



NORTH OAKLAND BASEBALL FEDERATION 2017 RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. GENERAL

- A. The Official High School Rule Book will serve as the playing rules for the North Oakland Baseball Federation (NOBF) except as amended by the American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC) Official Handbook or herein by the NOBF Board of Directors. If a rule is not covered in the MHSAA High School Rule Book, then the Official Baseball Rules will apply. NOBF will be affiliated with both AABC and USSSA.
- B. Each NOBF franchise shall have at least 1 (one) coach qualified as a “Certified Coach” within 2 (two) years of their original franchise date or within 2 (two) years of the loss of a “Certified Coach” from their franchise as defined by the NOBF.
- C. The “Manager’s Code of Ethics” (Appendix I) will serve as a guide for the expectations for all managers and coaches having an NOBF franchise.
- D. Any sanctions placed on any party for any reason by an amateur athletic organization, shall be honored and enforced for *1 year by the NOBF, and will be reviewed thereafter on a yearly basis.*
- E. Any situation not listed under the current rules or bylaws will be dealt with on an individual basis by the NOBF Board of Directors.
- F. If an excessive amount of teams are in one division or if the talent in a particular division is uneven, an AAA, AA and, if required, an A division shall be created by the Division Director based on perceived talent of teams, and be approved by the NOBF Board of Directors.

- G. NOBF does NOT place players on teams (this is between parents and team management); nor does NOBF become involved with team finances; nor does NOBF endorse the qualifications of any coach or the suitability of a person to coach a child. As such, NOBF does not conduct a background check on any person coaching a team registered in NOBF.
- H. NOBF recommends its member organizations and teams conduct background checks of coaches and team personnel to protect the children in these organizations' charge. Parents are encouraged to likewise check and satisfy themselves that the integrity and fitness of their children's coaching staffs are up to their own standards and requirements.

II. FIELD DECORUM

- A. The actions of all players, coaches, managers, umpires, parents, relatives and any other visitors must be above reproach. **ANY PERSON, IN THE OPINION OF THE UMPIRE(S), NOT ACTING IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE NOBF WILL BE REQUESTED TO LEAVE THE PLAYING AREA.** Failure to comply with the umpire's ruling may result in forfeiture of the game by the franchise involved. The umpire and both managers shall make a full written report of any such incident available to the Commissioner of Baseball within 24 (twenty-four) hours of the conclusion of the game. Further disciplinary actions may be taken by the NOBF Board of Directors, including revocation of the team's franchise.
- B. Any umpire not acting in the best interests of the NOBF may, after review by the Commissioner of Baseball and the Umpire-in-Chief, be suspended from officiating for a period of time up to and including permanent suspension.
- C. The umpire shall report any player, coach or manager ejected from a game to the Commissioner of Baseball. Any such ejection will automatically result in the suspension for the remaining games that day and a minimum of one (1) subsequent game date. Depending on the severity of an original infraction, additional game – or longer – suspensions and/or disciplinary action(s) will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors. During the suspension, the player, coach and/or manager may not enter the confines of the park or recreational area that supports the field of play.

- D. Only uniformed players, managers, coaches, and umpires are permitted within the confines of the playing field just prior to, and during, the game.
- E. Except for the batter, on-deck player, base coaches, and base runners, all players must be on the bench while their team is at bat.
- F. Only managers, coaches, and players listed on the roster are allowed to coach the bases. **EXCEPTION:** In the absence of enough coaches to properly coach the bases in any given game, the manager may appoint a substitute coach for that game. The name of the substitute must be reported to the umpire prior to the game.
- G. A manager or coach may not leave the vicinity of the bench except to confer with the umpire or one of his players, or to serve as a base coach.
- H. No use of tobacco products or alcoholic beverages is permitted on the playing field, the bench, or the dugout.
- I. Players or coaches throwing helmets or bats are subject to ejection from the game.
- J. Sportsmanship:
 - 1. Substantial emphasis will be placed on good sportsmanship. Teams cannot make any derogatory remarks or gestures to any official or member of the opposing team; or attempt to distract them while making a defensive play; or, while batting, by either talk or actions. Umpires will be encouraged to eject anyone from the game not complying with this rule.
 - 2. Any offensive player hollering at a defensive player in order to cause a mistake can be called "Out" for interference.

III. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

- A. All players must be in full uniform, including caps, for each game, otherwise they cannot play. A full uniform should include an NOBF patch, an embroidered or silkscreen NOBF logo, or helmet decal. All managers and coaches must be in NOBF-approved attire, which normally consists of a team shirt, team hat and proper, matching coaches' pants/ shorts and footwear. It is expected that managers and coaches attire be consistent, and clearly identifiable as part of the

team they represent. Jeans, cut-offs, workout shorts, sweat pants, flip-flops or other attire that could be deemed inappropriate are not allowed. Managers and coaches represent the NOBF, just as the players do and should dress appropriately.

- B. Players in the 8U Richard Powell, 9U Joe Cooper, 10U Willie Mays, 11U Gil Hodges and 12U Pee Wee Reese Divisions may not wear metal cleats.
- C. Catchers are required to wear all protective equipment while catching per current National and Michigan High School rules. A catcher's mask must be worn by the catcher or any other player designated to warm up the pitcher on or off the field.
- D. All batters and base runners, and players who act as base coaches, must wear batting helmets in accordance with Michigan's High School Rules.
- E. The umpire(s) shall not allow a player to enter the batter's box without a helmet.
- F. It is recommended that all players wear protective cups.
- G. The following bat weight-to-length ratios are in effect:
 - 1. 16U Mike Kapp and 14U Sandy Koufax: - 3 (Same as High School rules)
 - 2. Violations of the bat weight/length rule will follow the high school rules for illegal equipment, and will result in an "out" for the player and ejection of the manager for that game and the next scheduled game.
 - 3. In the 13U, 12U, 11U, 10U, 9U and 8U divisions, wood or non-wood bats may be used, and must not be larger in diameter than 2 ¾ inches. There is no restriction with regard to the differential between length and weight. All non-wood bats must have a certification of 1.15 BPF (Bat Performance Factor) or less.
- H. No portable/artificial/mounds shall be used in any division.

IV. PITCHING

A. Pitching Limits:

1. Pitchers are limited to a maximum number of innings they may pitch per week. A week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. The maximum limit per week is:

16U: 12 innings 11U: 7 innings
14U: 8 innings 10U: 6 innings
13U: 8 innings 9U: 6 innings
12U: 7 innings 8U: 6 innings

2. In a four (4) or more game week, pitching limits will increase by an extra two (2) innings beginning when the fourth game is played, and this increase shall not exceed two innings no matter how many games are played that week.
3. If a player pitches the following number of innings (or more) on any one day, he must rest 2 (two) full calendar days before pitching again:

16U: 6 innings 11U: 4 innings
14U: 5 innings 10U: 4 innings
13U: 5 innings 9U: 4 innings
12U: 4 innings 8U: 4 innings

4. A Pitching Record form must be kept by each team and presented to the opposing team's manager prior to each game (if a double header with same team, it must be presented prior to first game only)
 5. In the event that there is an illegal pitcher, the player will be removed from the position upon discovery of the infraction and the last pitch will be counted as a ball. Managers are responsible for maintaining proper pitching records. Any violation will result in disciplinary action recommended by the Division Director and approved by the NOBF Board of Directors.
- B. If a pitcher pitches less than a complete inning, 1/3 (one-third) of an inning will be charged for each out made by the offensive team during that inning. If no outs are made, but the pitcher has thrown at least 1 (one) pitch, 1/3 (one-third) of an inning will be charged to the pitcher.**

- C. Innings pitched in a game declared “no contest” are charged against the pitcher for that week.
- D. Violations of any the above rules will result in disciplinary action recommended by the Division Director and approved by the NOBF Board of Directors.
- E. In a pitcher’s first appearance of a game, he will be allowed a maximum of 8 (eight) practice pitches. At the beginning of each subsequent inning, a pitcher will be allowed a maximum of 5 (five) practice pitches.

F. Balk Rule

The Balk Rule shall be in effect for all divisions. **EXCEPTION:** In the 10U, 9U and 8U divisions, this rule has been modified to allow each pitcher 2 (two) warnings per game before the violation is called.

G. Pitching distances for each division are:

16U: 60 feet, 6 inches	12U & 11U: 50 feet, 6 inches
14U: 60 feet, 6 inches	10U & 9U: 46 feet
13U: 54 feet	8U: 40 feet

V. RUNNERS

A. Courtesy Rule

A courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher or catcher who is currently in the game (not a new pitcher or catcher who will enter the game when batting teams returns to the field) by a player who is not currently in the game as a batter or position player. If there are no players on the bench, the last batter out will become the courtesy runner.

B. A base runner deliberately running into a defensive player, including the Catcher, will be ejected from the game. It is the equal responsibility of the defensive team to avoid a collision on the field. It is up to the umpire(s) to decide whether a collision is deliberate or not.

C. In the 10u, 9u and 8u divisions, a runner from 3rd base cannot score on a passed ball or wild pitch by the pitcher. The runners cannot score on a wild throw back

from the catcher to the pitcher. A runner on 3rd base can advance if a play takes place at any base.

VI. PLAYING MINIMUMS

- A. In the 11u, 12u, 13u and 14u divisions, it is recommended that each coach attempt to play each player 2 (two) innings in the field each game.

- B. In the 10u, 9u and 8u divisions, it is mandatory that each player play 2 (two) consecutive full innings per game. Violation will result in the forfeiture of the game in which the infraction took place. For the purpose of this rule, the final inning of play will not be a full inning unless it is played out. In the event that the Mercy Rule (see Rule XI. E.) causes the game to end early, the playing minimums will not apply for that particular game.

- C. Absence, illness, or disciplinary time may be credited against a player's minimum requirement at the manager's discretion. If disciplinary time is used against any player, the opposing manager must be notified prior to the game.

- D. If any NOBF team is permitted by the Board of Directors to play as a member team of another league, all NOBF rules will remain in effect – specifically those regarding pitching limits. These weekly limits apply to the **combined** totals of play in both organizations.

VII. CHAMPIONSHIPS AND POST-SEASON PLAY

- A. Team standings will be determined by total points. During the season, 2 (two) points will be awarded for each win. A game ending in a tie will have the status of “suspended play” and be charged to “completed” when rescheduled and completed. If the game cannot be rescheduled, it will remain as “suspended”. Only completed games will count. The team with the highest total points will be the first place team; the team with the second highest total points will be the second place team, etc. In the event of a tie between any positions, the tie will be decided in the following manner, in the order shown:
 - 1. Total wins.

 - 2. Records against each other.

3. **One Playoff Game, or, if a playoff game can't be played:**
 4. **Runs against each other**
 5. **Each team's record against top five finishing teams in league or division**
 6. **Each team's record against top three finishing teams in league or division**
 7. **Each team's fewest total runs allowed against top five finishing teams in league or division**
 8. **Each team's total runs scored against top five finishing teams in league or division**
 9. **A flip of a coin, by draw, if three-way tie exists**
 10. **It is possible that ties may exist initially for more than one place in the standings or that initial tie breaking comparisons may create new "sub-ties" within any initial tie. Each such tie or sub-tie will be subject to the same tie-breaking process as defined above**
 11. **If above steps do not resolve ties, final tie-breakers will be at the Division Director's discretion**
- B. Teams must complete their NOBF schedules before post season starts. Division Directors, with NOBF Board of Directors approval, shall determine the end-of-season date prior to scheduling of games. The end-of-season date is the last day standings points can be earned. If a team wishes to play a regular season makeup game after Districts begin, that game will not be counted in the standings.**
- C. AAA teams finishing first and second in NOBF may be eligible to represent NOBF in the post season. NOBF will pay for registration fees pending availability of post-season berths and funds. Any further reimbursements will be handled on an individual basis. NOBF will only distribute these funds if available.**
1. **A player must refuse an offer from another NOBF team for post-season play in order to continue to play for his regular season NOBF team in post-season, unless released by his current manager.**

2. Any team on probation cannot represent NOBF in post-season play.

VIII. PROTESTS

- A. The proper manner for making a protest shall be: The manager or coach will inform the umpire that the game is being played under protest. **THIS MUST BE DONE AT THE POINT THE ALLEGED VIOLATION OCCURS.** After one pitch is made, the protest cannot be accepted. A written summary of the protest must be submitted to the NOBF Commissioner within 24 (twenty-four) hours of the conclusion of the game. The umpire will note the game conclusion time on the winning team's scorecard, or verbally to the scorekeepers.
- B. A \$100 (one hundred dollar) deposit must accompany the written protest. The deposit will be returned if the protest is awarded. If a protest is awarded, the game will be resumed at a later date from the point of the protest.
- C. No judgment calls can be protested.
- D. In order to be a valid protest, the play under protest must have a direct affect on the outcome of the game.

IX. FORFEITURES

- A. Each team must have a minimum of 8 (eight) players to start and finish a game. 10 (ten) minutes grace time will be allowed before a forfeit is called. **EXCEPTION:** After the grace period has expired, the visiting team may take its first at bat with less than 8 (eight) players. If 8 (eight) players are not present by the time all present team players have batted or by the time the visiting team must take the field, the game is forfeited. If any game is started with 8 (eight) players, outs are awarded in the normal manner (with no penalty for the ninth batter). If a ninth player should subsequently report to the team, that player must be inserted into the lineup in the ninth position. However, if a game has begun and subsequently the roster of any team is reduced to 8 (eight) for any reason, an out will be called each time the removed player was to bat.

- B. Any team not completing their scheduled NOBF league games (forfeitures) may be put on probation or suspended from the North Oakland Baseball Federation pending review by the Board of Directors. The guilty team will post a performance bond of \$100.00 for each regular season game forfeited for the following season. The entire performance bond will be lost, and the team's manager suspended, if a forfeiture takes place the following season.
- C. Any team that does not schedule all their season games at the scheduling meeting will result in forfeiting those unscheduled games
- D. Failure to appear for a scheduled game results in a forfeit (see fines for failure to appear section)
- E. Failure to reschedule a make-up game will result in a forfeiture of that game
- F. Other reasons for forfeiture are covered in the other sections of these rules

X. ROSTERS

- A. Each team must pay a registration fee of \$900 (16U), \$800 (14U-9U) and \$600 (8U) by certified check or money order payable to NOBF. All checks must be forwarded to the team's Division Director. Teams may have the maximum number of players as listed below. All fees and rosters must be submitted no later than the preseason managers' meeting, usually held in January/February.

NOTE: If a team decides to withdraw after the league fees have been paid at the managers' meeting, the paid fees will be forfeited.

	<u>Age as of April 30th</u>	<u>Number of players allowed per team</u>
8U	8	15 (fifteen) maximum
9U	9	15 (fifteen) maximum
10U	10	15 (fifteen) maximum
11U	11	15 (fifteen) maximum
12U	12	15 (fifteen) maximum
13U	13	15 (fifteen) maximum
14U	14	15 (fifteen) maximum
15U	15	18 (eighteen) maximum
16U	16	18 (eighteen) maximum

Age will be verified by birth certificates at the scheduling meeting.

- B. If a team loses a player for the remainder of the season, a new player may be added to the team's roster with the approval of the Division Director and NOBF Board of Directors.
- C. A manager must obtain NOBF Board of Directors approval to remove or suspend any player prior to or during the season by presenting evidence of just cause.
- D. Team Registration & Insurance
 - 1. Teams must have an official NOBF Roster/Contract and Player Registration forms on file with their Division Director prior to Opening Day. Rosters shall include the names of all players, their addresses, phone numbers, roster numbers, birth dates and ages. Player Registration forms **MUST** be signed by a parent. All team registration fees must have been paid to the NOBF prior to Opening Day. Scheduled games will be forfeited unless this rule is complied with.
 - 2. All teams must have a NOBF-approved Certification of Insurance on file with their division director by the managers' meeting. (USSSA insurance for 8U – 14U divisions; AABC insurance for 15U – 18U divisions.)
 - 3. All teams must have Team Disclosure Statements signed by each player and one parent. Copies of these shall be filed with their Division Director, and originals retained by each manager.
- E. No player may be added to the roster more than halfway through the season except as provided in Rule X. B.

NOTE: "Halfway through the season" shall be June 15th for the 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U and 14U divisions. For the 16U division, this date shall be July 1st.

- F. No player may be officially signed to a roster prior to October 1st. Any players selected and signed to a roster cannot be cut after that point. Conversely, a player accepting, and signing for, a team roster spot cannot play on another NOBF team for that season unless permitted by the NOBF Board of Directors.

- G. No player may play out of their age division without permission from the NOBF Board of Directors. Permission *may* be granted by submitting a letter to the Board of Directors requesting permission before the player plays in an NOBF game. (The NOBF consists of 8 major divisions: 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U and 16U).
- H. No player can play in 2 (two) divisions of the NOBF or be on the roster of 2 (two) teams of the NOBF (e.g. a 12-year-old may not play in both the 12U and 13U divisions).
- I. A player may petition the NOBF Board to play in a second AABC association. Consideration is on an individual basis, without precedence.
- J. Please refer to the appropriate organization's rules (AABC, USSSA, etc.) for regulations and restrictions on adding extra players for post-season play.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. The owner or supervising party of the field or venue may cancel a game due to weather or other reasons the supervising party deems reasonable. Umpires, with the agreement of one manager, may also cancel a game or end a game early that is already in progress due to weather conditions. NOBF Board members or Division Directors do not visit the fields to determine if they are playable.
- B. The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook. The winning team is responsible for submitting a completed Game Report within 24 (twenty-four) hours via the NOBF website.

NOTE: The manager of the winning team is responsible for submitting the Game Report online, which will include the final score and accurate number of innings pitched by players on both teams (listed in 1/3 inning increments: i.e., 2.2 = 2-2/3 innings, 3.1 = 3-1/3 innings, etc.). Both managers should verify with one another at the conclusion of a game that the information is correct. It is the responsibility of the manager of the losing team to check the online report for accuracy.

NOTE: Games may be played with 2, 1 or no umpires. In the case of no umpires, if both teams agree on substitute person(s) to officiate a game, the game becomes official.

C. Designated Hitters (DH) may be used in the 16U and 18U divisions only. For 8U-14U divisions, rules regarding batting rotation, allowed number of hitters, and related defensive substitutions will be decided and approved by each age group's Division Director prior to the start of a season.

D. Game Length

1. 7 (seven) innings shall constitute a game with the exception of the 8u, 9u and 10u divisions, where 6 (six) innings shall constitute a game. Extra innings will be played to break ties.
2. An abbreviated game shall be counted as official if 5 (five) innings - or 4 (four) innings in the 8U, 9U and 10U divisions - have been played. A game with less than 5 (five) innings played - 4 (four) innings in the 8U, 9U and 10U divisions - will continue from the point of suspension if called for any reason (i.e. rain, darkness, lightning, etc.). No game will be started over from the beginning. However, a game will be counted as official if 4 ½ (four and one-half) innings - 3 ½ [three and one-half] innings in the 8U, 9U and 10U divisions - have been played and the home team is ahead. The 16U division will follow the High School Rules covering incomplete game situations.

E. Mercy Rule

1. If at any time after **both** teams have batted 5 (five) or more complete innings, and a team in the 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U or 16U division is leading by 10 (ten) or more runs, the game shall be called and a victory awarded to the leading team. After the third inning, if any team is winning by 15 or more runs, the game shall be called and awarded to the leading team. In these cases, if behind, the Home team is always entitled to its at-bat.
2. If at any time after **both** teams have batted 4 (four) or more complete innings, and a team in the 8U, 9U or 10U division is leading by 15 (fifteen) or more runs, the game shall be called and a victory awarded to the leading team. If a team is behind by 10 runs after 5 innings, the game shall be called and awarded to the winning team. In these cases, if behind, the Home team is always entitled to its at-bat.

F. Game Time Limit

In the 14U, 13U, 12U, 11U, 10U, 9U and 8U divisions, no inning shall start after 2 (two) hours have elapsed, unless the game is tied. Every effort should be made to break the tie at that time. Tie games must be played until the tie is broken so that there is a winner, and loser, of the game. The home plate umpire shall inform both teams of the game start time prior to the first pitch. Delays due to weather or injury will not be included in the 2 (two) hour time limit.

If a tie cannot be broken before the game is suspended due to weather or darkness, the game will be played out at a later date, with the game picking up exactly where it left off with the same scorer's sheet intact. This continuation game does not allow the coach to violate the weekly allowable Innings Pitched regulations set forth by the NOBF for the week in which the continuation game is played. Only the players that were on the roster at the time the game was originally played will be allowed to play in the tiebreaker.

G. The base distances for each division are as follows:

16U: 90 feet	11U: 70 feet
14U: 90 feet	10U: 65 feet
13U: 80 feet	9U: 65 feet
12U: 70 feet	8U: 60 feet

H. Injuries

1. If a player becomes injured, and all substitutes have been used, a "courtesy substitute" may be inserted for the injured player. The opposing manager will pick the "courtesy substitute."
2. This rule does not apply if a player leaves the game for any other reason, including ejection from the game.

I. Conferences

1. Each team, when on offense, may be granted not more than 1 (one) charged conference per inning to confer with the batter, base runners, etc. The Umpire shall deny any subsequent offensive team requests for charged conferences.

2. Each team, when on defense, may be granted not more than 3 (three) charged conferences. In extra-inning games, each team will be granted 1 (one) additional conference each inning while on defense. Prior to accumulating 3 (three) charged conferences, a conference is not charged if the pitcher is removed as pitcher. After 3 (three) charged conferences, or for any charged conference in excess of 1 (one) in each extra inning, the pitcher must be removed as pitcher for the duration of the game.

J. Fees, Fines, and Deposits

1. Protest Deposit. See Rule VIII. B.
2. Player Registration Fees. See Rule X. A.
3. Each franchise shall provide a copy of their team's Certificate of Insurance along with the team's League Registration Fees before a team franchise will be officially awarded.
4. **Payment of Umpires:** Teams shall be responsible for payment of one (1) umpire each, prior to the start of every game. For 2017, umpire fees are \$55 per umpire in 8U – 14U divisions, and \$60 per umpire in 15U – 18U. In the event that only one (1) umpire is available to officiate a game, each team shall pay half of the umpire's fee of \$75 (all divisions). For payment of umpires for Continuation/Suspended games, each team shall be responsible for payment of one (1) umpire, with each umpire's fee determined in the following increments: 1st inning - \$25, additional 2nd or 3rd innings - \$15 per inning (after which fee equals a full game, should the game go 90 minutes). **NOTE:** Continuation games **MUST BE PART OF A SCHEDULED GAME**, and played immediately before or afterwards. Any Continuation game scheduled as a single standalone game will utilize regular/full umpires game fees.

5. Fines for Failure to Appear

If both teams fail to appear for a game at the location and time scheduled by the Division Director, each team shall be assessed a fine of \$50 (fifty dollars). The purpose of this assessment shall be to pay the officials. The fine must be paid within 7 (seven) days.

If only one team fails to appear, an assessment of \$100 (one hundred dollars) shall be applied to the team not appearing. The team, which appeared for the game, will not be

responsible for paying an official for that game. The fine must be paid within 7 (seven) days.

6. Any team manager requesting a change to any scheduled game is responsible for paying the following fees:
 - a. An administrative fee of \$50 (fifty dollars)
 - b. Actual cost of fields (if applicable)
 - c. \$12.00 umpire rescheduling fee

Make all checks payable to the NOBF and forward to the Division Director prior to rescheduling a game. This payment is the responsibility of the team requesting a change. Any changes made without paying these fees will not be recognized by the NOBF.

7. All rainout and incomplete games fees shall be paid by the individual teams. No reimbursement will be given by NOBF.
8. Teams designated as the “home” team will pay \$25.00 per game for use of fields that NOBF has rented for games. This fee will be paid at the scheduling meeting. If the game changes and is not played at that field, the fee will not be returned.