



**2021 DYA Baseball Local Rules  
AA, AAA and Junior Pony**

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### 1 Program

#### 1.1 League Definitions

1.1.1 These leagues are for youths interested in playing recreational baseball. The different leagues are designated below.

**AA** - This league is for boys and girls in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades.

**AAA** - This league is for boys and girls in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades.

**Junior Pony** - This league is for boys and girls in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades.

1.1.2 Except under the most extraordinary circumstances no students in grades higher or lower than the eligibility for the respective league will play in that league. Exceptions must be approved by the League Commissioner.

1.1.3 Except in a call up situation (see Rule 3.4), players will only be allowed to “play-up” if a parent is either the Head Coach or the named Assistant Coach. Exceptions to grades must be approved by the League Commissioner.

#### 1.2 Uniforms

1.2.1 Hats are included in the fee paid to DYA. A grey and green jersey set is required for participation in games. For home games, players wear the green jersey and for away games, players wear the gray jersey. Players will provide baseball pants. Catchers (male) will wear a protective cup. Players are to wear their uniforms when playing in any game (hat-shirt-pants). Shoes with metal cleats are NOT allowed in **AA & AAA** baseball. Shoes with metal cleats are permitted in **Junior Pony**.

#### 1.3 League Play

1.3.1 **AA, AAA & Junior Pony** are competitive leagues. Coaches are not permitted in the field of play during an inning as is allowed at the **A** level, unless they are entering as a coach-pitcher as described below in Rule 5.3.7.

1.3.2 League play will conclude with a post-season tournament. Tournament winners (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place) will be awarded trophies.

1.3.3 Games will typically be scheduled Monday through Saturday.

1.3.4 Tournament games and rainout games may be scheduled on Sundays, if necessary.

1.3.5 Paid umpires are provided and are paid by the Home Team during the regular season.

#### 1.4 Player Team Assignments / League Drafts

1.4.1 **AA, AAA & Junior Pony**: All players are assigned by draft each season.

#### 1.5 Rules Basis

1.5.1 The Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Baseball Rules, which are based on the National Federation of High School Rules (NFHS), are the basis for the DYA Baseball rules; however, rules within this rule book supersede the OHSAA rules.

## 2 Game Procedures

### 2.1 Game Schedule

- 2.1.1 Games must be played at the scheduled dates and times, unless approved by the League Commissioner.

### 2.2 Game Start - Minimum Number of Players

*NOTE – Forfeit does NOT mean a game is not played; rather, it only refers to the outcome (win or loss) of the game.*

- 2.2.1 ALL teams must field eight (8) defensive players to start a game. Games may be delayed up to 15 minutes, but the end time remains the same, 1 hour 45 minutes, from the scheduled start time. If delayed, the game will begin the instant the eighth player arrives.
- 2.2.2 Teams with fewer than 8 players after a 15-minute delay, must forfeit the outcome of the game; however, a game should be played as described in the following rule. Every attempt should be made to play a game.
- a. If a team has fewer than 8 players show up for the game, they may borrow players from the opposing team for defense. If both teams are lacking players, coaches may divide up the available players fairly to field two teams.
- 2.2.3 If a team loses a player or players during a game due to injury or other reasons, reducing their roster to less than 8 players, they may borrow players from the opposing team for defense. The outcome of the game will count in the standings and in tournament play.

### 2.3 Game Duration

- 2.3.1 A game will consist of six (6) innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes from the scheduled starting time (regardless of when the game actually started), whichever comes first.
- 2.3.2 The Umpire is the official time keeper, unless the umpire does not have a time keeping device. If this occurs, the Home Team's head coach will be the time keeper.
- 2.3.3 The start of an inning is the time when the last out was recorded in the bottom of the previous inning. For example, if the last out of an inning is made at 1 hour, 44 minutes, 59 seconds after the scheduled start time, the next inning is to be played even though the batter will not come to the plate until after the 1 hour and 45 minute time limit.
- 2.3.4 **Tournament Time Limit:** the Program Director will determine if a modified time limit will be used during the tournament, such as a drop dead time (game ends, regardless of the situation) after 2:30, with the score based on the last fully completed inning.

### 2.4 Complete Games

- 2.4.1 Games will be considered complete when the time limit has been reached as described in Rule 2.3, when six (6) complete innings have been played (5½ innings if the home team is winning), or the Mercy Rule (see Rule 2.4.3) is in effect.
- 2.4.2 If the time limit has not been reached and a full 6 innings has not been played due the home team winning after 5½ innings or the Mercy Rule is in effect, AND both head coaches agree, the bottom half of the 6<sup>th</sup> inning may be played up until the 1:45 time limit is reached, which is considered a drop dead time in this situation. Umpires are to continue to working the game in this situation, unless they have another scheduled game immediately afterwards (umpiring or playing).

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2.4.3 **Mercy Rule:** A game will be complete, if any time after the fourth inning (3½ if the home team is winning) a team is ahead by twelve (12) or more runs. Similarly, the game is over if a team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs any time after the fifth inning (4½ if the home team is winning). Otherwise, games will be six (6) innings, unless limited by time.

### 2.5 Rainouts and Makeups

2.5.1 Games suspended by weather are considered complete and official if 4 innings have been played (3½ if the home team is winning).

- a. If fewer than that has been played during the regular season, the game will be considered “rained out.”
- b. If a rain out occurs after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning and a partial inning is played, the final score is determined by the last complete inning.

2.5.2 Tournament games not completed and official will be resumed at the point they were suspended.

2.5.3 Make ups, if any, of rained out games will be rescheduled as soon as possible at the direction of the League Commissioner, Program Director or Athletic Director. Their decision is final as to game date, time and location.

### 2.6 Ties

2.6.1 During the regular season if the game is tied after six innings, it shall be scored a tie. Extra innings are not played during the regular season even if the time limit has not been reached.

2.6.2 Extra innings will be used to break ties during tournament play.

### 2.7 Pre-Game Warmups

2.7.1 There will be NO batting practice on the field of play fifteen (15) minutes prior to the game's scheduled starting time. Furthermore, there will be NO soft-toss or pepper permitted at any time. Soft-toss is hitting the ball into any fence or net as a batting practice alternative. Pepper is hitting/bunting a soft pitched ball back to the pitcher, usually outside the field of play. Both are dangerous to players and fans and soft-toss is destructive to the baseball facilities.

2.7.2 Violations of the no-soft-toss or pepper rule can subject the coach to disciplinary action by the Program Director.

2.7.3 Each team shall have 7 minutes of infield warm-ups prior to the start of each game. Home team shall have infield warm-ups first. All infield warm-ups will be completed by one (1) minute before scheduled starting time.

2.7.4 Infield warm-ups will be shortened or eliminated in order to keep game start times on schedule. This is particularly important on Saturdays and evenings when more than one game is scheduled on the field. Game start times are to be kept on time.

### 2.8 In-Game Warmups (between innings)

2.8.1 Games are to be kept moving along. One (1) minute between inning halves is an acceptable limit.

2.8.2 Coaches should have players ready to bat, take to the field, etc.

2.8.3 Infield/outfield warm ups are permitted between innings as long as it does not delay the game AND must only be used while the pitcher is taking warm up pitches. Umpires can take away this privilege if it is abused and causing delays.

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### 2.8.4 Pitching Warmups:

- a. If the catcher is not ready to warmup the pitcher at the start of a new inning, an adult should take the place of the catcher.
- b. All youth catchers who warm up a pitcher **MUST** wear a mask.

## 2.9 Coaches, Players and Fan Expectations

- 2.9.1 Players are to remain on the bench unless involved in play. In play includes warming up, on deck, or other legitimate direction from the coaches.
- 2.9.2 Players, coaches, and scorekeepers are the only persons allowed to be on the team bench after the umpire starts the game.
- 2.9.3 Coaches, other than base coaches and scorekeepers on the team bench are required to remain in the dugouts behind the fenced areas. Coaches are not to position themselves in the field of play in front of the dugout fence.
- 2.9.4 Fans are required to remain well back of the playing field.
- 2.9.5 Players and fans situated directly behind the backstop are not permitted on the concrete and must move if requested to do so by the umpire.
- 2.9.6 Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches are expected to exercise influence over the fans. Games can be terminated for fan unruliness; but this is an extreme measure and is to be avoided except under the most extreme circumstances.
- 2.9.7 Players, coaches, or spectators may **NOT** harass the batter, base runners, pitcher, or fielders.
- 2.9.8 Players, coaches and fans may encourage pitchers or batters, but not to the point of influencing calls made by the umpire or swings taken by the batter (e.g., shouting “good pitch” before the ball has crossed home plate and the call has been made by the umpire is not permitted).
- 2.9.9 Game termination is at the sole discretion of the umpire(s).

## 2.10 Injuries

- 2.10.1 The player's health comes first.
- 2.10.2 If a player is hurt, the game will be stopped at the appropriate time (typically when the play is over).
- 2.10.3 Concern for the player is the responsibility of all coaches.
- 2.10.4 The injured player will sit out that half of the inning in which the player was injured.

## 2.11 Field Setup and Cleanup

- 2.11.1 If necessary, HOME TEAM WILL SET UP THE FIELD, such as laying out the bases and ensuring the pitcher's plate (rubber) is at the proper distance from home plate.

League	Pitching Distance from Home Plate	Base Length
AA	46 feet	60 feet
AAA	48 feet	70 feet
Junior Pony	54 feet	80 feet

- 2.11.2 Both teams are required to clean up their respective areas, picking up paper, bottles, etc. and disposing in trash barrels.
- 2.11.3 After the last game of the day, the VISITING TEAM WILL TAKE UP THE BASES and put them in the dugout or on the bench.

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### 2.12 Umpire Calls and Conferences

- 2.12.1 NO HEAD COACH OR ASSISTANT COACH CAN QUESTION AN UMPIRE'S JUDGMENT CALL.
- Only Head Coaches may question the umpires and only regarding the RULES.
  - Coaches are to approach the umpire, not yell from the benches.
- 2.12.2 A Head Coach may request for a conference with the umpire(s):
- The request can be ONLY to discuss a RULE.
  - Both teams' head coaches and the umpire(s) must be involved in the conference (Assistant Coaches, Base Coaches, Players or Fans are NOT ALLOWED to participate in the conference).
  - Time limit for such a conference is three (3) minutes.
  - The umpire(s) decision is final.
- 2.12.3 No player or fan is allowed to question or argue with an umpire's call, regardless if it is a judgment call or an interpretation of the rules.

### 2.13 Umpire Buddies

- 2.13.1 An umpire buddy is a volunteer parent or parents from each team who will help the coach control unruly fans. They are to remind the fans who the league is for. Umpire calls will be final whether the coaches agree or not. The "Buddy" is available to eliminate unnecessary arguing.

### 2.14 Official Scorer

- 2.14.1 The home team will provide the official scorer for each game and each team's scorekeeper should verify the score between innings. Both head coaches must agree on the final score before leaving the field.

### 2.15 Reporting Scores

- 2.15.1 After each game, both coaches are responsible for reporting the final score to the League Commissioner.

### 2.16 COVID-19 Protocols

*The COVID-19 Protocols required to be followed are fluid and may change throughout the course of the season. DYA will do its best to keep the coaches and umpires informed of any changes to the protocol policies that allow the kids to play ball.*

- 2.16.1 Coaches (and their designees) will be asked to monitor and enforce the required COVID-19 protocols required by DYA. If the coaches can't enforce the requirements, then the game is over, and everyone must leave the park. This decision can be made by any DYA Board Member, Head Coach, or Umpire. However, do not expect or ask an Umpire to be the enforcer of the COVID requirements, but they may, after conferring with both Head Coaches, call the game.
- 2.16.2 Umpires are not expected to enforce the guidelines, but must individually follow them – these will be reviewed with the umpires prior to the start of the season.

### **3 Participation Rules**

#### **3.1 General**

- 3.1.1 All players are to be treated fairly with respect to other players.
- 3.1.2 Coaches' failure to comply with the Participation Rules will place the coach's action up for review by the Program Director and may subject the team to forfeiture of a win or subject the coach to disciplinary action.
- 3.1.3 Players arriving after the 13<sup>th</sup> out (1<sup>st</sup> out of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning) of the game need not be played, but may be at the discretion of the head coach. Said late player is added to the bottom of the batting order, if played.
- 3.1.4 If a player is a discipline problem, the amount of playing time on defense will be at the coach's discretion. The coach is to inform the player and player's parent(s) why the player will not play the number of innings described below. ***Before the game, the coach is also to inform the opposing coach of any player who will not be playing the number of innings described above.***

#### **3.2 Batting Order**

- 3.2.1 All players listed on the roster shall be included in the batting order (if at the game).
- 3.2.2 Every team member will be in the batting order even if that team member was not in the field the prior ½ inning.
- 3.2.3 There will be no designated hitter.
- 3.2.4 Players arriving after the start of the game will be added to the end of the batting order.

#### **3.3 Defensive Innings Played**

- 3.3.1 No player will sit the bench in consecutive innings, including extra innings.
- 3.3.2 Free substitution of defensive players is allowed.
- 3.3.3 Each player must play the number of innings on defense shown in the table below, based on the number of players available at the start of the game and defensive innings played by team, provided the player:
  - a. Is present at the start of the game.
  - b. Has not been a discipline problem.
  - c. Does not leave prior to the end of the game.
  - d. Is not injured during the game.

Defensive Innings	AA (10 defensive positions)					
	Players at Start of Game					
	15	14	13	12	11	≤10
4	2	2	3	3	3	4
5	3	3	3	4	4	5
6	4	4	4	5	5	6
7	4	5	5	5	6	7

Defensive Innings	AAA & JP (9 defensive positions)					
	Players at Start of Game					
	15	14	13	12	11	≤10
2	2	2	3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3	4	4	4
3	3	4	4	4	5	5
4	4	4	5	5	6	6

After 4 defensive innings have been played, no player will have sat the bench one inning more than any other player. Furthermore, for the remainder of the game, no player will sit the bench one inning more than any other player.

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3.3.4 Each team shall rotate all players through infield and outfield positions throughout the season. All positions in the outfield are considered one position. No player should have to play only outfield every game if this is not what the player wants to do.

### 3.4 Call Ups - Not Enough Players:

3.4.1 If a team will have 10 or fewer players in **AA**, or 9 or fewer player in **AA & Junior Pony**, they may call up players from the league immediately below its level (i.e., **AA** may call up **Class A**, **AAA** may call up **AA**, **Junior Pony** may call up **AAA**, and **Pony** may call up **Junior Pony**).

3.4.2 The player called up to play may not miss their own game to play up.

3.4.3 All the players on the team's roster will play at least the same number of innings as the player called up - provided the team's regular player(s) are present at the start of the game, and the called up player should be added to the end of the batting order.

3.4.4 No called up players may pitch.

3.4.5 The called up player must be reported to the opposing team as such and must wear his/her own team jersey.

3.4.6 *Only currently registered DYA players can participate in a DYA game.*

3.4.7 Violation of the rule is subject to game forfeiture (the game is still played, but is considered a loss in the standings and tournament seeding).

### 4 Ground Rules

#### 4.1 Playing Conditions

- 4.1.1 Ground rules (playing conditions such as a muddy spot in the infield or field anomalies such as a whole in the fence) will be discussed before each game.
- 4.1.2 Coaches and umpires have the responsibility for making any changes to the ground rules to protect the fielders or batters in the game.

**NOTE** - Coaches are NOT to change rules (i.e., do not make agreements that alter league rules).

#### 4.2 Dugout Assignments

- 4.2.1 Home team will sit on the first base side.
- 4.2.2 Visiting team will sit on the third base side.

#### 4.3 Base Coaches

**NOTE** - Base Coach Boxes are not drawn on the diamond; however the area near 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base, approximately 3-4 feet in foul territory extending approximately 15-20 feet towards home plate from the base, should be considered the Coach's Boxes.

- 4.3.1 Base coach boxes are in play.
- 4.3.2 Base coaches must stay in the vicinity of the base they are coaching.
- 4.3.3 Base coaches are not permitted to influence play by touching a runner (i.e., pushing a runner off the base, grabbing a runner to prevent overrunning the base, etc.).
- 4.3.4 Base coaches must be adults only. Players may not coach bases.

#### 4.4 Balls Out of Play

- 4.4.1 Out of play shall be that area beyond a line (real or imaginary) extending indefinitely from the outside poles of the backstop fences, parallel with the foul lines. The umpire shall rule whether the ball has gone out-of-play and will make the appropriate rulings.
- 4.4.2 A ball that lands in fair territory beyond first (1<sup>st</sup>) or third (3<sup>rd</sup>) base and subsequently bounds out of play shall be a ground rule double.
- 4.4.3 Any ball dropping in fair territory in front of an outfielder and bounding out of play (including fair balls that roll under or bounce over the outfield fence) shall be ruled a ground rule double.

#### 4.5 Time Outs

- 4.5.1 Time is out only when called by the umpire. Any player or coach may ask for time, but time is out only when called by the umpire.
- 4.5.2 On a batted ball, time may be called under the following conditions: Any infielder, including the pitcher and catcher, must have possession of the ball and be within the general vicinity of the base path and any runner or runners have stopped at their base(s). If a runner has made a turn at any base, the player may continue to run, even if the infielder has possession of the ball. Time cannot be called in order to stop a runner from advancing. If a runner has stopped on a base after a hit ball and a play is made on another runner going to another base, the stopped runner may advance at his/her own risk. For example, if the runner going from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> stops on 3<sup>rd</sup> and there is a runner going to 2<sup>nd</sup> base, on whom a play is made, the runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> may advance at their own risk toward home.

## 5 Local Rules

### 5.1 Batting

#### 5.1.1 Bunting

- a. **AA:** Bunting is not allowed.  
PENALTY: Pitch is a called strike and base runners return to their bases.
- b. **AAA & Junior Pony:** Bunting is permitted. An unsuccessful bunt (missed or foul) with two strikes is an automatic strike out.
- c. In no league is attempting to “slug bunt” allowed (“slug bunt” is when batter turns to bunt to draws infield in, then attempts to hit). PENALTY: Delayed Dead Ball, Batter is a called out, and base runners return to their bases, unless picked off or put out attempting to steal.

#### 5.1.2 Strike Outs

- a. A Strike Out is when a batter has accrued 3 strikes by swinging or called by the umpire.
- b. A foul ball is counted as a strike, but the third strike cannot be determined by a foul ball. There is no limit on the number of 2 strike foul balls a batter may hit.
- c. A third strike can occur on a foul tip. A foul tip is a batted ball that goes directly from the bat to the catcher’s mitt or hand and is legally caught. It is a strike and the ball is live (it is to be treated as a swing and a miss). A batted ball that is tipped and not caught is a foul ball.

#### 5.1.3 Dropped Third Strike

- a. **AA & AAA:** The batter is out on any third strike; i.e., the batter cannot become a runner on a dropped third strike.
- b. **Junior Pony:** The Dropped Third Strike rule will be observed, i.e., when the catcher fails to catch the third strike before the ball touches the ground, the batter can become a runner on a dropped third strike except when first base is occupied with fewer than two outs.

#### 5.1.4 Thrown Bats/Objects

- a. Bats or other items thrown in anger may subject said player to disqualification. There will be no warnings for objects thrown in anger.
- b. A player who throws the bat, regardless of whether the ball was hit fair, foul or was missed it altogether, shall immediately be called out and all base runners are returned to their bases. No warnings shall be issued for thrown bats.

5.1.5 Batting Order - If a player leaves the game for any reason, and their “at bat” comes up, the player’s “at bat” will be skipped without penalty.

#### 5.1.6 Bat Size - **New Bat Standard:**

DYA will fully transition to the 2018 USA Baseball Bat Standard (USABat) this year as that was our plan for 2020. If you are purchasing a new baseball bat, purchase one with the USA Baseball Logo (shown to the right).

Visit the USA Bat website (<https://usabat.com/>) for the current list of approved bats.



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### 5.2 Base Running

5.2.1 **Sliding** - It is DYA's objective to teach and encourage proper sliding. A base runner not sliding **must** avoid collision with the fielder or be called out.

In all leagues, players are to avoid flagrant contact. Flagrant contact will not be tolerated and may result in disqualification.

- a. Base runners are generally permitted the free privilege to run from base to base without being physically blocked or hindered (called defensive obstruction) by a fielder, including the catcher. The only time a fielder does not have to "get out of the way" of a base runner is:
  - i. The fielder is in the act of fielding a batted ball,
  - ii. The fielder is receiving a thrown ball (defined as the ball is in flight over the infield towards that fielder), or
  - iii. The fielder is in possession of the ball.
- b. If a fielder is obstructing (as defined above) the path of the base runner, the runner may run outside the baseline to avoid a collision with the fielder and will not be subject to being called out.
- c. If a fielder is legally in the path of the base runner, the runner, if not sliding, may avoid a collision with the fielder by running around the fielder, but may be subject to being called out if running outside of the baseline as determined by the umpire.

5.2.2 Lead Offs

- a. **AA & AAA**: Base runners shall not be off the base (including when attempting to steal) prior to the pitched ball reaching home plate. PENALTY: Base runner is OUT. (No leadoffs.)
- b. **Junior Pony**: Leadoffs are permitted.

5.2.3 **Base Stealing** - For purposes of DYA, the definition of stealing shall include advancing a base by stealing, advancing a base on a wild pitch, and advancing a base on a passed ball. Base Stealing is permitted as follows:

- a. **AA**: Base stealing will only be allowed when there are two outs and a player may only steal second or third base. The base runner may not advance home on any play or overthrow made attempting to throw out the base stealer. Base runners may only advance one base per pitch; i.e., with second and third unoccupied, a base runner stealing second base may not advance to third base on the same pitch the runner stole second base.
- b. **AAA**: Base runners may steal any base, anytime, including home.
- c. **Junior Pony**: Base runners may steal any base, anytime, including home.

5.2.4 Ball In Play: Hits to the Outfield – **AA**(only):

- a. When a ball is hit to the outfield and fielded, the moment the ball leaves the hand of the outfielder/cutoff man throwing it to the infield, no base runner may advance any further than the base they were running towards, as long as the base they are advancing to is unoccupied.
- b. Base runners may be tagged out if not on their base. If two runners end up on the same base, the trailing runner is subject to being tagged out before returning to their previous base.
- c. If an attempted play on a base runner results in an overthrow, no base runners may advance.
- d. If time is called by the umpire, the ball becomes dead and no base runners may advance.

5.2.5 The offensive team should use a "courtesy runner" for the catcher when there are two outs to keep the games moving along ("speed up" rule). Note: use the player who made the last batted out.

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### 5.3 Pitching

5.3.1 Pitchers must start the pitch with one foot on the pitcher's plate (rubber), from either the windup or set position.

5.3.2 **Balks** will not be enforced in **AA & AAA** leagues.

**Balks** will be enforced in the **Junior Pony** league.

- Only obvious balks, such as a pick-off attempt from the windup, will be called on pitchers in order to minimize balks during the game.
- The balk call is a judgment call and cannot be disputed by the players, coaches, or fans. Please remember to observe this rule.
- If there is a blatant disagreement on the balk call, the head coach from each team may approach the umpire only one time per game per team. The purpose of this conference shall be to come to an agreement on the balk definition, and not to argue any specific call.
- If a balk is called, one defensive coach may visit the mound for no more than one minute and no more than one time per inning per pitcher. The visit shall be to instruct the pitcher on the correct movements to avoid a balk. No other players may visit the mound at this time.

5.3.3 **Balk Warnings**

- Regular Season - on a pitcher's first balk, the umpire should issue a warning, informing the pitcher and head coach of the balk infraction. Any subsequent balks by the same pitcher will result in the Balk Penalty being enforced. Limit one warning per pitcher per game.
- Tournament - No warnings will be issued when a pitcher balks - the Penalty is to be enforced.

5.3.4 **Balk Penalty**

- When a balk is called and the ball is not put in play by the batter, the ball is dead and all play shall stop immediately. The penalty for a balk shall be base runner advancement.
- Note: No runner shall be liable to be put out at the base occupied at the time the balk occurs.
- Coaches should keep in mind that the spirit of the balk rule is to prevent the pitcher from illegally deceiving the runners. It is not to penalize the pitcher for unwittingly making an incorrect move on the mound. Therefore, umpires are instructed to look for the obvious balk.

5.3.5 **Pitching Inning Limits**

- If a pitcher pitches any part of an inning (i.e., one pitch), it is considered an inning pitched and counts toward the pitcher's total innings pitched.

	AA	AAA	Junior Pony
Maximum innings	2 innings in 1 day		3 innings over 2 days
Mandatory rest period	Cannot pitch on consecutive days		None

- A pitcher may not pitch again during the same game, once removed from the mound and replaced by another pitcher in that game.
- The potential of game forfeiture (recorded as loss) exists if the above rule is not adhered to, including tournament play. The Program Director shall determine forfeitures under this rule.

5.3.6 **Hit By Pitch (HBP)** - A batter is awarded first base if a pitched ball touches any part of the batter or their clothing, providing that a., b., and c. are true:

- The pitch is outside of the strike zone,
- The batter did not swing at the pitch, and
- The batter attempts to avoid the pitch (Note - not required in NFHS rules).

Regarding condition c, the following applies:

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- i. A batter that had no opportunity to avoid the pitch or “freezes” (i.e., pitcher throws so hard or batter is so scared they have no time to react to avoid pitch) is considered HBP,
- ii. A batter that “leans” into the pitch to purposefully get hit is not a HBP, and the umpire is to call a ball or strike as if the batter had not been in the way of the ball,
- iii. Turning one’s body is considered an attempt to avoid being hit.

A pitch that first touches the ground and then hits the batter is considered a HBP provided b. & c. are true.

Any time the batter is touched by a pitched ball, the umpire shall declare the play DEAD (regardless of a. - c. above) and runners cannot advance unless forced by the batter being awarded first base.

- d. A pitcher who hits three batters in the same inning must be removed as the pitcher for the remainder of the game.

### 5.3.7 Walks - **AA**:

- a. There will be no walks allowed/awarded.
- b. Once a fourth ball is called, the batter’s coach will begin to pitch to the batter. Coach-pitchers must be ready to enter the game throughout their team’s offensive series as to not delay the timing of the game. The coach shall pitch from the rubber and pitch similar to a kid pitcher (speed and arc). The player-pitcher will remain on the field within three feet to the left or right of the coach-pitcher.
- c. The batter will begin with the same strike count.
- d. The coach has a maximum of five pitches for the batter to either hit the ball fairly into play or strike out.
- e. The umpire will call each pitch to determine if three strikes have been thrown. If a strike out occurs before the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch, the batter is out.
- f. If the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch is fouled, a replacement pitch will be awarded.
- g. There will be no bunting, stealing, or batters hit-by-pitch while a coach-pitcher is in the game.
- h. If a hit ball strikes a coach-pitcher unintentionally, then the ball will remain live and in-play. If a coach intentionally touches a hit ball, the ball shall be dead and the batter will be out.

### 5.3.8 Walks - **AAA & Junior Pony**:

- a. WALKS are four balls called by the umpire.
- b. There is no “WALK LIMIT” per inning.
- c. Coaches are encouraged to change pitchers who are struggling to throw strikes.

### 5.3.9 Visits to the Mound

- a. Each team will be permitted two (2) free visits to the mound per game to consult with the team’s pitcher, but only one free visit in an inning. On the second visit in an inning or third visit during the game, as well as each subsequent visit to the mound, the pitcher must be removed as the pitcher. The removed pitcher may continue to stay in the field and play another position, but cannot pitch again during that game.
- b. For purposes of this rule, any time the pitcher is changed during an inning, it counts as a visit to the mound, regardless whether or not the coach actually leaves the bench and goes to the mound. Thus, if during the inning the coach does not go to the mound, but directs the pitcher to trade positions with another player, it shall be treated as if the coach had made a trip to the mound to make the change and the team shall be charged accordingly with the trip.

### 5.4 Defense

#### 5.4.1 Number of Defensive Players

- a. **AA**: teams may field 10 players on defense, four of whom must be outfielders. Outfielders must be positioned in the outfield grass and not be positioned in the infield area.
- b. **AAA & Junior Pony**: teams may field 9 players on defense (3 outfielders).
- c. Teams are permitted to play with fewer than required number of players, but must have at least eight players on the field.

#### 5.4.2 Infield Fly Rule

- a. **AA & AAA**: The Infield Fly Rule does NOT apply.
- b. **Junior Pony**: The Infield Fly Rule will be enforced.

### 5.5 Overthrows

#### 5.5.1 Play on overthrows shall be:

- a. If the ball goes out-of-play, the baserunners are awarded the base they are going to at the time the ball is thrown, plus one additional base.
- b. If the ball remains in play, the baserunners may advance at their own risk (in **AA** only, limit one base).

### 5.6 End of an Inning

#### 5.6.1 Three outs end a half-inning in all leagues.

#### 5.6.2 Run Limits:

- a. **AA**: A team's at bat is completed when five (5) runs have been scored in the half-inning, regardless of the number of outs.
- b. **AAA**: A team's at bat is completed when six (6) runs have been scored in the half-inning, regardless of the number of outs.
- c. **Junior Pony**: A team's at bat is completed when seven (7) runs have been scored in the half-inning, regardless of the number of outs.
- d. At the end of the game, whether by innings played or by time limit, the home team may complete its at bat even if they trail by more runs than the run limit, and cannot win or tie.
- e. During the tournament, whether or not to use the run limit will be determined at the pre-tournament meeting or by the Program Director.

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### UMPIRE CREDO

- ✓ Umpires, while on the field, should not indulge in conversation with players. Keep out of the coaching box and do not talk to the coach on duty.
- ✓ Always be courteous to coaches, players, and fans; avoid visiting in either team's dugout.
- ✓ Dress appropriately and look professional. Be active and alert on the field.
- ✓ When you enter a ball park your sole duty is to umpire a ball game as the representative of baseball.
- ✓ Keep the game moving. A ball game is often helped by energetic and earnest work of the umpires.
- ✓ You are the only official representative of baseball on the ball field. It is often a trying position which requires the exercise of much patience and good judgment, but do not forget that the first essential in working out of a bad situation is to keep your own temper and self-control.
- ✓ You no doubt are going to make mistakes, but never attempt to "even up" after having made one. Make all decisions as you see them. Forget which is the home or visiting team.
- ✓ Keep your eye everlastingly on the ball while it is in play. It is more vital to know just where a fly ball fell, or a thrown ball finished up, than whether or not a runner missed a base. Do not call the plays too quickly, or turn away too fast when a fielder is throwing to complete a play. Watch out for dropped balls after you have called a runner out.
- ✓ Do not come running with your arm up or down, denoting "out" or "safe." Wait until the play is completed before making any arm motion.
- ✓ Have a conference with your partner so you can right a wrong call when you are convinced that you or your partner has made an glaring error. Do not carry conferences to extremes, but remember, the first requirement is to try to get the right call made. So, if in doubt, don't hesitate to call a conference. Umpire dignity is important but never as important as "making the right call."
- ✓ Most important rule for umpires is always "BE IN POSITION TO SEE EVERY PLAY." Even when your decision is 100% correct, others will still question it if they feel you were not in a spot to see the play clearly and definitely.
- ✓ Finally, be courteous, impartial and firm, and so compel respect from all.

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### The 10 Commandments of Umpiring, by Ford C. Frick (1949)

#	Commandment
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| 1  | Keep your eye on the ball.  |
| 2  | Keep all your personalities out of your work. Forget and forgive.   |
| 3  | Avoid sarcasm. Don't insist on the last word.   |
| 4  | Never charge a player and, above all, no pointing your finger or yelling.   |
| 5  | Hear only the things you should hear - be deaf to others.   |
| 6  | Keep your temper. A decision made in anger is never sound.  |
| 7  | Watch your language.  |
| 8  | Take pride in your work at all times. Remember, respect for an umpire is created off the field as well as on.                         |
| 9  | Review your work. You will find, if you are honest, that 90% of the trouble is traceable to loafing.                                  |
| 10 | No matter what your opinion of another umpire, never make an adverse comment regarding him. To do so is despicable and ungentlemanly. |