

2023 Wiffleball World Series Rules

Section 1: Divisions/ Teams/ Players:

A. Championship Division (the only division offered in 2023)

- **Players – 3 or 4 players per team.**
 - All four players must play in at least one round robin game in order to play in the playoffs (semi-finals and final game). If a rostered player does not play in at least one scheduled (qualifying) game they are not eligible to play in the playoff games. **(See RULE 1.E for details)**
- 3 players will play the field (1 pitcher/ 2 fielders) **(See Rule 5.A.2)**
- All players will rotate at bat **(See Rule 4.A.10)**
- Pitching Rotation - all players rostered and present that game, follow a pitching rotation **(See RULE 5.D)**

B. Players can only play on one team.

C. Limited Number of Teams: Due to time constraints with scheduling, there will be a limited number of teams. A maximum of twelve (12) teams for the CHAMPIONSHIP division. If a division is to receive more than the maximum number of registrations, the WBWS Committee reserves the right to determine which twelve (12) teams will be chosen to play based on factors including, but not limited to,

- Returning team/player seniority (e.g. the number of years players have participated in WBWS.)
- Date **completed team** registration is submitted.
- Schedule availability of players.

D. Adding a 4th player: Teams can add a 4th player to their team. This is to help eliminate the need for subs. Conditions that must be met in order to sign up a 4th player:

- All four (4) players must be rostered on the initial registration form. (A 4th player cannot be added after the team has registered.)
- All four (4) players must play in at least one of the Round-Robin games in order to play in the playoffs (semi finals and final game). If a rostered player does not play in at least one scheduled (qualifying) game they are not eligible to play in the playoff games.

E. Subs:

- Because teams have the option to roster 4 players, subs should not be needed. In the event a sub is needed,
 - Both teams and the WBWS Committee must agree upon the sub.
 - If a sub cannot be found or agreed upon the WBWS Committee will appoint a sub.

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- **SUB USE**

Subs can only be used if a team has 2 or less players available (due to absence or injury/illness). (E.g. a team with four (4) players rostered cannot choose a sub if one of their players is absent, being that they do have three (3) players who can play.)

Section 2: Equipment and Field Regulations

A. The Ball: Only Official wiffleballs, which are provided, are allowed.

B. The Bat: Only yellow regulated wiffleball bats, which are provided, are allowed. They can't be weighted or modified. Teams/players cannot bring their own bats.

C. Bases: No base running. The bases and base paths will be used to determine hits.

D. Strike Zone: There will be a strike zone placed behind home plate. The ball must hit the netting or orange to be a strike.

E. Umpires: There will be a designated umpire for each game. The umpire has final say on all calls. Remember this is a game and supposed to be fun. No arguing with umpires will be tolerated.

F. Uniforms: Matching Uniforms are required with #'s on the back. (Jerseys will be provided.) A professional baseball team name must be used (can be a minor league team.) **See RULE 6.B for more information.**

Section 3: The Game

A. Length: The game will be five (5) innings in length. If the score is tied at the end of five (5) innings, two (2) extra innings will be played for a max of seven (7) innings to determine a winner. For Round-Robin play only, if the game is still tied after seven (7) innings the game will count as a tie. Play-offs will be played until a winner emerges. Three (3) innings of play determines a winner.

B. Time Limit: minimum 45 minutes. Games are scheduled 45 minutes apart; a final time limit will be determined prior to the start of the tourney depending on entries. But it will be at least 45 minutes.

C. Mercy Rule: If a team is up seven (7) or more runs following the 3rd inning, the game is over.

D. Mercy Inning: Only nine (9) runs are allowed to be scored per inning. If a team hits a home run before reaching the nine (9) runs, all runs count. For example: with the bases loaded and eight (8) runs already scored, if a team hits a grand slam, all runs score. This would result in 12 runs scored. If a team is trailing they will be allowed to score until they have a nine (9) run lead and then the mercy inning will come into play.

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Section 4: offense/Batting

- A. Hitting:** There is no base running. Ghost runners must be pushed. For example: if Player A hits a double that player is on 2nd base. If player B hits a single Player A advances to 3rd base and runners are at 1st and 3rd. If player B is walked, runners would be at 1st and 2nd.
1. **Walk:** Four (4) balls equal a walk. If a batter is hit by the pitch it's just a ball.
 2. **Single:** A single is
 - a. Any ball hit past the back corners of 1st and 3rd base,
 - b. Past the dirt base paths on Wiffle Ball Park Field that isn't field cleanly, or
 - c. Comes to a stop or a clean play isn't made to the pitcher. (The player must field the ball cleanly and throw in clean motion to the pitcher. The pitcher must have one foot on the rubber. **The umpire will have final say on the call.**
 - d. Any ball not hit past the baselines that the pitcher tries to field and bobbles in any way during the play.
 - e. If the pitcher is outside the baselines and fields the ball, he must make a throw to someone covering the mound. If not the play will result in a **single**.
 - f. **Blooper ball** - Any ball that is a blooper into the outfield that isn't caught and hits the ground will result in a **single**.
 - g. If a hard ground ball is hit and the pitcher touches the ball but the ball is fielded by another fielder the play will result in a **single**.
 - h. Any ball that hits in front of the plate is a fair ball, if the ball hits the plate or behind the plate first it will be a foul ball.
 3. **Double:** Any ball hit to the wall or bounces over the wall.
 4. **Triple:** Any ball that hits the wall in the air even if it's touched by a fielder.
 5. **Homerun:** any ball landing over the fence. A player cannot hop over the wall or stand on the wall to make a catch.
 6. **Foul Strike Out:** This rule only applies when there are two strikes on the batter. If the batter foul tips the ball, and the ball hits the netting of the strike zone, the batter is out. IT MUST HIT THE NETTING.
 7. **The Count:** 4 balls equal a walk. 3 strikes equal a strike out.
 8. **Big Elbows:** No part of your body, including your arms, may extend over or in front of the strike zone. A warning will be issued to the team by the ump. The next time it happens it will be called a strike.
 9. **Tree Rule:** If a ball is hit over the fence and hits a tree and comes back into play the ball will be considered live. If it's caught it will be an out, if it hits the ground it will be a triple. This only applies to trees and no other structures or spectators.
 10. **Batting Rotation:** Unless a player is absent or sitting out due to injury, all rostered players must bat for their scheduled games, following a batting rotation.

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Section 5: Defense/Pitching & Fielding

A. Fielders

1. For teams with three (3) players rostered, all three (3) players must play the field (1 pitcher/2 fielders)
2. For teams with four (4) players rostered and present, only three (3) players play the field each inning (1 pitcher/2 fielders). All players must play the field at some point during the game.

B. Fielding: A hit ball must be fielded cleanly and a throw in clean motion without hesitation to the pitcher for an out to be made. Any delay or hesitation will result in a hit. **The umpire will have final say. (see hitting section)**

C. Pitching Bucket: The pitcher can place the ball bucket 5 feet within the mound inside the infield. If the ball hits the bucket it will be considered a ground out.

D. Pitching Rotation: The pitcher that starts an inning must finish the inning

1. Players follow a pitching rotation for every game. (Example: Player A pitches innings 1 and 5, Player B pitches innings 2, Player C pitches innings 3, and Player D pitches Inning 4.) If four (4) players are rostered and present, all four (4) players must pitch that game.

E. Pitching Rules/Restrictions:

1. There are no speed restrictions for pitching.
2. The only style restriction for pitching is that windmills are not allowed.

F. Walk: Four (4) balls. A hitter hit by the pitch will count as a ball.

G. Strikeout: Three (3) strikes. Unlimited foul balls. Third (3rd) strike foul that hits the netting of the strike zone will count as a strikeout.

H. Three (3) Outs per inning

1. **Double Play Rule:** A double play can be attempted with any runners in a force-out position. The fielder must field the ball cleanly and make a throw to the pitcher, the pitcher must catch the ball on the rubber and make a throw to the strike zone. If the pitcher hits any part of the strike zone a double play will be awarded. There can be no hesitation from the pitcher on the turn. **The Umpire will determine the cleanliness of the play.**

a. Ball hit inside the infield: If a ball is hit inside the infield (Inside the baselines) and the pitcher fields the ball cleanly before it stops, the pitcher can throw the ball from where it was fielded with no hesitation. If the pitcher hits any part of the strike zone a double play will be awarded.

Section 6; Misc:

A. Game Time: The scheduled game times will be used as a guideline and are subject to change. Games can start up to 30 minutes prior to scheduled game time.

B. Team Names:

1. A professional baseball team (MLB or MILB) name must be used.
2. If two or more teams choose the same team name, preference is based **first** on PRIORITY FOR RETURNING TEAM, **then** on ORDER REQUESTED.(FYI—the host team is the Detroit Tigers.)

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- a.** PRIORITY FOR RETURNING TEAM: The team that used a team name the prior year (2019) is granted priority if they would like to use it again in 2023.
 - b.** ORDER REQUESTED: If neither team has priority based on use the prior year, the team that first requested the name will be granted the team name.
- C. *Liability Release Forms:*** All players must sign a liability release form before playing. (Those under 18 must have a parent's signature.) Players who do not have a signed release form will not be allowed to play.
- D. *Playoffs:*** When playoffs begin, teams will be split into two brackets—CHAMPIONSHIP and MAJORS—which will be based on the results of Round-Robin play of the weekend.