



Minnetonka Big Willow Baseball
Association

Rules of Play for Big Willow Mites Division

Revised January 1, 2010

TEAM COMPOSITION

The maximum number of players on a Minnetonka Big Willow Mites team will be 10. Actual team composition will be determined each season by the total number of applicants and number of available coaches.

GENERAL

1. All Mites games are three innings. Each half-inning consists of a team batting once through its entire batting order.
2. No scores are kept for Mites games.
3. A team must have a minimum of 5 players to start the game.
4. Coaches will be on the field during games. Coaches from the fielding team will arrange the fielders and maintain alertness of the players. The coach in charge of the fielding team will umpire.
5. All players will be placed around the infield, as long as they are behind the pitcher's mound.

EQUIPMENT

1. Protective helmets shall be worn at bat and while a base runner during all practices and games.
2. All players are encouraged to wear a protective supporter cup to practices and games. The catcher during all practices and games shall wear protective headgear, as well as chest and shin protection.
3. The bat shall be no more than 33 inches in length, with a barrel no greater than 2 ¼ inches in diameter. Metal and wood bats are acceptable.
4. Metal cleats or spikes are not permitted by any player or coach.
5. Jewelry is prohibited. Players shall not wear jewelry. Medical alert and religious bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry.

BATTING

1. Each batter will use the tee until the ball is put into play. There are no walks and no strikeouts.
2. Every player will be included in the batting order. A player arriving after the start of a game will be placed at the end of the batting order.
3. A fairly batted ball must travel 20 feet from the home plate to be in play. Coaches will mark the baselines before the game. Coaches, please apply this rule liberally to ensure that most players hit the ball solidly off the tee.
4. One coach from the batting team will be stationed at home plate to set up the tee, assist the batter, and remove the tee immediately after the ball is hit.

BASE RUNNING

1. Base stealing and leading off will **NOT** be allowed at any time.
2. All base runners will advance 1 base after each hit.
3. The last batter on the batting team will touch all the bases, with each existing base runner touching all remaining bases.
4. A player must slide if a “play” is being made at the base. A “play” occurs either if:
 - a. A fielder is at the base in the act of receiving a throw to the base or fielding a fairly hit ball, or
 - b. A fielder is at the base having already caught a throw or fielded a fairly hit ball.

The first time a player fails to slide, the team will receive a warning. Future failures to slide will result in the base runner being called out. This does not apply to bases already attained by a runner, nor does it apply to plays at first base.

SUBSTITUTION

1. All players may play in the field when a team is on defense. The infield shall be limited to the normal positions, plus a second player/pitcher (i.e., one player/pitcher on each side of the pitching rubber). All other players must be in the outfield and be situated no closer than the edge of the outfield grass.
2. Coaches are allowed free substitution throughout the game. Furthermore, coaches are **REQUIRED** to move players around to different positions during the course of a game.
3. A clear disregard of player rotation guidelines will constitute grounds for coach suspension or removal, and impact future coaching considerations.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

1. Minnetonka Big Willow will make the decisions on postponements of games by 4:30 pm or 2 hours before game time due to inclement weather. Dial 952.935.3950 for MBW to check on the game status due to weather conditions. It will be the coaches’ responsibility to contact their players to notify them of the change. It is suggested that opposing coaches keep in touch with each other so there is no misunderstanding.
2. A game may be called due to weather before the game starts upon mutual agreement of both coaches. If the coaches do not agree, the game will be started.
3. The coaches must call the game if there is visible lightning or if the field is in a dangerous condition.
4. Every attempt will be made to reschedule called or cancelled games