

**NFHS Baseball rules apply with the following exceptions**

- A. The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Boys is Coach Pitch.
  - a. The Coach Pitcher must be at least 14 years of age.
- B. A player's grade is their grade during the 2025-2026 school year.
- C. FIELD DIMENSIONS
  - a. Pitching Distance --- 40ft.
  - b. Base Distance --- 60ft --- 84' 10" from home plate to second base and first base to third base
  - c. Arced line 40ft from the tip of home plate from foul line to foul line.
    - 1. No player can go in front of this arced line until the ball is hit.
    - 2. EXCEPTION – If a batter squares to bunt, the infield defensive players (1<sup>st</sup> base, 2<sup>nd</sup> base, pitcher, shortstop, or 3<sup>rd</sup> base) can move inside the 30ft arc line.
  - d. A 10ft radius half circle from the center of the 40ft arc for the pitcher to stay in until the ball is hit.
    - 1. The Infielders including the pitcher may not cross the arced line prior to the ball being hit if the batter shows bunt.
  - e. An Infield line 5ft. outside of base path.
    - 1. This determines the infield and outfield.
    - 2. Outfielders must stay behind this line until the ball is hit.
  - f. 20ft Base Hash Marks
    - 1. A base hash mark is placed 20ft past 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases.
    - 2. These marks are used by the umpires as a reference point to determine where each base runner is located when play is stopped.
    - 3. After play has been stopped --- if the base runner is completely past the hash mark, that runner is awarded the next base.
    - 4. After play has been stopped --- If the base runner is NOT completely passed the hash mark, that runner will be returned to the base they just touched.
    - 5. For example
      - a. The base runner has rounded 2<sup>nd</sup> base, heading to 3<sup>rd</sup> base, but before completely crossing the 2<sup>nd</sup> base hash mark, the umpires stop play – That base runner would be placed back on 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
      - b. The base runner has rounded 2<sup>nd</sup> base, heading to 3<sup>rd</sup> base. When the umpires stop play, the base runner is completely passed the 2<sup>nd</sup> base hash mark. In this case that base runner would be placed on 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
- D. The Double Base applies in this league --- **See General Rule #17**
- E. GAME LENGTH --- 5 innings
- F. TIME LIMIT --- One Hour and Ten minutes (1:10)
  - a. If an inning ends prior to the time limit, next inning will be played in full.
- G. Three Outs or Five (5) runs constitute an inning.
- H. RUN RULE --- **See General Rule #14**

## I. COMPLETED GAME

- a. If the game is called due to bad weather conditions, it will be considered a completed game after 45 minutes or four complete innings.
- b. The final score of this completed game is determined by reverting to the last completed inning. If the score is tied, the game will be recorded as a tie game.
- c. If the game is not complete the game will be replayed from the start.
- d. Game Rescheduling should follow **General Rule #8**.
- e. Tie-Game – If a regular season game ends in a tie after regulation play or time limit, then the game will be over and marked down for standings as a tie. If a tournament game is tied at the end of regulation play or time limit, the game will continue into extra innings until there is a winner. These extra inning rules are listed within the General Rule #24, World Series Tournament Rules.
- f. Weather will be monitored by a third party connected to each hometown, in most cases a field supervisor.
  1. The league has agreed on resources for the third party to use while monitoring the weather and those are to be used to determine if play continues or stops.
  2. If inclement weather becomes a problem, the third party will communicate with the field umpires.
  3. If play needs to be suspended, it will be suspended for 30-minutes. After 30 minutes conditions will be evaluated by the third party. If play cannot continue or is suspended a second time after play continues, the above rules for a completed game will be used to determine if the game is completed or needs to be rescheduled.

## J. FREE SUBSTITUTION

- a. Every player will be placed in the batting line up for the entire game.
  1. Example --- If a team has 13 players at the game, all 13 players will be in the batting line-up the entire game.
  2. Defensively players can be moved from position to position by the team's coaches without notifying the official scorekeeper.

## K. Teams may play with ten (10) defensive players

- a. The extra defensive player must be placed in an outfield position.

## L. MINIMUM DEFENSIVE PLAYING TIME

- a. All players must be in the game to play defense by the start of the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) inning.
- b. This player cannot come out of the game until he/she has played two (2) consecutive defensive innings.
  1. This rule DOES NOT apply to starters.
- c. Failure to do so will result in an automatic out at the start of the next inning.

## M. OFFENSIVE RULES

- a. The Batter will receive five (5) pitches.
  1. If the Batter does not hit one of those five (5) pitches he is out.
  2. If the Batter fouls off the 5th pitch, he is not out.
- b. A hit ball in fair territory or strike out ends the Batter's turn at bat.
- c. The Coach Pitcher will pitch to his/her own team.
  1. Coach Pitchers must pitch from the pitching rubber
  2. The Coach Pitchers may pitch overhand or underhand.
- d. If a batted ball strikes any part of the Coach Pitcher the ball is declared a dead ball and the play will be considered the same as a foul ball.
- j. Bunting is permitted.
  1. Bunting is Defined as --- Any non-swinging movement of the bat intended to tap the ball into play.
  2. If bunt is shown by the Batter, the Batter must attempt to bunt or pull the bat back.
  3. If the Batter shows bunt and then swings the Batter shall be called out.
  4. Holding the bat in the strike zone is considered a bunt attempt.
  5. In order to take a pitch, the bat must be withdrawn --- pulled backward and away from the ball.
- k. Chin straps are optional on batting helmets.

## I. BAT RULE

1. All Baseball and T-Ball bats are allowed, as long as there are no cracks or dents.

## N. DEFENSIVE RULES

- a. Defensive Coaches
  1. At the pre-game conference, both team coaches will decide if Two (2) Defensive Coaches will be allowed on the field, for the entire game.
  2. If both coaches agree – then Two (2) coaches, for the entire game, will be allowed on the field on defense but must remain behind the infield line.
  3. If one coach disagrees or both coaches disagree – then for that game, no defensive coach will be allowed on the field.
  4. This is a game-to-game decision.
- b. Dead Ball Appeal --- **See General Rule #16**
- c. The Pitcher must stay in the half circle -- Infielders behind the 40ft arc from home plate -- Outfielders behind the infield line -- until the ball is hit.
  1. EXCEPTION – If a batter squares to bunt, the infield defensive players (1<sup>st</sup> base, 2<sup>nd</sup> base, pitcher, shortstop, or 3<sup>rd</sup> base) can move inside the 40ft arc line.

- O.      AUTOMATIC OUTS --- LESS THAN NINE PLAYERS
- a.      A team **MUST** start their game with seven (7) players.
  - b.      If a team is playing with less than 9 players, the team must field a player in the pitcher and catcher positions.
  - c.      If a team starts their game with less than nine (9) players - automatic outs could be applied in regular season games.
    - 1.      If a team starts with eight (8) players --- the team could take one (1) automatic out.
    - 2.      If a team starts with seven (7) players --- the team could take two (2) automatic outs.
    - 3.      The team can place their automatic out(s) anywhere in the original batting order.
  - d.      At the pre-game conference, both team coaches will decide if Automatic Outs will be used for the entire game.
    - 1.      If both coaches agree – then Automatic Outs will be used for the entire game.
    - 2.      If one coach disagrees or both coaches disagree – then Automatic Outs will be used for the entire game, based on the above rules.
    - 3.      This is a game-to-game decision.