

2017  
LAKES ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
8U DIVISION

**Rules and Regulations**

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The rules and regulation printed on these pages are for 8U 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

##### 1.04 The Playing Field

- A. The field shall be laid out according to the instructions below supplemented by the attached diagram.
  - \* The infield shall be laid out in a 60 foot square.
  - \* The distance from the rear of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber shall be 36 feet.
  - \* Distance from the rear of home plate to the center of second base shall be 84feet 10inches.
  - \* Distance between first base and third base shall be 84feet 10inches. (All measurements from home plate shall be taken from the point where the first and third base lines intersect).
  - \* The pitchers rubber does not need to be elevated.
  
- 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. 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 allowed.

##### 1.11 Uniforms

- A. Uniforms and caps will be given to the players only after they have returned their signed insurance 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 shirts, pants and caps after the season

ends.

D. Baseball shoes with rubber cleats or tennis shoes may be worn. Hard sole shoes or shoes with metal cleats will be prohibited.

E. Jackets, sweatshirts, etc. shall be allowed or required in unusual weather.

F. Catchers shall be required to wear a supporter and a protective cup.

1.14 Fielders Glove and Mitts

A. Each fielder shall be allowed to use any glove or mitt available to him regardless of the weight or color.

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. Catchers must wear protective headgear, mask, & chest protector.

D. Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a mask.

2.00 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

2.00 Inning - A half inning is constituted of three (3) putouts or six (6) runs, whichever comes first. Only six (6) runs count per half inning.

Balk - No balks will be called.

Bunt - The batter will be called out if he attempts to bunt.

Infield Fly- The infield fly rule will not be used.

3.00 GAME PRELIMINARIES

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 field setup prior to each game.

C. The home team manager is in charge prior to every game. He 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). He 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 have the umpire sign the official game scorebook after each game.

### 3.03 Batting Order and Playing Time

- A. The batting order shall be composed of all players available at the start of the game. Each player shall take his turn at bat whether played in the field or not. Any player arriving after the start of the game shall be added to the bottom of the batting roster.
- B. A player once removed from a fielding position is eligible to re-enter the game at his manager's discretion.
- C. 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. During the League Playoffs and Championship game this rule shall also apply.
- D. 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.
- E. A player removed from a game for reason of injury or illness may not return to that game.
- F. 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.
- 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. 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.

### 3.04 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.

### 3.09 Rules not applicable

### 4.00 STARTING & ENDING THE GAME

- 4.01 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.
- C. During regular season games, there is not a mercy if you cannot mathematically catch up. The game must be played the entire 6 innings during the regular season

4.04 A. The batting order, once submitted, shall not be altered except to add a late player or remove one for disciplinary reasons.

4.10 A. A regulation game consists of six (6) 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 four (4) innings have been completed or the home team has scored more runs in three (3) or three and a fraction half innings that the visiting team has scored in four complete half-innings.

C. If, at the end of a regulation game (see item B above), one team is mathematically incapable of scoring enough runs to win or tie the game, the game can ended by mutual agreement of the two team managers. {For clarification only: this rule over rides the PONY 10 run rule, 11E}.

D. Canceled games may be rescheduled by the home team manager. However, the date and field must be approved by 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.

G. 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.

H. If both managers agree and only if both managers agree, both teams can use 10 defensive players. The tenth defensive player will only be used in the outfield position, creating an outfield consisting of: one left fielder, one left center fielder, one right center fielder, and one right fielder. This additional outfielder must be used as an outfielder and not a ROVER (a rover is used to deliberately take away hits by playing a position that generally falls between an infielder and outfielder when measuring depth from home plate). If the opposing manager or the Umpire in Chief believes that the 10th defensive player is being used as a rover instead of one of the outfield positions mentioned above, the Umpire in Chief will re-position the rover to be consistent with the other outfielders in their depth from home plate. This rule may be used during the regular season and also during the playoffs.

#### 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

### 6.00 The Batter

A. A batter is out whether the third strike is caught by the catcher or not.

B. If a player throws the bat, the umpire shall warn the player once. Subsequent action will result in the player being called out by the umpire.

C. A batter will be allowed only seven (7) total pitches or three (3) strikes, not counting fouls after two (2) strikes, when a manager/coach is pitching. The batter would then be out after seven (7) pitches. However, a batter cannot strike out on a 7<sup>th</sup> pitch foul ball.

D. There will be no walks allowed when a manager/coach pitches.

## 7.00 THE RUNNER

A. NO STEALING shall be allowed. The runner must remain in contact with the base until the ball has been hit by the batter. The runner shall be called out if a violation occurs.

B. An overthrow shall be defined as any ball thrown to a base, in an attempt to put out the runner, which is not cleanly fielded or passes by the fielder untouched. A runner shall be awarded one (1) additional base when an overthrow passes over out-of-play restraining line.

(The ball is dead upon entering the out-of-play area). In the case of an overthrown ball, the umpire may award a runner an additional base over and above the base to which he is proceeding if in his judgment a runner had the initial base made" prior to the overthrow.

Example: An out-of-play overthrow occurs while making a play on runner Y at third base. Runner X, proceeding to second base, is eight (8) feet away from the base when the overthrow occurs. The umpire shall award runner Y home base and runner X third base. Any thrown ball to first base from the infield will permit the runners to advance one base only.

C. A runner shall be called out if he INTENTIONALLY removes his protective headgear while advancing to a base.

## 8.00 THE PITCHER

8.01 A. For all Regular Season games:

- 1) The coaches will pitch the first three (3) innings of the game. Players will pitch from the start of the fourth (4th) inning
- 2) In the regular season there will be no walks. In the event that the count reaches 4 balls, the coach from the batting team will finish pitching for the at bat. The coach and batter will inherit the strikes as well, so the amount coach pitches would be between 1-3 depending on how many strikes the batter had when the coach took over.
- 3) Example if the count is 3-1 and next pitch is a ball the coach then comes in with a 3-1 count. All the coach's pitches are considered strikes. So in the 3-1 situation he gets 2 pitches unless the 2nd pitch keeps getting fouled off.
- 4) The playoffs will return to normal rules. During the Playoffs the players will pitch all six (6) innings of the game and normal 3-2 count will be followed including walks.
- 5) When a manager/coach is pitching, a total of seven (7) pitches or three (3) strikes, not counting foul balls after strike two (2) will be allowed. There will be no walks allowed when a manager/coach pitches. The

B. No restrictions on pitching delivery, such as windup position or set position shall be enforced. However, the pitcher must start his delivery while standing on or making contact with the pitching rubber. Any pitch released without the pitcher making such contact with the rubber shall draw a warning from the umpire.

C. NO BALKS shall be committed or called.

D. A pitcher shall not be allowed to pitch in more than two (2) innings per game and no more than a total of four (4) innings per week in the Regular Season.

E. Exception for Playoff Games only. A pitcher shall not be allowed to pitch in more than three (3) innings per game and no more than a total of six (6) innings per week. If a third game should be required in the same week, a pitcher shall be allowed to pitch three (3) additional innings in the third game, or a maximum of nine (9) innings in one week. (Clarification: 40 hour rest rule does not apply to 8U division since pitching limitation is defined above.)

Note: Championship day all pitchers are eligible for 3 innings regardless of innings pitched that week.

F. A pitcher shall be considered to have pitched one (1) inning after one (1) pitch has been delivered.

G. A pitcher who has been withdrawn from the mound, shall not be permitted to the mound, as a pitcher in the same game.

## 9.00 The Umpire

All rules applicable as written.

10.00 The Official Scorer

A. No won and lost record or standings shall be kept during the regular season schedule. A two (2) game elimination tournament for all teams in the league shall be held after regular season play is completed.

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