

IOWA BASEBALL LEAGUE RULES

www.IowaBaseballLeague.com
3rd & 4th Grade Division–2017

A. RULES AND UMPIRES

1. Except for IBL modifications "Official Baseball Rules" apply. These rules can be found at www.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/mlb/official_info/official_rules/foreword.jsp
2. Changes in IBL rules are approved by the IBL Board which consists of the division co-ordinators, IBL founder and the IBL commissioner.
3. All players must have been in the 4th grade or lower for the 2016-2017 school year. Players can play for only one IBL team.
4. Home teams supply 2 competent umpires for each game. The home plate umpire must be at least 17 years of age and unrelated to players or coaches. Except in unusual circumstances, the home plate umpire should not be a coach of either team.
5. Rosters should be turned into the division coordinator by April 20, 2017. Roster changes after that date require league approval. Roster additions after June 1 require that a player be dropped from the roster.
6. Home team will select their dugout first.
7. Scores or weather-related postponements must be reported by both teams within 48 hours. Results not reported on time may result in a loss being charged to both teams.
8. Each team will be responsible for establishing two e-mail addresses. Address need not be the manager but should allow team contact by the division coordinator.

B. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

1. Players must wear complete uniform which consists of team shirt/jersey, pants and hat. Manager and coaches should also wear team identification shirt/jersey and hat.
2. Players can not wear jewelry, including watches, necklaces, bracelets or rings.
3. Player's unique number should be on shirt/jersey, also name if possible.
4. Metal spikes are not permitted.
5. Home team will provide at least 2 new, good baseballs for each game date.
6. Maximum bat barrel size will be 2.25" in diameter.

C. GAMES & GAME LENGTH

1. Single games will consist of 6 innings and doubleheaders will be 5 innings each game.
2. Extra inning games shall not exceed 9 innings. After 9 innings, game ends as a tie.
3. 3 complete innings is an official game.
4. After game starts, pitchers get 5 warm-up pitches between innings.
5. There will be a 10 minute break between games of a doubleheader.
6. It is the joint responsibility of coaches, players and umpires to keep the games moving.

D. POSTPONEMENTS & RESCHEDULING

1. All games will be played at the scheduled time except for bad weather or field conditions.
2. Games postponed because of bad weather or field conditions will be rescheduled by the IBL unless teams have scheduled their own make-up games. Make-ups may be scheduled by the IBL on any open date.
3. Managers are asked on their registration forms to submit dates when they will not be able to play. The IBL will attempt to honor a reasonable number of requests but **no guarantees are made**.
4. Once the schedule is set, rescheduling requires approval by the IBL board.

E. 5 RUN RULE

1. A 5 run limit is in effect for all innings. The half inning is over when the 5th run scores, even on home runs.
2. The losing team will bat in all of its innings regardless of the score.

F. PARTICIPATION

1. Each player must play in the field at least 3 innings of a 6 inning game, 2 innings of each game of a doubleheader and start at least 1 game of a doubleheader. However, coaches may hold players out of games for disciplinary reasons or team rule violations.
2. Teams may play up to 10 players in the field and the 10th player must be an outfielder. All players present shall constitute the batting order. That is, teams will bat through the roster of all players present. Late players will be added to the end of the order.
3. Open defensive substitution is allowed to enable coaches to fulfill minimum requirements.
4. Team must have at least 8 players in a game at all times.

G. PITCHING

1. Pitchers shall not pitch more than 3 innings in a game nor more than 4 innings in a doubleheader. One pitch counts as an inning pitched.
2. Pitchers shall not pitch more than 8 innings in any 7 day period. However, games that are made up because originally scheduled games were postponed by bad weather or field conditions are exempt from this rule.
3. Pitchers must have a minimum of 40 hours of rest after any day of pitching 4 innings. However, games made up because originally scheduled games were postponed by bad weather or field conditions are exempt from this rule.
4. Once a player has been removed from the pitching position, he is not eligible to pitch again in that game.
5. Pitching rubber shall be 45 feet (front of rubber to back point of plate). Home team will be responsible for installing a pitching rubber or substitute at that distance.

H. BATTING

1. No bunting.
2. Batter cannot run on dropped third strike.
3. No infield fly rule.
4. The strike zone will be plate width horizontally and from the player's neck to the top of his shin vertically.

I. BASERUNNING

1. No leading off until the pitch crosses the plate. First team offense receives a warning, the second team offense, the runner is automatically out.
2. A runner can only steal second base and cannot advance to third on an overthrow. No other runners can advance on a steal of second.
3. Catcher/fielder can not block a base and the catcher cannot set up on the baseline but may move up the line to field a throw. If a catcher/fielder blocks the plate or base other than to field a throw, the runner is automatically safe.
4. Baserunners are not required to slide but if significant contact results on a close play, the runner is out if he does not slide.
5. With two outs, a courtesy runner (the last out) should be used for a runner who is the catcher.

J. BEHAVIOR

1. Players, coaches and fans will be expected to display good sportsmanship and appropriate behavior. Coaches will have the responsibility for controlling abusive fans. Coaches should not argue judgement calls with umpires and should set a good sportsmanship example at all times. Since the IBL does not require certified umpires, it is the responsibility of umpires **AND** managers to see that IBL and baseball rules are accurately interpreted and followed.
2. Umpires have the right to eject players, coaches or fans who exhibit unsportsmanlike or inappropriate behavior. Umpires may declare a forfeit in extreme circumstances.
3. The rules, goal and objectives of the IBL will be upheld at all times.