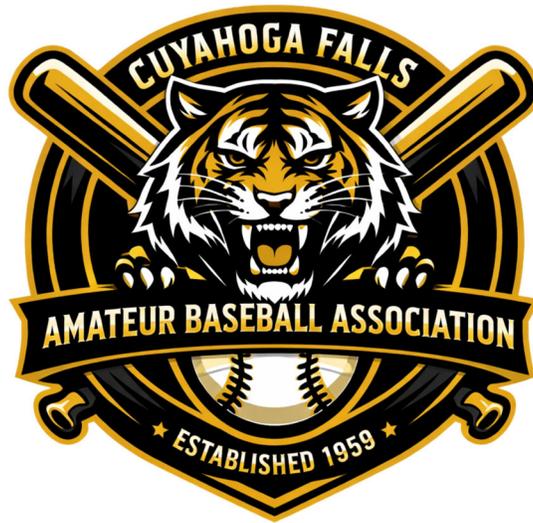


Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Baseball Association

2026 Spring Season Rulebook



www.CFABAbaseball.org

In Partnership with the City of Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation
Department

Table of Contents

Section	Heading	Page
	League Contact Information	3
	Philosophy	4
A	League Age Requirements	5
B	Registration	5
C	League Drafts and Rosters	6
D	Administration	7
E	Safety	8-9
F	Team Manager's Responsibilities	10
G	Uniforms	11
H	Equipment	12
I	Field / Game Preparation	13-14
J	Player Participation	14-15
K	General Game Rules	16
L	Offensive Rules	16
M	Weather	17
N	Time Constraints	18
O	Mercy Rules	19
P	Incomplete Games	19
Q	Pitching Rules	21-22
R	Pitch Count	23
S	League Specific Rules 4U	25
T	League Specific Rules 6U	25
U	League Specific Rules 8U	26
V	League Specific Rules 10U	28
W	Protests	29
X	Ejections	30-31
Y	Conduct Policy	32-33
Z	Definitions	34

Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Baseball Association

CFABA Board Officers		
President	Andrew Cole	president@cfababaseball.org
Vice President	Jake Savinski	vp@cfababaseball.org
Secretary	Matt Daddario	secretary@cfababaseball.org
Treasurer	Steve DeArdo	treasurer@cfababaseball.org

CFABA League Commissioners		
4U/6U	Phil Raupach	6U@cfababaseball.org
8U	Gerry Butcher	8U@cfababaseball.org
10U	Dylan Craven	10U@cfababaseball.org
12U/14U	Jeff Wiley	14U@cfababaseball.org
18U	Jake Savinski	18U@cfababaseball.org
19-25U	Andrew Cole	president@cfababaseball.org

CFABA General Board Members	
Ryan Kinnan	rkinnan@cfababaseball.org
Tommy Labbe	equipment@cfababaseball.org
Mike Milhoan	mmilhoan@cfababaseball.org
Guido Dilorio	gdilorio@cfababaseball.org
Zach Blankenship	zblankenship@cfababaseball.org
Brian Williams	umpires@cfababaseball.org
Mike Gardner	TBA

In Partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department	
Superintendent:	Sara Kline

PHILOSOPHY

The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Baseball Association is a tax exempt – nonprofit organization operating a youth baseball program under the auspices of the Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation Department. The goals of this program are to improve upon the mental and physical health of its participants, enhance intellectual and character development, and encourage socially acceptable behavior, all while pursuing the game of baseball.

The objectives of the program are to instill in the players good sportsmanship, honesty, courage, and responsibility as well as learn the game of baseball. These objectives are most effectively met by providing the best possible leadership available to serve as board members, administrators, managers, and coaches.

While striving to win in any competitive endeavor is an admirable and expected trait, the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Baseball Association will not tolerate any conduct by players, coaches, managers, or parents that is considered inconsistent or detrimental to the overall philosophy of the program. The pursuit of the winning of games will be considered a secondary goal, while the development of strong character and the provision for wholesome play and recreation is the primary purpose.

A. LEAGUE AGE REQUIREMENTS

League	Ages	Age Qualifiers	
		MUST BE OLDER THAN	MUST BE YOUNGER THAN
4U	3 – 4	3 prior to April 1st	5 on April 1st
6U	5 – 6	5 prior to April 1st	7 on April 1st
8U	7 - 8	7 prior to April 1st	9 on April 1 st
10U	9 - 10	9 prior to April 1st	11 on April 1 st
12U	11 - 12	11 prior to April 1st	13 on April 1 st
14U	13 - 14	13 prior to April 1st	15 on April 1 st
18U	15 - 18	15 prior to April 1st	19 on April 1st

- All exceptions to placing a player by age must be recommended by the league president and approved by a majority vote of the CFABA Board.
- All players rostered on a high school baseball team must play in E League

B. REGISTRATION

1. Registration dates shall be set by the CFABA Board.
2. Registration fees shall be paid before a player becomes a member of a team.
 - a. A late fee of \$20 shall be assessed if a player signs up after the originally announced closing date.
 - b. The actual per player cost is much greater than the above fees; therefore, all teams, players, and coaches will be requested to participate in our fund-raising programs.
3. A copy of each player's birth certificate must be uploaded when registering each year.
4. Players may roster in 2 leagues with a majority board vote. When asked for participation by the league this shall be at no cost to the player.
5. All players must register through the league's website and complete all registration requirements through www.cfababaseball.org

C. LEAGUE DRAFTS AND ROSTERS

1. There will be league drafts or blind draws to place players on teams. Any special requests must be presented to League Presidents.
2. All players that are new to an age class shall go into an open draft or blind draw with the following exception:
 - a. Team Managers moving up to the next league may bring up as many of their former team to fill available roster spots.
3. A player shall remain a member of a team to which they have been properly assigned until officially released by the Team Manager or becomes unavailable due to age. A player may choose not to return to a team; the player must be placed in the draft.
4. Players are not to be traded.
5. Any player who registers after the draft or draw shall be placed on a waiting list. When openings become available the League President shall assign the player in order of the draft or draw.
6. No player shall be assigned to a team once the season has begun unless specific approval has been given by the League Commissioner.
7. Double rostered players have the option to be retained the next season by either team or entered the draft.
8. There shall be a maximum of 5 players on any team that are rostered on a high school team. This is to have talent dispersed across all 18U teams.
 - a. A team may request to have additional high school players. This must be approved unanimously by a 3-person committee comprised of the 18U League President, Head of Umpires, and Rules Chairperson.
 1. If any of the above have a conflict in making the decision, the board shall select an independent board member by a majority vote to take their place.

9. Roster maximums unless approved by the Board of Trustees are as follows:
 - a. 4U 10 Players
 - b. 6U, 8U, 10U 13 players
 - c. 12U, 14U 12 players
 - d. 18U 15 players

D. ADMINISTRATION

1. League Commissioners govern their leagues in accordance with the CFABA Bylaws, Standing Rules, and this rulebook. The CFABA Executive Board provides oversight of the League Presidents.
 - a. All coach and parent issues/complaints must go to the League President.
 - b. League Presidents are responsible to the board and must relay all issues and complaints to the board.
 - c. Special board meetings may be call by the League President for time sensitive matters.
2. Post season tournament organization and All-Star games shall be determined by each League President prior to the submission of schedules.
 - a. All contingency plans for all games must be conveyed to all coaches prior to the season. For the play-off, prior to the first scheduled play-off game.
 - b. Once these plans are set they may not be changed; forfeit rules apply.
3. The Chief of Umpires shall have complete authority over the scheduling of officials for all games.
4. Board meetings are open for the public to attend on the first Thursday of every month. To bring forth issues, questions, or to participate in any way requires a meeting request as detailed below.
5. Requesting a meeting with the CFABA Board:
 - a. Team managers that have a problem with an umpire, game conditions, scores, etc. shall meet with all parties involved, and the League president who shall notify the CFABA Board President within a reasonable time frame so it can be added to the agenda and investigated.
 - b. Parents may request time with the board. The CFABA Board President must be given a reasonable time frame for the request so it may be added to the agenda.
 - c. Without proper notification requests will not be accepted.

E. SAFETY

1. All players, coaches, officials, and spectators shall strictly adhere to all safety protocols and restrictions put forth by the league for all games and practices. Failure to comply can lead to ejection, team forfeit, and/or disciplinary action.
2. All batters, runners, on-deck batters, and player-coaches must wear batting helmets.
3. All players are strongly encouraged to wear protective athletic equipment.
4. All catchers must wear a protective cup, catcher's helmet, catcher's mask, chest protector, throat protection, and shin guard. All catcher's in 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U must use a catcher's glove.
5. 18U teams must use NOCSAE approved catcher's helmet and chest protector per NFHS rules.
6. All catchers must wear a catcher's mask while warming up the pitcher, including bullpen warm-up catchers.
7. ***If a player is found not to comply with any safety rule:***
 - a. Player shall be asked to immediately correct, if not corrected, player is ejected.
 - b. If same player is found later to be in violation, immediate ejection
 - c. If player is ejected for this safety issue before 4th inning, player and Team Manager are disqualified for remainder of current game only.
 - d. If player is ejected for this safety issue after the 4th inning, the player and team manager are disqualified for remainder of current game and the next scheduled game.
8. Flagrant throwing of equipment or any object (bat, helmet, etc.) by any player or coach during the game shall result in the ejection of that player or coach from the game.
9. In the opinion of the Umpire, any player that maliciously bowls over a defensive player shall be declared out and ejected from the game. Incidental contact is not justification for an ejection.
10. All on deck circles shall be near the team's bench and in dead ball territory; not foul territory. Exceptions may be made for safety on a field where the dugout entrances are in foul territory or if certain fields do not allow for adequate spacing.
11. No person is permitted to occupy the area behind Homeplate between the dugouts at any field without permanent fan seating.

H. EQUIPMENT

1. Equipment shall be distributed at the league draft or when determined by the Equipment Manager.
2. Team practices may begin as soon as the equipment has been distributed, and practice schedules have been released.
3. The Team Manager (or parent) is financially responsible for all equipment issued by the league. All equipment must be returned within 2 weeks after the season is concluded. All missing equipment will be billed to the Team Manager (or parent) according to the sign-out sheet.
4. BAT RULES:
 - a. All bats must be a baseball type, not softball

League	Max Diameter	Max Drop	Approved Certs
4U, 6U, 8U	2 – 1/4"	Any	Any
10U	2 - 1/4"	Any	Any
	up to 2 – 3/4"	-10	Any
12U/14U/18U	Follow CBL or SCBL Rules		

Drop is calculated by subtracting the bat length by weight in ounces. The lower the drop number the heavier the bat ratio is.

*Examples: 33" bat that weighs 30 ounces = -3
28" bat that weighs 18 ounces = -10*

I. FIELD / GAME PREPARATION

1. Field setup shall be as follows:

League	Distance between bases 	Home plate to second base 	Pitching distance 
4U	40 feet	60 feet	Tee Only
6U	40 feet	60 feet	15 feet minimum
8U	50 feet	71 feet	36 feet pitching
10U	60 feet	84 feet, 10 inches	46 feet
12U	70 feet	99 feet	50 feet
14U	80 feet	113 feet	55 feet
18U	90 feet	127 feet, 3-3/8 inches	60 feet, 6 inches

 Base distance is measured outside of base to outside of base.

 Home to second is measured from the back corner of home to the back side of second base

 Pitching distance is measured from the back corner of home to the front edge of the pitching rubber.

2. Both home and visiting teams are responsible for making the field playable by game time. The final decision on whether to play rests entirely with the umpire.
3. Both Team Managers shall be responsible for placement and recovery of all the bases.
 - a. If it is found that the bases have not been properly placed in a locked field box, both Team Managers shall be fined \$20.
 - b. A single warning per season shall be given to each coach before enforcing this.

4. The home team shall relinquish the field to the visiting team at least 15 minutes prior to game time. If they home team has not used the field to warm up prior, they lose the right to do so.
5. Team lineups must be submitted to the opposing team manager including last name, number (as indicated on jersey), and pitching availability. All changes during the game shall be conveyed to the opposing Team Manager.
 - a. Failure to comply will result in the ejection of the team manager.
6. The home team shall occupy the first base side of the field, and the visiting team shall occupy the third base side for all regularly scheduled, play-off, and championship games.
7. The home team shall furnish the baseballs for each game.
8. The home team scorebook is the official scorebook.
 - a. Visiting team is responsible to ensure the scorebooks agree by checking between innings and at the end of the game.
 - b. The Umpire-in-Chief, the Chief of Umpires, or the League President may deem the visiting team's scorebook as the official scorebook if the home scorebook is too difficult to evaluate.

J. PLAYER PARTICIPATION

1. All players who are present at a game shall bat in order throughout the game.
2. Teams in all leagues may start and play games with 8 players.
 - a. If a team is playing with 8 players, the 9th player position will be recorded as an out when due at bat until the position is filled.
 1. In 10U, 8U, 6U (when applicable) and 4U (if applicable), the 9th player position will be skipped over without penalty.
 - b. A game shall be forfeit when a team fails to have at least 8 players within 15 minutes of a game's scheduled start time.
 - c. If a team cannot field 8 players during a game for any reason (sick, injury, etc.), the game shall be called a forfeit.
3. If a player shows up after the game has begun, the player may be added at the bottom of the line-up.
4. If a player is ejected, it is an automatic out when that position in the batting order is due to bat.
5. If a player is injured and leaves a game, that position in the batting order is passed over without penalty.
6. If a player is voluntarily removed from a game (by themselves or a parent), it is an automatic out when that position is due at bat.
7. A player experiencing an episode of extreme emotional and/or physical distress shall be allowed to be removed by a coach without penalty to their team.
 - a. The player may re-enter the game with Team Manager approval.
 - b. If the player is removed a second time it shall be for the remainder of the game.
 - c. The umpire and opposing coach must be made aware at the time of removal or insertion of a player.
8. A player may be withheld from practice or games for the following reasons:
 - a. Absence from a game or practice without a legitimate excuse.
 - b. Swearing or other unsportsmanlike conduct
 - *The Team Manager must inform the player, parent, and League President for any discipline given. Up to a single game or practice may be given per instance.*
9. A double rostered player is considered a full participant on both teams.
 - a. Bat rules apply for the game the player is in.
10. Each team may call up to 3 players from the league directly below them, but only enough to make a full team (10 players for 6U, 8U and 10U).
 - a. No lower leaguer may pitch.
 - b. 12U, 14U, and 18U follow CBL or SCBL rules on callups.
 - c. Bat rules apply for the game the player is in.
 - d. Callups are permitted in any playoff game from a lower league, provided that team has been eliminated from the playoffs.
 - e. No exceptions, any infractions to this rule results in a forfeit after the first pitch is made.

K. GENERAL GAME RULES

1. For leagues that are composed of teams that are all governed by CFABA, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Baseball Rules shall be enforced for game play.
 - a. Exceptions to this would be when there is a CFABA rule listed in this rulebook that conflicts with an NFHS rule.
 - b. When this conflict happens, the CFABA rule supersedes the corresponding NFHS rule.
 - c. Leagues that are managed by outside organizations (i.e. Community Baseball League or SCBL) that contain some (not all) CFABA teams may not enforce any CFABA rule.
2. All games shall be officiated by officials assigned in accordance with the Umpire section of the CFABA Standing Rules to constitute a legal game.
3. The Umpire or League Commissioner may give a warning to coaches, players, spectators being unsportsmanlike. For egregious violations the person may be ejected without a verbal warning. These shall be noted in the scorebook.
4. All missed bases, tagging up too soon, etc. must be appealed by the defensive team.
5. Any player that has been removed from a defensive position during the game may re-enter the game.
6. All players in all leagues must play 3 complete innings per game.
7. Games may be altered due to the shortage of officials. Coaches will be notified by the League President of the game alteration and times.

L. OFFENSIVE RULES

1. Per the NFHS a team is allowed 1 offensive conference per inning.
 - a. The umpire shall enforce excessive time by a coach.

M. WEATHER

Per the NFHS there are no official rules on weather, they are guidelines only, therefore the CFABA will use the following rules to govern all games and practices.

1. The umpire(s) shall be solely responsible for delaying or canceling any game from the scheduled start time until it ends.
 - a. During a practice or scrimmage the coaches shall apply these rules.
 - b. For 4U, 6U, and 8U (if no Umpire is present) both coaches must agree to these rules.
 - c. League Presidents and/or the City of Cuyahoga Falls have the authority to cancel games for weather prior to game start time.
2. A 30-minute delay shall occur when thunder is heard or lightning is seen.
 - a. All players and coaching staffs shall retreat to their vehicles or designated shelter.
 - b. Every subsequent occurrence resets the 30-minute time.
3. A team that is not present when play continues shall constitute a forfeit.
4. The umpire may elect to continue or resume game play regardless if thunder or lightning are present **IF** the storm is deemed to be greater than 10 miles away and not moving closer to the field location.

N. TIME CONSTRAINTS

- The length of game shall be as follows:

League	Max Innings	Max Time	Max. Runs per Inning	Special Notes
4U	2	1 hour	Unlimited	All players bat in 1 st and 2 nd inning.
6U	3	2 hours	Unlimited	All players bat in 1 st and 2 nd inning. The 3 rd inning players will bat through the line-up or 3 outs, whichever comes first.
8U	5	2 hours	5 	5 th inning is unlimited in playoff games only  
10U	6	2-1/4 hours	5 	6 th inning is unlimited 
12U/14U/18U				Follow CBL or SCBL rules

 Total runs may exceed the maximum runs with the completion of the play. The intention of this is to let a play continue for safety reasons.

In 8U & 10U: If 4 runs have been scored in an inning and a play allows 4 more runs to score, a team can have 8 runs in that inning.

 An umpire may deem any inning as the last inning for unlimited runs in 8U, or 10U due to impending weather, time constraints, or to avoid mercy rules. The Umpire(s) shall notify team managers prior to the start of the next inning.

 Additional innings shall be added in play-off games to avoid a tie

- No new inning shall begin after the maximum game time above has been reached.
 - Per NFHS Rules, a new inning begins immediately after the 3rd out of the previous inning has been made.
- A game shall be considered complete if time maximums have been reached regardless of the inning.
 - Regular season games may end in a tie.
 - Score is recorded as the last complete inning.
- Courtesy rule: With 2 outs in an inning a team shall replace a pitcher and/or catcher that is on base with the last out(s) made.
 - 8U and 10U shall replace a pitcher and/or catcher when 3 runs have been scored that inning.
- To keep the game within time limits:
 - All new pitchers and relievers may receive 8 pitches maximum.
 - All returning pitchers may receive 5 pitches maximum.
- All play-off games will be completed.

O. MERCY RULE

- A game shall be considered completed according to the chart below.

League	15 Runs Ahead		10 Runs Ahead		8 Runs Ahead	
	Home	Away	Home	Away	Home	Away
10U	Middle of 3 rd	End of 3 rd	Middle of 4 th	End of 4 th	Middle of 5 th	End of 5 th
12U/ 14U/ 18U	Follow League Rules					

- If the home team is winning, the bottom of half is not played.
- A championship or all-star game may end in a mercy.

P. INCOMPLETE GAMES

1. An Umpire may call the game because of darkness or weather.
2. Games will be considered complete if not tied after the following:
 - a. 8U 3 innings *
 - b. 10U 4 innings *
 - c. 12U, 14U, 18U As determined by CBL or SCBL rules

* *If the home team is ahead, playing the bottom of the inning is not required.*
3. Rained out or incomplete games may be rescheduled by the League President.
 - a. Games are to be rescheduled from the point of suspension.
 - b. If a game has not been completed or rescheduled for any reason it shall be a “non-game” and shall not appear in the standings.
4. All pitching restrictions must be adhered to.
5. Players or coaches ejected at any time will be ineligible for the completion of the game.
 - a. This includes completion of the game due to suspension or appeal.
 - b. Players and coaches are not permitted to be present on the field at any time for the completion of the game and the rest of the calendar day of game completion.

Q. PITCHING RULES

1. A pitcher may make 2 appearances.
2. Pitchers may not wear jewelry of any kind, wristbands, or reflective glasses.
3. The pitcher’s glove shall be of uniform color, neither white nor gray, and shall not be distracting to the batter. It must be an infielder’s or outfielder’s mitt (not a first baseman’s).
4. Batter hit by pitch allowances:
 - a. Removed from pitching the rest of the inning
 1. 8U, 10U, 12U - 3 batters
 2. 12U, 14U, 18U – as per CBL/SCBL rules
 - b. Removed from pitching the rest of the game
 1. 8U, 10U, 12U - 5 batters
 2. 12U, 14U, 18U – as per CBL/SCBL rules
5. Batter hit by pitch
 - a. NFHS rule 7-3-4 for reference:

“If the batter permits a pitch to touch him, the ball is dead, the batter remains at bat, and the pitch is ruled a ball or strike. If the pitch is ball 4 the batter walks. If the pitch is strike 3, the batter is out.”
 - b. Further to this NFHS rule, in the judgement of an Umpire a batter can avoid being hit they must do so.
6. Intentional walks:
 - a. (3) maximum are permitted per game
 1. No single player may be walked more than twice.
 - b. Team Manager calls for time from the bench and holds up 4 fingers to the home plate Umpire to signal an intentional walk.
 - c. May be asked for any time during the at bat.
 - d. No pitches are recorded for the batter after the intentional walk. Pitches thrown to the batter prior do count against the pitcher.
 - e. Must be scored in the book as “IBB”
7. Balks are not to be called in 10U or 8U. Any delivery of a pitch is legal provided the pitcher keeps their pivot foot on the pitching plate. If the pivot foot is determined to leave the pitching plate prior to delivery, or the pitcher stops their motion at any time, the ball becomes dead immediately and a “no pitch” is called.

8. Mound Visits/Defensive Charged Conferences:
 - a. A Mound Visit or Defensive Charged Conference is a situation where a manager, coach, or non-playing representative confers with at least one member of the defense. This should take place near the pitching plate.
 - b. 8U, 10U: a maximum of 1 mound conference by a coach per pitcher per inning.
 - c. The non-playing representative shall be given a reasonable amount of time for the charged conference as determined by the umpire-in chief.
 - d. If a team exceeds the maximum number of conferences listed above, the pitchers must be substituted.
 - e. 12U/14U/18U: Follow CBL or SCBL rules
9. Failure to comply with any part these pitching rules or pitch count are as follows:
 - a. FIRST OFFENSE: Head coach will be ejected by the umpire from the game.
 - b. SECOND OFFENSE (during the season): Head coach will be ejected by the umpire from the game and shall be brought before the CFABA Disciplinary Committee to discuss further discipline up to removal of the coach for the remainder of the season.
10. Strike Zone:
 - a. 10U: the strike zone shall be from the bottom of the knee to just below the shoulders, plus the black part of home plate.
 - b. 12U, 14U, 18U: per CBL or SCBL rules
 - c. An umpire may “open up” the zone but only after the completion of an inning. Both coaches must be informed of the new zone and given cause for the change.

R. PITCH COUNT

1. A pitch is the intention or accidental act of throwing a baseball by the player designated as the pitcher to the player designated as the pitcher to the player designated as the catcher when the batter is in the batter’s box and the baseball is live. A pitch is legal provided the pitcher’s pivot foot is in contact with the pitching plate, the throwing action is legal per NFHS rules, the catcher is in the catcher’s box prior to the pitch being delivered, the batter is in the batter’s box prior to the pitch being delivered, and the ball is live by the Umpire-in-Chief. A pitch count is a tally of legal pitches that a pitcher makes in a game.
 - a. Pitches that count toward the pitch count include: balls, strikes, pitches that result in base hits, pitches that result in hit batters, and all fouled off pitches.
 - b. Pick-off plays and pitches deemed illegal by the umpire are not added to a pitcher’s pitch count tally.
 - c. Standard warm-ups before and during games are not considered for pitch counts.
2. A pitcher may not start a new batter once their “Maximum Daily Pitches” has been reached, but they may finish a batter. Rest required is based on actual number of pitches thrown.
3. Each team shall keep pitch counts for pitchers on both teams.
4. Prior to each game teams must disclose all pitching records with the opposing teams.
5. A double rostered player may pitch in both leagues.
 - a. The lower league’s pitch count range must be adhered to in all games for the player.
 - b. Both coaches shall coordinate to adhere to days rest.
6. Pitches allowed by each league:

League	PITCH RANGES					Maximum Daily Pitches
	Minimum calendar day between game days					
	None	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	
8U	1 – 20	21 – 35	36 – 50			50
10U	1 – 20	21 – 35	36 – 50	51 – 65	66+	75

7. Upon discovering an “overpitched player” during a game the coaches shall call time out to compare books. If found to be true (by the home book) the Umpire shall eject the Team Manager.

S. LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES: 4U

1. Base Running:
 - a. Base runner cannot advance until the bat makes contact with the ball, and then they may only advance 1 base – no exceptions.
 - b. No stealing or lead-offs.
 - c. If a play is made at any base, the runner will be considered out and take their place on the bench.
2. If a ball hits a coach, it is a LIVE ball and play will continue.
3. No infield fly rule.
4. Defensive Rules:
 - a. Coaches are allowed on the field to help the defense.
 - b. Any one player may not play the same position twice in a game.
 - c. The defense can be rearranged, but only once per inning (infield to outfield)
 - d. A tenth player, **or more**, is allowed on the field and shall take the place of an outfielder. The position shall be that of an outfielder and must remain in an outfielder position until the ball is hit.
5. There shall be no pitching, tee to be used exclusively.

T. LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES: 6U

1. Shall have the identical rules as shown above in 4U with the following exceptions:
 - a. Coaches are allowed to pitch 5 pitches to each player first, then if necessary bring a tee out to complete the batter.
 - b. A 15 foot arc shall be drawn on the field from the rear point of home plate.
 1. A batted ball that is in fair territory but does not pass this line shall be considered a non-hit and the batter shall continue.
 2. All defensive player (excluding the catcher) shall not enter this area until the ball is in play.

U. LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES: 8U

1. Base Running:
 - a. Base runner cannot advance until the bat makes contact with the ball.
 - b. No stealing or leadoffs.
 - c. Base runners may not advance on overthrows.
 - d. Play stops after an infielder attempts to make a play on the batter or baserunner.
 1. A runner may progress one base at their own peril, or retreat to the previous base with no penalty.
 - e. Play stops after an outfielder throws the ball in the direction of second base or towards a base where a play is being made.
 - f. A runner may proceed only to the base they are running to (at their own peril), and only if they are more than halfway at the time the ball is thrown.
2. If a ball hits a coach, it is a LIVE ball and play will continue.
3. Neither the infield fly rule, balk infraction, or dropped third strike rule shall apply.
4. Pitching:
 - a. Players shall be allowed to pitch while adhering to pitch counts. These players shall be known as “Player-Pitchers”
 - b. Player-Pitchers shall be able to make only two (uninterrupted) appearances.
 - c. Player-Pitchers are to throw a maximum of 4 pitches to a batter. These pitches must take place at the beginning of the at-bat.
 - d. No walks are permitted. If the batter has not successfully put the ball in play after 4 pitches from Player-Pitchers, their coach may finish the at-bat with 4 additional pitches. If the batter has not successfully put the ball in play after a total of 8 pitches, the batter is out.
5. Defensive Rules:
 - a. A maximum of 3 coaches are allowed on the field to help the defense.
 - b. Any one player may not play one position more than 2 innings in a game except for the catcher, they may play 3 innings at that position.
 - c. A tenth player is allowed on the field and shall take the place of an outfielder. The position shall be that of an outfielder and must remain in an outfielder position until the ball is hit.
 - d. The catcher must throw back at least half of the pitched balls back to the pitcher. PENALTY: Team Manager will be warned by the umpire(s) for first offense then ejected for subsequent offenses.

- e. You must always have a catcher. In the event that a team only fields 8 or 9 players, the removed positions shall be from the outfield.
 - f. An outfielder may not attempt an unassisted put out of a baserunner (the ball must be thrown to an infielder). The advancing baserunner shall be called safe at that base if it occurs.
6. Offensive Rules:
- a. If a batter has not hit the ball after 6 overhand pitches, the pitcher may move closer to the batter and pitch 2 additional pitches.
 - 1. If the last pitch is fouled off, the batter may receive additional pitches until a strike or a hit.

V. LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES: 10U

- 1. Base Running:
 - a. Base runner shall not leave the base until pitched ball has passed home plate on the way to the catcher.
 - b. For instances when the batter ***DOES NOT*** put the ball in play:
 - 1. There is a maximum of one stolen base per runner per pitch, however stealing second after a Base on Balls is not permitted.
 - 2. Stealing home is never allowed.
 - 3. Runners between bases after the pitched ball passes home plate may:
 - a. Retreat to the previous base at his/her own peril.
 - b. Progress to the next base at his/her own peril.
 - c. For instances when the batter ***DOES*** put the ball in play:
 - 1. Base runners may continue to advance around the bases at their own peril.
 - 2. The Umpire(s) determine(s) when no further action can continue and will call the ball dead accordingly.
- Consequences:
- i. First infraction: Both teams shall be given a warning, the pitch shall be considered a delayed dead ball, and the umpire(s) may take away acquired bases after the play.
 - ii. Subsequent infractions: The offending base runner(s) shall be called out after the pitch or play. Any offending individual may be subject to ejection.
- 2. A batter may not advance to first base on a dropped third strike.
 - 3. No infield fly rule.
 - 4. Defensive Rules:
 - a. A tenth player is allowed on the field and shall take the place of an outfielder. The position shall be that of an outfielder and must remain in an outfielder position until the ball is hit.
 - 5. Offensive Rules:
 - a. No slap bunts will be allowed. It will be counted as a dead ball strike.

W. PROTESTS

- 1. A player proven to be ineligible will be expelled by the CFABA Board from further participation for the balance of the present season. The Protest Committee shall decide which games in which the ineligible player participated in shall be forfeited.
- 2. Protests shall only be considered based on an Umpire's misinterpretation or misapplication of the rules. Protest based on judgement decisions shall not be considered.
- 3. A protest shall not be recognized unless the Umpire is notified at the time of the protested play, prior to the next pitch or a base runner being retired.
- 4. The exact time, pitch count, and detail of the play in question must be written in the home book and signed by the Umpire.
- 5. Written detailed information supporting a protest with a protest fee of \$20 must be filed with the Protest Committee no later than 5pm of the second business day following the game. The protest fee shall not be returned.
- 6. A decision concerning any protested game must be made by the Protest Committee within (5) business days following the protested game. If the protest is upheld, the game shall be rescheduled and shall resume from the point of the protest. Should the protest Committee fail to make and communicate its decision within the (5) day period, the protest fee shall be returned to the manager, regardless the outcome of the protest.

X. EJECTIONS (*applies to managers, coaches, players, and spectators*)

1. There shall be no appeal of an ejection by an Umpire.
2. An ejection will be a one game suspension minimum served at the next game they are eligible to play in including play-off, championship, and all-star games.
 - a. If an ejection occurs on the last game of the year, the suspension shall be enforced the following year regardless if a player/coach changes leagues.
3. When an ejection occurs for a player:
 - a. Play stops and the ejected player has 3 minutes to contain themselves to the bench for the remainder of the game.
 1. The player may participate in post-game activities (handshakes, team meetings, etc.)
 2. If the player acts unsportsmanlike or in a disrespectful manner while on the bench, the player shall be removed from the field without contact to the team.
4. When an ejection occurs for a Team Manager, Coach, or spectator:
 - a. Play stops and the ejected person has 3 minutes to leave the field and must remain away from the field without contact to the team for the remainder of the calendar day. Failure to do this shall cause a forfeit.
 1. An exception to returning shall be granted to aid an injured player.
5. The Team Manager receiving the ejection must notify the League President with the ejection prior to the next scheduled game.
 - a. The League President shall contact the CFABA Board Secretary immediately for ALL ejections with the league, team, person ejected, and game day. The Secretary shall log these ejections and include in the CFABA Board minutes.
 - b. The CFABA Board shall convene as necessary to enforce further punishment.
6. Anyone not observing these rules can cause their team to forfeit the next scheduled game.

7. Any players serving a suspension from an ejection must be in full uniform and on the bench for the entirety of the game. The player may not enter the field of play at any time. Failure to complete this requirement will result in additional game suspensions until the requirements are met. Continued failure to comply will result in additional game suspensions.

Y. CONDUCT POLICY (*Applies to all managers, coaches, players, umpires, and board members*)

1. Smoking or the use of tobacco products (including E-cigarettes, vaping, etc.) in any form by managers, coaches, CFABA umpires, or uniformed players during practice or games in plain view of the field is prohibited.
2. Any player or adult member of the Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Baseball Association, appearing either for practice or for a game under the influence of alcohol or drugs shall not be allowed to participate in the practice or game.
3. Profanity on or off the field is prohibited.
4. Any player, manager or coach causing directly or indirectly an attack upon the person of an umpire before, during, or after a game, or interfering with the efficient performance of an umpire's duties shall be brought before the board for disciplinary action.
5. All coaches, and players must use proper sportsmanship and may be warned and possibly ejected by the umpire.
6. No team personnel shall be permitted to stand behind the backstop during the process of the game.
7. The penalty for any infraction of the policies and rules adopted by the CFABA shall be determined by the board. Penalties will be made to suit the infraction.
 - a. Any formal written complaint against a manager, coach, or player will necessitate the appearing of the individual or individuals before the board.
 - b. The League President will inform (or request to convene if necessary) the board.
 - c. The accused coach or player will be allowed to attend a meeting with the board to defend themselves. The opposing coach and umpire may also attend.
8. All board members, coaches, umpires, and players shall not negatively portray the CFABA in public or on social media platforms. Any issues within the CFABA shall be conveyed to league presidents or directly to the board. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in removal from the league as determined by the board.
9. This policy for will be strictly enforced by the League Presidents, Board Members, and umpires.

Additional principles for Coaches and Parents and guests taken from all registered Parent agreement

The CFABA was founded on a Philosophy promoting fair play, sportsmanship, and good conduct. The organization expects parents and coaches conduct themselves in accordance with these ideals with the realization that the league is centered around providing a quality experience for children. The children who play in our organization and their physical and emotional well-being must be the center of all conduct displayed by parent, guests, Coaches, Umpires, and all those involved with the organization.

10. Shall not force players to participate, encourage to have fun and doing their best is more important than winning.
11. Shall learn the rules of the game and teach my children (players).
12. Be a positive role model and encourage sportsmanship. Never ridiculing a player or coach for making mistakes.
13. Respect all officials and their authority during games.
14. Shall not confront a coach during a game; I will make arrangements to talk to them later about questions or disagreements.
15. I will remain away from the dugouts at all times and refrain from coaching my child or other players unless part of the coaching staff

Z. DEFINITIONS

CFABA Board	Trustees comprise the governing body of the CFABA organization that creates and enforces rules and policy.
CFABA Executive Board	The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
League Commissioners	Director of a league that governs an age group in all aspects including drafts, schedule, parent issues, and game play. Duties also include being the Team Manager’s voice to the board. The League Commissioner is the first contact for parent or coach issues.
Team Manager (head coach)	Leader of an individual team that reports directly to the league presidents. They govern 2 assistant coaches and other parent helpers. These are the only individuals to interact with the umpires during games.
Coach	Any person aiding the Team Manager in any capacity.
Umpire	Official that is charged with officiating the game, enforcing the rules of the game, making judgement calls on plays, and handling all disciplinary action. The umpire has these duties the entire time he is present at the field.
Disciplinary Committee	A committee that governs all discipline of players, coaches, and spectators. This committee is chaired by a board member but is made up of 3 independent people from the community without a stake in any outcome. This may be called to order by any league president.
Compliance Committee	A group that ensures that all coaches and board member have the proper certifications including background checks.
CBL/SCBL	Community Baseball League (12U and 14U) or Scholastic Community Baseball League (18U) – 12U and 14U teams follow CBL rules for gameplay, 18U follows SCBL rules for gameplay. CFABA non-gameplay policies still must be followed by CFABA participants (i.e., registration, codes of conduct, background checks, coaching education, etc.)

The following is an excerpt from Ordinance 64-1965, Section 331.05 passed by the Cuyahoga Falls City Council on April 26, 1965:

“No person shall prevent, delay, or interfere with an employee of the Recreation Department in the performance of his duties or conducting activities in any park or recreation area in the City.”

Adopted April 1972
 Board of Trustees
 Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Baseball Association
 Reviewed January 2007