</u>
Blast Ball	35 ft.	
Tee Ball	45 ft.	40 ft.
Minor Coach Pitch	60 ft.	35 ft.
Minor Baseball	60 ft.	46 ft.
Minor Softball	60 ft.	35 ft.
Major Baseball	60 ft.	46 ft.
Major Softball	60 ft.	40 ft.
Junior/Senior Softball	60 ft.	43 ft.
Junior Baseball	90 ft.	60 ft. 6 in
Senior Baseball	90 ft.	60 ft. 6 in.

GRIEVANCES:

1. Any complaints, protests, or grievances that occur during the course of a game shall be decided on the spot by either/or both the umpire-in-chief and scorekeeper of the game.
2. The umpire-in-chief shall be in charge of all playing rules and on- the-field conduct of players and coaches. The scorekeeper and/or staff member shall be responsible for and shall make decisions concerning league rules.
Example: Pitching rules if different from high school rulebook; substitution rules; line-ups, etc.
3. In case of error or mistake in settling grievances or protests on the spot by either the scorekeeper or umpire-in-chief, the host department reserves the right to make the final decision.
4. Forfeits: Umpires do not have the authority to forfeit a ball game. The respective department will have the final decision in *any* forfeits. During the course of a game, if *any* coach refuses to finish the game, or in *any* way obstructs the continuance of play, the game will be continued with a member of the host department staff to coach the team - the coach will be ejected from the playing field and the program. (If the team players refuse to continue play, the game will be forfeited in favor of the opposing team.)
5. Post season games other than those sponsored by the respective departments will not be allowed.

SELECTION OF PLAYERS:

- 1. Every participant in a program must file an application within the time established by the recreation department. This includes participants from last season.**
- 2. Age control dates and leagues are established for each program.**
- 3. Brother/Sister options will be met.**
- 4. Returning players(in that same age group) will be allowed.**
- 5. Assignments will be done to balance the teams as near as possible with age and ability (Tee Ball and Blast Ball only).**
- 6. Managers must accept all players assigned or drafted to their team, and NO player will be dropped because of ability.**
- 7. NO trading of players is allowed after assignments have been made.**
- 8. Each team roster will carry a minimum set by the respective department, and a maximum number of players for all leagues in baseball and softball.**
- 9. Once a player signs up at the Warner Robins Parks & Recreation Department, he or she may not play with another league once the season begins. Penalty: Player will be given the choice as to which team he/she wants to play on. Player will be suspended from chosen team's next game including regular season games, play-off games and tournament games.**
- 10. Only children of the manager will be assigned to parent's team if requested in Blast Ball and Tee Ball.**
- 11. Players that miss three (3) consecutive unexcused practices (8U – Jr/Sr boys and girls) will only be required to play 1 inning and 1 at bat. The recreation department must be made aware after the second consecutive missed practice so we can make contact with the parent. This rule will not apply if the department hasn't been made aware.**

PLAYERS' POOL:

Participants who sign up after leagues are filled will be placed in the players' pool according to date registered. They will be assigned to a team in need according to their players' pool listing, which is kept according to the date such players registered.

1. Players that miss four (4) consecutive sessions (practices and/or games) without sufficient reason will be removed from the active roster. The athletic department of the respective department shall determine what reasons are acceptable. Player thus removed from the active roster will be replaced immediately as set forth herein.

TOBACCO USAGE:

The use of TOBACCO PRODUCTS will be PROHIBITED in the spectator area (bleachers and around bleachers), along the outside of the playing field fence and on the playing field. Violators will be asked to leave. This rule will apply at the Warner Robins Parks & Recreation Department fields.

Parents, as well as coaches, fans and league administrators must be drugs; tobacco and alcohol free at youth sports activities. Because of their influence, they must refrain from smoking or chewing tobacco, alcohol consumption, or use of chemicals at Youth Sport Activities.

COACHES RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The respective department will approve the manager for each team.
2. Each manager may select 3 assistants in Blast ball – Tee Ball Leagues; two (2) assistants in Minor - Senior leagues provided they are approved by the respective department. We ask that you select your assistants from the parents of the children assigned to your team.
3. Managers and their assistants will be required to comply with the policies established by the departments and all must have an approved application on file with the respective department.
4. It is the manager's responsibility to see that players are not left unattended at practices and games. Practices will not begin until all team assignments are made. Practice fields will be assigned by the respective department.
5. It is the manager's responsibility to see that all equipment is taken care of and returned at the end of the season, or value of equipment paid for if not returned.
6. Managers are responsible for letting their respective department know of any players that have quit, and of returning the uniforms of such players before receiving new player from pool.
7. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs of any kind are allowed on any recreation premises.

- 8. First and third base coaches need not be in uniform to occupy the coach's box.**
- 9. Only the manager and coaches will be allowed inside the dugout or playing field during the game. They may not be changed during the course of the game.**
- 10. Manager's and coach's actions at all times will be governed by the overall intent of the Baseball & Softball for Youth Program and in the best interest of his/her team.**
- 11. Managers and coaches are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times. Profanity will not be tolerated. Always remember that the program is for the kids, not the adults.**
- 12. Managers are asked to control the conduct of their team's players, parents, and fans.**
- 13. If a coach fails to play a player(s) the required amount of time, he (the coach) will be suspended from the next scheduled game. Second offense, suspension from the program. Suspension will also include park attendance. However, the players are expected to attend all practices and games to be eligible for mandatory playing time. Managers should note on line-up sheet players that are absent, sick, injured, or being disciplined. All team players are to be listed on the official line-up sheet. Number of times absent should be listed or the reason for disciplinary action (tardiness, abusing equipment, disrespectfulness, shows up later than first inning). Coach must sign disciplinary statement.**
- 14. If a starter gets hurt and all substitutes have played leaving no one on the bench eligible to return to the game, it is permissible to allow one of the subs to go back in as long as there is no one on the bench who has not played.**
- 15. If needed, to prevent individual problems from occurring during a game, a manager may discipline a player who has not completed mandatory playing time by benching them. For example: cursing, dirty tactics, etc.**
- 16. Managers and coaches serve at the pleasure of the departments and may be replaced if deemed necessary because of conduct considered detrimental to the program.**