

USABF

“League & Tournament Rules”

Senior Divisions 14U & Above

Official Baseball Rules as published by Sporting News shall be used; the following exceptions apply:

MANAGERS: The Manager or Acting Manager is responsible for the conduct of its players, staff, fans, and followers; if a situation on or off the field arises and the Manager or Acting Manager is unable to solve the situation to the satisfaction of the Umpire Crew Chief or USABF the offending team shall **forfeit**.

EJECTION & Post Game Suspension: Any Manager, Coach, or Player ejected is required to leave the playing complex; they must leave the playing complex within 2 minutes after ejection and be out of sight and sound or the team shall **forfeit**, they must **NOT** return to the playing complex until 15 minutes after the conclusion of the game, those who return prior to 15 minutes after the conclusion of the game shall receive a Post Game Suspension, (which results in them being suspended and ineligible for the team’s next game; they may NOT be present at the playing complex during the next game) - Penalty: if present, their team shall **forfeit**. USABF Rules Committee may impose additional penalties for Ejections or Post Game Suspensions.

UNIFORMS: Uniforms shall be consistent with traditional baseball uniforms, all jerseys must have numbers (No Tape), duplicate numbers are not allowed (Umpires - DON’T allow duplicate numbers – NO Exceptions). Players are required to be in uniform when entering the facility; dressing on the field is not authorized, those not in uniform will be required to pay the daily admission, those refusing to pay will not be allowed to enter, if team members disobey this rule their team shall **forfeit**.

BATS: Metal bats shall conform to NCAA rules (i.e. -3); any player entering the batters box with a bat that does not conform shall be declared ‘Out’: all runners shall return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch (all other outs recorded during the at bat shall stand). (*Discovery of the illegal bat must occur prior to the next batter’s first pitch.*)

BASEBALLS: Each team shall provide 2 new baseballs to start the game and shall provide more as needed; each team is responsible to return foul balls from their side of the field (*even if they are hit outside the fence*). USABF will provide baseballs for Championship Games only.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY: Only those players listed on the Team’s Official Roster are eligible to participate.

(League and Pool Play): Teams that play ineligible players shall **forfeit** the game.

(Championships and Elimination Bracket): Teams that play ineligible players shall be **disqualified**.

TEAMS: A minimum of 8 players shall be required to start a game; if 8 players cannot be fielded prior to 10 minutes after the scheduled game time it shall be a **forfeit**. Teams with 8 players shall start their scheduled games on time; the 9th spot in the batting order shall be left blank and shall result in an Automatic Out each time the 9th spot is due to bat. Teams that cannot field 9 players prior to the 5th inning starting shall **forfeit**. If prior to the 5th inning starting the 9th player arrives he shall be placed in the 9th spot in the batting order (this team may Not use an EH).

HOME TEAM: First team listed on the schedule; a team starting with 8 players shall automatically become the visiting team.

LINE UP CARDS: Teams shall present their Line Up Cards to the Plate Umpire at the Pre-Game meeting; they shall be reviewed and approved by the Plate Umpire; **NO changes** to the Line-Up are allowed after approval, any player not listed on the card is considered ineligible to play, **NO addition** of players to the card shall be allowed after the first pitch of the game.

DESIGNATED HITTER (DH): Teams may use **One** DH for any player (not just the pitcher).

EXTRA HITTER (EH): Teams may use **ONE** (EH); the EH is a starter, the EH may be placed at a defensive position during the game (the player that is taken off the field will still bat in his original spot in the batting order), if a team has no substitutes and the EH is unable to play then each time the EH spot is reached it will be an OUT for the remainder of the game.

RE-ENTRY: Starters may Re-Enter **Once**.

COURTESY RUNNERS: Courtesy Runners may be used for the Pitcher and Catcher at any time; any player Not in the Game or if a team has only the minimum number of players 9/10 then the player who made the Last Out shall be the runner, Courtesy Runners may Not be removed from the bases to pinch hit.

INTENTIONAL WALK: ‘Time shall be called’: inform the Plate Umpire, No Pitches are necessary.

PITCHING RULES: Pitchers are not restricted to a maximum number of innings during a tournament. (Pitchers moved to other positions may return to pitch; but not in the same inning).

COLLISIONS RULE: When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who **clearly is in possession** of the ball, the umpire shall judge: (1) Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (could the runner have reached the base without colliding) or unavoidable (the runner’s path to the base was blocked) and (2) whether the runner was attempting to reach the base (plate) or was attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder. Penalty: If the runner, (a) could have avoided the collision and reached the base, or (b) attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner shall be declared **out** even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is **dead** and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the collision.

TIME LIMITS & RUN RULES (League Play or Pool Play):

7 inning games: no new inning shall start after **2 hours. 7-run** rule after 4 ½ or 5 innings.

9 inning games: no new inning shall start after **2 hours 30 minutes. 10-run** rule after 6 ½ or 7 innings.

Time Limit Guidelines: If the team at bat is behind, finish the inning or any portion needed for the Home team to go ahead; (i.e. Time Limit is reached with the Home team at bat and leading 18 to 17 in the 3rd inning – the game is over), if the score is tied after completing the inning - “then it is a tie game”.

If at the conclusion of 7/9 innings the score is tied and the Time Limit has not been reached play additional innings until you have a winner or you reach the Time Limit whichever comes first.

TIME LIMITS & RUN RULES (League Championships or Elimination Bracket):

7 inning games: no new inning shall start after **2 hours. 7-run** rule after 4 ½ or 5 innings.

9 inning games: no new inning shall start after **2 hours 30 minutes. 10-run** rule after 6 ½ or 7 innings.

Time Limit Guidelines: If the team at bat is behind then finish the inning or any portion needed for the Home team to go ahead; (i.e. Time Limit is reached with the Home team at bat and leading 18 to 17 in the 3rd inning – the game is over), if the score is tied after completing the inning – “play additional innings until you have a winner”.

“The **Championship Game** will not have a Time Limit; the Run Rule does apply”.

SEEDING:

Seeding is determined by overall record; higher seed will be the home team.

SEEDING TIE BREAKERS:

- * Head to head
- * Least runs allowed

(The Flip of a coin will never eliminate a team from entry into the Elimination Bracket; if the Tie Breakers listed above don’t identify the necessary teams then USABF will use the ‘Game Tie Breaker Rule’.)

SEEDING ‘GAME TIE BREAKER RULE’: (Coin Flip for Home Team) At the start of the inning the Visiting Team shall place their Leadoff batter on second base (no outs); one inning will be played or any portion needed for the home team to go ahead, if at the conclusion of the one inning the game is still tied then a another inning will be played (place the batter who made the last out on second base - no outs). Play this format until a winner is determined.

FIELD HOST: Teams that provide a field for the Tournament may play games at their field and have seeding adjusted accordingly to allow them to continue to play on their field as long as their field is being used by the Tournament.

In the event of any confusion, conflict, or disagreement of any rule or regulation included herein, the decision of the Rules Committee is final and binding.

“And remember; you can’t win if you don’t play, see you on the field”.

Timothy R. Halbig, Sr.
USABF Commissioner