

Ross Bridge Wiffle Ball League Rules

Rules Effective: 8/1/2021

Warning: Your participation in this sport could result in physical injury, which could be serious or fatal. Ross Bridge Wiffle Ball League, Ross Bridge HOA, Signature Homes, and Community Management Associates assume no responsibility for injuries and related medical expenses received during wiffle ball activities. Residents are reminded that participation is completely voluntary.

General Rules for League

- 1) The Commissioner(s) will be nominated and agreed upon by Team Captains. Preferably, the League will be commissioned by a representative from the Men's Division and from the Women's Division.**
 - a. Commissioner(s) responsible for rule revision decisions (after consideration of Team Captains' votes), season and tournament schedules, dues collection, holding Team Captain and League meetings as needed, organizing field maintenance - both with HOA and among Wiffle Ball teams - maintaining communication with HOA, reserving Wiffle Ball field with HOA for season and tournament play, purchasing shared materials and ensuring adequate quality of balls and bats, and additional duties as necessary throughout season and tournament.
 - b. Commissioner(s) is expected to operate the League in a respectful, equitable, and inclusive manner to ensure all members of the Ross Bridge community are welcome. This may include equitable division of new members to the League, if not selected for a team.
 - c. Commissioner(s) given authority to make decisions for consistency and equity across League and should act in a manner focused on the betterment of the League (not one team or one player).
- 2) All players must pay League dues in order to play. A one-week grace period will be allowed after Opening Day, after which players will be removed from team rosters until dues paid.**
- 3) All players must be Ross Bridge residents and at least 16 years of age. Any violation of this rule will be an automatic forfeit.**
 - a. Ross Bridge residency must be established prior to the end of the fourth week of regular season.
- 4) Players may swap teams ONCE during regular season; rosters lock after fourth week of regular season.**
 - a. Official rosters must be submitted to commissioner by the end of the fourth week of regular season. Only players on roster, with dues paid, and having played in 2 regular season games are allowed to play in tournament.
- 5) There is a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for any unsportsmanlike behavior directed towards players, fans, and officials. The Commissioner, appointed designees, or Team Captains reserve the right to remove any player who has conducted themselves in an inappropriate manner or endangered others.**
 - a. Ejected players must leave the facility immediately.
 - b. Any player or team exhibiting pattern of troublesome behavior will be removed from league.
 - c. The Commissioner, appointed designees, or Team Captains have the authority to end a game.
- 6) Participants are not allowed to play in a manner that is potentially dangerous or reckless. Any action(s) deemed dangerous and/or reckless by the Commissioner, appointed designees, or Team Captains can result in an ejection depending on the severity of the action.**
 - a. Ejected players must leave the facility immediately.
 - b. All players should consider this a warning to not play in dangerous or reckless manner.
- 7) Regular season games are 5 full innings or 60 minutes, whichever occurs first. The time limit is only applied if there is a game afterwards.**
 - a. Warm-ups to take place prior to scheduled game time, lasting approximately 7 minutes/team. Warm up on field can occur as long as 60 minute game play is not impacted for any teams.

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- b. Each player on a team can take up to 5 practice swings.
- c. This will also count as the pitcher's warm-up for the game.
- d. Complete game constituted by 3 full innings (if play halted due to weather, darkness, time).
 - i. Severe weather will halt and/or cancel game play if heavy rain decreases visibility, strong winds make play impossible, or lightning is in the immediate area.
 - ii. If a game is halted prior to 3 full innings and game cannot be rescheduled within a reasonable timeframe despite best efforts by Team Captains, score will revert to last complete inning (2nd inning).
- e. Mercy Rule will apply after 3 full innings (guest and home team batted). Defined as an insurmountable scoring lead (15 or more runs) by one team.
 - i. A maximum of 15 runs scored during at-bat will end the inning for the at-bat team during regular season games.
- f. Play of 1 full inning will be used to break ties.
 - i. Regular season games may end in tie (if game halted due to weather, darkness, time).
 - ii. Additional innings may be played (if not limited by weather, darkness, time).
 - iii. Tournament games must result in a winner.
- g. If there is a game afterwards during regular season, no new inning is to begin later than 50 minutes past the current game's scheduled start time.
 - i. At 65 minutes, game immediately reverts to score of previously completed inning.

8) Rescheduled Games

- a. Team Captains are expected to review schedule prior to Opening Day.
- b. If teams expect a potential forfeit (see below), then game may be rescheduled.
- c. Team Captains to make every effort to reschedule, preferably prior to original scheduled date.
- d. Commissioner(s) to be notified of rescheduled date, and schedule will be updated accordingly.
- e. If game is unable to be rescheduled, team initiating "reschedule" forfeits by a score of 0-1.

9) Forfeits to occur 10 minutes after game time, assuming the following:

- a. Five (5) players are necessary to avoid a forfeit in MEN'S DIVISION. If less than 5 players are available, the game can be played legally if Team Captain's agree game shall proceed.
- b. Six (6) players are necessary to avoid a forfeit in WOMEN'S DIVISION. If less than 6 players are available, the game can be played legally if Team Captain's agree game shall proceed.

10) Ross Bridge Wiffle Ball League will be governed by baseball/softball rules with the following modifications and/or exceptions indicated in this document.

11) In the absence of an umpire, Team Captains shall serve as the umpire, working together to settle any disputes and enforce the rules of the Ross Bridge Wiffle Ball League.

Equipment

- 1) Any wiffle ball bat may be used (no modified bats allowed).**
 - a. A wiffle ball bat is deemed "illegal" if it consistently cracks a wiffle ball.
- 2) League supplied bats are available for use by both teams.**
 - a. Only the official wiffle perforated plastic ball (white in color) shall be used.
- 3) No baseball fielding gloves allowed but batting gloves are acceptable (while batting only).**

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- 4) **The pitcher's ball bucket and any balls left on the field during play are considered part of the field.**
- 5) **The League supplied Strike Zone will be used during MEN'S DIVISION games.**
 - a. Its use shall be optional during WOMEN'S DIVISION games; Team Captains must agree upon.
 - b. The Strike Zone will be supplied by the League each season and verified for compliance with measurements and materials by Commissioner(s).
 - i. Center zone is 27.5 x 21 inches with lowest point of zone 17.5 inches from the ground.
 - c. Strike Zone to be placed 3 feet from back of home plate (typically length of one wiffle ball bat).

Game Play

- 1) **A batting order (line-up) must be set prior to the 1st pitch. Game day rosters may be capped to improve equity of game play, if agreed upon by both Team Captains; however, during game, players cannot be removed for strategic benefit (will result in forfeit).**
 - a. If no batting order (line-up) is swapped, there can be no grievances by either team during play.
- 2) **All team members are allowed to bat, but each player must be listed on line-up and present at game.**
 - a. A player may be added after the first pitch, but before a complete cycle through the line-up has occurred; they must be added to the bottom of the line-up.
 - b. Any player that leaves during game and misses their at-bat can no longer return to the game.
- 3) **Determining Visitor (bats first) or Home (bats last) teams.**
 - a. MEN'S DIVISION will utilize a "pitch-off" during regular season games.
 - i. Representative from each team swaps "pitching" at provided Strike Zone prior to game.
 - ii. Team to first hit Strike Zone, while other team misses, to choose Visitor or Home.
 - b. WOMEN'S DIVISION will utilize a coin-flip among Team Captains (or designees).
 - i. Each Team Captain (or designee) will call "heads" or "tails" while a coin is flipped.
 - ii. The winning team will choose either "Visitor" or "Home" team.
 - c. During tournament play, the higher seed team will be designated the "Home" team.
- 4) **Number of Players needed.**
 - a. MEN'S DIVISION: Six (6) defensive positions (minimum of five (5) to avoid forfeit).
 - b. WOMEN'S DIVISION: Nine (9) defensive positions (minimum of six (6) to avoid forfeit).

Pitching

- 1) **MEN'S DIVISION:**
 - a. Pitchers to start windup directly behind pitcher's mound (where brown turf meets green turf; approx. 43.5 ft from home plate).
 - b. Any pitched ball to first make contact with any portion of Strike Zone is considered a "strike".
- 2) **WOMEN'S DIVISION:**
 - a. Pitchers may be a team's player, team player's spouse, or another Ross Bridge resident.
 - b. Pitchers to pitch from the front of the pitcher's mound (where green turf meets brown turf)
 - c. Pitchers will pitch to their own team unless both teams have female pitchers and agree to a defensive pitcher position (pitch to opposing teams).

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- d. If the offensive pitcher interferes with the ball after it's hit (catches the ball or is hit by the ball), the ball is dead and the at bat is replayed.
- e. A ball that strikes the pitcher's bucket is considered a "live" ball and will be played as such.
- f. Both overhead and/or underhand pitches are allowed with no arc requirement or speed limit.

Batting

- 1) **Batters must line up next to home plate without impeding the wiffle ball strike zone (typically considered as the area over home plate).**
 - a. MEN'S DIVISION: Pitcher may request batter back out of strike zone if impeded by position.
 - i. If batter is struck by a pitch while impeding the strike zone, the pitch will not count, the batter will not advance, and the ball is considered "dead".
 - b. WOMEN'S DIVISION: Batters will receive up to 5 pitches.
 - i. Three (3) swinging strikes will be considered an out.
 - ii. If 3rd strike results in a foul ball, batter will get another pitch UNLESS 3rd strike occurred on the batter's 5th pitch (i.e if 3rd strike, foul ball, and 5th pitch occur at the same time, batter is out)
 - iii. If 5th pitch results in a foul ball, batter will continue to bat until contact is made in fair territory or 3rd swinging strike is met.
- 2) **Bunting or chopping the ball is illegal (dead ball, batter is out, runners may not advance).**
- 3) **Ground Rule Double in effect when any ball is hit into fair territory and ends up behind the fence line.**
- 4) **Fair (live) ball conditions:**
 - a. MEN'S DIVISION:
 - i. Home plate and area around home plate.
 - ii. Any ball striking batter's hand (considered part of the bat) and stays in fair territory.
 - iii. Any ball that initially lands in foul territory but enters fair territory before reaching first or third base without striking an object resting in foul territory.
 - b. WOMEN'S DIVISION:
 - iv. Area outside of curved brown turf in front of home plate and within fair territory.
 - v. Ball touched by fielding player prior to entering foul territory before first or third base.
 - vi. Ball hit in air into foul territory and is caught by defensive player considered an "out".
 - a. Unless conditions outlined in "Batting" section 1.b.i-iii are met, a foul ball not caught will be considered a "strike" for the batter.
- 5) **"Double Hit" : A batter is OUT when the bat hits the ball a second time while in fair territory. The ball is dead and no runners may advance. IF the "double hit" occurs while in the batter's "box" and is unintentional, then the hit is counted as a foul ball.**

Base Running

- 1) **There is no stealing of bases under any condition.**
- 2) **A runner may leave a base only after the ball has been contacted by the batter.**

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- 3) **Any ball that stops outside of a fence line will be considered a dead ball. Runners may advance to the next base.**
- 4) **Any base runner may be put out by being struck with a thrown ball (pegging) if they are not on a base. A runner must be “pegged” or “tagged” if not advancing to a “forced” out.**
 - a. A successful peg (in the air or off the bounce) will result in a dead ball.
 - b. A successful peg must be clear and decisive as agreed upon by Team Captains. If Team Captains cannot reach an agreement, the play will be reset and replayed.
 - c. An unsuccessful peg is a live ball unless the unsuccessful peg leaves the field of play and/or strikes a player occupying a base (further resulting in a dead ball).
- 5) **Running into fielder who has or receiving ball results in “out”; runner responsible for avoiding contact.**
- 6) **A “vicinity” rule is in effect for force outs at first base for the safety of all players.**
 - a. Fielder needs only to catch ball while standing within painted circle around base for “out”.
- 7) **Situational rules per division.**
 - a. **MEN’S DIVISION:**
 - i. **Infield Fly Rule:** A batter is automatically out if ball is popped up in the infield and any of the following conditions are met:
 - a. Runners on first and second base.
 - b. Bases loaded and less than 2 outs.
 - c. Player announces “Infield Fly Rule” prior to fielder touching ball.
 - b. **WOMEN’S DIVISION:**
 - i. **Tagging Up:** A base runner may “tag up” if batter hits a “pop fly”, meaning the runner may only leave the bag after the ball is caught by a defender.
 - ii. **Designated Runner:** If a designated runner is needed, the player who resulted in the team’s most recent “out” must be the designated runner.
- 8) **“Time” is considered when a defensive pitcher in the pitcher’s circle or infielder has possession of the ball AND play has ceased.**
 - a. Infielder should “hold” runners on a base and call “time” or make a play.
 - b. Runners in the act of running and in between bases may continue to the next base or return to previous base unless “pegged” or “tagged” out.

Substitutions

- 1) **Substitutions (in field of play) may be made at any time.**
- 2) **Pinch runners may be made in case of injury or otherwise discussed reasoning prior to player’s at-bat.**
- 3) **Pitchers that have been substituted are allowed to return as pitcher at any time.**
- 4) **New pitchers will be allowed 10 warm-up pitches.**
- 5) **MEN’S DIVISION:** If sub(s) needed to avoid forfeit, sub(s) can’t pitch and are placed at end of lineup.
- 6) **In the absence of a “subs list”, subs needed to avoid forfeit can be acquired from existing teams, but player must be agreed upon by Team Captains.**
- 7) **Any “sub” recruited from outside of the Ross Bridge Wiffle Ball League will be required to pay dues and be added to the official team roster prior to game play (until rosters are locked).**

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Tournament

- 1) **Players must have played in at least 2 regular season games to be eligible for tournament. Provided game day line-ups and/or photos from regular season may be used to verify eligibility, if disputed.**
- 2) **Standings after regular season games will be used to seed double elimination tournament.**
- 3) **Semi-final and final games will be single elimination.**
- 4) **No new inning is to begin after 50 minutes of game play. At 65 minutes, game will revert to score of previously completed inning.**