

NORTHWEST OHIO AMATEUR BASEBALL LEAGUE

GENERAL RULES (9-10 Division)

THE LEAGUE WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE PRESENT OHIO HIGHSCHOOL RULE BOOK WITH THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS:

1. **Field size:** Pitchers distance is 46 ft. and bases are 65 ft.
2. **Games** are 6 innings.
3. **Run Rules:**
 - A. 6 Inning Games
 - i. 15 after 2 ½ or 3 innings
 - ii. 10 after 3 ½ or 4 innings
 - iii. 8 after 4 ½ or 5 innings
4. **Pitching:**
 - A. Maximum of 3 innings in a 6 inning game.
 - B. There is no limit to how many innings a pitcher can pitch in a day.
 - i. Innings pitched must be consecutive and an appearance on the mound constitutes an inning. (Example) A pitcher enters the game and picks a runner off base before throwing a pitch is considered an inning pitched.
 - C. 1 coach's visit per inning, per pitcher. A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning causes the pitcher's automatic removal from the mound (not the game).
 - D. Balks:
 - i. Balks are not enforced strictly unless a persistent violation of the balk rule occurs.
 - ii. Balks will be generally enforced with 1 balk warning per pitcher. Subsequent balks are enforced.
 - iii. When a balk is called the play will stop and runners will return to their original base. If a pitch is thrown, it will not count.
 - iv. This is a teaching league and umpires may ask for assistance from a coach to help a pitcher understand what they are doing that constitutes a balk. This does not constitute a visit to the mound.
 - E. Dropped Third Strikes are in affect under High School baseball rules.
 - F. Intentional Walks – An intentional walk will be granted upon request.
5. **Batting and Re-Entry Rule:**
 - A. Teams may bat 9, use DH batters (more than 1 DH may be used), or roster bat. Batting line-up intentions will be announced during the pre-game meeting with the umpires.
 - B. A starting player may re-enter the game in the same batting position. Players not in the original batting order are substitute players and may not re-enter a game after coming out.
 - i. A team is batting 11 players (2DH). Those 11 players are considered starters and may change positions on the field. Player #12 enters the game for the player in the #6 batting order. The player from the #6 batting order may re-enter the game, but only in his original batting position for player #12. Player #12 would not be able to re-enter the game again.
 - C. Roster batting allows a team to bat everyone on the bench and freely move them in and out of the fielding positions.
 - D. If a player leaves or is ejected from the game, that batting position would be an out if no legal substitution is left.

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- E. A team may play with 8 fielders.
- F. Injured Players:
 - i. If a player is injured during the game and unable to continue, that player will be replaced by a legal substitution first. If a legal substitute is used and the injured player is a starter, the injured player may re-enter the game under 4B above.
 - ii. If the team has already substituted all of its substitute players and no legal substitution remains, they may use a bench player to replace the injured player in the line-up. Starting players must bat in their original batting order and a substitute player would fill the injured player's position. The injured player would not be able to re-enter the game. In this instance the team making the switch will notify the opposing head coach of the situation.
 - iii. If a team is roster batting, an injured player will not be an out. That batting position would be skipped.
- 6. **Slide Rule / Avoid Malicious Contact:**
 - A. Whenever a tag play is evident, runners must slide or seek to avoid contact with the fielder. Malicious contact shall supersede all obstruction penalties.
- 7. **Bat restrictions:** Maximum bat barrel is 2 3/4
- 8. **Courtesy Runners:**
 - A. At any time, the team at bat may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher of record from the previous time on defense. The courtesy runner must be someone not presently in the lineup and may appear as a runner one time per inning. The re-entry status of the courtesy runner, pitcher or catcher shall not be affected by this rule. If a courtesy runner is determined to be ineligible, a proper replacement (if available) will be substituted.
 - B. When roster batting, the courtesy runner will be the player that recorded the last out.
- 9. **Complete Games:**
 - A. Home team is the official scorebook. Winning team scorebook will be signed by a coach from both teams in case of any discrepancies.
 - B. A game is official after 2 ½ innings in a 6 inning game.
 - C. A game called because of darkness is not an official game and will be suspended until a later date.
 - D. Any games stopped by weather before they are official will be suspended until later date.
 - E. All suspended games will be re-scheduled within one week of the original game.
 - F. The winning team is responsible for reporting the scores on the league web site.
 - G. You will have 48 hours to report the box scores.
 - H. Teams are credited with 3 points for a win and 1 point for a loss (in determining bids).
 - I. Any issues with the scores will be reported to your league commissioners.
 - J. Teams will have 48 hrs. to make their choice of which state bids they are going to accept.
- 13. No Metal spikes are permitted.
- 15. Each team will furnish 2 new balls for each game.
- 16. Team rosters are limited to 18 players.
- 17. Birthday cutoff is May 1.
- 18. Umpires are to be paid by both teams the day of the game.
 - a. The home team is responsible for providing two certified umpires.