



Any rules not covered in this rule book will revert back to the  
National Federation High School Rule Book

**ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 26, 2002**

**2014  
BASEBALL  
RULE BOOK**



# National Office

**Global Sports Authority Incorporated**

**5580 Austell Powder Springs Road**

**Austell, Georgia 30106**

**678-689-1482 Office 678-318-3602 Fax**

**[HTTP://GSATEAMS.COM](http://GSATEAMS.COM)**

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## Section 01 – Guidelines and Procedures

### Purpose:

- (1) To seek the best competition, sportsmanship and brotherhood of coaches, players, fans and spectators alike regardless of race, religion, sex, or age. GSA is committed to providing the highest level of competition possible for all age groups. We offer 4 classifications to assure teams the ability to play other teams of their same caliber. Those 4 classifications are AAAA, AAA, AA and A. We have these 4 classifications broken down further by having a Major and Minor division in each of the 4 classifications.
- (2) To do our best in classifying teams to where they can be competitive and enjoy the game of Baseball. No Team enjoys being humiliated and being in a game where they are out classed. Our number one goal is to classify teams from Top traveling teams to Recreational teams in a group where each team is playing in a classification where they belong. The GSA season and ranking system runs from August 1<sup>st</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- (3) To work with any group, league, or association that is willing to follow our guidelines and has the same interest in Baseball as we do and promotes the game of Baseball.
- (4) To support and encourage any Community, County, State, or Country in an effort to spread Baseball and get more people of all ages, (ESPECIALLY OUR YOUTH), religion, sex, or race involved.

### Directors:

Certain circumstances listed below could result in the termination of a G.S.A. Director.

- (1) Failure to furnish G.S.A. Officers with Tournament Reports, League Reports, Sanction Reports and fees in a timely manner. All of these are expected to be reported no later than 10 days from time of event.
- (2) Involvement of another Tournament, League, or event not sanctioned by G.S.A.
- (3) Any act or involvement that discredits G.S.A. or discredits advancement, growth, reputation or well being of G.S.A. or Baseball in general.
- (4) On the other side in return of doing a good job as a Director G.S.A. will do everything possible in assisting any Director in their advancement in Baseball.
- (5) All GSA Directors are expected to wear GSA attire. This can be purchased at either <http://gsaofficials.com> or <http://gsasports.abstores.com>

### Rule Interpretations:

Basic terms used in Baseball such as batter, fielder, base runner, infield fly and etc. will be basically the same as in other major Baseball Organizations. If a question comes up and cannot be resolved by an umpire on the field, the Tournament or League Director will make a decision and will be required by G.S.A. to inform the Executive Board of their decision and a side letter will be generated to inform teams of what the ruling will be in the future should that circumstance arise again.

## Section 02 – General Rules of the Game

- (1) G.S.A. accepts no responsibility and disclaims all liability for any bodily injury or property damage to coaches, ball players, fans, or other members of the general public which arise from any G.S.A. sanctioned event or any actions of any kind of any G.S.A. Directors or Umpires whether intentional or by accident. A roster must be filled out and signed in every G.S.A. Tournament or event, and by signing that roster, you are saying you agree to this Statement. All Youth rosters will require parent or legal guardian signature if under age and player's signature if not, and coach's signature.

- (2) The season runs from August 1<sup>st</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- (3) Age cutoff will be April 30<sup>th</sup>. Whatever age the player is, as of April 30<sup>th</sup> will be the age classification they are eligible for.
- (4) Teams may play up in age and/or classification, but may not play down in age and/or classification.
- (5) Each team must be able to provide proper documentation for each of its players. Documentation must be presented upon demand by tournament directors. Documentation to include team roster signed by player's parent or guardian (if under 17 years of age) and birth certificate.
- (6) Anytime a player is injured in Youth, in an umpire's judgment bad enough to stop play, time shall be called immediately.
- (7) In the unfortunate situation where a player should be ejected, an umpire should not say anything to the player, but should call time and talk with the coach and inform the coach of the ejection, and player may remain in the dugout, unless any further complications occur, at which time the umpire should call time again, and inform the coach that he/she need to go with the player and leave sight of the playing field until which time a parent or legal guardian can accompany that player.
- (8) Line-up cards are to be completed and submitted to the official scorekeeper and umpire before the start of the game. Line-ups need to at least include last names and jersey numbers. In the event a number is listed wrong correct the mistake and continue with the game, as long as the name is correct.
- (9) Infield Fly begins in 9 Under.
- (10) Leading off begins in 9 Under.
- (11) Balks are enforced in 9 Under and above. However, Umpires are encouraged to use a "soft balk" guideline with 9U players. Umpires are asked to stop the action and inform the Pitcher and the Coach of the player's infraction. If it is repeated or is deceptive at these levels, a balk should be enforced.
- (12) Run rule will be 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, and 8 runs after 5 innings.
- (13) GSA will have 3 Under - 18 Under age groups, with all having AAAA Major, AAAA Minor, AAA Major, AAA Minor, AA Major, AA Minor, A Major and A Minor Classifications.
- (14) No players will be allowed to play in two age divisions in the same Tournament. A player may play in two age divisions, just not in the same Tournament. A player playing for two different teams within the same tournament will be ejected at the point of discovery for the remainder of the tournament.

## Section 03 – Protests

### Types of Protests:

- (1) **Misinterpretation of a playing rule:** These must be made before the next pitch or should it be the last play of the game, be made before the umpires leave the field.
- (2) **Ineligible player:** These may be made at any time. A decision will be made as soon as possible. It's not always possible to make a decision on this during the game or even before the Tournament is over. If the team is found guilty, appropriate measures will be taken.

### Protest Fees:

- (1) Any team wishing to protest a game shall pay \$75. Teams who win the protest will receive the money back.

### Protest Procedure:

**(1) The Coach or Manager of the protesting team shall notify the home plate umpire immediately of his/her intent to protest the game. Umpire shall then notify the opposing team and scorekeeper. Umpire shall also notify the League or Tournament Director immediately.**

### Written Protest:

**(1) In the event the situation cannot be taken care of by a League or Tournament Director a written protest should be filled out and sent in to the Area Director and it will be forwarded to the National Director. These should be sent in no later than 3 days from time of incident and contain the following information.**

**(A) Date, Place, and Time of game.**

**(B) Names of Umpires, scorekeepers, League or Tournament Director**

**(C) Rule and section of Official rules or local rules in question**

**(D) List all information pertaining to protest**

**(E) List your name and any contact information of getting in touch with you.**

### Protest Decisions:

**(1) Protest decisions will be looked at closely and handled in the best interest of Baseball and the Team or Teams involved.**

**(2) Ineligibility protest in cases where the Team or player is found to be ineligible will be handled with the team found guilty forfeiting all games played and dropped to bottom of Rankings and may risk being banned from G.S.A. for the remainder of the year. Coaches are required to have birth certificates for all players with them at each Tournament. Players who are 15 and over and have a valid Driver's license may use a driver's license in place of a birth certificate. The age cutoff is April 30. Whatever age the player is as of April 30 is the age group they may play. Players may play up in age group but are never allowed to play down.**

## Section 04 - Umpires

### Umpire Responsibilities:

**One or more certified umpires will be used in any G.S.A. sanctioned League or Tournament. They shall be responsible for the conduct of the game and be responsible for a decision of playing conditions on the field once the game begins or before the start of the game. They will apply these rules and maintain order and discipline on the playing field during the game.**

### Uniform:

**Umpires shall wear approved G.S.A. umpire attire. This can be purchased at <http://gsaofficials.com>**

### Decisions:

**No umpire shall have the authority to question decisions made by another umpire. However, umpires may consult and are encouraged to consult with each other over a questionable call. The final decision is to be made by the umpire making the call initially.**

## Change of Umpires:

Teams may not request a change of umpires during or before a game. Umpires will only be changed in the event of illness, emergency or as the League or Tournament Director sees fit.

## Section 05 – Equipment

### **Bats:**

- (1) Global Sports Authority is dedicated to providing a safe and fun experience for all of its players, coaches, umpires, and spectators.
- (2) GSA provides the following bat specifications in reference to bats used in competition:
- (3) For Ages 13 Under and below there is no bat restrictions. 14 Under is restricted to drop 5.
- (4) For Ages 15 Under -18 Under all bats must adhere to the same standard of the National Federation High School policy. Should a bat not under this policy be used during a GSA game the National Federation High School sanctions will apply.
- (5) Bats may be inspected by umpires prior to the start of the game, or at any time, until the last out of the game.
- (6) The following sanctions will be enforced should an illegal bat be used during GSA play:

The player hitting will be called out regardless of the outcome if the ball should be put in play. The player will not be allowed to return to the game and the coach will have to insert a substitute in his place. This is not an ejection of the player. If during the play the hitter uses an illegal bat, the batter is out, and all player(s), if any, are on base will be returned to their respective base prior to the hitter coming to bat.

- (7) Bats shall not be tampered with in any way to either add or diminish the size of the bat, from its original manufacturer.

### **GSA Wood Bat Tournaments:**

- (1) It shall be at the discretion of the GSA Tournament Director as to the rules reference to wood bats.
- (2) Bats shall not be tampered with in any way to either add or diminish the size of the bat, from its original manufacturer.

### **Official Baseball:**

- (1) The ball shall be a sphere formed by yarn wound around a small core of cork, rubber or similar material, covered with two strips of white horsehide or cowhide, tightly stitched together.
- (2) The ball shall weigh not less than five ounces (5 oz.) nor more than 5 and one-fourth ounces (5 1/4 oz.) avoirdupois. The ball shall measure not less than nine inches (9") nor more than nine and one-fourth inches (9 1/4") in circumference. A synthetic or leather covered stitched baseball made of solid cork and/or rubber weighing not less than five ounces (5 oz.) or more than five and one-fourth ounces (5 1/4 oz.) avoirdupois is also allowed.

### **Gloves:**

- (1) May be worn by any fielder, but MITTS may be used only by the catcher or first baseman. The pitcher's glove

shall be uniform in color, including all stitching, lacing and webbing. The pitcher's glove may not be white or gray.

### **Uniforms:**

- (1) All players should wear uniforms that are alike in color.
- (2) Numbers must be worn on the uniform.

### **Headwear:**

- (1) Caps, Visors, or headbands are optional. But if worn should be alike in color and with bill to the front.

### **Glasses:**

- (1) Glasses may be worn, but they must be securely fastened to the player's head. No Batter or Pitcher may wear mirrored sunglasses.

### **Shoes:**

- (1) Shoes must be worn by all players.

### **Jewelry:**

- (1) No exposed jewelry may be worn except for medical alert identification apparel. Nothing may be worn around the neck.

### **Casts:**

- (1) Cast made of plaster or other hard substance in their final form may not be worn during a game.

### **Helmets:**

(1) The batter's helmet shall be made of Ultra High Impact Plastic or High Impact Plastic Shell. The shell shall be made of one piece construction or two pieces if they snap into a single unit similar to the one piece construction type. The helmet shall have pieces for ears and full protection for the head and temple. The padding shall be of heavy rubber or similar material. Helmets may be made with or without chin straps. However, if a snap is provided on the helmet, a chin strap must be worn. Suspension type helmets if still in use will require chin straps. Models that are designed with the side or ear pieces placing pressure under the ear will not require the chin strap unless a snap is provided on the helmet. **IF A SNAP IS PROVIDED ON THE HELMET, OR IF THE HELMET WAS DESIGNED FOR AND ORIGINALLY HAD SNAPS, IT MUST HAVE SNAPS AND A CHIN STRAP MUST BE WORN.**

(2) A player shall not remove his helmet while at bat or while running the bases. Any player batting, on deck, or on base must wear a helmet. Under no circumstances shall a player remove their helmet until in dugout. Should an umpire detect a runner (including the batter-runner deliberately removing their batting helmet during playing action, a dead ball will be called, the player will be called out, and if a force play was in order at the time of the pitched ball, the runner closest to home plate will also be called out, with no runners returning to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. No runner shall score a run when a batter-runner or runner has been declared the third out of an inning for deliberately removing their batting helmet.

(3) **WARNING!!!!:** Manufacturers have warned that altering helmets in any way can be dangerous. Alterations of a helmet in any form, including painting, by anyone other than the manufacturer or an authorized dealer may void the warranty!

## Catcher's Equipment:

(1) Each catcher must wear a catcher's helmet which meets the following requirements: The catcher's helmet shall be made of Ultra High Impact Plastic or High Impact Plastic shell with a heavy rubber padding or similar material. The helmet must be of such construction so as to either be a part of the catcher's mask or to firmly attach to the mask. The mask must cover the top of the head, temple and ears. The hockey-style catcher's mask if manufactured to meet the above requirements is approved.

(2) It is recommended that all male players wear athletic supporters.

G.S.A. reserves the right to make changes or withdraw any approval or disapproval of any equipment at any time should it, in G.S.A.'s determination, change the game, affect the safety of participants or spectators, or create a player's performance to be more a product of the equipment, rather than their individual skill.

## Section 06 – Players and Substitutes

- (1) Line-up cards are to be completed and submitted to the official scorekeeper (the Home Team will keep the official “book” in the event that an Official scorekeeper is not part of the game; this Official book should include balls and strikes) and umpire before the start of the game. Line-ups need to at least include last names, correct jersey numbers and numerical defensive positions of players. In the event a number is listed wrong, correct the mistake and continue with the game as long as the name is correct.
- (2) Teams may start with 8 players if they do not have everyone there, providing 2 of those players are the pitcher and catcher.
- (3) Teams will be allowed to substitute all players in and out of the entire game except for the base burner (BB). A substitute may come in for a starter, then the starter back in for the substitute, and substitute back in for starter and so forth and so on. Players may play anywhere defensively during the game. Once a substitute has been entered into the batting order, they may not bat again in a different position in the batting order (AND THE ORIGINAL STARTER MUST BAT IN THAT SAME POSITION IF REENTERED).
- (4) Teams may have up to three additional players. Teams may have up to two players known as an (EH) Extra Hitter. If used they must be listed on the line-up. And teams may have one player known as (BB) Base Burner. If used the (BB) must be listed on the line-up. Please note if you choose to use a (BB) you can NOT substitute for a (BB). The (EH), (EH'S) will be on your lineup as hitters and may be substituted in a defensive position only as long as the batting order stays the same. Your (EH), (EH'S) may also be used as substitute runners at any time and for as many times as needed per inning. The (BB) may also be used as a substitute runner at any time and for as many times as needed per inning. The (BB) may also be substituted into the game, however if you enter your (BB) into the game in a defensive or offensive position you will not have a (BB) for the remainder of the game. Once your (BB) has been listed on your lineup as your (BB) no other player during that game shall be allowed to take the place of the (BB). One thing to keep in mind is players can be swapped defensively the entire game. Starting players and substitutes have to remain in the same batting order the entire game. In other words whatever spot in the batting order that a substitute is inserted into that one spot is the only spot where the original starter and substitute can occupy. To be consistent with Free substitution rules, an EH may be substituted in and out with no penalty. This means if an EH is on base when their at bat comes up, they may be replaced with a BB or another EH.
- (5) Teams may roster bat. Teams that decide to roster bat must make their opponent and the Umpire(s) aware that they are roster batting. Teams that decide to roster bat must do so throughout the entirety of the contest. If a player is lost to injury during the contest, that player's batting position will be skipped without a penalty. If such an injury occurs, the opposing Team needs to be made aware of this change in the batting order prior to that player being skipped in the batting order. If a player is ejected, the Team that has incurred the ejection will take an out every time that player's spot comes in the order if a substitute has not been properly inserted in the line-up. If a Team is roster batting and a player is ejected, that Team is still subject to accept an out when that player's spot comes up in the order.
- (6) Teams should have all players names and jersey numbers on the line-up card.

- (7) Catchers must wear an approved mask, protective helmet, chest protector, athletic cup, and shin guards. Any player warming up a pitcher within the confines of the ball park shall wear approved head protection and an approved mask.
- (8) Any player batting on deck or on base must wear a helmet. Under no circumstances shall a player remove their helmet until in dugout. Should an umpire detect a runner (including the batter-runner deliberately removing their batting helmet during playing action, a dead ball will be called, the player will be called out, and if a force play was in order at the time of the pitched ball, the runner closest to home plate will also be called out, with no runners returning to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. No runner shall score a run when a batter-runner or runner has been declared the third out of an inning for deliberately removing their batting helmet. Chin straps are also recommended.
- (9) Teams will be allowed 21 players on their roster. Teams will be allowed to make changes to that roster up until 1 week before the State Tournament. At which time the last official roster we have on file for your team will become your team's official frozen roster. Please keep that in mind as it gets close to 1 week before the State Tournament. Once the roster is frozen teams will be allowed to add 2 players. You may drop as many as you like, but can only add 2. Unusual circumstances may be looked at by the G.S.A. National Office or by the Advisory board. The Board and Directors will be monitoring throughout the year and may move teams either up or down in classification during the year in order to have the best competition possible. Once rosters are frozen, no team will be moved in classification.
- (10) All teams must be able to present a Sanctioned G.S.A. Director with either a birth certificate or valid Drivers License for proof of player's age. Should a team not be able to present this information at the tournament, the Tournament Director will have the right to require any information needed from players. The game will not continue until which time the coach can provide birth certificates or valid driver's license. Players who do not have the proper identification documentation will not be permitted to play in any contest until such documentation is provided. After investigation should that Team be found to have illegal players that Team shall be banned for the remainder of the year. After investigation and the team is found to be legal and asked for birth certificates or valid drivers license again at any time during the year and can't provide them at the Tournament again this team will forfeit all games and fees for that Tournament. G.S.A. Directors are instructed to require a copy of identification documentation for their file. Your responsibility as a coach is to have all documents with you at all times. If an opposing Team requests that the Director check a Team's identification documentation, the GSA Director will do so. If the proper documentation does not exist for a player or players, that player or players are not permitted to participate until the appropriate documentation is provided.
- (12) A player may be released from a frozen teams roster should a parent or legal guardian request a release using the approved G.S.A. Youth release form which may be found at the National website at <http://www.gsateams.com> . The player may be released immediately upon the coach's approval. If the coach does not approve the release the player will be released once the approved release form has been received by the State Director. Players may only be released in this manner one time during the year.
- (13) An ejected player may remain in the dugout unless there is further problems in which case the Coach or parent will be asked to leave the playing field and take the player with them. Refusal to do this may also result in that team forfeiting the game. An ejected coach, parent, or spectator must leave the field and remain out of sight of the umpires.

**Blood Rule:** A player, coach, manager, or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on their uniform shall leave the playing field until appropriate treatment can be administered. If a team has a substitute they must be placed in the game and continue the game. If the team has no substitute the player may return if in the umpire's judgment the problem is taken care of in a reasonable amount of time. Uniform rules will be waived in the case the player has to change. The following amendments must be adhered to.

- (1) If this should arise a tournament director or those appointed by the director shall be notified.
- (2) Each team should have a first aid kit that includes the following: rubber gloves, band aids, antibiotic ointments, tape, etc.
- (3) Anyone who may come in contact with blood is strongly recommended to use rubber gloves to prevent any skin contamination.

- (4) If you should come in contact with any fluids (blood or other bodily fluids) immediately wash hands. If gloves were used, immediately wash hands upon removal.
- (5) If any equipment or surfaces have been contaminated they must be cleaned prior to the start or re-start of competition. It shall be at the discretion of the tournament director to give the all clear to resume play.
- (6) If sharp object (needles, scalpels, etc.) please dispose of in the proper procedures for such instruments.
- (7) If a player should be removed from the game due to injury or bleeding they shall return to the game in the same position that they exited from, after they have been given the all clear by the umpire or tournament director.

You may obtain further information from your state high school association and from the National Baseball Federation.

## Section 07 – Playing Field

- (1) Base Path: Is an imaginary line, three feet on either side of a direct line between bases.
- (2) Catchers Box: Is the area designated by lines which are considered within the box. The catchers body and equipment are considered inside the box unless touching the ground outside the box. The catcher must remain inside the box unless a pitched ball is batted, touches the ground or plate, passes the plate or is thrown to another defensive player.
- (3) Ground Rules: There may be special rules set aside by different parks, Leagues, or Directors when there are special circumstances or obstructions. Further, Tournament and League Directors are permitted to alter Rules as they see fit as long as these alterations are made public at least 2 days prior to the event.
- (4) The Double base is optional for first base. If the double base is used the runner may touch the colored, or part of the bag in foul territory. If an errant throw pulls the defensive player into the colored bag area, a defensive player may catch the ball, standing on the colored bag and it will be an out if it's called an out by the Umpire. The batter-runner can touch the white bag on an out or safe call. After running past the bag the batter-runner can come back and stand on either bag without the risk of being called out.

## Section 08 – The Game

- (1) Balls and Strikes: G.S.A. will have four (4) balls and three (3) strikes. You walk on the Fourth (4) ball and strike out on the Third (3) strike.
- (2) Teams that intend on intentionally walking a batter must pitch a complete at bat.
- (3) Home Team: The designated home team shall bat last in the inning. In Tournament play, the umpire shall flip a coin once to determine which Coach makes the call of heads or tails. Then flip the coin again to determine the Visiting and Home Teams. In Tournament play where seeding is used in bracket play. The Higher seed will always be Home Team. NO COIN TOSS.
- (4) Fitness of the ground: The fitness of the ground shall be decided by the home plate umpire for Tournaments and possibly other officials during league play.

- (5) Time: (A) Time may be called at any time at the umpire's discretion. (B) Time will be called immediately by an umpire when an injury occurs that is bad enough in an umpire's judgment to halt play. (C) The ball is live and in play once the pitcher toes the rubber.
- (6) Regulation Game: (A) A regulation game consist of six innings through the age division of 12U. At the 13U and 14U, games can be designated as a 7 inning contest. The game shall be called if and when any run rules come into effect or if the home team scores more runs in six and one half innings and/or before the third out of the seventh inning. (B) In the event of inclement weather G.S.A. officials will have the right to shorten the game in an effort to get all games in. (C) A shortened game will be considered regulation if four or more innings have been played, or if the home team scores more runs in three and one half innings or more.
- (7) Extra Innings / Tie Breaker: Should the score be tied after normal regulation play in a Pool Play game, the game may be called a tie to preserve the time schedule for the fields. However, if a tie occurs at the end of regulation play in an Elimination Round, the contest shall be played out until a winner is established. In order to begin the next inning, the visiting team shall place their last batter on second base and the next to last batter at third base. The home team will also do this when their turn at bat comes up, and the contest will continue until the game has been won.  
NOTE: The Extra Innings / Tie Breaker rule is not in effect for Untimed Championship games only. In an Untimed Championship game regular play (no runner on base to start the half inning) continues until one team has scored more runs than the other at the end of a complete inning.
- (8) Forfeited Games: A Director may forfeit a game in favor of a team not at fault in the following cases. (A) If an umpire is physically attacked by any team member or spectator. (B) If a team fails to appear on the field or is already on the field and refuses to begin a scheduled game. (C) If after a warning from the umpire a team willfully violates any of the rules. (D) If one team refuses to continue play after the game has begun. (E) If an ejected player, coach, spectator or manager does not leave playing field or follow umpires directions within a reasonable amount of time in umpire's judgment. (F) In the case of a player being ejected and that team does not have enough remaining players to continue the game. (G) A Tournament Director may forfeit a game because of unsportsmanlike conduct or making a mockery of the game. (H) If necessary, Tournament Directors may allow up to 15 minutes before declaring a forfeit during the first completed round of play. This 15 minute delay will be allotted to the adjusted game time. However, after the first round of play, all teams are expected to be on time for their next scheduled games. (I) The score of a forfeited game shall be 1-0 in favor of the Team not at fault. The score will be 1-0 because of the rankings.
- (9) Charged Conference: (A) Offensive conference: There will be only one charged conference between coach/manager and or bench coaches with a player or players per inning. No conferences will be allowed after that. (B) Defensive conference: There will only be three charged conferences between coach/manager and or bench coaches with any defensive player in the game. No conferences will be allowed after that. (C) All offensive or defensive conferences should be brief and broken up by the umpire if not in a reasonable amount of time in the judgment of the umpire. A Manager or a Coach may only visit a Pitcher twice in an inning. At the time of the second visitation (neither due to injury), the Pitcher must be removed.
- (10) Infield Fly: An infield fly is a fair ball that is popped up on the infield which in an umpire's judgment may be easily caught by an infielder. This applies when there are runners on either first and second, or first, second, and third with less than two out. When this happens the umpire shall declare, "INFIELD FLY, BATTER IS OUT, IF FAIR". Once the ball is touched by an infielder the ball is live and runners may advance at their own risk. Should the ball be foul and not caught by a player it will only be a foul ball and a strike on the batter.
- (11) A run shall not be scored if the third out of an inning is the result of any of the following:
- (A) The batter being put out before legally touching first base.
  - (B) A base runner being forced out due to the batter becoming a base-runner.
  - (C) An appeal play at any base on the runner for the third out of the inning.

## Section 09 – Pitching Regulations

- (1) **LEGAL PITCHING DELIVERY:** There are two legal pitching positions, the Windup Position and the Set Position, and either position may be used at any time.
- (A) **THE WINDUP POSITION:** The pitcher shall stand facing the batter, the entire pivot foot on, or in front of and touching and not off the end of the pitcher's rubber, and the other foot free. From this position any natural movement associated with the delivery of the ball to the batter commits the pitcher to pitch without interruption or alteration. The pitcher shall not raise either foot from the ground, except that in the actual delivery of the ball to the batter, said pitcher may take one step backward, and one step forward with the free foot. When a pitcher holds the ball with both hands in front of the body, with the entire pivot foot on, or in front of and touching but not off the end of the pitcher's rubber, and the other foot free, that pitcher will be considered in a Windup Position.
- (B) Umpires shall be instructed that the mere fact that a pitcher is shifting his feet to deliver a pitch and is not in contact with the pitcher's rubber shall not be grounds for calling an illegal pitch, unless in the umpire's opinion the pitcher is putting the batter at a disadvantage by this action. Managers are urged, however, to instruct the pitchers in the correct and legal pitcher's position and motion so that the youngsters do not form a bad habit or develop an intentionally deceptive delivery.
- (C) **THE SET POSITION:** Set Position shall be indicated by the pitcher when that pitcher stands facing the batter with the entire pivot foot on, or in front of, and in contact with, and not off the end of the pitcher's rubber, and his other foot in front of the pitcher's rubber, holding the ball in both hands in front of the body and coming to a complete stop. From such Set Position the pitcher may deliver the ball to the batter, throw to a base or step backward off the pitcher's plate with the pivot foot. Before assuming Set Position, the pitcher may elect to make any natural preliminary motion such as that known as "the stretch." But if the pitcher so elects, he shall come to Set Position before delivering the ball to the batter.
- (D) At any time during the pitcher's preliminary movements and until the natural pitching motion commits that pitcher to the pitch, said pitcher may throw to any base provided the pitcher steps directly toward such base before making the throw.
- (E) If the pitcher makes an illegal pitch with the bases unoccupied, it shall be called a ball unless the batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter or otherwise.
- (F) If the pitcher removes the pivot foot from contact with the pitcher's plate by stepping backward with that foot, that pitcher thereby becomes an infielder and in the case of a wild throw from that position, it shall be considered the same as a wild throw by any other infielder.
- (2) The pitcher shall not:
- A. Bring the pitching hand in contact with the mouth or lips while in a 6 ft. circle surrounding the pitching rubber;
  - B. **PENALTY:** For violation of this part of the rule the umpires shall immediately call a ball and warn the pitcher that repeated violation of any part of this rule can cause the pitcher to be removed from the game. However, if the pitch is made and a batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a hit batsman or otherwise, and no other runner is put out before advancing at least one base, the play shall proceed without reference to the violation.
  - C. Apply a foreign substance of any kind to the ball.

- D. Expectorate on the ball, either hand or the glove.
  - E. Rub the ball on the glove, person or clothing, or deface the ball in any manner.
  - F. Deliver what is called the "shine" ball, "spit" ball, "mud" ball or "emery" ball. The pitcher, of course, is allowed to rub off the ball between the bare hands;
  - G. Deliver a "quick" pitch.
  - H. **PENALTY:** For violation of any part of the rules above, the umpire shall (A) Call pitch a ball and warn pitcher. (B) If play occurs on violation, manager of the offense may advise the plate umpire of acceptance of the play. (Such election must be made immediately at end of play.)
  - I. Have on his person, or in his possession, any foreign substance. For such infraction of this section, the penalty shall be immediate ejection from the game.
  - J. Intentionally delay the game by throwing the ball to players other than the catcher, when the batter is in position, except in an attempt to retire a runner;
  - K. **PENALTY:** If, after warning by the umpire, such delaying action is repeated, the pitcher can be removed from the game.
  - L. Intentionally pitch at the batter. If, in the umpire's judgment, such violation occurs, the umpire shall warn the pitcher and the manager of the defense that another such pitch will mean immediate expulsion of the pitcher. If such pitch is repeated during the game, the umpire shall eject the pitcher from the game.
- (3) When a pitcher takes his or her position at the beginning of each inning, that pitcher shall be permitted to pitch not to exceed eight preparatory pitches to the catcher during which play shall be suspended. Such preparatory pitches shall not consume more than one minute of time.
- (4) If a pitcher is brought to the pitcher's mound directly from another defensive position without an opportunity to warm up or a sudden emergency causes a pitcher to be summoned into the game without an opportunity to warm up, the umpire-in-chief shall allow the pitcher as many warm up pitches as the umpire deems necessary.
- (5) When the bases are unoccupied, the pitcher shall deliver the ball to the batter within 20 seconds after the pitcher receives the ball. Each time the pitcher delays the game by violating this rule, the umpire shall call "Ball." **NOTE:** The intent of this rule is to avoid unnecessary delays. The umpire shall insist that the catcher return the ball promptly to the pitcher, and that the pitcher take position on the rubber promptly.
- (6) A balk occurs when:
- A. The pitcher, while touching the plate, makes any motion naturally associated with the pitch and fails to make such delivery.
  - B. The pitcher makes an illegal pitch.
  - C. The pitcher delivers the ball to the batter while not facing the batter.
  - D. The pitcher makes any motion naturally associated with the pitch while not touching the pitcher's plate.
  - E. The pitcher unnecessarily delays the game.
  - F. The pitcher, without having the ball, stands on or astride the pitcher's plate or while off the plate fakes a pitch.
  - G. The pitcher, while touching the plate, accidentally or intentionally drops the ball.
  - H. The pitcher, while giving an intentional base on balls, pitches when the catcher is not in the catcher's box. The Pitcher must throw 4 pitches when giving an intentional walk.

- I. Any pitch or any action by the pitcher construed as a balk by the umpire shall be declared a no pitch. The ball is dead and no runner shall advance.
- (7) Any action by the batter or any member of the offensive team, including the coaches, that, in the opinion of the umpire-in-chief, causes a pitcher to commit an illegal pitch or balk shall result in the pitch being declared a no pitch. The ball shall be dead and no runners shall advance.
  - (8) Tournament rules that applies to pitcher's:
    - (A) All members of tournament teams shall be eligible to pitch.
    - (B) INNING RESTRICTIONS ON PITCHERS: Pitchers shall adhere to the following restrictions:
      - (B-1) A pitcher shall pitch no more than 18 outs per day in ages 8U – 12U. A Pitcher shall pitch no more than 21 outs per day for ages 13U – 16U. Ages 17U - 18U are unlimited.
      - (B-2) A pitcher shall pitch no more than 24 outs per 2 day period in ages 8U – 12U. A Pitcher shall pitch no more than 27 outs per 2 day period for ages 13U – 16U. Ages 17U - 18U are unlimited.
      - (B-3) A pitcher shall pitch no more than 30 outs per 3 day period in ages 8U – 12U. A Pitcher shall pitch no more than 33 outs per 3 day period for ages 13U – 16U. Ages 17U - 18U are unlimited.
      - (B-4) Any pitcher in the 16U or younger divisions that has pitched three days in a row must rest the 4th day regardless of outs recorded.
  - (9) If a player starts a game or enters the game as a pitcher and does not record an out before being taken out by the coach or injury he shall be charged with pitching one (1) out regardless of the number of pitches thrown.
  - (10) No pitcher may wear a white in color sleeve on their throwing arm.
  - (11) A starting pitcher may be replaced by a relief pitcher and then come back to the pitching position once during a game. Once the starting pitcher leaves the pitching position the second time they are no longer eligible to pitch in that game. They may play any other position however.
  - (12) A player who is brought in to pitch from another position without benefit of sideline warm-up shall be permitted ten (10) warm-up pitches or two (2) minutes.

## Section 10 – Batting

- (1) Batting out of order: Batting out of order is an appeal play which needs to be made by the defensive team. The defensive team forfeits it's right to appeal when one legal or illegal pitch has been made to the following batter.
- (2) Penalties for batting out of order: Are as follows:
  - (A) If an incorrect batter is discovered before the batter completes the turn at bat the correct batter takes it's place assuming any balls and/or strikes.
  - (B) If the mistake is not discovered until after the next legal or illegal pitch has been made to the next batter the turn at bat of the incorrect batter is then legal. All bases advanced or runs scored will count and the next batter shall be the one whose name follows that of the incorrect batter who has just finished batting. No one is called out for failure to bat and players missing their turn at bat have lost that turn and do not bat again until their turn comes up again in the regular line-up.

**(3) Batting Position: Is as follows:**

- (A) The batter must have both feet within the lines of the batter's box prior to the start of the pitch. The Batter may touch the lines but no part of a foot may be outside the lines prior to the pitch.**
- (B) The batter must take a position inside the batter's box within 8 seconds after the umpire announces "PLAY BALL". If not the umpire may call a strike on the batter. No pitch has to be thrown and the ball is dead.**
- (C) The batter shall not step directly in front of the catcher while pitcher is in position to pitch. If so the ball is dead, batter is out and runners may not advance.**
- (D) Batter must request time from the home plate umpire prior to stepping out of the batter's box. It's up to the umpire as to whether time is granted or not.**

**(4) Batters will be called out: In circumstances as follows:**

- (A) If after hitting a ball either fair or foul the batters entire foot is completely outside the lines of the batters box and on the ground at the time the ball is struck by the bat.**
- (B) If any part of a batters foot is touching home plate at the time the ball is struck by the bat.**
- (C) If a batter swings at a ball a second time in fair or foul territory.**
- (D) When the batter hits a line drive that an infielder catches and intentionally drops in an umpire's judgment. In which case the ball is dead and all runners return to the base occupied at the time of pitch.**
- (E) Batter shall not hinder the catcher from catching or throwing the ball by stepping out of the batters box or Intentionally hinder the catcher while standing inside the batters box. Result is ball is dead, batter is out and all runners return to whatever base was occupied at the time.**
- (F) If the batter carries the bat and reaches first base or beyond.**
- (G) A batter shall not wave the bat or make any motion with an obvious intention of interfering with the catcher. Batter will be warned the first time and called out the second time. The ball will be declared dead and no runners may advance.**
- (H) When a batter is hit by a fair batted ball while outside the batters box and advancing.**

## Section 11 – Batter - Runners

- (1) The batter becomes a batter-runner after finishing an at bat but has not yet been put out or touched first base.**
- (A) As soon as the batter legally hits a fair ball.**
  - (B) When four balls have been called by the umpire. When this happens the ball is live and the batter- Runner is awarded first base.**
  - (C) When the catcher obstructs hinders or prevents the batter from striking or hitting a pitched ball. In this case, the ball is dead and the batter-runner is awarded first base.**
- (2) Batter-Runner is out: As follows:**
- (A) When the batter-runner runs outside the three foot lane (width of the baseline) and interferes with the fielder taking the throw.**

- (B) When the batter-runner interferes with a fielder attempting to field a ball, interferes with a fielder attempting to throw a ball, interferes with a thrown ball, or makes contact with a fair batted ball before reaching first base. In the umpire's judgment, this interference is an obvious attempt to prevent a double play. The runner causing the interference will be called out as well as the preceding runner involved in the potential double play.
- (C) When the batter-runner interferes with a play at home plate in an attempt to prevent an obvious out at home plate. In this case the batter and runner are out.
- (D) When the batter-runner moves backwards toward home plate to avoid a tag by a fielder on intentionally gives up his right to first base by entering foul territory. In this case the ball is dead and runner/runners must return to the last legally touched base at the time the call was made.
- (E) When the immediate preceding runner who has not yet been put out intentionally interferes with a fielder who is attempting to catch a thrown ball or throw a ball in an attempt to complete the play.
- (3) Touching bases in legal order:
- (A) When a runner must return to a base while the ball is in play the runner must re-touch any bases touched previously in reverse order.
- (B) A runner shall not run the bases in reverse order to confuse fielders or make a mockery of the game. Should this happen the ball is dead and the runner is out.
- (C) Two runners may not occupy the same base at the same time. The runner who first legally occupied the base shall be entitled to the base unless forced to advance. The other runner may be put out by being touched with the ball.
- (D) Failure of a preceding runner to touch a base or to legally tag up on a caught fly ball and who is declared out, does not affect the status of a succeeding runner who touches the base/bases in order. If the failure to touch a base in regular order or to legally tag up on a caught fly ball is the third out of an inning no succeeding runner may score a run.
- (E) No runner may return to touch a missed base or one that the runner had left too soon after a following runner has scored or once that runner leaves the field of play.
- (F) When a runner leaves a base too soon on a caught fly ball the base must be retouched before advancing to other bases.
- (4) Runners must return to their base under the following circumstances:
- (A) When a batted ball is declared foul.
- (B) When an illegally batted ball is declared by the umpire.
- (C) When a batter or batter-runner or runner is called out for interference. Each other runner shall return to the last base which in the umpire's judgment was legally touched at the time of interference.
- (D) Base runners will not be allowed to advance when a pitched ball hits any part of the batters person other than the bat. Once the ball hits the ground any runners may advance. However, should a ball hit the ground and then hit the batter, and in the umpire's judgment, the batter made no attempt to get out of the way, to allow the catcher to get to the ball, or intentionally blocks the catcher from getting the ball, then interference will be called on the batter and the runner/runners must return to the base. And it will be declared a dead ball.

## Section 12 – 4 Under – 8 Under Rules

The following rules apply in all ages from 4 Under – 8 Under.

- (1) Should any batter sling their bat the Umpire shall give a warning to the Coach the 1<sup>st</sup> time. And it shall be an out every time thereafter. This pertains to each team. Each team gets a warning first than an out each time afterwards.
- (2) It is recommended that the Pitcher (or player playing the pitcher's position) wear an approved face mask.
- (3) All instances of a player being off the base when a pitch is made, leaving the base early, or missing a base is all appeal plays and an appeal must be made by the coach prior to the next pitch.
- (4) In all Coach Pitch games. The Pitcher does not have to vacate the field. However if the Pitcher (Coach) gets hit by the ball in any way intentionally or accidentally the batter is out and the ball is dead. This is the Coaches responsibility to be sure he or she does not get hit by a batted ball. Same thing applies if the Pitcher (Coach) interferes with any of the defensive players in any way in the Umpires judgment.
- (5) If a Base Coach or Pitcher (Coach) is hit by a thrown ball from a fielder. And the Coach (in the Umpires judgment) made a valid effort to get out of the way. Then the ball is dead and runner/runners advance 1 base.
- (6) All teams must bat all players on their roster. Teams will be allowed a courtesy runner for the catcher. The courtesy runner must be the last batted out.
- (7) A maximum of 4 coaches will be allowed in the dugout.
- (8) The designated home team shall bat last in the inning. In Tournament play, the umpire shall flip a coin once to determine which Coach makes the call of heads or tails. Then flip the coin again to determine the Visiting and Home Teams. In Tournament play where seeding is used in bracket play. The Higher seed will always be Home Team. NO COIN TOSS.

4U, 5U, and 6U T – Ball Rules are as follows:

- (1) The game will consist of 5 innings or the time limit.
- (2) An offensive coach shall pitch. The defensive pitcher (player) must be behind the pitcher's rubber.
- (3) Batters will receive 5 pitches or three swings whichever comes first. No walks.
- (4) There will be a maximum of 7 runs or 3 outs per inning.
- (5) Teams must bat all players on roster and use 10 defensive players. Teams may begin a game with 9 players if that is all they have.
- (6) No more than six may take a position on the infield before the ball is batted.
- (7) There will be a 15 foot Fair Ball Arc from the back tip of home plate and from the first base line to the third base line. The ball must pass this line to be considered a Fair ball.
- (8) There will be a 30 foot Safety Arc from the back tip of home plate and from the first base line to the third base line. Infielders must stay behind this line until ball is hit. (
- 9) There is no infield fly rule, base stealing, or bunting. Base runners will be called out for leaving the base before the ball is hit.
- (10) An offensive coach (pitching) and a defensive coach (in outfield) are allowed on the field plus a first and third base offensive coach. At no time will a coach be allowed to touch a player while play is going

on.

- (11) Run Rule will be the following: 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, 10 runs after 5 innings.
- (12) Umpires will call time as soon as all runners have stopped trying to advance.
- (13) Runners may advance one base on an overthrow. And then time will be called. Once an overthrow has occurred, no more than one base will be allowed. If a thrown ball hits a coach, play will be stopped and runners advance one base.
- (14) Should any batter sling their bat the Umpire shall give a warning to the Coach the 1<sup>st</sup> time. And it shall be an out every time thereafter. This pertains to each team. Each team gets a warning first than an out each time afterwards.

6U, 7U, and 8U Coach Pitch Rules are as follows:

- (1) Teams may use either nine or 10 defensive players. One player must play the pitching position, and one player must play the catching position. If you choose to play 10 defensive players, four players must play the outfield positions.
- (2) There will be a 30 feet safety arc from the back tip of home plate and from the first base line to the third base line. Fielders must stay behind the arc until the ball is hit.
- (3) There will be a 10 feet diameter circle around the middle of the pitching rubber. The pitcher must remain in the circle until the ball is hit. If the pitcher leaves the circle before the ball is hit, the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or choosing a no pitch. If the pitcher leaves the circle early again, the coach will be told he or she must talk with the player about not doing this again. If the player does it a 3<sup>rd</sup> time, they will have to be removed from the pitching position. They will not have to be removed from the game.
- (4) Batters will receive 5 pitches or 3 swings. If the batter fouls the fifth pitch, he or she will be allowed to continue hitting until they put the ball in play or strike out. No Walks.
- (5) There will be a maximum of 7 runs or 3 outs per inning. (6)

Teams must bat all players on roster.

- (7) If a fair batted ball hits a coach pitcher and is declared unintentional by the Umpire it will be declared a dead ball. Should the Umpire declare the coach intentionally got hit, the batter is out, and no runners may advance.
- (8) Umpires will call time after every play in which the ball will be dead. Time will be called as soon as the lead runner stops attempting to advance. Time will be called if the runner has stopped but is trying to draw a throw from a defensive player. Time will be called when an infielder has possession of the ball and the runner has stopped advancing.
- (9) No bunts or half swings are allowed. This will be declared a strike on the batter.

6U, 7U, and 8U Pitching Machine Rules are as follows:

- (1) There will be a 30-foot safety arc from the back tip of home plate and from the first base line to the third base line.
- (2) The front of the pitching machine is set at forty-six feet in a straight line directly toward second base.
- (3) There will be a box that extends five feet to either side of the pitching machine and five feet behind the pitching machine. This mark is considered a safety mark for the player playing the pitching position. The player playing this position is not able to cross this mark until the ball is batted.

- (4) **Pitching Machine Speed Recommendations** are 34 – 38 MPH for 6U & 7U and 40 -44 MPH for 8U. (5) **Batters** will receive 6 pitches or three strikes. If the batter fouls the sixth pitch, he or she will be allowed to continue hitting until they put the ball in play or strike out. **No Walks.** (6) There will be a maximum of 7 runs or 3 outs per inning.
- (7) **Teams** must bat all players on roster.
- (8) A fair batted ball that hits the pitching machine is declared a dead ball.
- (9) **Umpires** will call time after every play in which the ball will be dead. Time will be called as soon as the lead runner stops attempting to advance. Time will be called if the runner has stopped but is trying to draw a throw from a defensive player. Time will be called when an infielder has possession of the ball and the runner has stopped advancing.
- (10) **Teams** must ball all players on roster.
- (11) **Teams** may use either nine or 10 defensive players. One player must play the pitching position, and one player must play the catching position. If you choose to play 10 defensive players, four players must play the outfield positions.

8U Player Pitch Rules are as follows:

- (1) **Teams** will consist of nine defensive players with 3 outfielders. (2) There will be no balks called.
- (3) **No leading off.** Players must stay on base until ball crosses the plate. (4) **No infield fly rule.**
- (5) **No advancement on 3<sup>rd</sup> strikes.**

**The following is suggested pitching distances and base paths. Note: These will vary depending on the State and the park.**

Age Division	Pitching Distance	Base Distance	Mound Height	Fence Distance
4 & Under	40 Ft.	55 Ft.	0 inches	150 Ft.
5 & Under	40 Ft.	55 Ft.	0 inches	150 Ft.
6 & Under	40 Ft.	60 Ft.	0 inches	180 Ft.
7 & Under	40 Ft.	60 Ft.	0 inches	180 Ft.
8 & Under	40 Ft.	60 Ft.	0 inches	180 Ft.
9 & Under	46 Ft.	65 Ft.	4 inches	200 Ft.
10 & Under	46 Ft.	65 Ft.	4 inches	200 Ft.
11 & Under	50 Ft.	70 Ft.	4 inches	250 Ft.
12 & Under	50 Ft.	70 Ft.	4 inches	250 Ft.
13 & Under	54 Ft.	80 Ft.	4 inches	300 Ft.
14 & Under	54 Ft.	80 Ft.	4 inches	300 Ft.
14 & Under	60 Ft. 6 inches	90 Ft.	6 inches	350 Ft.

15 & Under	60 Ft. 6 inches	90 Ft.	6 inches	350 Ft.
16 & Under	60 Ft. 6 inches	90 Ft.	6 inches	350 Ft.
17 & Under	60 Ft. 6 inches	90 Ft.	6 inches	375 Ft.
18 & Under	60 Ft. 6 inches	90 Ft.	6 inches	375 Ft.
Age cutoff is April 30. Whatever age the player is as of April 30 is the age group they may play.				
Players may play up in age group but never allowed to play down.				