

GRASSLAND BASEBALL LEAGUE

BASEBALL OBJECTIVES & PHILOSOPHY

Developed and Approved August 2017

- The GBL Baseball Program is, first and foremost, an instructional-based sports program to be enjoyed by all players - regardless of skill, race, sex, creed or circumstance.
- Through involvement in GBL Baseball, players will have the opportunity to:
 - Develop fundamental baseball skills
 - Learn and experience the ideals of sportsmanship, honesty, integrity, loyalty and respect
 - Socialize with their peers
 - Develop leadership qualities
 - Actively participate as a team member
- At all times, the GBL, its members, coaches and umpires will:
 - Place the emotional well-being and physical development of our players before all other needs.
 - Recruit, educate, support and retain the best coaches and umpires possible.
 - Assure that rules and processes maintain the philosophy and focus of the program
 - Ensure that all coaches, commissioners, board members and support personnel be held accountable for delivering the level of program expected and desired
 - Explore and create new opportunities that will extend the impact of the program, and enhance the experience of our players.
- The GBL Baseball Program is associated with the Middle Tennessee Baseball Association and will follow most, if not all of the official USSSA rules as adopted by that organization. GBL will provide a list of rules that are different at GBL at the beginning of each season.

- The GBL Baseball fields, batting cages, etc. are the property of the Williamson County Parks and Recreation not the property of GBL Baseball.

GBL BASEBALL COMMITTEE

For the purpose of governing the day-to-day operations of GBL, a Baseball Committee will be approved by the GAA Board of Directors to include, but not be limited to, the following individuals:

- Program Director
- GAA Board Members
- Age Group Commissioners
- Community Volunteers

GBL BASEBALL RULES & REGULATIONS

GENERAL PROGRAM RULES

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. Season: A GBL age league season includes all Regular Season games and a post-season Tournament. The Season may include Inter-League games with nearby Leagues as approved by the GBL Baseball Committee.
- 1.2. Regular Season: The age leagues scheduled games up to the start of the Intra-League Tournament.
- 1.3. Post Season: At the discretion of the GBL Baseball Committee, post season tournaments or other special season ending events may be held for age leagues. These tournaments and events may be limited to GBL teams or may include teams from other nearby leagues as approved by the GBL Baseball Committee.
- 1.4. Tournament Season: Includes, but is not limited to, tournaments sponsored by the Middle Tennessee Baseball Association, USSA, or BPA.

2. APPLICABLE RULES

2.1. All GBL League games will abide by the following rules in order of precedent:

2.1.1. Local GBL Rules

2.1.2. USSSA

2.1.3. The Official Rules of Baseball

2.2. Where any conflict between rules exists, the Local GBL Rules will be the deciding factor.

2.3. Specific age division rules, as defined on the following pages or in additional GBL Rule Handouts, will supersede any General Rules with which they may conflict.

2.4. Intent of the Rule: All rules, policies and procedures outlined in this GBL Official Rulebook subject to interpretation of the "Intent of the Rule" by the GBL Baseball Committee and the Grassland Athletic Association (GAA) Board of Directors.

2.5. Every Head Coach and Assistant Coach should be thoroughly familiar with the contents of this rulebook.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES

3.1. Head Coaches may recommend rule changes, additions or revisions to the GBL Baseball Committee and GAA Board of Directors. Such recommendations must be in writing, and must explain fully the reasons why such a change, addition or revision should be made.

3.2. Unless in the judgment of the GBL Baseball Committee a dire circumstance exists requiring immediate action, no rule changes, additions or revisions will be enacted until the completion of the current regular season.

3.3. No individual person may make any changes or alterations to any GBL Baseball Rules without the consent of the GBL Baseball Committee.

4. FUND RAISER PARTICIPATION

4.1. All players and coaches are required to participate fully and completely with any and all GBL fund raising functions.

5. SPORTSMANSHIP

5.1. Good sportsmanship is required at all times when at GBL facilities. Anyone, including coaches, players and spectators exhibiting poor sportsmanship prior to, during or after a game or practice will be subject to the penalties described in Rule 17.

6. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

6.1. All players competing in GBL sanctioned games must be registered and rostered GBL players.

6.2. The age eligibility date for all players competing in GBL's Spring Recreation or Competitive League shall be April 30 of the current year. That means a player's eligibility age will be the player's age on that date.

6.3. The age eligibility for all players competing in GBL's fall programs shall be April 30 of the following year.

7. TEAM COMPOSITION AND VANCANCIES

7.1. GBL League teams will be formed at least one week prior to the start of pre-season practice by methods prescribed by the GBL Baseball Committee.

7.2. Every effort will be made to assure each team at each age level has a minimum of nine players on its roster. It is the goal of the league to have no more than 12 players on any team.

7.3. Vacancies: Coaches must notify the GBL Baseball Committee immediately of a vacancy created by a player quitting permanently or of a player injury resulting in an absence for the remainder of the season. Should a team experience a vacancy on its roster due to a player quitting permanently, a player being injured and not being able to play for the remainder of

the season, or a player being suspended by the GBL Baseball Committee for the remainder of the season, every effort will be made to fill that roster vacancy.

7.4. If such a vacancy occurs prior to the start of the regular season, a player, if available, will be assigned to the team by the GBL Baseball Committee.

7.5. A coach who loses a drafted or protected player due to the player quitting, being injured and not being able to play for the remainder of the season, or being suspended by the GBL for the remainder of the season, may request permission from the GBL Baseball Committee to fill the roster vacancy.

7.6. Before joining a team and participating in the GBL program, such recruit:

7.6.1. must be approved by the GBL Baseball Committee;

7.6.2. must meet all GBL and age league qualifications;

7.6.3. must submit a completed registration form and all league fees.

7.7. Players that permanently quit a team or leave a team due to an injury expected to keep them sidelined for the remainder of the season are ineligible to return to their previous GBL team or play for any other GBL team unless approved by the GBL Baseball Committee.

7.8. Should a team add a player to its roster that does not meet these qualifications, the player will be deemed illegal and subject to the illegal player sanctions detailed in 8.0.

8. USE OF ILLEGAL PLAYER

8.1. Any team that uses an illegal player will forfeit all games in which an illegal player was used.

The team's Head Coach will also receive a one (1) game suspension for each game that an illegal player was used.

8.2. An illegal player is considered anyone who is:

8.2.1. Not registered with GBL

- 8.2.2. Illegally recruited or added to a team
- 8.2.3. Too old for the league in question
- 8.2.4. A player currently serving a suspension
- 8.2.5. A player "playing up" for a team with sufficient players

9. PLAYING UP & PLAYING DOWN

- 9.1. Playing In Older Age Division - Entire Season: Registered players may "play up" in the next older age level league for an entire season with the permission of the GBL Baseball Committee.
- 9.2. Any player "playing up" on higher age level league team(s) -including players who play up on a game-by-game basis - who plays 10 or more regular season games with a higher age level team(s) shall be considered a player in that higher age level league, regardless of whether that player is rostered on any such team.
- 9.3. Any player playing up in an older age level league for an entire season will, however, retain the right to participate on their age appropriate GBL representative tournament team. For example, a player playing up in the 11-12 League all season that qualifies for GBL purposes as a 10 year old may play on the GBL 10u tournament team.
- 9.4. Borrowed or Playing Up on a Game-By-Game Basis: Players may "play up" to help an older division team fill out its roster for a specific game or set of games. No player may play down into a different age group. However, the following will apply:
 - 9.4.1. 7/8 League
 - 9.4.1.1. The use of a 5/6 league player must be cleared with the League Commissioner and the affected player's coach at least 24 hours in advance.

9.4.1.2. The younger player is obligated to his original team first. He cannot skip a game for his original team in order to play up for another team.

9.4.1.3. In no case may a player "play up" for a team that has sufficient players to conduct a game. If such a "playing up" player is used under these circumstances, that player will be considered an illegal player per General Rule 8.2. The number of "sufficient" players under this rule is 9 players for 9/10 and 11/12 Leagues.

9.4.1.4. Players permitted to "play up" should be placed last in the batting lineup. Players "playing up" should not be given preferential treatment for hitting or fielding assignments over players normally on the team roster.

9.4.1.5. Illegal use of a player who is "borrowed" or "playing up" is protestable, and if the protest is upheld, the team using an illegal player will forfeit the game(s) in question.

9.4.2. 9/10 and 11/12 League

9.4.2.1. A list of players interested in playing up will be maintained by League Commissioners and updates are to be provided to the coaches.

9.4.2.2. The younger player is obligated to his original team first. He/she cannot skip a game for his original team in order to play up for another team.

9.4.2.3. In no case may a player "play up" for a team that has sufficient players to conduct a game. If such a "playing up" player is used under these circumstances, that player will be considered an illegal player per General Rule 8.2. The number of "sufficient" players under this rule is 9 players for 9/10 and 11/12 Leagues.

9.4.2.4. Players permitted to “play up” should be placed last in the lineup. Players “playing up” should not be given preferential treatment for hitting and fielding assignments over players normally on the team roster.

9.4.2.5. Illegal use of a player who is "playing up" is protestable, and if the protest is upheld, the team using an illegal player will forfeit the game(s) in question.

9.4.3. 13-14 League

9.4.3.1. Teams needing to complete their roster for a game may borrow players from other teams in the 13-14 League. Borrowed players will have no restrictions on their use. In the event players are not available to be borrowed, players from the 11/12 age division may play up as provided for in this section.

9.4.3.2. A list of 11/12 division players interested in playing up will be maintained by the League Commissioner with updates provided to the coaches.

9.4.4. 15-17 League

9.4.4.1. Teams needing to complete their roster for a game may borrow players for other teams in the 15-17 League. Borrowed players will have no restrictions on their use. In the event players are not available to be borrowed, players from the 13/14 age division may play up as provided for in this section.

9.4.4.2. A list of 13/14 division players interested in playing up will be maintained by the League Commissioner with updates provided to the coaches.

9.5. Playing Down: In no case may a registered player "play down" in a lower age level league.

10. UNIFORMS

10.1. The official uniform consists of a baseball pant, ball cap, jersey, and team socks, all or some of which may be supplied by GBL Baseball depending upon the season.

- 10.2. Ball caps must be worn and jerseys are to be tucked in on the field of play.
- 10.3. For safety reasons, no player may wear jewelry of any kind while participating on GBL-sponsored games and practices. This includes watches, necklaces, ear rings (or any other type of pierced jewelry), non-athletic wristbands, rings or non-athletic headbands.
- 10.4. Players in the 5-6,7-8, 9-10 and 11-12 Leagues may wear either sneakers or rubber-spiked baseball shoes. Football shoes are not permitted.
- 10.5. Players in the 13-14 and 15-17 League may wear metal-spiked baseball shoes.

11. EQUIPMENT

- 11.1. Each Head Coach will be assigned sufficient and safe catchers gear equipment (chest protector, leg guards and helmet/mask) for his/her team upon request. Head Coaches will be solely responsible for all equipment signed out to them and will submit a \$50 deposit prior to being assigned any equipment. The \$50 deposit will be remitted to the coach upon return of the assigned equipment. Individual players are responsible for purchasing their own batting helmets and other protective gear they deem necessary.
- 11.2. If equipment becomes broken or is otherwise rendered unsafe, the Head Coach is to report the problem to his/her League Commissioner immediately. The League Commissioner will obtain replacement equipment as soon as possible.
- 11.3. Head Coaches must return all equipment at the completion of the season - no exceptions. Failure to return equipment will result in the Head Coach forfeiting the \$50 deposit.

12. BAT DIMENSIONS

- 12.1. All bats used in all leagues must comply with the USABat standard for the specified age.

12.2. Use of any illegal bat will result in the batter being called out.

13. HEAD & ASSISTANT COACHES

13.1. Appointment of Head Coaches: Head Coaches shall be appointed by the GBL Baseball Committee.

13.2. Once approved, the responsibility of the Head Coach is to run his/her team in a manner that is consistent with the ideals of the GBL, and that ensures all the players on the teams assigned to them, together with their parents, know and observe the rules and policies of the GBL and Babe Ruth Baseball.

13.3. Selection of Assistant Coaches: Each Head Coach may select up to two Official Assistant Coaches for his/her team. Other assistants may be selected to help with practices, warming up players or score keeping, but only Official Assistant Coaches will be permitted in the dugout. (Exception: In the event a Official Assistant Coach is unable to attend a game, the Head Coach may select another parent to take his place in the dugout, and it is permissible for a Parent Assistant Coach to be the Dugout Coach during a game).

13.4. The Head Coach is responsible for the conduct of all Assistant Coaches, and any other individuals under his charge.

13.5. Registration of Coaches: All coaches - head and assistant coaches - must be registered and rostered by the GBL. Completed registration forms for all coaches must be turned into the league's commissioner prior to the start of the regular season as determined by the GBL Baseball Committee.

13.6. The GBL reserves the right to refuse any individual a coaching position - head or assistant coach - with or without grounds. The decision of the GBL Baseball Committee may be appealed to the GAA Board of Directors whose decision is final and may not be appealed.

- 13.7. Coaches are responsible for controlling the actions and behavior of their team's players and parents - at all times.
- 13.8. Coaches Code of Conduct: Coaches are required to represent and follow league rules and policies at all times.
- 13.9. All Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches must sign a "Code of Conduct" as presented by the GBL Baseball Committee, and deliver a signed copy to their league commissioner.
- 13.10. Any coach that willfully violates any of the GBL rules will, after review by the GBL Baseball Committee, be suspended for one (1) game and his/her team will forfeit one game.
- 13.11. Team Mother/Father: Head coaches should appoint a Team Mother/Father, who be responsible for liaisons between the Head Coach and team parents to coordinate parent involvement in maintaining our facilities, cleaning up after games, staffing the concession stand as needed, and other activities, the team's participation in special events (such as Team Picture Day, fund raisers, etc.). All such persons appointed by the Head Coach are his/her responsibility.

14. PRACTICE & GAME CONDUCT OF COACHES

- 14.1. Coaches are absolutely not permitted to smoke or chew tobacco products on the playing field, in the coaches boxes or in the team bench area.
- 14.2. Head Coaches are solely and totally responsible for the conduct of their team, including all players, parents and siblings.
- 14.3. Coaches or parents may not coach from behind the backstop or from the stands.
Coaches must remain in the bench area or the coaches boxes.
- 14.4. Coaches Outside the Dugout: When their team is on the field playing defense, the team's coaches may be outside the dugout.

14.5. Coaches outside the dugout must remain in a position that does not interfere with play, the offensive team's coaches, or the offensive team's players. Unless otherwise stipulated in age league rules, defensive coaches must remain near the entrance to their dugout.

14.6. Defensive coaches must make every effort to get out of the way of a playable ball, and offensive player attempting to advance, or a defensive player attempting to make a play.

14.7. If in the judgment of the umpires a defensive coach interfered in anyway accidental or intentional - with a play, the following rules will apply:

14.7.1. Playable Foul Ball: Batter returns to his at-bat with no penalty. Pitch is counted as no-pitch and the batter resumes the count at the point prior to the pitch hit foul. If the foul ball lands out of play, no penalty is to be assessed.

14.7.2. Overthrow: All runners advance one base.

15. UMPIRES & OFFICIALS

15.1. Authority of Umpires: The umpires are the ultimate presiding official for all GBL League Games.

15.2. The home plate umpire is the head umpire for a game.

15.3. No other person or persons may overrule an umpire's decision.

15.4. At his/her discretion, the Head Umpire may request the assistance of a member of the GBL Baseball Committee to assistance in determining the proper interpretation of rules.

15.5. The head umpire may reverse calls made by the base umpire, if the base umpire requests his/her assistance. Head Coaches may not appeal to the head umpire for review of a call.

15.6. The home plate umpire may request the base umpire's assistance in determining whether a batter swung at a pitch. The Head Coach of the defensive team is permitted to

request the base umpire's assistance, and must request such of the home plate umpire prior to the next pitch being thrown.

- 15.7. In case of unusual field conditions, deviation from ground rules will be at the discretion of the umpire(s) with notification to both Head Coaches.
- 15.8. Any umpire(s) assigned by the GBL's Umpire in Chief, shall be in complete charge of the game. Profane language, harassment, excessive "ribbing" and any other unsportsmanlike conduct, including unnecessary delay, by any Head Coach, Assistant Coach, player, or spectator is strictly prohibited and may result in ejection.
- 15.9. An umpire has the authority to eject any Head Coach, Assistant Coach, player or spectator at any time, without warning if, in the umpire's sole discretion, such action is warranted in order to eliminate conduct which the umpire deems offensive or in anyway interferes with the orderly playing of the game.
- 15.10. An umpire should, but is not required to, warn the Head Coach of the offending team, regarding the offensive or unsportsmanlike conduct of any coach, player or spectator. If after such warning is given, the offensive behavior continues, play will be suspended temporarily to provide the Head Coach an opportunity to correct the situation. If the offensive behavior is not immediately corrected, the umpire shall have complete authority to eject any party from the game, bench of spectator stands. If the game is delayed by any action as described herein longer than deemed appropriate by the umpire, the game will be forfeited in favor of the opposing team.
- 15.11. If any coach, player or spectator is ejected, the umpire must submit a complete report of the action taken, including all facts and factors involved, to the Vice President of Baseball within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident. In any case, whether or not ejected, a party

interfering with any umpire's control of the game is subject to probation or suspension by the GBL Baseball Committee.

15.12. Judgment Calls by Umpires:

15.12.1. The umpire's decision concerning balls, strikes, balks, ejections and all other plays involving his/her judgment will be final and will not be questioned.

15.12.2. If, during a game, any coach, player or spectator questions the judgment of any umpire in any manner deemed offensive by an umpire, the umpire or umpires working such game shall have authority to immediately warn and/or eject such offending party.

15.12.3. Umpires should use good judgment in these situations, and not arbitrarily eject every coach, player or parent for natural displeasure with a call.

15.12.4. Any such ejection will subject the offending party to further disciplinary actions by the GBL Baseball Committee.

15.13. Umpire's Interpretation:

15.13.1. Any umpire's decision which involves an interpretation of playing rules may be discussed with the home plate umpire by the Head Coach only. No other person will be permitted on the playing field to discuss such rule decisions.

15.13.2. The ultimate decision of the home plate umpire shall be final, subject to review pursuant to the rules governing protests.

15.14. Contact With an Umpire:

15.14.1. Any coach, player or spectator who makes any physical contact with an umpire, which in the umpire's view is offensive or threatening, will be ejected from the premises immediately and is automatically suspended for at least one game.

15.14.2. Pending a review by the GBL Baseball Committee, that individual may be suspended for a greater period, or banned from any further participation in GBL programs for any period deemed appropriate by the GBL Baseball Committee.

15.15. Concerns About Umpires: If a Head Coach has concerns about the conduct of any umpire, he/she may address those concerns, in writing, to the Vice President of Baseball. The GBL Baseball Committee, after thorough review of a Head Coach's expressed concerns, may take disciplinary action against an umpire, including, but not limited to, suspension.

16. PROTESTS

16.1. Protests must be filed with the Vice President of Baseball, and must meet all of the following criteria:

16.1.1. The situation or play in question must be protest able. Judgment calls made by the umpire are not subject to protest. Protests can be filed for rule interpretations only. Every effort must be made to resolve conflicts during the game.

16.1.2. Protest must be declared to the home plate Umpire and opposing Head Coach at the time of the play in question. No protests will be allowed once play has resumed.

16.1.3. The home plate Umpire and both Head Coaches must sign both team score books at the time of the protest is declared.

16.1.4. A written protest must be filed with the Vice President of Baseball within 24 hours of the completion of the game.

16.1.5. A one hundred fifty dollar (\$150) fee must accompany the written protest. This fee will be returned only if the protest is upheld.

16.2. Protest Committee

16.2.1. The GBL Baseball Committee will serve as the Protest Committee. The protesting Head Coach, if also serving as a League Commissioner, cannot participate on the committee hearing that particular protest.

16.2.2. The Protest Committee will meet as soon as practical and review the protest. If deemed necessary by the Committee, the head coaches, home plate umpire or other witnesses may be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the issue. The Committee's decision will be sent in writing directly to the protesting team's Head Coach, the opposing team's Head Coach and the Director of Umpires.

16.2.3. The decision of the Protest Committee will be binding and final. There will be no further appeals of the issue in question.

17. DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND RECONSIDERATION PROCESS

17.1. Disciplinary guidelines apply to players, coaches, league officials and spectators.

17.2. Any coach, player or spectator ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will, upon review of the GBL Baseball Committee, receive a one game suspension for the next scheduled game. A second suspension will result in expulsion from the league.

17.3. Any suspended player is required to serve the one game suspension on the bench during his team's next game.

17.4. Any coach or spectator suspended for any reason may not attend any game held during the period he/she is suspended. Failure to comply will result in the team forfeiting the game.

17.5. Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game must leave GBL's facilities immediately. Failure to do so will result in his/her team forfeiting the game.

- 17.6. The Head Umpire in game during which a player, coach or spectator was dismissed must notify the GBL Baseball Committee within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident with a written report of reasons for dismissal.
- 17.7. The player, coach or spectator involved will be notified within forty-eight (48) hours after receiving the Head Umpire's report of the GBL Baseball Committee's decision in the matter.
- 17.8. The penalized individual may request that the GBL Baseball Committee's reconsider its decision and conduct a hearing on the matter. The request for a hearing must be received in writing within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the GBL Baseball Committee's decision.
- 17.9. The request for reconsideration must be accompanied with a \$50 deposit. The deposit will be returned if the GBL Baseball Committee's previous decision is overturned based on evidence provided at the hearing.
- 17.10. The hearing will be held as quickly as practical upon submission of the request for reconsideration.
- 17.11. GBL Baseball Committee members that are a party to the issue may testify as a witness on the matter, but will recuse themselves of further involvement in the hearing.
- 17.12. During the hearing, each side of the issue will be considered. Witnesses may be called as needed and each side will be given five minutes to complete their presentation. Each side will have the option to provide three minutes of rebuttal.
- 17.13. The GBL Baseball Committee will notify all parties of its decision within twenty-four hours of the hearing's conclusion. The decision of the GBL Baseball Committee will be final and cannot be appealed.

18. GAME AND PRACTICE BALLS

- 18.1. The GBL Baseball Committee will select the type of baseball to be used in league play.
- 18.2. Before the start of pre-season, each Head Coach will be issued a sufficient supply of both practice and game balls for the coming season. It is the Head Coaches responsibility to make sure he has enough game balls to meet his schedule.
- 18.3. Practice balls are not to be used for game play.
- 18.4. Each team must provide one (1) new game ball prior to the start of each game.

19. PRACTICES & PRACTICE FACILITIES

- 19.1. No GBL League team may begin practicing prior to March 1, or the effective date of the GBL's player insurance.
- 19.2. Due to insurance and liability considerations, only GBL-approved baseball and softball fields may be used for team practices, scrimmages or games of any kind. The GBL will advise all Coaches of approved fields and locations, and Coaches will be provided with a pre-season practice schedule that allows at least two practices per week (Monday through Sunday). The GBL reserves the right to refuse liability and medical insurance coverage and support to any coach and/or team violating this policy. Any coach holding a team practice, workout, scrimmage or game on unapproved fields or locations does so at his/her own personal risk.
- 19.3. Pre-Season Practices: Each team will be assigned practice slots during weekdays and weekends. Practices are to run no longer than 1:30 [2:00 for 13-15 League teams]. If a coach wishes to change pre-season practice slots, he/she may trade slots with a coach in any other age league. Any changes to the set practice schedule must be communicated to the commissioners of the age league affected.
- 19.4. In-Season Practices: A limited number of open slots may be available during the season for practices.

19.4.1. In-season practices are open to all GBL teams. In-season practice slots must be obtained from GBL designated scheduling official.

19.4.2. Required make-up games will supersede any previously scheduled in season practice.

19.4.3. No coach may reserve practice slots on a continuing basis, that is, each coach desiring to hold an in-season practice must schedule each week (Sunday through Saturday).

20. GAME SCHEDULING

20.1. The GBL will appoint an individual to develop and maintain game schedules for each age league.

20.2. No individual or coach may alter the game schedule for any reason.

20.3. Unless otherwise changed by the GBL, all games are to be played per the issued schedule.

21. DETERMINING FIELD PLAYABILITY

21.1. The GBL will appoint an individual who will have sole responsibility for determining if any or all GBL fields are playable and providing updates to GBL League Commissioners, coaches and families. The designated has the authority to summon the field maintenance crew as needed.

21.2. Coaches and families will be notified of any scheduling changes by e-mail, the GBL website, and by any other available forms of communication.

21.3. All rain outs will be rescheduled by the GBL to the nearest possible date. The GBL will make every effort to avoid conflicts with previously scheduled games, and avoid placing additional burdens on teams with regards to prevailing pitching rules.

21.4. In the event a game has not previously been canceled due to weather conditions, or prevailing weather conditions during a game cause a delay, the Head Coaches of both teams

and the head umpire for that game can meet to discuss whether the game can continue in a safe and fair fashion.

21.5. It is the head umpire's sole discretion whether to continue, end or suspend the game based on the prevalent rules. [Example: If it is a complete game at the point of the delay, and the game cannot continue at that time, the game will end, and the team leading at that point will be awarded the win.

21.6. If it is not a complete game, and the game cannot continue at that time, both head coaches are to compare, verify and sign each other's score books, making note of the position of all base runners, the current count on any batter, and the number of outs.

21.7. The head coach of the home team must report the incomplete game to his league commissioner that day.

21.8. Based on the prevalent rules, the entire game or any required continuation of a suspended game will be rescheduled to the nearest possible date by the GBL. All rules regarding scheduling and rescheduling will apply.

22. GAME STARTING TIME

22.1. All games are to start at their scheduled time, or as close to their scheduled start time as possible.

22.2. Both teams will be allowed time prior to the start of a game for infield practice. The visiting team is to take the field ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled start of a game, and the home team will take the field five (5) minutes prior.

22.3. At the scheduled game time, the umpires will take the field and inform the coaches of the game start time.

22.4. When two or more games are scheduled on the same field on the same day, and the previous game runs up to or over the starting time of the next game, the official starting time of the next game shall be within fifteen (15) minutes of the conclusion of the previous game. This will allow adequate time for the previous teams to clean out and clear out of the dugouts, and for both teams to have five (5) minutes each of infield practice.

22.5. In no instance will a team be allowed less than five (5) minutes to warm-up prior to the official start of a game.

22.6. Coaches are advised to find an area away from spectators and other children where their players can loosen up before the end of the game prior to theirs.

22.7. The head umpire for the game will have the authority to direct the termination of each five (5) minute warm-up period. In no instance shall the ten (10) minute warm-up period be exceeded.

23. GRACE PERIOD

23.1. Eight (8) players are necessary to start a game.

23.2. Game umpire will wait ten (10) minutes from official start time before a forfeit is declared if less than eight (8) players are present.

23.3. In situations where a team is required to play with less than the normal number of players, a catcher is required. [Exception: 5-6 League where a catcher is not normally used.]

23.4. For purposes of determining the time limit, the ten (10) minute grace period will be considered as time played in the game.

24. SCOREKEEPING

24.1. The Home Team in all games is the official scorekeeper. It is the responsibility of each team's Head Coach to have a scorekeeper that is competent and can successfully and completely keep score.

24.2. All head coaches are responsible for keeping complete score books.

24.3. At all times, the players' name or number must be shown in the score book for each game.

25. SCOREBOARD OPERATION

25.1. Scoreboards must be used for all 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14 and 15-17 League games played on a field equipped with a scoreboard. Exception: 5-6 League where no score is to be kept.

25.2. The Visiting Team shall provide a competent adult to operate the scoreboard when their team plays on a field equipped with a scoreboard.

25.3. Scoreboard operator pads will be stored in the nearest concession stand. Players or coaches participating in the game may not operate the scoreboard.

25.4. The Visiting Team is responsible for making sure the scoreboard is properly turned off; and the scoreboard operator pad is returned to the concession stand.

25.5. Only the scoreboard operator and the scorekeepers from either team may sit behind the backstop directly behind home plate. No other players, coaches or parents may sit or stand directly behind home plate. This rule will be strictly enforced at all age levels.

26. BATTING THE ROSTER

26.1. All leagues, with the exception of the 13-14 and 15-17 Leagues, will bat the roster, not just the defensive players. Late Arriving Players: If the team has not come to a late arriving player's place in the batting order, the player may bat in that position. If the team comes to that place in the order and the player still has not arrived, the team must move that player to the

end of the order. No penalty will result if the batter does not arrive prior to the full lineup having batted. The player must be placed at the bottom of the order immediately upon arrival at the game.

26.2. In the event that a batter is injured and unable to complete his at bat, the next player in the batting order will replace the injured batter. The count from the injured batter will be given to the replacement batter. The replacement batter will then forfeit his regular turn at bat until the next time through the batting order.

26.3. In the event that a player leaves a game for any reason other than injury, an out will be called when his/her spot in the batting order comes up for the remainder of the game.

27. PLAYING TIME AND DEFENSIVE POSITIONS

27.1. Each age league has established minimum playing time rules which must be followed at all times.

27.2. Head Coaches are encouraged to provide each player with as much playing time as possible.

27.3. Head Coaches are encouraged to consistently provide each player with opportunities at all defensive positions.

28. SAFETY ISSUES & RULES

28.1. Required Protective Equipment - Batting Helmets: Batters, base runners and on-deck hitters must wear batting helmets when in the field of play. The use of a front face cage will be optional.

28.2. Required Protective Equipment- Catcher's Gear: While catching, all catchers must wear protective cups, a catcher's mask with throat protection, a catcher's chest protector and catcher's shin guards. Catchers may use any type of glove desired.

- 28.3. Any player warming up a pitcher, whether on the field or in the bullpen, must wear a catcher's helmet and face mask with throat protection.
- 28.4. Bat Flinging: Bat "flinging" - where the bat leaves the batter's hands in a forceful manner and travels either into the field of play or backwards towards the catcher and umpire - is not allowed. A player will receive one warning. The second incidence will result in an automatic out being called by the home plate umpire.
- 28.5. On-Deck Batters: Due to safety reasons, a team may only have one on-deck batter outside the dugout when the team is at bat.
- 28.6. There is no "in the hole" position.
- 28.7. No mechanical devices, such as hitting sticks, batting tees or pitching machines of any kind, may be used to warm up batters during the course of a game. Nor can a coach or parent "soft toss" to a player during the course of the game.
- 28.8. Players on Bench: Other than being in the field defensively, or being a base runner, at bat, or on-deck batter, or any player warming up to pitch, no player may be outside the dugout at any time during the game.
- 28.9. Players as Base Coaches: A player may be used as a base coach if no other coach or adult is present. Any player serving as a base coach must wear a batting helmet at all times while on the field of play.
- 28.10. Blocking of a Base: Defensive players cannot block the base or the base line while a base runner is attempting to pass unless he/she has ball. Runner will be called safe if the base or base line is illegally blocked.
- 28.11. Collisions: The base runner must attempt to avoid collisions at all times. Deliberate collisions or deliberate actions made in an attempt to knock the ball from the defensive player

will result in the runner being called out and the ball will be dead. The umpire must use his best judgment in determining whether the action was deliberate or not.

28.12. Head First Slides: For safety reasons, no player may make a head first slide into a base, with the exception of returning to first base to avoid an attempted pick-off.

28.13. Illegal Sliding: An Illegal Slide is one in which the runner slides or runs out of the base path in the direction of the fielder using any one of the following:

28.13.1. Rolling slide

28.13.2. Cross-bodied block

28.13.3. Pop-up slide into the fielder

28.13.4. The runner's leg is lifted higher than the knee of the fielder

28.13.5. The runner slides beyond the base and makes contact with the fielder and alters the play

28.13.6. The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg

28.13.7. Throws his hands up toward the fielder in an attempt to interfere with the throw.

28.13.7.1. If in the judgment of the umpire the runner slides illegally, the runner shall be called out, and the ball becomes dead immediately on an illegal slide.

28.13.7.1.1. NOTE 1: When judging whether a slide is legal or illegal, umpires must determine whether or not the illegal action created (a) danger or (b) altered play of the defense. If either of these two criteria are met, then the runner should be called out

28.13.7.1.2. NOTE 2: If in the umpire's judgment the contact prevented the fielder from recording an additional out, the umpire may rule interference and declare a double play.

28.13.7.2. Runners are not required to slide on force plays at first base while attempting to return after a pick-off or while attempting to tag-up after a legally caught fly ball.

28.13.7.3. If a runner collides flagrantly with a fielder who is NOT in possession of the ball, the ball shall become dead immediately and the runner called out and ejected from the game. All other runners must return to the base they last touched at the time of the collision.

28.13.7.4. If the batter runner, while running to first base, throws a hip, elbow or makes any other unsportsmanlike contact with the fielder at first, the umpire shall declare the batter-runner out. At the umpire's discretion, a warning may be given on the first offense, but the player will be ejected upon a second offense.

28.13.7.4.1. NOTE 3: In the case of 29.13.1.4 above, the umpire must also consider whether the first baseman was in any way preventing the batter runner from safely and easily tagging the bag, or that the throw to first may have caused the first baseman to accidentally move into the path of the batter runner.

28.13.7.5. Fielder Not in Possession of the Ball: A fielder may not be in the path of a base runner if the fielder does not have possession of the ball, or is not in the process of making a legitimate play on the base runner. The fielder must give the runner access to the base.

28.13.7.6. A fielder's blocking the path of the base runner may be deemed interference by the umpire.

28.13.7.6.1. If the fielder in anyway blocks access to the base, the base runner is automatically awarded the base to which he was advancing.

28.13.7.6.2. If, in the judgment of the umpire, a fielder blocks a runner in such a fashion that it would prevent the runner from advancing further, the umpire will award that base runner and all other base runners one additional base.

28.13.7.6.3. Exception: 5-6 League play. However, coaches are advised to instruct their fielders to not block bases unless they are making a legitimate play.

29. INJURIES TO A PLAYER

29.1. The Umpire may stop the game immediately, regardless of the play situation, upon realizing that a player has been injured.

29.2. If the game is stopped for injury during the course of a play, the batter and runners will be awarded bases as appropriate when play resumes.

29.3. The Head Coach is responsible to deliver a written report, within 24 hours, to the League Commissioner detailing any injuries that may require medical attention that occurred at a GBL-sanctioned game or practice. This report must include:

29.3.1. Type of event, date, time and location where injury occurred.

29.3.2. Name of injured person.

29.3.3. Description of how injury occurred, including names of other people involved.\

29.3.4. Name of medical insurance carrier of injured person.

29.3.5. Names of other witnesses to the injury.

29.4. Injuries Involving Bleeding: If for any reason a player is bleeding - in any fashion the following policy shall apply:

29.4.1. The player's parent/guardian must be brought from the stands to tend to their child, and administer first aid as appropriate to stop or control the bleeding.

29.4.2. Coaches and Umpires should take precautions by wearing medical grade latex gloves if they are need to administer treatment. In no case shall any other player be permitted to administer to a bleeding player.

29.4.3. The bleeding player must be removed from the game. The player cannot return to the game until all bleeding is stopped, appropriate first aid has been administered, any dressing is secured, and any bloody clothing is removed and replaced.

29.4.4. In no event and under no circumstances shall care be refused a injured player.

30. INJURED PLAYER WHO CANNOT CONTINUE

30.1. If a player is injured in a game, the following shall apply:

30.1.1. If the player is injured while at bat, General Rule 27.3 will be used.

30.1.2. If me injured player is to be removed from the game, the player's Head Coach must inform both the home plate umpire and the opposing head coach prior to that player's next at bat. Once declared out of the game, the player cannot return.

30.1.3. If an injured player is declared out of the game, his position in the batting order is simply skipped and no penalty is applied.

30.1.4. If, however, the injured player is declared out of the game, and such leaves the team with less than eight players, the affected team must forfeit.

30.2. Courtesy Runner: A courtesy runner may be used to substitute for an injured player, unable to continue at that point. The courtesy runner must be the last offensive player who batted and is not currently on base.

30.2.1. If a player is injured and a courtesy runner is used, the injured player must be held out of his team's next defensive inning.

31. DETERMINING COMPLETE GAMES

31.1. Any game that is terminated early due to conditions out of the control of GBL (example: rain, field becomes unusable, etc.) must meet one of the following to be considered a completed game:

31.1.1. If the game was a scheduled six (6) inning game, four (4) full innings must have been completed (3 and 1/2 if home team is winning).

31.1.2. If the game was a scheduled seven (7) inning game, at least five (5) full innings must have been completed (4 and 1/2 if home team is winning).

31.1.3. Time limit has previously expired.

32. RESCHEDULING OF GAMES

32.1. Rescheduling of games due to unavailability of fields, rain-outs or for other reasons will be determined by the GBL. Coaches will be notified of reschedule dates by their respective League Commissioners.

32.2. There will be no rescheduling of games due to personal commitments, unavailability of players, holidays, etc.

33. ABSENT FROM CONTINUATION OF A SUSPENDED GAME

33.1. If a player who participated in a suspended and rescheduled game, is absent from the continuation of the suspended game, the following rules will apply:

33.1.1. The team having an absent player will not be penalized, except under 33.1 4 below.

33.1.2. The absent player will be removed from the prevailing batting order, and each successive player will move up one spot in the order.

33.1.3. If the absent player was on base at the time the game was suspended, the last batter in the order who is not on base or at bat will serve as the base runner.

33.1.4. If the absence of a player results in that team having less than eight (8) players, the game will be declared a forfeit.

33.1.5. If the absent player was pitching at the point the game was suspended, the coach may substitute another pitcher. However, all other pitching rules regarding innings pitched, assignment of pitched innings, and pitching eligibility will apply.

34. POST GAME CLEAN-UP

34.1. It shall be the responsibility of both teams to pick up the trash and garbage around the field at the end of the game. Teams with the final game of the evening have ultimate responsibility for the condition of their side of the playing field to include trash and garbage around the field, in the dugouts, and the bleachers.

34.2. Teams with the final game of the evening are responsible to return the scoreboard controller to the concession stand and turn off the field lights.

34.3. This policy will be enforced by the GBL Baseball Committee and the GAA Board of Directors. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in forfeiture of the game played or a team's next winning game.

35. SCORES & STANDINGS

35.1. It is the responsibility of each Head Coach to contact their League Commissioner as soon as possible following a game and provide the result and score of his/her game.

35.2. The League Commissioner of each league will maintain records of game scores and standings and will post the results on the GBL website.

36. FOR DETERMINING INTRA-LEAGUE TOURNAMENT SEEDINGS

36.1. To be considered eligible for the intra-league tournament, a team must:

36.1.1. Schedule a minimum of eight (8) intra-league games in any single spring season.

36.1.2. Schedule a minimum of five (5) intra-league games in any fall season.

36.1.3. Rain-outs or other game cancelations outside of a team's control will not be held against such a team in the calculation of the minimum number of games required to be eligible for the intra-league tournament.

36.2. If all teams in a given division have different intra-league records at the conclusion of the regular season, the intra-league tournament seedings shall be determined by intra-league winning percentage, rounded to three (3) decimal points.

36.3. In an event requiring a tie breaker in a given division, the following rules shall apply and must be applied in order. The tie breakers are used in order to seed one team at a time. Each time a tie is broken to seed one team, leaving a tie between two or more teams, the tie breaker process is restarted.

36.3.1. If teams have identical intra-league records at the conclusion of the regular season, the higher seeded team shall be determined by:

36.3.1.1. Head-to-head competition. The team who won the most games when two teams played each other.

36.3.1.2. Head-to-head run differential. The team that had the largest differential between runs scored and allowed when two teams played each other.

36.3.1.3. Lowest total runs allowed. The team that allowed the fewest runs in its games over the course of the season.

36.3.1.4. Run differential. The team that had the largest differential between runs scored and allowed over the course of the season.

36.3.1.5. Coin flip: The head coaches of both teams will meet with the League Commissioner and flip a coin to determine seeding.

36.3.2. If teams have played a different number of total intra-league games and have the same number of intra-league losses, the higher seeded team shall be determined by:

36.3.2.1. Head-to-head competition. The team who won the most games when two teams played each other.

36.3.2.2. Head-to-head run differential. The team that had the largest differential between runs scored and allowed when two teams played each other.

36.3.2.3. Lowest total runs allowed. The team that allowed the fewest runs in its games over the course of the season.

36.3.2.4. Run differential. The team that had the largest differential between runs scored and allowed over the course of the season.

36.3.2.5. Coin flip. The head coaches of both teams will meet with the League Commissioner and flip a coin to determine seeding.

36.4. This tie-breaker system is to be used for initial Intra-League Tournament seedings only, and is not intended to distinguish in-season standings.

36.5. If the intra-league tournament is double-elimination:

36.5.1. The team with fewer tournament losses shall be declared the home team.

36.5.2. If both teams have the same number of tournament losses, the initial Intra-League Tournament seedings shall apply when declaring the home team.