

SABL 2018



POLICIES, PROCEDURES, RULES AND REGULATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>A. SABL Mission Statement</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>B. Coaches/Assistant Coaches</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>C. Establishment of Teams</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>D. Rules of Conduct</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>E. Problems & Protests</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>F. Weather Related Issues</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>G. Safety Rules</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>H. League Equipment</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>I. General Game Rules</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>(a) Lower Division-Specific Rules</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>(b) Middle Division-Specific Rules</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>J. Playoffs</u>	<u>12</u>

A. SABL Mission Statement

“Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.” -Psalm 127:1

Spencerville Adventist Baseball League (SABL) is an all-volunteer youth baseball organization sponsored by the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church. Its primary intent is to teach and play baseball in a safe and healthy environment. SABL identifies as a Christian league and should NOT be considered a competitive league where winning is the most important thing. SABL's goals shall include that Christian conduct be practiced/modeled/taught on the ball field through instruction in the fundamentals of baseball, development of a "teamwork" attitude, recognition that each player offers varying degrees of skill, acknowledgement of one's shortcomings while emphasizing that every child has unique strengths they bring to the team. Persistence, hard work, and how to win and lose with grace are to be stressed, but participation is meant to be FUN!

B. Coaches/Assistant Coaches

SABL is dedicated to providing a safe, healthy, and Christ-honoring environment for our children, and Coaches are expected to lead in that role. Each Coach must sign and follow our Coach's Covenant, including agreeing that:

1. I am a role model to these young players. It is my job to show them love and encouragement and to inspire them to love and support one another.
2. I will do my best to teach skills, teamwork, and good sportsmanship to all of my players and to instill a safe, healthy, and FUN environment.
3. I will make every effort to schedule practices and to attend all games, and to make other arrangements when this is not possible.
4. I will not be preoccupied with winning, but will measure my success by the improvement of each of my players, and in their growth as individuals and team members. Winning is fun, but character is built when we lose as well.
5. I will make myself familiar with and pledge to follow both the letter and spirit of SABL rules & regulations.
6. I will treat all players, coaches, families, and umpires with respect, and I pledge to be calm, open, and fair in my dealings with them. I understand that only the head coach or his designate may address umpires or other officials directly about on-field issues.
7. I will never verbally abuse any player, intentionally embarrass them, or hold them up to ridicule. I will not embarrass myself and my team by yelling or arguing with officials, or blaming officials for my team's shortcomings.
8. I will have the same expectations for my players, their families, and others under my influence and will hold them accountable to each other.

- Each team is allowed **two official coaches**. To allow full attention to other responsibilities, **a division commissioner should NOT also serve as a coach** (new 2/21/2017).

- SABL expects and encourages all families to be involved with their child's team, and each head coach will also recruit a scorekeeper (16 or older) and a safety and/or bench monitor. SABL will provide instructions for scorekeepers if needed. Additional parental or coaching help may be required for each team to accomplish all necessary duties and should be recruited from the families assigned to your team.

- Coaches and assistant coaches must undergo "Verified Volunteers" training or provide proof of an approved equivalent.

- The SABL Commission must approve all coaches and assistant coaches. Coaching positions are not automatic from year to year, and the Commission reserves the right to withdraw coaching privileges from anyone at anytime.

- Coaches are expected to resolve any problems with players, parents or anyone else associated with their team immediately. Failure to attend to these concerns may lead to game forfeiture and possible loss of coaching privileges.

C. Establishment of Teams

1. At the end of each season, coaches are required to work with the SABL Commission to rank their players based on a predetermined set of factors. This information, registration information, pre-season clinics, and coach familiarity with players will be used the following year to aid in fielding evenly skilled teams.

2. Coaches & Assistant Coaches will meet on date set for draft. All players signed up including coaches children will be ranked 1-5 based on factors like hitting, fielding, throwing, coachability, and overall experience. The Division Commissioner will call out each child's name and they will be prorated and placed into a skill level that best equals their playing ability. All coaches must agree on the placement of each child. If they cannot agree then the Division Commissioner will listen to all the information about the player and he or she will decide on the skill level round in which the player goes. New players will be rated by the coaches. If 50% or better of the coaches can rate the new players, then the new players can be drafted with the other kids. If less than 50% of the coaches have knowledge about the new players then the new player will be pulled out of a hat at the end of the draft. Commissioner and coaches will then discuss and agree upon the draft rules. As a courtesy to parents, siblings are ordinarily to be assigned to the same team. Suggested Draft Scenario:

a) All coaches will draw a number from a hat for the draft order. Example: Round 1 team 1-4, round 2 team 4-1. A coach will have a maximum of three minutes to pick a player. After every two rounds, coaches will be given five minutes for trading players. The process then repeats (team 1-4, team 4-1).

b) When the round a coaches child has been placed in comes up you do not have a pick in that round. You will wait until your pick in the next round comes up.

c) When the first of two siblings are picked, the draft will stop long enough for the second sibling to be rated and placed in a round that is equal to his playing ability. These steps will be the same as in step #3 above. If a coach who picks the first sibling is not satisfied after this, he may pick another child in the draft in place of the first sibling.

3. Coaches must do their best to pick balanced teams. The Division Commissioner has the duty to intervene in the draft if he believes the teams are becoming unbalanced. The Commission will do everything in their power to provide the necessary information to the coaches prior to the draft but it will remain the responsibility of the coaches as to who they place on their teams.

4. Player requests for a certain teammate or coach are discouraged. This is an annual cause for draft difficulties. SABL instead encourages children to stretch their comfort zone to meet and learn from new people each year.

5. If a player is dropped from a team roster, it must be reported to the Division Commissioner in writing. A player may be dropped for the following reasons;

- Discipline problems (only with SABL Commission approval)
- Moving out of town
- Sickness or injury
- Voluntarily leaving the team

D. Rules of Conduct

CODE OF CONDUCT *"Members of SABL, its coaches, officers, officials, directors, parents and participants, shall at all times conduct themselves in such a manner so as not to bring discredit on SABL or its members."*

FAMILY COVENANT *"I will support and encourage my child's efforts and those of his or her coaches and teammates. I will not embarrass my child, myself, or any other individual by being critical of or yelling at others. I agree that only the coach may directly address umpires or other league officials during game action, and that I will do all I can to nurture a safe and fun environment for all involved."*

1. Only the head coach may speak for the team unless otherwise designated by that coach. Coaches must request and receive a time out from an umpire to discuss a call or rule. Anyone who charges the umpire or who does not request and receive a time out or who displays, at the discretion of the umpire, un-sportsman like conduct, may be ejected from the game and must leave the immediate playing field and disruptions may result in forfeiture of the game. Anyone ejected from a game is automatically suspended from the next game. If a person is ejected twice during the season, that person will go before the SABL Commission for further disciplinary review.
2. The SABL ejection policy will be as follows:
 - a. A coach or a player ejected will be considered ejected for two games, the game at this time and the next game. He/she may be requested to appear before the SABL Commission.
 - b. A second ejection will result in the coach or the player being required to appear before the SABL Commission. At this time, the coach or player will receive the consequences as determined by the SABL Commission, which may be suspension for the rest of the season.
 - c. **Parents/Guests/Relatives/Siblings are subject to the same policy.**
3. A coach may choose to sit out a player for disciplinary reasons. The coach must inform the umpire and the opposing coach and/or scorekeeper of this situation at the time rosters are exchanged. The coach during the game for disciplinary reasons may also remove players. This may be as a substitution if other players are available. The respective Division Commissioner must be notified if these situations occur. The player's name and the reason he/she is not playing must be noted in the team scorebook.
4. We are guests on county and private property and will conduct ourselves as visitors, leaving no trash nor destroying any property. Each team is responsible for cleanup of their dugout and common areas after each game.
5. There will be no profanity nor alcohol nor tobacco allowed on the fields.
6. Both teams (players & coaches) will line up and shake hands after the game.
7. Absolutely no heckling, cursing, cheating or dangerous behavior will be tolerated at the games. Anyone who acts in an unchristian like manner will be immediately ejected. The umpire will quietly warn the coach that there is activity that is going to cause a technical out. If there is no improvement in the behavior the umpire will call a technical out and eject the person acting inappropriately.
8. The umpire has the right to access a technical out against players, coaches, parents or fans. Should a team be given a technical out they may not receive a second until the next pitch.
9. Anyone ejected from the game has 5 minutes to clear the field.
10. There will be no refunds for players disciplined or removed from the league.
11. It shall be the Coach's duty to **control the spectators** backing or supporting their team. If such spectators cannot be controlled or are not controlled and act so as to defeat the purpose of the league, or to interfere with the proper conduct of the game, the Umpire shall first warn the Coach and if the situation is not then corrected, the Umpire will declare the game a forfeit to the opposing team.

E. Problems & Protests

While we anticipate positive experiences with Spencerville Adventist Baseball League (SABL), it is inevitable that with an organization our size, problems will arise. As with any organization, we have well-defined procedures to follow in order to resolve these problems.

1. PARENTS - How to deal with team problems

The nature of the problem determines the first step that you must take. The majority of the issues that we hear about are team related. ***If you have a team-related problem, please, talk to your coach first. It's not fair to the coach if you complain to the commission when you haven't conveyed the problem to the coach first.*** Give them every opportunity to resolve the issue. Most coaches are very understanding and are more than willing to sit down and discuss the problem with you. Keep in mind, the coaches are volunteers also, they are generally doing their best to make your child's experience a positive one. Treat the coach just as you would your child's teacher. Please do not interrupt the coach during practice. Have a talk before or after practice and have the talk away from any children that might be present. If you find that the meeting with the coach did not resolve the problem, the next step is to put your problem in writing and deliver it to the Division Commissioner. If the problem is still not addressed to your satisfaction, that Commissioner must pass the problem to the entire Commission, which will attempt to provide a written answer within seven (7) days of receipt.

2. COACHES - protest procedures

Protest on matters of Judgment as rendered by an umpire will not be considered.

Protests that will be considered include, but are not limited to;

1. Conduct of an umpire.
2. Rule interpretation by an umpire.
3. Eligibility of players.
4. Violation of rules or bylaws.

The team head coach must make all protests. The protest "that this game is being played under protest" must be made to the umpire immediately. The protest must then be submitted in writing to the SABL Commission within 24 hours after the game. The SABL protest committee, upon notifying the parties involved, will render a decision on whether the protest was upheld or denied. If a commission member is from one of the teams involved, they will be ineligible to serve on the protest committee.

It is of importance that the League does not anticipate the need of the above procedure. This league is intended to teach kids the love of baseball in a Christ-like environment. It is not a win at all costs league and should not be confused with one.

F. Weather Related Issues

1. In the event of rain or other acts of God, the SABL Commission will determine whether playing conditions are safe and county fields are playable up until game time. SABL will maintain a weather hotline (301-891-6658) that will be updated by 4:30pm on game & practice days.
2. If a game has been started, the home plate umpire is in control and will have the responsibility and authority to suspend or continue play. At the first sign of thunder or lightning detected or seen ALL GAMES AND PRACTICES will be halted, and everyone must clear the fields and dugout for a minimum of 30 minutes. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS! An ALL CLEAR by the Umpire will be sounded if no evidence of thunder or lightning has occurred in 30 minutes. All present WILL seek shelter in a hard-topped car with the windows closed. Do not touch electronics or metal during this time. A waiting period of no more than forty minutes will be allowed to start (or restart) a game.
3. Games shortened by reason of rain or acts of God before they become regulation games shall be played over at a future date if the schedule allows. The SABL commission will reschedule games where possible.
4. SABL will cancel games on days where the local Air Quality Index reaches the RED level. While the index will be consulted in determining if games must be canceled **it remains the responsibility of the parents or guardians to determine if their child has physical limitations that preclude their play on any given day.** SABL will provide a copy of the Air Quality Index instructions on the website to aid parents in determining if their child should play.

G. Safety Rules

1. No player will be considered ready to play if he/she is wearing any type of hard surface cast or brace. An ace bandage or similar type of soft support does not constitute a cast for the purpose of this rule.
2. No player will be allowed to wear any type of metallic or plastic jewelry, including earrings. No watches or hard plastic visors should be worn. Medical alert bracelets are permitted.
3. Throwing the bat will result in that player being called out. The umpire must notify the official scorekeeper of the call. The Umpire will determine if a bat has been thrown.
4. Catchers must wear protective gear including a face mask, chest protector, and in the Middle division knee & shin guards. All players are recommended to wear a protective cup.

5. There will be no metal cleats.
6. All batters and base runners must wear helmets
7. There will be no swinging or shouldering of a bat outside the batters box or warm-up area. Violations will be treated as throwing the bat while at bat.
8. All players shall sit on the bench at all times when not batting, on deck or in the field.
9. Only the batter and the on-deck batter should be handling bats. All other players shall wait for their turn, even if they OWN the bat.
10. Each team shall designate a parent to organize bench activities in an orderly manner
11. No batting weight "donuts" are allowed in practice or games. Coaches are to discard any that might be in their equipment bags. This is a nationally recognized safety hazard!
12. The league will carry AD&D and excess medical insurance & the cost of the insurance will be paid by SABL.

H. League Equipment

Middle Division

1. Each team will be issued an equipment bag which will contain bats, balls, scorebook, catchers gear, and bases. The Home Team on each Field of play (#1 & #2) shall be responsible for getting a pitching machine, generator, & electrical cords from the storage container and setting them up by at least 6:15pm, 15 minutes prior to game time. The Home Team on each Field of play will be responsible for getting all pitching machine & generator back to the storage container. Teams failing to follow guidelines are subject to game forfeiture.
2. In addition to practice balls, SABL will provide each coach with three new Rif 5 balls per home game. SABL will provide Rif 5 balls for playoffs.
3. It is the coaches' responsibility to see that all league equipment is handled with the greatest of care. This includes removal, setup and return & lockup of league equipment in designated equipment storage location.
4. Equipment must be returned "clean and ready for reuse".
5. If any damage occurs to the equipment the Middle Division Commissioner or the League Director must be notified that game day.
6. Electrical cords should be rewound for easy of storage & reuse in the equipment bins.
7. Generators must be filled with gasoline prior to removal from the storage area.
8. Missing equipment must be reported to the Middle Division Commissioner or the League Director upon discovery of same.
9. All team gear, keys, first aid kit and baseballs must be returned in the team coaches' bag at the end of the season.

Lower Division

1. Each team will be issued an equipment bag which will contain bats, balls, scorebook, catchers gear, and either bases or batting tee. By 6:15pm the Home Team on Field #1 & #2 will be responsible for setting up the Portable Backstops stored in the Storage Container. The Visiting team will be responsible to return the Portable Backstops Storage container. Teams failing to follow guidelines are subject to game forfeiture.
2. In addition to practice balls, SABL will provide new T-balls for game play.
3. It is the coaches' responsibility to see that all league equipment is handled with the greatest of care. This includes removal, setup, return, and lockup of league equipment in designated equipment storage location.
4. Equipment must be returned "clean and ready for reuse".
5. If any damage occurs to the equipment the Lower Division Commissioner or the League Director must be notified that game day.
6. Missing equipment must be reported to the Lower Division Commissioner or the League Director upon discovery of same.
7. All team gear, keys, first aid kit and baseballs must be returned in the team coaches' bag at the end of the season.

I. General Game Rules (Lower & Middle)

1. The visitor's team shall occupy the third base dugout and the home team shall occupy the first base dugout.
2. Bunting is not allowed. Stealing is not allowed. The infield fly rule is not in effect.
3. Both teams are responsible for cleanup of their dugout and sitting areas after each game.
4. Games will start promptly at 6:30pm and are no more than five innings long. A maximum 5 runs per inning per team can be scored. There are no extra innings and games ending as ties will remain as ties. No new inning may start after 7:50pm. Atomic Clock/Universal Time determines official time.
5. For the purposes of determining whether another inning can start, the next inning will be considered started when the third out of the previous inning is made. If time and innings remain, based on the game time limits for each age group, then play will be allowed to continue.
6. Only players listed on the official team roster will be allowed on the field during games. Only coaches, players, and a scorekeeper will be allowed on the bench during game

7. All players eligible to participate in a game shall be placed in the batting order and bat consecutively in that order. All players will play a minimum of two defensive innings.
8. Players must wear complete uniform. A uniformed player is one who is wearing long pants, shoes, team hat and team jersey with the jersey tucked into their pants. A player will be given one (1) warning for a uniform infraction. A second warning will result in an out for that team.
9. The game may start with seven players. A team failing to field at least seven eligible uniformed players within ten minutes after the 6:30pm scheduled start time shall forfeit the game. A team shall be allowed to complete any game with less than the normal nine players. A team will forfeit if they have less than 7 players available to play for whatever reason.
10. Play is considered dead when an infielder has control of the ball inside the base lines.
11. All equipment shall be kept in a designated out-of-play area and all bats are to be stowed
12. Each team must supply a scorekeeper (16 or older) for each game. Said scorekeeper must be knowledgeable about the methods of scorekeeping. SABL will provide instructions for scorekeepers when needed. The scorekeeper for the home team will be considered the official scorekeeper of the game. The scorekeeper supplied must demonstrate the highest of Christian standards. SABL will not allow scorekeepers in this league who are not agreeable or are unwilling to work with others in a positive Christian manner.
13. Should a game be forfeited due to lack of players it is strongly encouraged, for the children that did show up, that the coaches organize a pickup game and allow the kids to play for fun. While the record will show the forfeit we still want our kids to have the chance to play baseball and have a good time.
14. The base runners are allowed two bases (1 + 1) on an overthrow out of bounds. The ball is dead. The umpire, in awarding such bases, shall be governed by the position of the runners at the time the ball went out of play.

I (1) Lower Division (Game Rules)

1. If a player is injured and must leave the game there will be no out assessed for that at bat. If they are unable to resume play at their next at bat the scorekeepers & ump must confer and simply skip that player from then on. We will NOT call an out when the injured player should bat but had to leave the game.
2. There will be a maximum of 11 defensive players on the field at one time. Players arriving after the game has started may be put into the game, but must be put at the end of the batting order. Defense is limited to a maximum of six (6) infielders (First, Second, Short Fielder near pitching area, Shortstop, Third and Catcher. All other players must be in the grass outfield. Positioning of the infielders should not obstruct players from running the bases. Special consideration should be given as to the defensive ability of the pitcher, first base, and third base to ensure the safety of all players.

3. Free defensive substitutions are permitted provided that minimum play requirements are met. Minimum playtime is two defensive innings per game and batting in consecutive order.
4. Substitute runners are allowed only if the original player is injured or when the catcher is on base with two outs. The player that made the last out shall be used as the substitute runner.
5. It is the responsibility of the offensive team to provide an adult to coach pitch. In each at bat the player will get 3 coach pitches (1 more if they are deemed bad pitches) and 3 swings at the tee. If a player is unable to hit either 3 coach pitches or 3 teed balls they are out. There are NO intentional walks.
6. The Lower Division does not have Umpires, so the Head Coaches will confer with other Coaches to determine safe or out calls. Ties always go the runners, and ties are encouraged.
7. Sliding should be *discouraged* and runners must avoid contact with defensive players.
8. Each team is allowed three official coaches. Additional parental help will however be required for each team to accomplish all necessary duties.
9. If a player is dropped from a team roster, it must be reported to the Division Commissioner in writing. A player may be dropped for the following; Discipline problems (only with SABL Commission approval); Moving out of town; Sickness or injury; or voluntarily leaving the team.
10. The SABL Commission will prepare the game schedule. Every effort will be made to balance home and visitor status of the teams as well as fields of play.
11. Batting order is exchanged prior to the game with the opposing team scorekeeper and/or coach as well as comparing information between innings.
12. Bases will be placed 50 feet apart. Coach Pitching is between 15' to 30'.
13. A batter shall be called out, on appeal, when he fails to bat in his proper turn, and another batter completes a time at bat in his place. The proper batter may take his place in the batter's box at any time before the improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, and any balls and strikes shall be counted in the proper batter's time at bat.
14. The Official Baseball Rules shall govern the games except as otherwise provided herein.
15. There may be three defensive "coaches" on the field. One behind the "pitcher" and the two must be in the outfield. The coaches may not interfere with play but are there to help teach their defensive players.
16. The Lower Division commissioner will handle disputes should they arise.

I (2) Middle Division (Game Rules)

1. The Umpire will be the official in charge and timekeeper for game times. Atomic Clock /Universal Time is the official time.
2. If a player is injured by a machine pitched ball and must leave the game there will be no out assessed for that at bat. If they are unable to resume play at their next at bat the scorekeepers & ump must confer and simply skip that player from then on.
3. There will be a maximum of 10 defensive players on the field at one time. Players arriving after the game has started may be put into the game, but must bat as the last batter, after the other batters who started the game.
4. Substitute runners are allowed only if the original player is injured or when the catcher is on base with two outs. The player that made the last out shall be used as the substitute runner.
5. It is the responsibility of the **Offensive** team to provide a **Coach** to “feed” the pitching machine. The Umpire will call for the pitch when ready and after then the Adult will pitch the ball. The Umpire will dismiss anyone who is feeding the machine in a manner that deceives the kids at bat. The Umpire is required to determine if the pitching machine needs adjustment.
6. A batter will receive five pitches. If they fail to put the ball in play they will be called out. Three swinging strikes will also be an out. If both the 1st & 2nd pitches are deemed unhittable, the Umpire will request time to adjust the machine and reset the pitch count. Three pitched “non swinging” strikes are not an out. Should the 5th pitch be hit foul or deemed unhittable by the Umpire, the batter will receive a 6th pitch.
7. Sliding is *allowed*, but not required. Baserunners must avoid contact with defensive players.
 - A. Any baserunner who blatantly and intentionally collides with an opposing player will be called OUT and EJECTED from the game and the next scheduled contest. A defensive player who blatantly and intentionally collides with an opposing player will be EJECTED from the game and the next scheduled contest. If an injury results from a blatant and intentional act of collision, the offending player may be ejected from the league for the remainder of the season.
 - B. In all cases when a defensive player is in the base path, the baserunner MUST avoid contact by SLIDING, RUNNING AROUND, OR GIVING HIMSELF UP.
 - C. A baserunner JUMPING over a defensive player to avoid a tag or contact is considered a DANGEROUS play and will result in the baserunner being called OUT.
 - D. Defensive players may not block the base path without possession of the ball. Base runners who are forced to give themselves up to avoid contact with a defensive player not in possession of the ball shall be ruled SAFE.
8. Free defensive substitutions are permitted provided that minimum play requirements are met. Minimum playtime is two defensive innings per game and batting in consecutive order.

9. Games delayed by rain, or other acts of nature shall be regulation if 4 innings have been played, or the home team is ahead after 3 1/2 innings.
10. Each team is allowed three official coaches. Additional parental help will however be required for each team to accomplish all necessary duties.
11. Leading is not allowed. Base runners must remain on the appropriate base until the ball is contacted by the batter. The umpire will call the runner “out” if they leave base too early. Players are required to “tag up” at their base between each pitch.
12. If a player is dropped from a team roster, it must be reported to the Division Commissioner in writing. A player may be dropped for the following reasons;
 - Discipline problems (only with SABL Commission approval)
 - Moving out of town
 - Sickness or injury
 - Voluntarily leaving the team
13. The SABL Commission will prepare the game schedule. Every effort will be made to balance home and visitor status of the teams as well as fields of play.
14. Batting order is exchanged prior to the game with the opposing team scorekeeper and/or coach as well as comparing information between innings.
15. Defense is limited to a maximum of six (6) infielders (First, Second, Short Fielder near pitching machine, Short Stop, Third and Catcher. All other players must be in the grass outfield. Positioning of the infielders should not obstruct players from running the bases.
16. A batter shall be called out, on appeal, when he fails to bat in his proper turn, and another batter completes a time at bat in his place. The proper batter may take his place in the batter's box at any time before the improper batter becomes a runner or is put out, and any balls and strikes shall be counted in the proper batter's time at bat.
17. A batted ball hitting the pitching machine is a dead ball and a base hit (single).
18. The Official Baseball Rules shall govern the games except as otherwise provided herein.
19. There are **NO** intentional walks.
20. There may be two **Defensive** “coaches” on the field. The coaches may not interfere with play but are there to help teach their defensive players.
21. The pitching machine will have its front leg(s) placed 46 feet from home plate in alignment with home & 2nd base. Base paths are 65’ apart and the distance from Home to 2nd base is 85’. The pitching machine will be set at **35 mph** to start the season.
22. The short fielder (player in pitcher position) must remain behind the pitching machine until such time as the ball reaches the plate.

23. Prior to ALL games the Umpire will call the teams together and explain any particular rules they need to remind people of. Included in that meeting the umpire MUST remind all players & coaches that “thrown” bats are an automatic out and that touching or swinging a bat outside of the on deck “circle” is also an automatic out.

J. Single Elimination Playoff

1. Lower Division will not have playoffs

2. All Middle Division Teams make the Playoffs. The regular season 1st place team plays the 4th place team, & the 2nd place team plays the 3rd place team to determine the Championship game. Games cannot end in ties, maximum number of innings is 9, and the time limit is extended to 2 hours and 30 minutes, or until sundown, whichever comes first. Games that are tied after this will be restarted at 6:00pm prior to the Championship game.