

2018 BASEBALL/SOFTBALL RULES GRADES 6-8

Baseball and Softball will consist of grades 6-8 on one combined team. Athletic programs are allowed to have more than one 6-8 combined team. Teams must be divided evenly with all players receiving equal playing time during the regular season.

Game Length

6-8 grade Softball games will be 6 innings or 1 hour and 15 mins.

6-8 grade Baseball games will be 6 innings or 1 hour 15 mins.

Playoff games will be 1 hour 30 mins. regardless of time or a full six innings, whichever comes first. Umpire will flip a coin to determine home field advantage.

Field Dimensions (approximate)

Baseball

- Base distance will be 70 feet.
- Pitching distance will be 50 feet.

Fast Pitch Softball

- Base distance will be 60 feet.
- Pitching distance will be 35 feet.

Base Running

Baseball: Stealing is allowed, but the runner must wait until the ball crosses the home plate before leaving the base. No leading off.

Softball: Lead-offs are allowed, after the ball leaves the pitchers hand. Stealing is not allowed.

- Base runners may advance on a passed ball, including advancing to score.
- On a dropped third strike by the catcher, the batter may attempt to advance to first base. If the ball reaches first base prior to the runner, or the runner is tagged with the ball, the runner will then be called out. (situation can only occur if first base is empty prior to the pitch being thrown).
- If the ball is overthrown (goes past a player who is fielding a thrown ball anywhere on the field), the base runner(s) may advance. The runner(s) does this at their own risk if the ball stays in the field of play. If the ball goes out of play then the runner(s) automatically receive one base.

Fielding

- Players must be rotated defensively (coaches may rotate every inning if desired). Players should play multiple positions during each game.
- Players should have the opportunity to play all positions (except pitcher and catcher) throughout the season.
- Infield Fly rule is in effect.

Pitching

- Any player on the team's roster may pitch.
- Players will pitch to their opponents. Umpires will call balls and strikes.
- Pitchers must pitch from the pitching rubber.

**A pitcher may not exceed 75 pitches (does not include warm-up pitches) in one calendar day.*

**Rest Period per number of pitches thrown:*

51-75 3 Days of Rest
26-50 2 Days of Rest
25 or less 1 Day of Rest

***BASEBALL ONLY**

Overthrow

- If the ball is overthrown (goes past a player who is fielding a thrown ball anywhere on the field), the base runner(s) may advance. The runner(s) does this at their own risk if the ball stays in the field of play. If the ball goes out of play then the runner(s) automatically receive one base.

Coaches

- Coaches are not permitted on the field of play.

General Rules

- Each half-inning will consist of three outs, or a 7 run limit.
- After three innings if a team is leading by 15 runs, the “mercy rule” will be in effect.
- The batting line-up will consist of all players present at the game.
- Defensively, teams will have no more than 9 players on the field.
- A minimum of 7 defensive players at the beginning of the game are required for an official game.
- No player may sit out a second inning during a game until everyone has sat out for one inning.
- Players throwing a bat will be warned once – if the bat is thrown again by the same player he/she will be called out.
- Infield practice will not be permitted in between games to help keep games on schedule.
- Each team should keep score of the game on a score-sheet.

Uniforms & Equipment

- Shoes with molded rubber cleats may be worn as well as tennis shoes or other rubber soled shoes. Metal spikes and cleats are prohibited.
- If hats/visors are worn, they must be worn with the bill set straightforward on the head.
- All batters (including the on-deck batter) and base runners must wear a batting helmet.
- Catchers must wear a helmet, facemask, chest protector, shin guards and a mitt.

Practice and Game Balls

- Baseball teams will use a 9” baseball.
- Softball teams will use a 12” softball.
- No jewelry (including watches) may be worn during games.
- Wood bats are not permitted.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT RULES

- All athletes, coaches and parents should demonstrate EXCELLENT sportsmanship at all times
- No sideline coaching from parents or spectators will be tolerated
- Parents will need to arrange transportation home for their child from HOME games. On AWAY games, busing will be provided to bring the athletes back to their home school. Athletes will be able to ride home with their parents from AWAY games ONLY if they have signed their son/daughter out with the coach and/or athletic director.