

WEST COAST LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

2012

Chapter One: Introductory Provisions and League Operations

1.00 Mission Statement: The West Coast League is a summer collegiate wood bat league based in the West dedicated to accelerating prospect development, increasing player exposure and bettering its member communities; by providing best-of-breed leadership, best-in-class competition, best-in-West Coast ballparks, memorable life experiences, and affordable entertainment in an environment that fosters organization, professionalism, promotion, competition, fun and innovation with the utmost integrity and respect for its players and the game.

1.01 NCAA Baseball Rule Book shall govern all games played by WCL member teams. If there is a conflict between these and NCAA Rules, the President shall decide if due to the nature of the WCL, the NCAA Rules do not apply.

1.02 NCAA Book Rules: Neither coaches, league officers nor other parties may privately agree to waive or revise any of these rules in the WCL contest. Any attempts to do so shall be null and void. Issues on rule interpretation are to be resolved by the President. Only the WCL Board of Directors may formally revise these provisions.

1.03 President: The President shall:

- A. Resolve any issues that may arise over the season schedule and administer any post-season play devised by the Board of Directors;
- B. Interpret and enforce the NCAA Baseball Rules, including any exceptions to the NCAA Rules recognized by the WCL.
- C. Maintain a current set of League Rules which are deemed to supplement or are exceptions to NCAA Rules and summary of precedent from previous rulings.
- D. Wherever NCAA Rules say an issue is to be decided by a league, conference, or NCAA governing body, it shall be decided by the league Board of Directors in consultation with the President.

1.4 Behavior of League Representatives:

- A. Whenever anyone officially affiliated with the WCL or any of its teams, including players is conducting league business or is otherwise in a situation that might reflect upon the league, he/she shall act in a polite, professional manner and not be under the influence of alcohol or

controlled substances. Violations of this rule are to be reported to the Board of Directors and President for any action deemed appropriate.

- B. If the President or Board of Directors determines that the use of alcohol or drugs contributed to any violation of league rules or NCAA Baseball Rules, the players or coaches involved shall be suspended for a minimum of one league game, and for as many additional league games as is deemed appropriate. If there is damage to property, the ownership of the players or coaches involved shall be responsible for such damages.

Chapter Two: Rules on Game Conduct

2.0 Guidelines for Scheduling League Games:

- A. In the scheduling process, if scheduling conflicts arise, league games are to be given priority over all non-league scheduling.
- B. The President will work with teams to reschedule postponed games. The reschedule decision must be announced within 48 hours after the postponement.

2.01 Playing Field: The home team will insure that the field is always in good repair and safe condition.

- A. Within fifteen minutes of game time, the field shall be dragged, the bases put in place, and the foul lines and batter's box lined.
- B. If lights are available to the home team, the latter shall have access to turning them on upon request of the umpires.
- C. Bullpens must be available to both the home and visiting team and pitching rubbers must be regulation distance from home plate and mounds regulation height. Both bullpens should be raked, tamped and watered prior to batting practice.

2.02 Security: The home team is responsible for reasonably securing the safety of all fans and game participants.

2.03 Batting Practice: Both the home and visiting teams shall have an opportunity for an equal amount of batting practice, for at least 45 minutes each, with the home team going first and the visiting team taking BP 1:45 before game time. Any change must be communicated in advance.

2.04 Equipment: All equipment and uniforms must be in good condition, free of defect and in safe repair pursuant to NCAA Rules.

- A. Single flap helmets are acceptable for players. Contrary to NCAA rule 1.15 (double ear flap). Base coaches must wear helmets.
- B. A team's players and coaches shall wear identical uniforms.
- C. Both the home and visiting teams are responsible for ensuring that the respective uniform colors are duly distinguishable, if possible. The visiting team shall bring at least two different jersey colors if it has them and shall use one that suitably distinguishes the two teams. Contrary to applicable NCAA Rules.
- D. Only wood and composite bats may be utilized. Contrary to applicable NCAA Rules.
- E. Umpires are authorized to halt game proceedings unless and until these requirements are met.

2.05 Player Eligibility: To be eligible for any WCL game a player:

- A. Must have remaining college baseball eligibility
- B. Must not be under any other contractual obligation to play baseball for any other team, without the consent of each team for whom the player has signed to play;
- C. Must have signed and filed with the WCL or the team itself the standard Player's Contract provided by the WCL;
- D. Must be clear of any equipment obligations due to the WCL or any other written objections filed with and deemed valid by the President;
- E. Must not be suspended from play in the game in question; and
- F. Must be properly listed on the team's roster and lineup sheet;
- G. Teams shall have their players and coaches agree to the league Code of Conduct and Professional Guidelines. Whereas the above provisions of Rule 2.04 relate to player eligibility and violations may be punished by game forfeitures, a violation of this subsection shall be punished by fine of \$250 per incident. The fine shall be levied against the team playing the ineligible player.

2.06 Players Who Quit a Team: A player who signs with and then quits a WCL team may petition the President for the opportunity to play for another WCL Team. In that event the President shall advise all the other WCL teams of the player's availability and give all of them one week in which to claim the player. If two or

more teams claim the player, the President shall award the player to the team with the poorer league record. A player who quits two WCL teams in the same season is ineligible for further play in the WCL for the duration of the season in question.

2.07 Lineup Sheet: Only those players listed on a team's lineup sheet exchanged at the plate prior to any particular game are eligible to play. Only up to 25 players may be listed on any particular lineup sheet.

2.08 Rosters:

- A. Roster changes may be made anytime at the will of each team (unlimited roster with the exception of post-season roster).
- B. By midnight of the third Monday of July, each team's final 28-man playoff roster is to be filed directly with the President. To participate in the post-season, a player must be on his team's 28-man playoff roster.
- C. To be eligible for participation in post-season play, a player must have played in at least five WCL games in that season for that particular team prior to the playoffs.

2.09 Umpires: The league is responsible for contracting for the services of at least two umpires per game. The home team is responsible for providing at least two hours notice to the league Supervisor of Umpires and the relevant umpires for the cancellation or postponement of any scheduled game, if possible.

- A. If a team wishes to make a formal complaint about a particular umpire's general conduct, a written set of grievances shall be filed in an incident report (form) with the Supervisor of Umpires, whose duty it is to review the situation with the President.
- B. The WCL does not tolerate offensive physical contact or such threatening contact with an umpire by a player or coach. Coaches or players who offensively touch, push or in any way initiate or threaten to initiate offensive physical contact with an umpire shall be suspended for at least the next three scheduled WCL games. Teams shall be liable for monetary fines levied by the President should this misconduct occur in the final game(s) of the season. Note: NCAA Rule 5 (12), p. 59, and Fight Rule 5 (16), p. 60.
- C. An umpire evaluation form is available on-line at the West Coast League website. This form is to be completed by each team's coach at the conclusion of each series.

2.10 Game Parameters:

- A. **Scheduled Length:** Single games shall consist of 9 innings.

In a scheduled double-header, both games shall consist of 7 innings.

In the event rescheduling results in teams playing each other twice on the same day, the contests shall be treated as a double-header in terms of scheduled game length.

- B. **No Mercy Rules.**
- C. **Other Early Terminations:** A game is considered complete if the umpires terminate a contest due to rain and the home team is ahead after at least 4 and 1/2 innings of play, or if the visiting team is ahead after at least 5 innings of play. If the game is suspended due to rain, with a tie score after at least 5 innings of play, it must be rescheduled for completion from the point at which play was suspended. Games otherwise terminated by rain must be rescheduled and replayed from the beginning.
- D. **Suspended Games:** Games stopped for other reasons – such as curfew, darkness, the untimely operation of sprinklers, etc. –shall be rescheduled and resumed from the point at which play was suspended.
- E. **Rescheduled or Resumed Game:** The teams in question shall reschedule games that must be resumed or replayed; and they have 48 hours from the date the original game was suspended or rained out to work with the President to decide upon rescheduling details. Every effort shall be made to reschedule a postponed or suspended game in the original city, including the possibility of a team returning to the original city, should that option be reasonable, as worked out by the two teams with the President. If such arrangement is not reasonable, and the teams are not scheduled again at the site of the postponed or suspended game, the rescheduled or resumed game shall be played at the site of the visiting team when the teams are scheduled to meet again. If the teams are not scheduled to play again and rescheduling the game at either site is not reasonable, the game shall be cancelled.
- F. **Intentional Walks:** For an intentional walk the pitcher must throw at least four pitches. Automatic walks (by signal to the umpire) are prohibited.
- G. **Forceful and Malicious Contact:** Force plays NCAA Rule 8, Section 4.
- H. **Safety Provisions:**
 - 1) Only roster members, coaches, managers, trainers, owners, and authorized batboys or girls are permitted in the dugout. All team personnel must be inside the dugout, in the on-deck area, on base,

at bat, in fielding position or coaching box, in the bullpen, or completely inside clearly marked or designated dead ball territory.

- 2) There can be but one batboy or girl per team, and each must be at least ten years of age. If a team utilizes a batboy or girl, someone in that team's dugout must be assigned responsibility for the child's safety. All batboys and girls must at all times wear a protective helmet with a face shield.
 1. The home team must insure that the parents or guardians of every batboy or girl sign a hold harmless agreement by which they waive any and all right to claim or sue either the team, owner of their ballpark, or the WCL for any injury or damages suffered by their child before, during and after any baseball game.

The visiting team may decline the use of a bat boy or girl.

- 3) Unless the bullpen area is completely protected, there shall always be at least one player assigned to watch for and guard against foul balls hit in that direction.
- 4) Umpires are requested to halt a game unless and until these rules are observed.

- I. **Score Keepers:** The home team shall designate an official scorer and is responsible for recording the game in real time on the provided Pointstreak software. The real time scoring must be transmitted to Pointstreak at that time. The failure to preserve a proper recording of the entire game (location, umpires, plays, stats, attendance, delays, game suspension and ejections) is grounds for penalty (fine by the President). The fine may be appealed to the President. It is the home team's responsibility to provide a hard copy of the box score for the visitor's media (if necessary).
- J. **Public Address Announcers:** If a team utilizes a public address system, it shall be operated in a professional manner.

2.11 Behavior

- A. **Language:** The WCL does not tolerate profane or abusive language on the field of play or in the dugouts, and umpires are requested to eject players or coaches who violate this rule.
- B. **Thrown Equipment:** No coach or player may throw a bat, helmet or other piece of equipment to register disgust, either with himself, another

player or an umpire. Umpires are requested to eject players and coaches who engage in this behavior.

- C. **Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drugs:** The use of tobacco products and the use of alcohol and controlled substances on the playing field, dugouts, adjacent parking lots, team bus or in hotel rooms are prohibited. Umpires are requested to eject those who violate this rule.

Teams must also abide by whatever additional rules may apply at particular ballparks.

- D. **Fighting:** See NCAA Rule 5, Section 16.

Chapter Three: League Championships, Playoffs and Tournaments

3.01 League Championship in a Single Division: Unless otherwise provided by the Board of Directors, the following rules shall apply in determining the league champion in a season with a single division:

- A. Eligible playoff teams shall be ranked in the descending order of their winning percentages in league contests.
- B. In the event of ties, the first tiebreaker shall be head to head competition. Next tie-breaker is record vs. highest finishing WCL club besides the teams tied. Next tie-breaker is record vs. second highest finishing WCL club besides the teams tied.

3.2 League Playoffs: During a season in which there are two or more divisions, the Board shall determine in advance the format for a playoff system.

Chapter Four: Rules Violations and Enforcement Process

4.1 Forfeits: The President may order a game forfeited if:

- A. A team utilizes one or more ineligible players;
- B. A team does not take the field to start or continue a properly scheduled or rescheduled game and there is no valid reason or excuse for failing to do so;
- C. A team cannot field nine players, either at the beginning of or during a game; or
- D. A team refuses to reschedule a game as ordered by the President.

A team requesting a forfeit must file a written complaint with the President within 48 hours of the incident(s) giving rise to the request, on pain of having the request denied unless the President finds that there was good cause for the filing delay. Thereafter, the President shall consult with the relevant parties and issue a written decision as expeditiously as possible.

- 4.02 Protests:** All Protests must be filed in writing with the President within 48 hours of the incident(s) giving rise to the protest, or the protest will be denied. Thereafter, the President shall consult with the relevant parties and issue a written decision as expeditiously as possible.

However, a protest or requested forfeit concerning all alleged roster violation shall be ruled upon only after the game in question has been completed.

4.03 Ejections/Suspensions:

- A. If a player is ejected from either a league or non-league game, he shall be ineligible to play in his team's next WCL game. If a player is ejected for a second time during any one season, he shall be ineligible to play for his team's next 3 WCL games. Upon a third ejection in the same season, he shall be ineligible for any further WCL play that season.

Once ejected, players and coaches must be out of uniform and off the field and out of the dugout and bullpen area. When serving a suspension, players and coaches must be off the field and out of the dugout and bullpen area when the stadium gates open.

Ejected and/or suspended players and coaches must be as far from the playing field as possible, and have no contact with uniformed personnel or umpires.

- B. These rules apply to both regular season games and any post season play sponsored in whole or in part by the WCL. These suspensions may only be stayed or lifted through the appellate process stated in Rule 4.04. If the suspensions cannot be served before the end of the season, the President may direct that the suspension or remaining balance thereof be served at the beginning of the next season.

- 4.04 Ejection Appeals:** An appeal of an ejection must be filed in writing with the President within 24 hours of the incident(s) giving rise to the ejection or prior to the player's next WCL game, whichever comes first, or the appeal shall be denied.

While the appeal is pending, the game suspensions specified in Rule 4.03 shall be stayed.

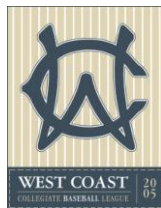
The President shall consult with the relevant parties and issue a written decision as expeditiously as possible.

If a player who is the subject of the appeal participates in a game(s) for which he would otherwise be suspended under Rule 4.03, he shall serve twice the period of suspension otherwise specified if the President finds that there was no issue worthy of an appeal or that the appeal was filed solely for purposes of delaying the suspension(s) in question.

If the appeal is denied and it is necessary to re-impose the game suspension(s) under Rule 4.03, the President shall indicate the most suitable remaining game(s) for which the appellant is to be suspended – taking into account the particular game(s) in which the player would have been ineligible had the suspensions under Rule 4.03 been served originally.

4.05 Rule Violations: The President is responsible for investigating all alleged violations of league rules and is authorized to issue penalties commensurate for any actual violations. Any particular penalties that may be outlined in the various provisions of the League Rules, such as those prescribed in Rule 4.03, are presumptive only; and the President is authorized to impose greater or lesser penalties after taking into account all the relevant circumstances – as long as those factors are stated in his written decisions. Among other things, the President shall consider whether the team or player in question has any history or violations and was previously given any warnings for rule violations, and relevant precedent from previous rulings, any mitigating or aggravating circumstances surrounding the incident, and the presence or absence of any bad faith on the part of the transgressing parties.

Rule violations may be penalized by warnings, fines, game forfeitures, or other consequences deemed appropriate by the President.



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