2019 Western Baseball Association Rulebook

1. **Uniforms, BP, Helmets, Bats, and Baseballs**

1a All teams must have full baseball uniforms consisting of caps, jerseys, and

 baseball pants. Each player's uniform must be of similar design to his

 teammates' uniforms. All jerseys must have numbers.

1b If the home team takes batting practice on the field it is common courtesy to give the visiting team the same option and at least 25 minutes to take batting practice on the field as well.

1c. All batters and runners must wear helmets (no exceptions). One earflap is

 allowed as long as it faces the pitcher.

1d It is optional for coaches to wear helmets while coaching bases

1e Wood, composite, Baumbats, or similar bats are allowed. No metal

 bats allowed.

1f Home team must provide all baseballs.

1g Each team will pay for one umpire per game.

1. **Game Length, Run Rule, Tie Games, and Rain Outs**

2a All games are scheduled for nine innings including doubleheaders. However, in case of doubleheaders, if both managers agree before the 1st game, to do one nine inning game and one seven, that is now allowed. In the case of darkness or lights that have to be off at a certain time , a game will be considered complete after five innings. Umpires will have final say on whether it is too dark to play. Non-league games are at the discretion of the home team.

2b. The run rule is Mandatory **for league games only**. If a team is down by 10 or more runs after their at-bat in seventh inning the game is over.

2c Tie games will be completed the next time those two teams play again no matter where the game is played. The tie game will be played before the regularly scheduled game. If the two teams in question do not play again, the game will go down as a tie. However, if the game means something in the standings the game will be replayed in its entirety using the same 30 rosters as the original game.

2d Rainouts will be decided by the home team before the game is played, but once the game is started, the umpires will then make the call. Rainouts will be rescheduled at the earliest convenience by both teams involved. They will then notify the league schedule-maker who will then notify the umpires.

**3. Teams, Lineup Cards, and Players**

3a Team rosters are limited to 30 eligible players for each game.

3b Each team is required to provide two copies of the lineup card to the home plate

 umpire prior to the start of the game. The lineup card must list last name and

 number. Substitutes must be granted upon request.

 Managers must notify the home plate umpire who, in turn, will notify the opposing

 team of all substitutions. Umpires will manage the lineup card. It will be the

 official card for protests and batting out of order complaints.

3c Home team is official book.

3d Team must have nine players to start a game.

3e No player under contract with one team can play for another in league play unless they are released from the team that has the player contract.

3f A Player wishing to change teams must first receive his release from his original team.

The release should be emailed or a texted to the league office. The player will be considered ineligible until the league office acknowledges they have received the release.

4. **Players and Manager Ejection’s**

4a An umpire has sole discretion to expel any player or manager from the game.

 The umpire must report the name of the player expelled to the league office.

 The player expelled is not required to sit out the next game unless they are

 expelled for fighting, verbally assaulting/threatening, or physical contact with an umpire or coach.

4b Fighting with another player is an automatic two-game suspension. The umpire must then submit a report to the league office for further review by the league officers in case a much longer suspension is warranted. Physical contact with an umpire by a player or coach is automatic four-game suspension.

The umpire must then submit a report to the league office for further review by the league officers in case a much longer suspension is warranted.

4c Managers that are expelled are not required to serve a one game suspension.

4d If a player or coach is suspended, it is for league games only. Non-league games

 do not apply.

4e Rules 4a thru 4d include inter-division games, but the suspension is for league games only.

1. **Protests and Appeals**

5a If a manager wants to lodge a protest, a $100.00 protest bond must be paid to the

 league at the time the protest is filed. In the event the protest is upheld, the

 $100 deposit will be refunded to the protesting manager. However, if the

 protest is denied, the manager will forfeit the protest bond. Protests must be

 received by the league office within 24 hours of the official game time. The

 protest form must be used. Pete Lopez, head of the San Diego Umpire Association

 will be the protest judge and form a 3-man committee.

5b There will be no appeals process for players, managers, or general mangers. The league ruling on protests and suspensions is final.

**6**. **General League Rules**

6a The Division champion is determined by a 1 or 3 game playoff. The top teams in each division (American and National) will play a 1or 3 game playoff for the WBA Championship. Division champs will get a third the winner of the playoff will get the other third. If no time for playoff they will split prize money.

6b Tiebreakers for playoffs are as follow. If the top two teams tie then the number 1 seed is then determined by:  head to head and  then runs allowed against each other.  If they still remain tied then it is a coin flip. The number 1 seed is the home team in game's 1 and 3.

6c The forfeit time for each game is 15 minutes after the game were to start. If it is a

 doubleheader, the second game forfeit time is 30 minutes after the first game was

 forfeited. This is written this way so both teams and umpires do not have to wait around.

**If both games are forfeited each umpire will be paid $50.00 for the day**. The team

that forfeits the game or games will be responsible for paying both umpires. If it is a

non-league team that forfeits the game the WBA team is responsible for trying to collect

the umpire fees and if they do not they are responsible for paying the umpire. If you call

and cancel the game at any time the day before the game the umpires will not be paid.

6d Umpires will not be paid extra for extra innings unless they have to come back on a different date to finish the game. They will then be paid per inning at a pro-rated amount for one game. In turn, umpires will receive a full game's pay for any game that is not completed before

 nine innings.

6e The 2017 American League rules will be in effect. The 2018 American League speed up rules are not in effect.

6f The American League DH rule will be in effect. It reads:

A hitter may be designated to bat for the starting pitcher and all subsequent pitchers in any game without otherwise affecting the status of the pitcher(s) in the game. A Designated Hitter for the pitcher must be selected prior to the game and must be included in the lineup cards presented to the Umpire-in-Chief.

The Designated Hitter named in the starting lineup must come to bat at least one time, unless the opposing club changes pitchers. It is not mandatory that a club designate a hitter for the pitcher, but failure to do so prior to the game precludes the use of a Designated Hitter for that game.

Pinch hitters for a Designated Hitter may be used. Any substitute hitter for a Designated Hitter himself becomes a Designated Hitter. A replaced Designated Hitter shall not re-enter the game in any capacity. The Designated Hitter may be used defensively, continuing to bat in the same position in the batting order, but the pitcher must then bat in the place of the substituted defensive player, unless more than one substitution is made, and the manager then must designate their spots in the batting order.

A runner may be substituted for the Designated Hitter and the runner assumes the role of the Designated Hitter.

A Designated Hitter is "locked" into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation of the Designated Hitter.

Once the game pitcher is switched from the mound to a defensive position this move shall terminate the DH role for the remainder of the game. Once a pinch-hitter bats for any player in the batting order and then enters the game to pitch, this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for the remainder of the game.

Once a Designated Hitter assumes a defensive position this move shall terminate the Designated Hitter role for the remainder of the game.

6g The EH rule can be used in the North Division only and only if both managers agree before the game begins.

6h Each team in the WBA must have liability insurance or have a liability waiver form turned into the League office. Also, **each team must have the Western Semi-Pro Baseball Association added as an additional insured under their liability policy. The league address is 2721 Greyling Ave., San Diego, CA, 92123.**

6i Any team that leaves the league and either becomes an independent or joins another league

will not be allowed back into the league or play in any league tournaments for 3 years. This

rule also applies to teams that do not finish the season. Only **unanimous consent by the Board of**

**Directors** can overturn this rule. If a team shuts down for a season or two this rule does not apply.

6j Teams in the WBA will not be allowed to schedule games with teams that are in debt to the league. This includes former WBA teams and Independent teams. If a team in the WBA plays one of the owners/teams below one league loss will be added to their total. Please ask the league office for the list

 if you have any questions.

6k All teams must pay their league fees by June 15th or be assessed a 10% penalty. If your team is not paid

 up by July 15th another 10% penalty will be added. If you have not paid your league fees by the end of

 year your team will not be able to play in any NBC events until that debt is paid.

6l The 2018 MLB speed up rule limiting 6 visits to the pitcher is not being observed.

6m All rules in this document are Western Baseball Association rules. Any

 rules not covered herein shall be covered by the American League rules.

**Protest Form Below**

**Team Contact List on League Website**

**Western Baseball Association**

**Protest Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Opposition: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Umpire's Name: (Plate) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Field) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Game: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Field Game was Played on: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rule being Protested: (Give Page, Rule, and Paragraph)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Summary of Circumstances:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_