

2017  
LAKES ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
INTER - LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAY

14U DIVISION

**Rules and Regulations**

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The rules and regulation printed on these pages are for 14U Division use only and shall supersede any statement listed in the official baseball rules of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

#### 1.00 OBJECTIVES OF THE GAME

##### 1.04 The Playing Field

- A. The field shall be laid out according to the instructions below  
The infield shall be an 80 foot square.  
The distance from the rear of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber shall be 54 feet.  
The distance between first base and third base shall be 113'2".  
The distance from home plate to the center of second base shall be 113' 2".  
The distance from the rear of home plate to the nearest fence or obstruction in fair territory shall be 250 feet or more. (All measurements from home base shall be taken from the point where the first and third base lines intersect).
- B. The home team shall set the bases and chalk the field. Batters boxes and foul lines shall be chalked for each game.

##### 1.08 Rules not applicable

##### 1.10 Bats

- A. All bats must have the BBCOR and/or USSSA approved label on them. In the event that an unapproved bat is used (once the batter steps into the batter's box) the batter that is in violation will be called out. The player will be allowed to bat again the next at bat.
- B. Bats of any color are acceptable.
- C. All bat handles shall be taped or bound properly with adhesive or friction tape. No smooth electrical tape shall be used.

##### 1.1 1 Uniforms

- A. Lakes Athletic Association only: Uniforms shirts, pants, socks, and caps will be given to the players only after they have returned their signed insurance form, have

provided the league with a birth certificate or Baptismal Record, and have paid their registration fee.

- B. Uniforms must be worn for all games. A minimum legal uniform consists of a team shirt, (Lakes Athletic Association only: team baseball pant), and team baseball cap.  
PENALTY: Any player who is not wearing at least the minimum legal uniform cannot participate in the game.
- C. The players may keep their shirts, pants, and caps after the season ends.
- D. Baseball shoes with rubber cleats, metal spikes or rubber sole shoes may be worn.
- E. Jackets, sweatshirts, etc. shall be allowed in unusual weather situations only.
- F. Catchers shall be required to wear a supporter and a protective cup.

#### 1.16 Protective Headgear

- A. All players shall use a protective helmet while on the field of play (when on offense).
- B. If a player is coaching, they must wear a protective helmet.
- C. Catchers must wear protective headgear.
- D. Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a mask.

### 3.00 GAME PRELIMINARIES

#### 3.01

- A. Each team shall furnish one new baseball for each game. These balls shall be furnished by the League.
- B. The home team shall be responsible for the bases, pitchers rubber, marking of and field set-up prior to each game.
- C. The home team manager is in charge prior to every game. The home team manager is responsible for putting the field in the best possible playing condition and shall determine if the game is to proceed, weather or time permitting (League time limits withstanding). The home team manager calls for a meeting with umpires and opposing managers at home plate where they will state what the ground rules are for that day. At that point, the field is turned over to the umpire and the game may begin. (It is up to the manager/coach at this time to ask the umpire about additional requirements

such as where the players are allowed to reside during the game and verbal activity allowed at home plate or in the field.)

- D. The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook and insuring that the official game scorebook is signed by the umpire after each game.
- E. All teams must have their team scorebook with them at every game. All teams must maintain a record in the scorebook of the innings pitched by each pitcher on both teams during every game.
- F. If an opposing team requests to review the pitching record (for that calendar week) of a pitcher entering a game to pitch and the pitching records are not available, that pitcher will be limited to pitch a maximum of one inning during that game.

### 3.02 Visitor Team

- A. The visitor team shall be responsible for returning the bases and pitchers rubber to the field lock box after each game.

### 3.03 Batting Order and Playing Time

- A. Any player arriving after the exchange of line up cards must be added to the bottom of the roster and the opposing manager must be notified. All players present must be shown on the lineup card.
- B. A time at bat will be considered the completion of a batting play such as a walk, base hit, hit by the pitcher or an out. (Substitution as a pinch runner does not constitute a time at bat or an inning on the field).
- C. Prior to starting a game each manager will submit to the opposing manager a sequential batting order that includes all members of the team available to play in the game. During the game all players will bat in a continuous rotation that follows the established batting order. Substitutions in the batting order will not be allowed.
- D. Each player present on each team at starting time must play a minimum of three (3) complete half-innings in the field (defensive position) prior to the sixth inning unless they are ill, injured, or are being disciplined. This applies to all three leagues.
- E. An inning is defined as that portion of a game within which the teams alternate on offense and defense and in which there are three putouts for each team. Each team's time at bat

is defined as a half-inning.

- F. Any manager who prohibits a player from playing in a game due to "Disciplinary Action" must submit in writing, and approved by the Division Director (LAA) or Division Vice President (CLL) , the game suspension 24 hours prior to the game. The game suspension must be reported to the opposing manager before the start of the game. Example: Discipline might be the result of un-excused and continual absence from practices and/or games.
- G. No player may be dropped from any team for any reason without first getting the approval of the Division Director (Lakes/Lakeland) or Division Vice President (CLL).
- H. Lakes Athletic Association only: Any player who misses a game un-excused must be reported to the Division Director. There will be no exceptions.
- I. A player once removed from a fielding position is eligible to re-enter the game at any position at his manager's discretion while maintaining the original position in the batting order.
- J. A player removed from a game for reason of injury or illness may return to that game at a later time if they are capable of fulfilling all game requirements (in the original position in the batting order).
- K. All managers must list their full roster on all score sheets and lineup cards and must note any players who are absent. (Lakes Athletic Association only: Reasons for absence must be noted on score sheet.)

#### 3.04 Substitutes

- A. If a base runner is injured while on base, the manager may substitute the player who was put-out last for the injured runner. The manager must notify the opposing manager prior to putting the pinch runner in the game.

#### 4.00 STARTING & ENDING THE GAME

##### 4.01

- A. Each manager shall submit his batting roster and lineup card to the umpire and opposing manager not later than five (5) minutes before the start of the game.
- B. Starting time for games shall be 6:15 p.m. on weekdays and as posted on the season schedule for Saturdays.

##### 4.06

- A. Unsportsmanlike Conduct - Any action that is deemed to be abusive, dangerous or not consistent with the league's intended sportsmanship principles will be met with strict discipline. The game umpires, at their discretion, may take

any action they feel is consistent with the offense. The umpire may warn the team, (second and subsequent incidents will result in an automatic ejection of the offending party) or may eject any coach, manager, spectator, or player without a previous warning. Examples of Unsportsmanlike Conduct include, but are not limited to: throwing of bats or helmets; taunting of the opposing team; abuse of any umpire, player or coach; and abusive language. Each manager/coach is responsible to ask the umpire for additional requirements at the start of each game, such as to where players may reside during the game and what type of verbal activity is allowed at the plate.

#### 4.10

- A. A regulation game consists of seven (7) innings or if another game follows, the game shall end exactly two (2) hours from the scheduled starting time (not the actual starting time). (Lakes Athletic Association only: This rule shall be waived during playoff season.)
- B. If a game is called, it is a regulation game if five (5) innings have been completed or the home team has scored more runs in four (4) and a fraction half innings than the visiting team has scored in four (4) complete half-innings.
- C. All inter-league canceled games must be rescheduled by the home team manager, through the Division Director (Lakes/Lakeland), or the Division Vice President (CLL).
- D. Lakes Athletic Association only: Rescheduling of canceled intra-league games is recommended, but optional. The home team manager is responsible for contacting the Division Director to reschedule an intra-league game. Prior to contacting the Division Director the two teams should attempt to work out one or two mutually agreeable dates for the rescheduled game.
- E. Forfeit tirade is fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled starting time of a game.
- F. All teams must have at least nine (9) eligible players present in order to start a game. If a team has only nine (9) players at game time and a player is injured during the game, the team can finish the game with eight (8) players. There must be at least eight players to finish a game. If a team has less than nine (9) players available in the game and a player is removed for reasons of injury or illness, an automatic out will be scored each time the player's position in the batting order comes to the plate. Games with Lakeland teams only, eight (8) eligible players need to be present to start the game, seven (7) eligible players are required to finish the game.
- G. Only the adult manager or one of his adult assistants from

a team (after asking for time out) may discuss a rule interpretation with the umpire, provided it is done in a gentlemanly, respectful manner. Judgment calls cannot be discussed with the umpire.

- H. If, at the discretion of the umpire, the continuance of the game would not be beneficial to the players or the Baseball Program, for any reason, it shall be terminated and the results of the game shall be recorded as determined by the umpire. ONLY IF 2 HOUR TIME LIMIT HAS ELAPSED.
- I. A 7 run per inning mercy rule will be in effect and the inning will immediately end when the run limit is reached. (This rule does not apply for the Seventh (7th) or subsequent extra innings and will be waived during the playoffs). Additionally, a 10 run mercy rule shall apply at the end of five (5) or more innings, and the game will end at the end of the inning when the run limit is reached (or during the inning if the team who is 10 runs ahead is batting last in the inning). If both managers do not agree to end the game, the game continues until normal completion of the game. {For clarification only: this rule over rides the 14U 10 run rule, 11E}.
- J. A tie game at the end of seven innings shall go into extra innings until a winner is determined or the game is called by the umpire.

#### 4.19     Protesting Games

- A. A protest will only be accepted during inter-league play and Lakes Athletic Association playoffs.
- B. A protest must be filed in writing to the Division Director (Lakes/other league) along with \$10.00 within twenty-four (24) hours.
- C. A protest cannot be filed regarding any umpire's judgment on strikes, balls, foul balls, etc. A protest can be made only on a call which appears contrary to the rule book.
- D. Upon receipt of the protest, a protest committee will issue a final protest determination. The Chief Umpire or Umpire in Chief shall then contact the writer to indicate whether the protest is accepted or rejected. A rejected protest shall result in forfeiture of the \$10.00 deposit. A retracted or accepted protest shall require a refund of the \$10.00 to the writer.  
Lakeland only: Upon filing a protest neither manager nor their assistance may attempt contact with any officials in attendance during that game. Any attempt to do so shall immediately result in a decision against that team.

#### 6.00 THE BATTER

6.05

- A. If a player throws a bat the umpire shall consider that action as "Unsportsmanlike Conduct "and the action will be disciplined under the rule defined in section 4.06 of these rules.

7.00 THE RUNNER

- A. The runner must make every reasonable effort to avoid contact on any close play at second, third or home plate. If contact is likely to occur, or is unavoidable, the runner must slide (Note: The base coaches must make every attempt to assist the runner in determining when to slide). When the player awaiting the throw, deliberately fakes reception of the ball to force the runner to slide, the runner will be awarded that base. If umpire determines that the fake reception precluded the base runner from attaining an additional base(s), the umpire may award the base runner the additional base(s). On the first occurrence of a deliberate fake the umpire will give the team a warning and on any subsequent occurrence the offending player will be ejected.
- B. Any batter, base runner, or non-adult coach who is on the field of play must wear protective headgear. Any player shall be called out if they INTENTIONALLY remove their protective headgear while on the field of play.

8.00 THE PITCHER

8.01

- A. A pitcher shall not be allowed to pitch in more than seven innings in one calendar day or no more than a total of ten (10) innings in one week (calendar). A calendar week is from 12:01 Monday to 12:00 Midnight the following Sunday.
- B. A player shall not pitch in a game with less than forty (40) hours rest, after pitching in four (4) or more innings in a calendar day.
- C. As soon as a pitcher has delivered one (1) pitch to a batter, they shall be considered as having pitched in one (1) inning.
- D. A pitcher who has been withdrawn from the mound, shall not be allowed to return to the mound as a pitcher in the same game.
- E. If a relief pitcher is substituted cold, the umpire shall allow them to warm up with a minimum of (10) ten warm-up pitchers.

Lakeland only: eight (8) warm up pitches are allowed.

- F. No player shall be allowed to pitch in more than four (4) innings per game prior to Memorial Day.
- G. Lakes Athletic Association only: During the playoffs only, if a third game should be required in the same week, a pitcher shall be allowed to pitch no more than three (3) innings in his third game. A maximum of thirteen (13) innings may be pitched in the event of a three (3) game week.

9.00 The Umpire

All rules applicable as written.

10.00 The Official Scorer

- A. Lakes Athletic Association only: No won and lost record or standings shall be kept during the regular season schedule.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

A Code of Conduct for all participants in the Lakes/Lakeland Athletic Association program is attached to this set of rules.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of Lakes/Lakeland Athletic Association is to develop a baseball program for all area youths for recreational purposes, to teach the fundamentals of baseball, to teach good sportsmanship, and most importantly, to ensure that all participants enjoy this experience.

To ensure that the objectives of the League are met, the managers, coaches, parents, and umpires of this league are bound by, and must make every effort to enforce, the following rules established by the Board of Directors of the Lakes/Lakeland Athletic Association.

- 1) All managers and coaches will conduct themselves in an orderly manner at all times in game situations.
- 2) Managers and coaches are responsible for the behavior of their players, team parents and team spectators.
- 3) Managers and coaches will ensure that all respective parties, such as players, parents, and spectators will not harass, abuse or verbally belittle any opposing player, coach or umpire.
- 4) Managers or coaches will not, under any circumstances, enter into an argument with game umpires during the course of a game. If a disagreement should arise pertaining to an umpire's decision, all parties are expected to resolve the disagreement in an orderly manner. Any problems with an umpire are to be reported to the Division Director and Chief Umpire immediately following such a game.
- 5) Any manager or coach who physically attacks any umpire, manager or coach will be suspended immediately and shall be banned from any further coaching duties with the Lakes Athletic Association.
- 6) Drinking of alcoholic beverages is banned at all games of this association.
- 7) Smoking is not permitted by any manager or coach on or near the player bench or on the field of play. Any manager or coach who wishes to smoke may do so in the spectator area, at a reasonable distance from the field of play.
- 8) Parents or spectators are not allowed on the player benches during a game.
- 9) Parents are not permitted to approach an umpire during a game to argue or protest any decision of such an umpire. If a parent does approach an umpire at the conclusion of a game, it is the responsibility of team management to ensure that the parent will not in any way abuse the umpire verbally or otherwise, and will ensure that any discussion that follows will be handled in good taste.
- 10) All umpires are required to report any breaches of conduct by parents, spectators, coaches or players to the Chief Director and Chief Umpire immediately following the game.
- 11) All umpires are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner, as well as all other participants.
- 12) No umpire shall attempt to coach any player on either team without the permission of the team manager.
- 13) All participants at any Lakes/Lakeland Athletic Association game must remember this program is for the kids, and all must make an effort to ensure that the best interest of these children are protected.

The Board of Directors  
Lakes Athletic Association