

# NORTHVILLE BASEBALL - SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

## BOYS' COACH PITCH LEAGUE RULES

Revised 3/21/2005

NOTE: THESE ARE THE BOYS'-COACH~PITCH~LEAGUE~APPLICABLE RULES EXTRACTED FROM THE UNABRIDGED VERSION OF THE NORTHVILLE BASEBALL-SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES. BECAUSE THIS IS AN ABBREVIATED VERSION OF THE RULES, THE ALPHABET AND NUMBER SEQUENCES MAY NOT ALWAYS FOLLOW IN CONVENTIONAL ORDER.

Except for those variations contained herein, the Official Baseball Rules, completely revised, as released through the Office of the Commissioner of Baseball shall be the Northville Baseball-Softball Association official set of rules for baseball.

### I. PLAYER PARTICIPATION

- A) All uniformed players in attendance at the start of a game will:
- 1) Hit according to a batting order submitted to the official scorer prior to the start of the game. Irrespective of whether individuals are playing in the field, all players will bat in a rotational order that will remain the same for the entire season and will carry over from game to game (i.e., if the 5th batter was the last hitter in the last game, the 6th hitter leads off the next game).
  - 2) Be scheduled to play in the field a minimum of 4 innings of which 1 must be in the infield. Each player also must sit out 1 inning defensively if an adequate number of players is present.
- B) Uniformed players arriving after a game starts, but before the 3rd inning will be inserted into their regular positions in the batting order and will play in the field with the number of innings in proportion to the inning of arrival. (if arriving during the 1<sup>st</sup> inning, they will play at least 3 innings, if during the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning, they will play at least 2 innings in the field.
- C) Uniformed players arriving after the start of the 3rd inning of a game will be inserted into their regular positions in the batting order and, at the discretion of the head coach, may (but do not have to) play in the field the number of innings specified in Rule I.A2.
- D) A player cannot be removed from a game for disciplinary purposes. However, a head coach may discipline a player by submitting written notification to the league commissioner and the player's parents at least 24 hour prior to the start of the next scheduled game.

E) Permissible deviations to Rules I.A through I.C are for:

1) THE PROTECTION OF PARTICIPANTS FROM POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Any player who is bleeding, has an open wound, or has blood on his uniform, clothing, or body may not practice or participate further in a game until appropriate treatment has been administered; secretions on the body are covered or removed; and the bloody clothing is removed.

If the umpire-in-chief would consider a reasonable amount of time, the individual does not have to leave the game.

2) INJURY - prior to or during a game:

a) INJURED BATTER

(1) INCOMPLETE TURN AT BAT - If a player cannot complete a turn at bat because of injury, he will be removed from the game. No official at bat will be recorded, and the next hitter in the order will become the batter with a count of no balls and no strikes. When/if the injured player is able to reenter the game, he will be placed in his original position in the batting order.

(2) HIT BY PITCH - If a player is hit by a pitch, but cannot continue as a base runner, the turn at bat is official and will be recorded. The status of the player who was hit by the pitch will be determined by referring to Rule I.E2b.

b) INJURED BASERUNNER - When it is necessary to remove an injured base runner from a game, the replacement runner will be the teammate which made the last out. When/if the injured player is able to reenter the game, he will be placed in his original position in the batting order.

3) ILLNESS - prior to or during a game: Use the guidance outlined in Rule I.E2.

F) Each head coach will inform the official scorer whenever there is a change in the status of a player during a game.

G) An unlimited number of free substitutions is authorized in the field.

## II. OFFICIAL GAME

- A) A regulation game is 6 innings. An inning cannot start after 1 hour 30 minutes from the start of the game.
- B) An official game consists of a minimum of 4 full innings of play.
- C) The official start time (which is when the time limit for a game begins) will be when the first pitch is thrown. The time when the last out of an inning is made will be the start time for the next inning. No inning may start after 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- D) Under no circumstances will an inning in league play start after 10:30 pm.
- E) A half inning consists of 3 outs or 5 runs, whichever occurs first in all
- F) No official score is kept
- G) A SUSPENDED GAME shall be declared if the required innings (Rule II.B) have not been reached and the specified times (Rules II.C and/or II.D) for the game have been reached. A rescheduled suspended game (see Rule IV.B. will resume at the exact point of suspension. The official scorer is responsible for maintaining the scoresheet, indicating the point of suspension of the game as well as the count on the hitter if one were at bat at the time of suspension

## III. GAME REGULATIONS

### A) PLAYERS

- 1) Every effort will be made to limit the maximum number of players that may be assigned to a team to 13
- 2) No team may play any individual who has not been placed on the team roster through the league draft procedure or through assignment to the team by the Northville Baseball-Softball Association Board of Directors (which could be done to complete a team roster).
- 3) In games, all players shall wear all parts of the uniform supplied by the Northville Baseball-Softball Association. No jewelry or watches may be worn. For safety reasons, players must wear long pants and have their shirts tucked in. Players not wearing all parts of the uniform may not play.  
EXCEPTION: If a player removed part of his uniform to comply with Rule I.E1 (i.e., blood on the uniform) and no uniform replacement part is available at the game, he may continue to participate.

### B) BATTER

- 1) Every hitter at bat and in the on-deck circle must wear the designated batting helmet.
- 2) The on-deck hitter must stand in the on-deck circle that is behind the batter at home plate (i.e., when a right-handed batter is at the plate. the on-deck hitter will stand in the 3rd-base-side on-deck circle and with a left-handed batter, the on-deck hitter will stand in the 1st-base-side on-deck circle.) Caution must be exercised to insure

that an on-deck hitter does not run behind the home plate area when a pitch is being thrown.

- 3) Hitters may use aluminum or wooden bats that do not exceed 2 3/4 inches in diameter at the thickest part and 42 inches in length.  
EXCEPTION: Head coaches or umpires may declare as illegal any bat they consider unsafe for use.
- 4) Hitters must not throw their bats. The first 2 times a bat is thrown, the batter will be warned not to do it again. If the player does it a 3rd time, he will be out; and base runners may not advance.

5) The batter is allowed 5 swings, **not** including foul balls. This rule should be interpreted loosely so as to allow the batter every opportunity to hit the ball. The pitcher may throw any number of pitches; however, to speed up play, the batter shall be awarded 1st base (walked) if he has failed to hit the ball fair after 5 swings. There should not be any strikeouts.

EXCEPTION: If, in the head coach's opinion, a batter is not making a reasonable attempt to swing, the head coach may issue a base on balls.

- 9) Bunting is not allowed. An attempt at bunting will be called foul ball.

#### C) BASERUNNER

- 1) All base runners must wear the designated batting helmet during the entire time they are running the bases. If a runner intentionally removes his batting helmet while running the bases, he is out.
- 2) If possible, the runner should attempt to slide to avoid collisions. However the runner will not be called out for failure to slide.
- 3) For safety reasons, a double 1st base (white base in fair territory an orange base in foul territory) will be used. The following rules apply:
  - a) Base runners should use the orange base when running to 1st.  
EXCEPTIONS:
    - (1) If a runner rounds 1st rather than running straight through the bag, the white base should be touched.
    - (2) If a fielder is drawn to the orange side of the bag while making a play, the runner should go to the white base and the fielder should use the orange base. The objective is to try to avoid a collision.
  - b) Base runners are never out for touching the white base rather than the orange base.
  - c) Once base runners reach 1st base, they must use the white base.

10) Leading off and stealing are not allowed. Movement from a base is allowed only as a result of a ball hit in fair territory, a walk (if forced), tagging up after a caught fly ball, or a play made on a runner.

11) When a ball is hit to the outfield and a fielder throws it toward the infield, at the time the ball crosses the imaginary infield boundary defined by the baselines each base runner must stop at the base to which he is going.

NOTE: This rule does not prevent throwing out a runner at a base.

The base runner may not advance a base on an over throw. See rule III.D.3

12) There is no infield fly rule. However the defensive team is limited to one out on a muffed popup.(to prevent purposeful errors)

13) A ball hitting the pitching machine is a dead ball. The runners advance one base and the batter is awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base.

14) A pinch runner will be inserted if the catcher for the next inning gets on base and there are 2 outs. Coaches are encouraged to use players who reach base infrequently as pinch runners so as to get them running bases each game. This rule is to be interpreted loosely to allow full participation of players in baserunning.

#### D) FIELDERS

1) The defensive team will consist of 1 catcher, 1 player near the pitcher's mound, 4 infielders, and 4 outfielders.

2) Defensive players, who do not have the ball, may not block any baseline or obstruct (interfere with) any base runners. Infielders must stand at least 1 step either behind or in front of the baselines until after the ball is hit. If obstruction is called or infielders are persistently standing in the baselines, base runner(s) will be awarded the next base. The intent of this rule is to avoid injury to both the base runner and fielder.

3) If a fielder overthrows a base while attempting to throw out a runner, the ball is dead and the base runner(s) may not advance.

4) The player near the pitcher's mound must remain behind the pitcher's rubber until the ball is hit. If a pitcher abuses this rule, the batter may be awarded 1st base. He must wear a batting helmet and should stand to the side of the coach pitcher or machine with a clear view of the plate

#### E) CATCHER

Anyone catching must at all times wear the complete set of catcher's equipment provided for the team. Additionally, all catchers in the baseball leagues must wear a protective cup.

## F) PITCHER

- 1) The head coach or an assistant will pitch to his/her own team and any method of pitching is allowed.
- 2) A league approved pitching machine is used whenever possible. It will be set up to the satisfaction of both coaches prior to the first official pitch. It may be adjusted at any time. The head coach of the batting team will load and adjust the machine. The lowest speed setting that will reach the plate at a low arc should be used.

## G) COACHING

- 1) **SPORTSMANSHIP** - Head coaches must at all times insure that the highest levels of sportsmanship are displayed by themselves, their assistant coaches, their players, and their team supporters. Rule 111.13 outlines remedies available to umpires when dealing with unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 2) Head coaches, assistant coaches, and players must remain in the dugout area when not actively participating. Non-participants in a game are not permitted in the dugout area.
- 3) Only designated adults may be 1st and 3rd base coaches.
- 4) 2 assistants may be used to coach the defense. They are to stand behind the 1st and 3rd base areas in the outfield. On offense, an additional assistant, the batting coach, may be used to help the hitters learn the correct batting fundamentals.

## H) GENERAL

- 1) The type of ball and the base and pitching distances to be used are:

<u>BALL TYPE</u>	<u>BASES</u>	<u>PITCHING</u>
soft baseball (RIF level 5)	50'	35'
- 4) 1st baseman's gloves and catcher's mitts may only be used at their designated positions. Fielder's gloves may be used at any position.
- 5) Only rubber-soled or rubber-cleated shoes may be worn.

## I) UMPIRES

If umpires are provided by the NBSA the following rules will apply.

- 1) Except for the variations contained in these League Rules, each umpire's actions will be governed by the official baseball rules adopted by Northville Baseball-Softball Association for its leagues.
- 2) All ball/strike and judgment calls made by an umpire are final and may not be

disputed. Head coaches may, however, ask for clarification of call or calmly discuss the interpretation of a rule. The intent is for sportsmanlike conduct to prevail. ANY HEATED ARGUING SHALL NOT BE TOLERATED.

- 3) CONSEQUENCES FOR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT - As outlined in Rules III.G and 111.12, sportsmanlike conduct is expected. The penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (e.g., throwing equipment in anger, obscene or abusive language or gestures, fighting, disputing ball/strike or judgment calls, etc.) by a coach, player, or spectator may be a warning or ejection from the game and playing area, depending on the severity of the incident. A second occurrence of an unsportsmanlike act by an individual should, under most circumstances, result in the ejection of the offender from the game (if applicable) and playing area. The intent is not for umpires (whose conduct must also be above reproach) to be looking to issue warnings or ejections, but that the coaches, players, and spectators should act appropriately as the participants develop their human skills while learning to play baseball.
- 5) In the absence of a NBSA provided umpire, the adult pitching is the umpire in chief. The base coaches will serve as the base umpires. The umpire in chief has the authority to overrule any call made by another umpire. During a game, the head coach is the only person who may discuss calls, rules, etc. with the umpire in chief, and such discussions shall occur only between innings.

#### J) OFFICIAL SCORER

- 1) The home team will provide the official scorer. The visiting team also will provide its own scorer who will compare score sheets throughout the game with the official scorer.
- 3) As a minimum, an official score sheet must contain the:
  - a) Names of the teams that played and the final score.
  - b) Date, time, and place of the game.
  - c) First and last names and uniform numbers of all players.

#### IV. SCHEDULES

- A) All games must be played on the dates indicated in the published league schedule. The league commissioner is the only person authorized to reschedule a game.
- B) Each league commissioner is responsible for rescheduling and coordinating the time for any cancelled or suspended game in his/her league with the Scheduling Coordinator of the Northville Baseball-Softball Association Board of Directors. Commissioners

should strive to reschedule games within 1 week of the original dates and shall notify the Recreation Department and the Director of Umpires of the new dates and times. A rescheduled game date is binding on both teams. Failure of either team to comply with the new schedule will result in a forfeit.

C) **RAINOUT PROCEDURE and FIELD PLAYABILITY**

- 1) **UNTIL 4 PM** - The Northville Community Recreation Department will make the initial decision each day as to the playability of the ball diamonds. If they feel inclement weather will preclude play, they will cancel games on the affected fields and announce their decision via a telephonically recorded message. If it is possible that some or all of the fields may be playable, the Recreation Department will not cancel the applicable games. If games are not cancelled, the teams and umpires will report at the appropriate time to their assigned fields.
- 2) **AFTER 4 PM** - The two head coaches together will decide on the playability of their particular diamond. **SAFETY** shall be the overriding factor considered when deciding whether to start or continue a game.

V. **PROTESTS AND PENALTIES**

League games may not be protested. However, official complaints may be written to the Northville Baseball-Softball Association Board of Directors. The Board will consider action on complaints about such items as player eligibility, player participation, pitcher eligibility, etc. For complaint involving umpire decisions, the Board will rarely, if ever, revise calls. Repeatedly bad decisions and poor performance by a particular umpire should be brought to the attention of the applicable league commissioner and the Director of Umpires for their prompt consideration.