

# 2022 Grade School Baseball Rules – “WIAA Rules should be enforced”

Revised on 3/14/2022

## 1. Bat Specifications:

- All bats must be in compliance with the WIAA and HFHS standards and have a BBCOR stamp to be legal.
- One piece wood bats are acceptable – NO Composite Wood Bats will be allowed.
- Acceptable will be 2 5/8” Bat USA certified bats.
- Only a bat in live play can be questioned. When an illegal bat is used, if a defensive team does not choose to declare it to the umpire, or the umpire does not specifically question the bat himself, the play will stand regardless that an illegal bat was used (fall 2020).
- When an illegal bat is used and noted by the defensive team or independently by the umpire, the defense can make a choice – they can choose the outcome of the play, or they can choose that the batter is out, base runners return to the bases they were at prior to the use of the illegal bat, but any defensive put-outs made during the play stand as outs (fall 2020).
- Upon the offense of a batter using an illegal bat for the second time in the same game, the rules pertaining to the first offense are enforced again AND the batter is ejected from the game (fall 2020).

## 2. League Ages that may play:

- 7th, 8th, & 9th Grades.
- You may bring up younger players if needed.
- 9th graders can play, only if they do not make or play High School Baseball.

## 3. Umpires:

- Home Team responsible for (2) Umpires.
- League “Recommends” having (1) Certified WIAA Umpire and the second to be at least 18 years of age if not certified.
- Semi-final and Final game, league requires a minimum of (1) WIAA Certified Umpire and “Recommends” (2) WIAA Certified Umpires.
- League will reimburse home team for semi-final and final games \$50 each for umpires (\$100 total per game).

## 4. Pitching Rule:

- Pitchers may only pitch a maximum of (4) total innings in a game.
- A pitcher pitching (4) innings, must have a 2 days lay-off before he or she can pitch again.
  - An extra inning may be pitched if the game goes into extra innings. This applies for all pitchers not only the pitcher of the 7th inning.
- In any given inning, (1) pitch is considered an inning pitched.
- Time re-entry rule for pitchers will be enforced.
- The 2 day layoff will stand for any rain out or continuation games.
- WIAA High School balk rules will be fully enforced on and after June 1st. One warning per pitcher will be allowed prior to June 1st.

## 5. League Baseballs to be:

- D1 or D1Pro.
- NEW Approved & Licensed (NFHS).
  - Diamond MVP Elite Baseball–Model #DOL-MVP.

## 6. Line-Up Batting Rule – (A team can use one of the four line-up formats below):

- A team can bat all 9 defensive players.
- A team can bat 9 batters and use a DH for one of their defensive players.
- A team can bat their entire line-up (this would allow free substitution on defense).

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- o If you decide to bat entire line-up, you must bat everyone. In the event of a departing player from the batting order, the team will not take an out unless the lineup is less than 9 batters.
- o This does not mean that the opposing team needs to bat the entire line-up (the opposing team is still able to choose any of the four formats).
- An (AH) additional hitter option may be used. The AH must be declared at the start of the game “only” and is considered a 10th starter, and the batting order must maintain the AH for the duration of the game. Using the AH is optional but it cannot be added once the game begins. The AH can be rotated to any field position and be subbed out & back in consistent with WIAA sub rules. If a team has (10) players and a player gets hurt, the team will finish the game with (9) position players with no penalty. The departing player’s spot in the line-up will not be an out. NOTE - Both the AH and DH can be used at the same time (fall 2021)

## 7. Game Length/Time Limits:

- Each game to be a normal 7 inning game or 2 hour time limit game.
  - o Home team to determine if a 2 hour time limit is in affect at the start of the game.
  - o If the 2 hour time limit is in effect, a new inning shall not start after 1 hour and 50 minutes.
- Games ending for any reason in a tie will need to be rescheduled and completed if not considered a complete game.

## 8. Playoffs /Tie Breakers:

### A. Assuming 8 teams in the league:

- Top 4 teams in the league will make the playoffs
  - Game 1–Will be the First place team hosting the 4th place team.
  - Game 2–Will be the Second place team hosting the 3rd place team.
  - Game 3 - Championship Game–The highest position team will host the game.
- In the event that there is a tie in any position the following tie breaker rules will apply:
  - Two teams:
    - o Head to Head.
    - o Fewest runs allowed in head to head.
    - o Fewest runs allowed in league games.
  - Three or more teams:
    - o Head to Head.
    - o Fewest runs allowed common games.
    - o Fewest runs allowed in league games.

### B. Assuming more than 8 teams in the league:

- Minimum of 50% of the teams will make the playoffs.
- Teams can have “byes” in first round of playoffs if format dictates this to occur due to minimum of 50% of teams making playoffs.

(AMMENDED/UPDATED Tie Breaker Rules were added in 2019 due to 11 teams and not everyone able to be scheduled against each team for the same amount of games)

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- Three or more teams (If all tied teams played the same amount of games against each of the other tied teams):
  - o Head to Head.
  - o Fewest runs allowed common games (for additional clarity purposes: “common games” implies just the games against all of the “tied” teams as was the intent in original rules)
  - o Fewest runs allowed in league games
- Three or more teams (if the tied teams did not all play the same amount of games against each of the other tied teams [this needed to be added in 2019 due to 11 teams in the league and not all teams are able to be scheduled the same amount of games against each other]).
  - o Winning percentage vs all of the tied teams.
    - Teams are ranked / seeded by their overall winning percentage JUST in the games in which they played the other tied teams. This “winning percentage” method is as close to “head to head” as is possible in this specific scenario of tied teams and keeps the intended spirit of the “head to head” concept to value “winning” as the initial tie breaking method.
- Fewest runs allowed in league games.
  - o Note: It is not feasible to keep the “fewest runs allowed in common games” for this specific tie breaker since teams have not played the same amount of games against each of the other tied teams.
  - In the event that any tie-breaker scenario is not resolved by the tie-breaker system, a coin flip witnessed by at least 1 representative from each affected team and the League President (or a neutral member from the Appeals Committee) will break the tie (fall 2020).

C. 1st Place trophies for players will be supplied by the President of the league prior to the Championship. The league will reimburse this club for the trophies.(fall 2020)

## 9. Scheduling:

### A. Assuming 8 Teams in the league:

- Each team will play each other twice (home and away). Floater games will be scheduled by the home team. An emphasis is placed on getting these games scheduled ASAP.
- Last regular league scheduled game needs to be played before the Tuesday before the semifinal game.
- Semifinal games will be set to be played **on or before** the second from last Sunday of July.
- Final game will be set to be played **on or before** the last Sunday in July.

### B. Assuming More than 8 teams in the league:

- League Management shall propose a final schedule format to the league after league meeting and after final commitment of teams is known. Teams must commit by April 1st to guarantee a spot in the league.
- All teams must play each other at least once. It is not mandatory that each team play each other more than once.
- A minimum of 12 regular season league games must be scheduled for each team.
- Playoff format should be confirmed prior to the start of the regular season.
  - o League Management creates playoff format and needs to receive approval from league teams.

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- o Proper seeding should reflect league record and any tie breakers.
- Playoffs can't be scheduled earlier than 3 days after the last regular season scheduled game. Subsequent rounds of playoffs can't be scheduled less than 3 days apart. This allows for proper pitching rest.
- Playoff games do not need to be played on weekends.
- Better seeded team is the host team throughout the playoffs.

## 10. Rosters:

- Rosters need to be into league president by June 1st.
- Additions to the roster from a family moving in need to be approved by League Committee.
- Player's must play at least 3 games to be eligible to play in the semi-final or final game. Little league players that are playing for that community are automatically eligible (and do not need to be added to the Grader roster) provided they have played in 3 LL games and have not played for a different team or community.

## 11. League Committee:

- The league will appoint/elect a board of three to handle appeal.

## 12. Transition of President:

- The winner of the final Championship game will be the club that assumes President Leadership for the following year. VP will be selected at fall or spring meeting if needed, desired, or requested.

## 13. Rescheduling of games:

- If a conflict for scheduling floater games or rescheduling of games arises, if no resolution with a good faith effort by both coaches (keep all e-mail correspondences') can be reached, the league president and/or rules committee can determine a win, loss or tie for both teams (fall 2021).

## 14. League Rule Changes:

- Implementation of rule changes, rule additions, or rule eliminations can only be made at the fall meeting.

