

2018
LAKES ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
12U DIVISION

Rules and Regulations

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The rules and regulation printed on these pages are for 12U Division use only and shall supersede any statement listed in the official baseball rules of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

All local rules are cross referenced to the OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES by division of the code:

1.00 OBJECTIVES OF THE GAME

1.4 The Playing Field

- A. The field shall be laid out according to the instructions below supplemented by the attached diagram.
 - * The infield shall be a 70 foot square.
 - * The distance from the rear of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber shall be 48 feet.
 - * The distance between first base and third base shall be 99 feet.
 - * The distance from home plate to the center of second base shall be 99 feet.
- B. The home team shall set the bases and chalk the field.
 - * Batters boxes and foul lines shall be chalked for each game. Out-of-play restraining lines shall also be chalked starting at the end of the backstop running parallel with the foul lines.

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. The bat shall be no more than 2-3/4 inches in diameter and no more than 42 inches in length.
- C. Bats of any color are acceptable.
- D. All bat handles shall be taped or bound properly with adhesive or friction tape. No smooth electrical tape shall be allowed.
- E. For L.A.A. only: The bat shall be within (equal or less than) 11 ounces in weight of the numerical length (inches). If the bat weight and length are not identifiable, then it will be the umpire's decision if the bat can or cannot be used. {example: a bat weighing 20 ounces has to be 31" or less in length; likewise if a bat is 36" long then the weight of the bat has to be 25 ounces or greater}.

1.11 Uniforms

- A. Uniforms will be given to the players only after they have returned their signed registration form and produced either a birth certificate or Baptismal record to their coach, and have paid their registration fee.
- B. Uniforms must be worn for all games. PENALTY: Any player not in uniform cannot participate in the game.
- C. The players may keep their uniforms after the season ends.
- D. Baseball shoes with rubber cleats or rubber sole shoes are to be worn. Hard sole shoes or shoes with metal cleats will be prohibited.
- E. Jackets, sweatshirt, 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 at bat.
- B. All base runners are required to wear protective headgear.
- C. If a player is coaching, he must wear a protective helmet.
- D. Catchers must wear protective headgear.
- E. Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a mask.

2.00 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Inning - A half inning is constituted of 3 outs or 7 runs, whichever comes first. This rule is waived in Playoff games.

Balk - The balk rule is in effect in 12U Division play and will be enforced. Until Memorial Day, warnings will be given on the first violation. No warnings will be given after Memorial Day or during the play-offs.

Bunt - Bunting is allowed in 12U Division Play.

3.1 GAME PRELIMINARIES

3.2 Home Team

- A. Each team shall furnish one new baseball for each game. These balls shall be furnished to the team manager by the Division Director.
- 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.
- D. Home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook and obtaining a signature of the umpire in the official scorebook after each game.

3.3 Visitor Team

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

3.4 Batting Order and Playing Time

- A. Each player will bat his turn in rotation regardless if he is playing the field that inning or not. 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. Each player present on each team at starting time must play a minimum of three (3) complete innings in the field (defensive position) prior to the sixth inning unless he is ill, injured, or being disciplined. This rule applies to League Playoffs and Championship games also.
- C. Any manager who prohibits a player from playing in a game due to "Disciplinary Action" must submit in writing, and have approved by the Division Director, 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 unexcused and continual absence from practices and/or games.
- D. No player may be dropped from any team for any reason

without first getting the approval of the Division director.

- E. A player once removed from a fielding position is eligible to re-enter the game, at his manager's discretion. There is no limit to the number of times that a player may re-enter a game.
- F. A weekly pitching record must be recorded and made available at the request of managers, officials, or league officers.
- G. A player removed from a game for reasons of injury or illness will not be an automatic out each time his position in the batting order comes to the plate. Instead, the batting order is moved up one position. The final decision on illness or injury will rest with the umpire and the two managers.
- H. A player removed from a game for reason of injury or illness may not return to that game.
- I. All managers will have their full roster on all score sheets and lineup cards with reasons for absences noted on score sheets and lineup cards for any player missing.

3.5 Substitutes

- A. The manager may substitute any player on the bench for a runner only if the runner is hurt and must notify the opposing manager prior to the move.
- B. Substitutions for a player removed from the game due to injury or ejection by the umpire shall be the lowest man on the roster of those players still remaining on the bench. In this position he will be allowed to move to the displaced players spot in the batting order.

4.1 STARTING & ENDING THE GAME

- 4.2 A. Each manager shall submit his batting roster 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 PM on weekdays and as posted on the season schedule for Saturdays.

- 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). 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 that the visiting team has scored in five (5) complete half-innings.

- C. 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 can end at the end of the inning when the run limit is reached (or during the inning if the team who is 14 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 PONY 10 run rule, 11E}.
- D. Canceled games may be rescheduled by the home team manager, through the Division Director, and Chief Umpire. Games canceled during playoffs shall be rescheduled by the Division Director.
- E. Forfeit time is fifteen (15) minutes after starting 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.
- G. Only the adult manager or one of his adult assistants from a team (after asking out) may discuss a decision with the umpire, provided it is done in a gentlemanly, respectful manner. Players may not discuss a decision with the umpire unless the umpire wishes to do so.
- H. If, in the discretion of the umpire, the continuance of the game would not be beneficial to the player 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 player absent for the continuation of a suspended playoff Game, but present on the original game roster, will be an automatic out each time his position in the batting order comes to the plate. Players absent from the original game roster may be added to the end of the batting order if the order had not been completed prior to game suspension.
- J. A player removed from a game for reasons of injury or

illness will not be an automatic out each time his position in the batting order comes to the plate. But the batting order is moved up one position. The final decision on illness or injury will rest with the umpire and the two managers.

4.19 Protesting Games

- A. A protest will only be filed only for playoff games. All regular season games are exempt from the protest rule.
- B. A protest must be filed in writing to the Division Director 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, the Chief Umpire shall 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.

6.00 THE BATTER

- 6.05 A. If a player throws the bat, the umpire shall warn the player and team only once. Subsequent action will result in the next player throwing his bat being called out by the umpire.

7.1 THE RUNNER

- A. A player may take the base he is going to plus one base on an overthrow that passes the out of play lines. The base is determined by the runner's position at the precise moment the ball crosses the line whether in the air or on the ground. If the runner is not going to a base, he is allowed one base.

EXAMPLE: A runner rounds second and has taken at least one step toward third without hesitating or stopping and the ball crosses the out of play line at that moment, the runner is allowed the base he is going to (third) plus one base (home).

- B. An overthrow is a ball that is thrown to any base and is not cleanly fielded or caught, strike a spectator, object, or player on the bench, will permit the base runners to advance one base automatically. Umpire and base coaches are not considered as players under this rule.
- D. During the regular season, a team can score a maximum of 3 runs per inning when a player on 3rd base runs home on a passed ball resulting from a pitch by a pitcher to a catcher. The home team will be responsible for tracking the runs scored on a passed ball.
- E. Any overthrown ball to first base from the infield will permit the runners to advance one base only.
- F. A runner must slide on any close play at second, third or home plate. If the ball is in the possession of the player covering the base, 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, runner will be awarded that base plus one additional base.
- G. A runner shall be called out if he INTENTIONALLY removes his protective headgear while advancing to a base.

8.1 THE PITCHER

- 8.2 A. Before Memorial Day, a pitcher shall not be allowed to pitch more than three (3) innings in any game.
- B. After Memorial Day, 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 innings in one week (calendar). A calendar week is from 12:01 Monday to 12:00 Midnight the following Sunday.
- C. A player shall not pitch in a game with less than 40 hours rest, after pitching in four or more innings in a calendar day.
- D. As soon as a pitcher has delivered one pitch to a batter, he shall be considered as having pitched in one Inning.
- E. 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.
- F. If a relief pitcher is substituted cold, the umpire must allow him to warm up with a minimum of ten warm-up pitches.
- G. 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 innings in his third game. A maximum of 13 innings may be pitched in the event of a three game week.

9.00 The Umpire

All rules applicable as written.

10.1 The Official Scorer

- A. No won and lost record or standings shall be kept during the regular season schedule.
- B. An adult, selected by the manager, shall be the scorekeeper. That person must be 18 years or older.

LAKES ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
CODE OF CONDUCT

PREFACE

This document defines the Lakes Athletic Association Code of Conduct which establishes a set of rules that govern all participants in the Lakes Athletic Association program. Adherence to these rules will be strictly enforced by the Board of Directors.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of Lakes 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 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 Athletic Association game must remember this program is for the kids, and all must make an effort to ensure that the best interests of the children are protected.

The Board of Directors
Lakes Athletic Association

