

2023 NORTHEAST IOWA BASEBALL LEAGUE RULE AMENDMENTS

All Rules and Regulations found in the 2023 National Federation of State High School Associations Rule Book will be followed:

MAJORS DIVISION: (players who completed 6th & 7th grade are eligible to play)

1. Pitching distance will be 50-54 feet, 70-80 feet between bases.
 - a. The mound and base length can adjust within range if the field is capable.
2. No balk is to be called. The result is a dead ball, no play, and everyone returns.
 - a. Coaches are encouraged to instruct players on the basics of pitching within regulation balk rules to prevent advantage play and game length.
 - b. Umpires are encouraged to call balks when a clear advantage is achieved with the balk. For example, an illegal motion is made that aids in assisting in picking off a baserunner.
3. Base runners can lead off.
4. Dropped 3rd strike **rule** is played.
5. Base runners can steal any base at any time.
6. On-deck circles are allowed within the field boundary.
 - a. On-Deck Batter must be on the same side of the field as the batter in the box
7. No metal or steel spikes will be allowed.
8. Games will consist of 5 innings. 10-run rule after 3 ½ for the home team or four innings for the visitor. (Games can be shortened if agreed upon by both team coaches before the game begins)
9. Bat barrels must be BB Core or USSSA Stamped to be eligible for play.
 - a. Any 2 5/8" is allowed. No 2 ¾".
10. Home is open until a lead of 5 runs or more is obtained at the end of the inning; then, it will be closed. The home is re-opened if the run gap is under five runs.
11. If up by ten runs or more, the leading team is limited to 5 runs per inning until the gap narrows. This applies to the first three innings only.
12. No new inning can start after 75 Minutes.

Pitching Rules:

1. If only pitching one inning, a pitcher can pitch on consecutive days
 - a. If a pitcher throws to more than one batter in an inning, the inning counts toward their scheduled rest days
2. less than four innings = 1 calendar days rest, four innings or more = 3 calendar days rest
3. Six innings maximum per day (includes 2nd game of doubleheader)
4. A player removed after pitching cannot return to pitch in the same game. A pitcher can pitch in 2nd game of a doubleheader until six inning maximum is reached.
5. Pitching mounds are **highly encouraged** for 6/7th grades.

MINORS DIVISION (players who completed 4th & 5th grades)

All of the Rules listed for the Majors Division will apply to this division except for the following amendments.

1. Each team may score a maximum of 5 runs per inning except for the last inning of a game which will have open scoring. Each game will be 5 innings.
2. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 15 minutes from the beginning of the game.
3. All players will play defensively a minimum of 2 innings and bat at least once per game unless the game is shortened for any reason.
4. If a team has only 8 players available there is no out when the 9th player would be up to bat. Bat all players but field 9.
5. Dropped 3rd strike is always an out.
6. Pitching distance will be 46'. The base distance will be 65-70 feet.
7. No on-deck circles are allowed within the field boundary.
8. Deadball – Once the ball has returned to the pitcher and the pitcher has control of the ball it is considered a dead ball and the play ends. Runners can no longer advance.
9. Home is closed unless a play on a base is attempted.
10. No stealing unless it is a passed ball. A Passed ball is defined as the catcher has to move to get the ball outside of the frame of their body.

Pitching Rules:

1. If only pitching one inning a pitcher can pitch on consecutive days
 - a. If a pitcher throws to more than one batter in an inning, the inning counts toward their scheduled rest days
2. less than 4 innings = 1 calendar days rest, 4 innings or more = 3 calendar days rest
3. Six innings maximum per day (includes 2nd game of doubleheader)
4. A player removed after pitching cannot return to pitch in the same game. A pitcher can pitch in 2nd game of a doubleheader until six inning maximum is reached.
5. Pitching mounds are not required.

EXTRA INNING RULES:

The WU Swing-Off Rule will play extra innings.

- a. Swing-Off: One hitter on each team will be allowed three swings on five pitches from their coach or another player from the front of the mound
 - i. Of those three swings, whichever hitter hits the ball the furthest in the field of play, in the air, will be determined the game's winner by the umpires roaming the field.
 - ii. If a player does not make contact on a swing, it still counts as a swing
 - iii. If a player doesn't use three swings in the five pitches, he will not be awarded any extra chances.

PITCHING MACHINE/ Coach Pitch LEAGUE: (players who completed 2nd & 3rd grades)

1. The team can be mixed with boy and girl players.
2. The Ultimate Pitching Machine or Coach Pitching will be used in games with a 35-foot distance. Coaches pitch to their team.
3. The consecutive batting order will be used with all players on the bench.
4. Each ½ inning will consist of once through the entire team batting order, three outs, or 6 runs.
5. 6 pitches per batter maximum **NO EXCEPTIONS** (Each coach will pitch to their own team)
6. No stealing
7. Games will consist of 5 innings (No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 20 minutes from the beginning of the game.)
8. All players must play a minimum of 2 innings defensively.
9. Must use regular baseballs, not the balls used in t-ball.
10. Teams with both boys and girls can decide if they want to use baseballs or softballs. The coaches must agree.

There are no home-field rules. Follow the Rule Book and League Amendments. Failure to do so could result in ineligibility for the league tournament.