

Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Softball League

Developmental League

CONSTITUTION

The Constitution below has been approved on an interim basis for the Fall 2026 season by the President and Rules Committee. The Constitution below must be approved by the membership at the next meeting, scheduled for the first quarter of 2027.

PREAMBLE

We, the member schools of the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Softball League (WPISL), hereby submit ourselves to be governed by the Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules and not to conflict with the USA Softball rules for amateurs. Our organization functions for the purpose of promoting and organizing high school girls' slow-pitch softball, whereas slow-pitch softball is a lifelong physical activity played throughout the United States that helps promote both a healthy lifestyle and wellness to the youth of our schools. This Constitution for the WPISL Developmental League is put forth for the purpose of beginning play with three Divisions for the said Developmental League in the Fall of 2024 and beyond.

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1 The organization shall be known as the WPISL, or Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Softball League. The Developmental League will be part of the WPISL, but will have its own Constitution, By-laws, and Rules.

Section 2 It shall be the purpose of the Developmental League to:

- A. Promote girls' slow-pitch softball for 8u, 10u, and 12u players in the same calendar year, as set forth in the By-laws.
- B. Organize the Developmental League into divisions and set schedules.
- C. Encourage sportsmanship and fair play.
- D. Enforce the rules.

Section 3 This league shall be conducted as a non-profit organization, organized, and be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, and to support and develop female amateur slow-pitch softball athletes.

ARTICLE II - QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1 A Member shall be defined by the WPISL Constitution with the following exception.

At the Development League level, interested teams that are not directly affiliated with a high school as identified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, may enter the league as a Provisional Member with Board Approval.

Section 2 A League Representative shall be defined per the WPISL Constitution with the following exception. At the Developmental League Level, each team not directly affiliated with a high school as identified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, may enter the league as a Provisional Member with Board Approval and shall have a designated Provisional League Representative. The Provisional Member and its representative do not have a vote in league matters except for changes to the WPISL Developmental League Rules.

Section 3 Members and Provisional Members are required to have high standards for academics and sportsmanship in place. Members failing to maintain high standards for academics and sportsmanship will be subject to possible sanctions, including written warnings, probation, suspension, or even expulsion from the league.

ARTICLE III - ELECTIONS & DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The Officers of the Developmental League, including their election and duties, shall be set forth in the WPISL Constitution.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

Meetings for the Developmental League shall be set forth in the WPISL Constitution.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership Fees for the Developmental League teams shall be as set forth in the WPISL Constitution.

ARTICLE VI - ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT

The Organization and Government for the Developmental League teams shall be as set forth in the WPISL Constitution.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS TO THE DEVELOPMENTAL LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

Amendments to the Developmental League’s Constitution shall be as set forth in the WPISL Constitution.

ARTICLE VIII - RULES OF ORDER

Robert's Rules of Order parliamentary procedures shall govern the conduct of all meetings.

In circumstances where the constitution and/or bylaws conflict with Robert's Rules, the Developmental League’s By-Laws and/or Constitution supersede Robert's Rules.

Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Softball League

Developmental League

BY-LAWS

The By-Laws below have been approved on an interim basis for the Fall 2026 season by the President and Rules Committee. The By-Laws Constitution below must be approved by the membership at the next meeting, scheduled for the first quarter of 2027.

Rule 1 Team Membership/Eligibility

1. Team membership shall be restricted to girls who meet the requirements of this Rule and Rule 2.4 below.
2. Teams shall be selected from the students who reside within the school district or township bounds of the sponsoring member, regardless of the school they attend or if they are home schooled and attend a private, charter, or cyber charter school. For students who attend private, charter, or cyber charter schools, if their school provides a developmental team, they must play for that team. No student-athlete may play for more than one developmental member organization unless a member school has more than one team. EXCEPTION: Teams may be selected from the student body of one, two, and up to three schools. Should those schools enter a Cooperative Sponsorship, see Rule 12 below. All Cooperative Sponsorships require the approval of the WPISL Board of Directors.
3. Any student under suspension or expelled by her school shall be ineligible to participate for the duration of the suspension or expulsion.
4. A student deemed ineligible for extracurricular activities by their school shall not be allowed to participate during the period of ineligibility.
5. Each school's administration shall be responsible for determining the eligibility status of their players.

Rule 2 Roster

1. Each head coach shall submit a roster containing each player's first name, last name, uniform number, school grade and age-based division - , 12u, 10u, and 8u. The Board may elect (from year to year), whether the address, phone number and grade are required with the submitted roster.

2. Rosters are due to the league Scorekeeper and Commissioner of the Developmental League prior to the first played game.
 - a. Additions or revisions to Developmental League's team rosters shall be submitted to the Scorekeeper and Commissioner as the season progresses. Only those players listed on the roster as of the Thursday prior to any weekend games (Saturday and Sundays) are eligible to participate in that weekend's games and games through the following week (Monday through Friday).
3. The league scorekeeper will provide names, jersey numbers, school grade, and age-based division, aka, 12u, 10u, and 8u of each team member to all head coaches prior to the start of the 1st game. If there is a roster update, the scorekeeper will reissue the revised roster to the head coaches.
4. Roster for all Developmental Teams shall be as follows:
 - a. Developmental Team Roster: All Divisions: shall consist of players who meet the age requirements as referenced by the USA Softball Age Chart for the current year.
 - b. Seventh graders who are rostered on their districts Jr High team may not play 12u.
 - c. Players are permitted to play in the next oldest age group. This rule does not apply for 12u players as the WPISL does not offer a 15u Division.
 - d. Players are NOT permitted to play in a younger age group.

Rule 3 Supervision

1. Each team shall be under the supervision of the head coach.
2. All coaches are encouraged to receive proper clearances prior to beginning any coaching activities.
 - a. If the coach has been a continuous resident of Pennsylvania for the past 10 years, the following clearance should be obtained:
 - Pennsylvania State Police Clearance
 - Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance
 - Signed "Volunteer Clearance Exception" statement.
 - b. If the coach has NOT been a continuous resident of Pennsylvania for the past 10 years, the following should be obtained:

- Pennsylvania State Police Clearance
 - Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) report
- c. Coach clearances should be updated at least every 5 years in accordance with State requirements for volunteers.
3. Each head coach is responsible for supervising the conduct of their players, coaches, and fans.

Rule 4 Scorekeeping

1. Each team shall designate a scorekeeper to keep score of each game.
2. The Scorekeeper shall enter entire name and number of players eligible at the beginning of each game.
3. Each team's scorekeeper shall consult with the opponent's scorekeeper at the end of each inning to confirm scores before a new inning can commence.
4. Scorekeeper shall have the presiding umpire sign the scorebook at the end of the game.
5. ~~Both team's head coaches~~ The host team's head coach is responsible for submitting game results to the league scorekeeper within 48 hours of completion of the game. Reporting of scores will be for record keeping only and will be shared by the Scorekeeper to the Board only, except the 12u age division, so the Board may evaluate items such as games being played, rescheduled, and the competitiveness of the Developmental League games. Teams scores and standings at the 10u and 8u age divisions will not be published to the members, players or fans using the WPISL website or other media.

Rule 5 Postponements, Rainouts, and Make-ups

1. Games must be played as scheduled at the scheduling meeting with the following exceptions:
 - a. Inclement weather or poor field conditions.
 - b. Mutually agreed upon by both head coaches.
 - c. Exception granted by the Board of Directors.
2. The league strongly encourages that teams' make-up all games that are rained out, by whatever measures can be agreed upon by the head coaches of both teams.

Rule 6 Forfeits

1. Forfeits will not be awarded under any circumstances in the Developmental League.

Rule 7 WPISL Standings and Playoffs/Championship

1. Standings and playoffs are not applicable to the Developmental League.

Rule 8 Conduct of Members

1. The following is not permitted in and around the softball field, dugouts, and spectator areas during games:

- a. Tobacco products
- b. Vaping Products
- c. Alcoholic beverages
- d. Illegal drugs
- e. Gambling

EXCEPTION: Raffles such as 50/50 are permitted if the team conducting the 50/50 has Small Games of Chance License.

This applies to all players, coaches, parents, and other spectators. Anyone who fails to adhere to these rules will be asked to leave immediately.

2. Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as disruptive and disrespectful behavior at the softball field during a game and/or use of vulgar language or abuse of equipment or facilities. Such conduct is not permitted and shall bring immediate disqualification of that player and/or coach. Fans not adhering to these rules will be asked to leave immediately. The Head Coach will be responsible for removing any ejected player, coach, or fan for their team from the facility within a reasonable timeframe. Any player or coach ejected from a contest must sit out the next contest. The WPISL has the right to suspend players or coaches for more than the one game minimum suspension.
3. No electronic devices are permitted during games, except cell phones which are permitted for use by coaches for emergencies or urgent matters and electronic devices used by the scorekeeper or coach to keep score of the game.
4. The WPISL Code of Conduct governs all matters.

Rule 9 Uniforms

1. All participants during regular season games must wear uniforms consistent with USA Softball standards.

2. Coaches must instruct their players to dress in good taste.
3. Coaches must wear shoes. Open toe and/or heel shoes, sandals, flip-flops, and the like are not permitted.
4. The WPISL encourages coaches to wear shirts and caps that match the school's team colors, name, nickname, and logos. The WPISL discourages the coaches from wearing shirts and caps with logos for non-school teams, businesses, and the like.

Rule 10 Schedule

1. The scheduling committee will be responsible for arranging the league schedules.
2. The WPISL has adopted a first practice date that mirrors the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) for WPIAL Fall Sports. The first practice date shall be the second Monday in August, unless otherwise specified by the WPIAL for that year. If the WPIAL first practice date in any given year is other than the second Monday in August, the WPISL will notify its members by no later than June 1 of that year.
3. The WPISL season for Developmental League teams ends at 10 pm on the first Sunday of November.

Rule 11 Conflict of Rules

1. In the event of conflict between USA Softball rules and WPISL rules, the rules of the WPISL shall govern.

Rule 12 Cooperative Sponsorships

Cooperative Sponsorships are entered between a Sponsoring School District and up to two additional school districts at the high school level (9th through 12th) grade. It shall be the Sponsoring School District decision if it wants to continue that sponsorship at the Developmental League Level. If the Sponsoring School District wants to continue that sponsorship at the Developmental League Level, then WPISL rules governing Cooperative Sponsorships in the WPISL By-laws apply. If the Sponsoring School District does not want to continue that sponsorship at the Developmental League Level, then one or two schools involved in that Sponsorship may enter the Developmental League as a Provisional Member in accordance with the Developmental League Constitution, Article II

Rule 13 Amendments to the Developmental League By-Laws

Amendments to the Developmental League's By-laws shall be as set forth in the WPISL Constitution.

Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Softball League

Developmental League

DIVISION RULES

The Rules below have been approved on an interim basis for the Fall 2026 season by the President and Rules Committee. The Rules below must be approved by the membership at the next meeting, scheduled for the first quarter of 2027.

PREAMBLE: All rules not covered herein shall revert to the current USA Softball rules.

SECTION 1: GAME

- A. **GAME LENGTHS:** A regulation game shall consist of six (6) innings as provided below.
1. There are no time limits to games, only inning limits. If an umpire, head coach, or member representative allows a game to be stopped based on a time limit, the umpire, head coach or member representative may be subject to disciplinary action by the WPISL.
 2. **10U Game-Length Exception:** A new inning cannot start after one (1) hour and forty-five (45) minutes of play at the 10U level only. This provision does not apply to any other WPISL age division.
 3. If a game is stopped after five (5) innings, or four and a half (4 ½) innings if the home team is ahead, because of rain, lighting, thunder, or poor field conditions, the game is complete and is an official game and the team ahead shall be declared the winner. If the game is tied (provided at least 5 full innings are played) when the stoppage occurs, the game is an official game and ends in a tie.
 4. Regular season games that are not official shall be replayed in their entirety, unless both head coaches agree to resume the game at the point where it was suspended.
 5. The 10-run rule (Mercy Rule) will be in effect after 5 full innings or 4½ innings if the home team is ahead.

6. Regular season games played on a school night – No inning of any game shall start after 10 pm.
7. When five (5) runs are scored in the offensive team's half of the inning, regardless of the number of outs, the half inning is over. The umpire shall call time and end the inning, even if plays are still being made or base runners are continuing to run. The offensive team may score no more than five (5) runs in any half inning. (See the next page for EXCEPTIONS)

EXCEPTIONS:

- a) The five-run rule is not in effect in the last inning (6th inning).
- b) The five-run rule is waived (for trailing team only) in the 4th and 5th innings if the trailing team is in jeopardy of the 10-run rule. Under this scenario, the maximum number of runs the trailing team is permitted to score would result when a tie is attained.

B. TIE GAME:

- 1. Regular Season if tied after six (6) complete innings, the game is over and ends in a tie. Extra innings, beyond six (6) innings, shall not be played.

C. LINEUP: A continuous batting line-up must be used, i.e., all roster players in the dugout must bat, unless the head coach states to the umpire and their opponent's head coach that an injured rostered player is in the dugout and that player will not participate in the game under any circumstances.

- 1. Continuous Batting: If a player arrives after the game has started, she may be inserted in the last position in the lineup, provided she is listed on the game-day roster, see Rule (1) (C) (5) below.
- 2. A minimum of eight (8) players are required to start, continue playing, and finish a game. If one team does not have the required number of players to start a scheduled game, the teams will share players and the game WILL be played. The intent is to play the game. The umpire should stay to officiate the game. No Forfeit will be awarded. If at any time, before or during the game, the total number of players from both teams drops below sixteen (16), the game should be stopped by the umpire and head coaches, and the game shall end. At this point the umpire should be paid in full by the host team. If both head coaches agree the players present may practice together.
- 4. Only players listed on the team's roster, and coaches, are permitted in the dugout. No more than four coaches are permitted in the dugout, and the scorekeeper is considered one of the four coaches unless the scorekeeper keeps score from outside of the dugout.
- 5. A game day roster (line-up card) must be submitted to the opposing head coach and scorekeeper before each game. The game day roster may not

contain names of players who are not on the team's roster for that level submitted to the league's scorekeeper. The game day roster shall include the first and last names of players and their uniform numbers. The game shall not start until the scorekeeper and head coach of each team has received their opponent's game day roster. Late arriving players are permitted to enter the game provided they are on the team's roster which was submitted to the Scorekeeper.

- D. WEATHER /FIELD CONDITIONS: Prior to the start of the game, all judgments regarding weather and field conditions are the responsibility of the Host Team's Head Coach. After the game has started, all judgments regarding weather and field conditions are the responsibility of the umpire. In no event shall a game start or continue if there is lightning sighted or thunder is heard. The umpires will determine if a game is to be stopped for rain or poor field conditions. If the game is stopped, both team head coaches and the umpires shall consult regarding continuation of the game. The umpires will have the final decision regarding continuation of play.
- E. PLAYING FIELD: BASES: 60-feet. The home team head coach must consult with the umpire regarding ground rules. The umpire has the authority to change a ground rule for safety reasons. The double-base shall be used at first base in accordance with USA Softball Rule 2, Section 3(H).

SECTION 2: FIELDING

- A. DEFENSE – NUMBER OF PLAYERS: Each team may field up to ten (10) players on defense. In no event may a defensive team have more than (6) infielders when play begins as the ball is pitched. Infielders include the pitcher, catcher, and four other players positioned in the infield other than at pitcher or catcher. The four other infielders must be at least 50 feet from the batter when the ball is pitched. Non-infielders, i.e., outfielders, must be positioned at least twenty-five 25 feet beyond the base lines between first base/second base and second base/third bases when the ball is pitched.
- B. DEFENSE – PITCHER - ~~8a~~: The pitcher is not permitted to record a force out at home plate by stepping on the plate. Instead, the pitcher must throw the

ball to the catcher to record a force-out. This rule was created for safety and instructional reasons.

- C. DEFENSE – OUTFIELDERS: An outfielder is not permitted to record a force out at any base by stepping on the base, i.e., the outfielder must throw to ball to an infielder to attempt to record a force out. This rule was created for safety and instructional reasons.
- D. DEFENSE – SUBSTITUTION: No player can sit on the bench for two (2) consecutive innings. This means the game day roster (line-up card) may contain no more than twenty (20) players. Free substitution is applicable to all defensive positions.
- E. INFIELD FLY RULE: The Infield is in effect for the Developmental League's 12u division. The Infield fly rule is not in effect at the 10u and 8u divisions.
- D. DEFENSIVE CONFERENCES – 12u: Coaches are permitted one (1) Defensive Conference per inning. If a coach exercises a 2nd Defensive Conference in the same inning, the pitcher will be removed and will not be eligible to pitch until the next inning.

SECTION 3: PITCHING.

- A. INNINGS PER GAME: There are no restrictions on the number of innings per game a pitcher can pitch.
- B. DISTANCE:
 - 12u.
 - 40 feet, 43 feet, 46 feet.
 - 10u call ups are NOT permitted to pitch.
 - 10u
 - 35 feet or 40 feet
 - There are no Walks in this Division. After 4 balls thrown by the player, Coach Pitch takes effect.
 - The batter retains strike count.

- Coach Pitcher has up to 4 pitches to get the ball in play. If the batter is unsuccessful within the 4 coach pitches, the AB is over, and the next player will bat.
- C. ARC OF A PITCH: The ball must be delivered with perceptible arc and reach a height of at least six (6) feet from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum of twelve (12) feet from the ground.
- D. ILLEGAL PITCH: If the arc of the pitch is not at least six (6) feet from the ground or has exceeded a height of twelve (12) feet from the ground, the umpire should call “Illegal Pitch” or “Illegal” using a voice that the batter and catcher can hear. It is not the responsibility or the intent of this rule for the umpire to call “Illegal Pitch” loud enough so other defensive and offensive players, coaches, or fans can hear.
- E. SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR PITCHER:
 1. FACE SHIELD – Every pitcher is required to wear a protective face shield while she is pitching. This rule is in effect for all levels of the WPISL.
 2. HEART PROTECTOR - Every pitcher is required to wear a heart protector while she is pitching. This rule is in effect for all levels of the WPISL.

SECTION 4: BATTER / BASE RUNNER

- A. OFFENSIVE CONFERENCES: Coaches are permitted one (1) Offensive Conference per inning. If a coach exercises 2nd Offensive Conference in the same inning, the batter will be declared out.
- B. COURTESY AND SUBSTITUTE RUNNERS: Courtesy and substitute runners are permitted, provided the provisions below are met.
 1. Prior to the game, the head coach must meet with the umpire and the opposing head coach and identify players who will need a courtesy runner. Those players who need a courtesy runner must be identified by each team’s scorekeeper in the line-up card. Once a player is identified to need a courtesy runner, a courtesy runner must be used for that player throughout the game. Courtesy runners are to be used due to injuries or ailments and not to gain a competitive advantage over the opposing team.

2. A player who is identified in the line-up card that needs a courtesy runner may not advance beyond first base on any hit ball except for a homerun over the fence or a batted fair ball that bounced over a fence or a painted line or other marker identified and is considered out of play based on the ground rules reviewed with the umpire prior to the game. Exception: the player identified in the line-up card that needs a courtesy runner may advance to second base, but no further, on a dead-ball overthrow that goes out of play.
 3. The courtesy runner shall be the last out. NOT THE LAST BATTED OUT. If an out has not been recorded in the game, the courtesy runner shall be the last player listed in the line-up. If the courtesy runner is still on base when it is her turn to bat, she shall be replaced with another courtesy runner who was the last out, next to last out, third to last out, etc.
 4. A substitute runner is permitted for a player who becomes injured while running the bases. Whether a player has been injured and a substitute runner is needed is at the discretion of the umpire.
 5. If the injured player is not capable of taking her next turn at bat, Rule (C) below applies. If the injured player is capable of batting, but not capable of baserunning, a courtesy runner is permitted, provided it is identified to the umpire, opposing head coach, and added to the line-up card of each team prior to the next at-bat for that player.
- C. FAILURE TO TAKE A TURN AT BAT: If a player plans to leave the game before its completion and if the opposing coach and umpire is notified prior to the start of the game, no out will be recorded. However, if a player leaves the game before its completion and the opposing coach and umpire were not notified prior to the start of the game, an out will be recorded the first time that player comes to bat after leaving the game. After that at-bat the line-up will close and no additional out will be recorded the next time and any subsequent times the player would have been scheduled to bat.
- D. THROWN BAT. This WPISL Rule supersedes USA Softball Supplement Rule #52.

1. When a player throws a bat intentionally in anger, the player shall be ejected.
2. The release of the bat must be in a controlled manner that does not contact any player, umpire, coach, fan, backstop, fence, or land in the dugout area. Should the bat be released in an uncontrolled manner the umpire shall warn the batter and her head coach. If there is a second or more offenses of this rule in the same game by the same batter, on each occasion the umpire should declare the batter out. If the ball is put in play during a release of the bat in an uncontrolled manner, the umpire shall rule the play dead. All base runners shall return to the base occupied prior to play.
3. Should the bat be released in a controlled manner (in the opinion of the umpire) but prevents the defense from making a play on the ball then interference should be ruled.
4. Should the player use a bat to prevent a defensive player from making a play, interference should be ruled.
5. The bat must be released before the batter reaches first base.

SECTION 5: LEADING AND BASE STEALING

- A. USA Softball Rule 8, Section 7, Item R. is not applicable. The base runner is out when in the opinion of the umpire the runner fails to keep contact with the base to which they are entitled until the pitched ball is batted, touches the plate, ground, catcher, or umpire. EFFECT: If a baserunner steps off the base for whatever reason and the batter swings and misses the pitch the baserunner shall be declared out.

SECTION 6: HELMET RULE: Head coaches must enforce this rule for the safety of the players”.

- A. BATTER/BASE RUNNER: Each batter and base runner must wear an approved batting helmet. The helmet must be worn securely while at bat and while running the bases. The helmet must be kept on until the player is inside the dugout area.
- B. PLAYER EJECTION: Refusal to wear a helmet shall result in the player being ejected from the game. The player shall be declared out. The player shall be removed from the lineup, the line-up closes, and the batting order

shall continue. The ejected player's batting position will be skipped for the remainder of the game.

- C. **PLAYER RECORDED OUT:** If, while running the bases, the helmet comes off any base runner's head or any base runner removes the helmet prior to leaving the field of play, the offending base runner will be called out, play will be stopped at the first opportunity and all remaining base runners will be assigned the nearest base. If a player is called out and removes their helmet the player can be ejected but a second out cannot be called against that player.
- D. **STOPPING OF PLAY:** If a player's helmet becomes dislodged during a slide or due to contact with a defensive player, the player will not be called out. Time will be called, and play will be stopped at the first opportunity. All base runners will be awarded the base they were closest to at the time the play is stopped. The intent of the rule is to protect the players from accidents or injury from thrown balls.

SECTION 7: EQUIPMENT

- A. **SOFTBALLS:** For Developmental League games the home team shall provide two (2) new 11-inch softballs having a 0.52 polycore, 300 compression ratio, and optic green color with red stitching. If those balls are lost during the game, the home team may provide slightly used softballs, subject to the umpire's approval, meeting the requirements above. For consistency of play, the WPISL recommends using a WPISL stamped softball.
- B. **BATS:** In order for a bat to be used during a WPISL game, it must display at least one of the following stamps:
- 1.





All Games



Adult Fast Pitch/All Slow Pitch

2. For a list of bats that have been tested and found to comply with the USA Softball bat performance standards, and therefore are authorized to bear the 2000, 2004 or 2013 certification mark and/or are authorized for use in USA Softball Championship Play please click on the manufacturer below at the following link: <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/~link.aspx?id=015F4358A30B44368FC142350D112FFF&z=z>
Manufacturers continue to submit additional bat models for testing, and USA Softball will update this list as test results become available.
3. Bat rings are NOT permitted.
4. Altering bats is prohibited. Approved bats shall be considered altered if they are rolled, shaved, repainted, weighted or modified to change the characteristics from that produced by the manufacturer. If a bat used in a WPISL game is deemed to be illegally “altered”, then Rule 6 below shall apply.
5. Warming of any bats is NOT permitted prior to or during games. This includes, but is not limited to, bat warmers, blankets, fire, heaters, taking them to cars, dugouts with heaters, shelters, and any other means of warming a bat. Bats are to remain near the batting cage for the duration of each game. If a bat used in a WPISL game is deemed to be illegally “warmed”, then rule 6 below shall apply.
6. If a coach challenges a player’s bat after she has used it during a game and the bat is deemed to be non-complying with items 1, 2, 4 or 5 above:
 - (i) the inning immediately comes to an end for the offensive team;
 - (ii) all runs scored up to that point of the game will be erased for the team of the player who used the non-approved/altered/warmed bat; and

(iii) the player and head coach are ejected for the game, which includes an automatic minimum suspension for the next game.

- C. CATCHERS EQUIPMENT: Catchers must wear NOCSAE approved helmet with a facemask and attached throat protector or built-in throat protector and chest protector. Shin guards are optional at the Developmental League level.
- D. HELMET: NOCSAE approved batting helmets are required; NOCSAE approved face guards and chinstraps are optional but recommended.
- E. UNIFORMS: Team players are to wear their issued uniform and must also wear a numbered jersey. Additional appropriate clothing is permitted and encouraged during cold weather.
- F. SHOES: Metal spikes of any kind are not permitted. The umpire shall check the player's shoes prior to each game.
- G. JEWELRY: No dangling jewelry is permitted. Stud earrings and Medic alert bracelets are permitted. Coaches that have players with medic alert bracelets should notify the umpires prior to the start of the contest. Uniform numbers of those wearing medical alert bracelets should be provided to the umpire.

SECTION 8: UMPIRES AND COACHES

- A. Paid umpires are required at the 12u age division, Paid umpires are not required for 8u or 10u age divisions.
- B. UMPIRE ASSIGNMENTS: The umpire is the representative of a Member or Provisional Member organization by which they have been assigned to a particular game. All games and scrimmages shall be officiated by an umpire as defined above.
- C. PAYMENT OF UMPIRE: For regular season games, scheduled as double headers, the host team shall pay for the umpire services for both games. For regular season games, scheduled at single games, the host team shall pay for the umpire services.
- D. DISPUTES AND INQUIRIES:
 - 1. All umpire decisions are final. No protests are allowed based on umpire decisions or judgements during the game. Game results are final.
 - 2. During a game, in order for the head coach to question an umpire's decision of a WPISL rule, it is mandatory for that coach to present a

printed copy of the most recent version of the WPISL Developmental League Rules.

3. Member League Representatives may formally request an inquiry into an umpire's decision of a WPISL ruling. This request is NOT to change the umpire's decision or the result of the game, but to determine if any action should be taken upon said umpire. Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, players, and parents are not permitted to make such requests, it must be made through the Member League Representative.

- E. UMPIRES AND COACHES: The umpire and coaches are adults charged with the responsibility of seeing that the participants play the game fairly and safely. Umpires and coaches are partners in this effort, not adversaries.

SECTION 9: BANNED SUBSTANCES

- A. No alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, tobacco, or vaping products of any kind are to be used during the game by anyone in attendance.

SECTION 10: AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES

- A. The Rules may be amended or changed with a 50% +1 majority vote (including proxy votes in accordance with the WPISL Constitution, Article IV, Section 2) of members and provisional members in attendance at a general membership meeting as long as the following occurs:
 - 1. Sufficient members and provisional members are present to have a quorum.
 - 2. Voting members must be in good standing. Note: “good standing” in order to vote is defined in the WPISL Constitution.
- B. A board member or any Member’s League Representative currently in good standing may request to amend/repeal any part of the Rules.
 - 1. A request may be made in writing by submitting it to the Board of Directors at least 30 days in advance of a general membership meeting for it to be placed on the agenda or
 - 2. A request may be made verbally by presenting the request during a general membership meeting. If a discussion is held on the motion, the Members may:
 - i) Vote on the proposal if Section 1 above applies or
 - ii) Table the Proposed Change – During the discussion, a board member or any Member’s League Representative in good standing may make a motion to table the request for the purpose of further research and discussion. If a majority 50% +1 vote to table the proposal, the proposed change automatically converts to a written proposal and follows the procedures for a written submittal in Section 2 A above.
 - 3. The President and/or Secretary shall publish to the membership any proposed Rules amendment or change within 10 days of the request.