

NORTHWEST OHIO AMATEUR BASEBALL LEAGUE

GENERAL RULES (8U Division)

THE NWOABL LEAGUE FOLLOWS THE OHIO NATIONS BY-LAWS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED IN THIS RULES ADENDUMN:

1. **Field size:** Pitchers distance is 40 ft. and bases are 60 ft.
2. **Games:** 6 innings
 - A. **Run Rules** for 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
3. **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. No Walks
 - i. If the pitcher throws four balls ta a batter, the batters coach will finish pitching the at bat. The count will remain the same and umpires will call strikes.
 - ii. A maximum of 4 pitches will be thrown by a coach.
4. **Fielders**
 - A. A team may use 10 fielders if they choose.
 - B. The 10th fielder must be in the outfield as a 4th outfielder (No rovers).
5. **Batting and Re-Entry Rule:**
 - A. Teams may bat 9, use EH batters (more than 1 EH 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 (2EH). 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.
 - 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 5B 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.

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6. Base Running

- A. Secondary leadoffs are only allowed after the ball crosses the plate.
 - i. One team warning for players leaving early.
 - ii. After the warning, each player leaving early will be recorded as an out.
- B. Base runners may only advance on a ball behind the catcher.
- C. No stealing or advancing to home on a pass ball.
- D. **Slide Rule / Avoid Malicious Contact:**
 - i. Whenever a tag play is evident, runners must slide or seek to avoid contact with the fielder. No player can initiate malicious contact. It is the umpire's judgment call that determines whether the contact is malicious. There can be a collision where both players go head over heels that is not malicious contact. The key for malicious contact is intent.
- E. **Courtesy Runners:**
 - i. 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.

7. Slug Bunting - Fake Bunt / Swing Prohibited:

- A. A Slug bunt is squaring to bunt and then pulling the bat back and swinging away. This puts players in danger and will not be permitted.
- B. Slug bunt attempts will result in the batter being out and all base runners returning to the pre-pitch position on the field.

8. Bat restrictions: Maximum bat barrel is 2 3/4

- A. 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. Any games stopped by weather before they are official will be suspended until later date. 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. Suspended games are not complete games until called by the league Commissioner.
- D. The winning team is responsible for reporting the scores on the league web site.
- E. You will have 48 hours to report the box scores.
- F. Teams are credited with 3 points for a win and 1 point for a loss (in determining bids).
- G. Any issues with the scores will be reported to your league commissioners.
- H. Teams will have 48 hrs. to make their choice of which state bids they are going to accept.

10. Other:

- A. No Metal spikes are permitted.
- B. Each team will furnish 2 new NFHS game balls for each game.
 - i. (NFHS = High School Federation Stamp). Diamond DOL1, Pro9, and ROLB1 are examples of appropriate game balls.
- C. Team rosters are limited to 18 players.
- D. The player's age on April 30th determines the player's eligible age.
- E. Umpires are to be paid by both teams the day of the game.
 - i. The home team is responsible for providing two qualified umpires or one certified umpire. (ie High School Baseball players are acceptable at this age group)
 - ii. After the game begins (1st pitch), umpires control the game, call weather delays, and suspends games. This is not a coach's decision and any concerns should be brought to the league Commissioner.
 - iii. Umpires for 6 inning games and double headers should be paid \$40 for 1 certified umpire or \$30 each for 2 uncertified umpires each per game.

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