

## NMBL RULES - v1.3

### General Rules:

- **Age Requirements** – A Player cannot turn 14 (13U) or 17 (16U or 13-16 Rec) prior to May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Teams** shall consist of a maximum of 20 players except when approved by the league.
- **Uniforms** – All players shall wear a FULL uniform consisting of similar pants, jersey, hat and socks.
- **Equipment** – Protective Headgear while at bat is required. The design of the headgear is such that it covers both ears and fits properly. Coaches and players must wear headgear when coaching bases. Players must wear a full helmet. Coaches may wear a skullcap.
- **Bat Rule** – effective 2021,
  - 16U Division Teams will use -3 BBCOR or wood bats only.
  - 13U Division Teams are allowed to use BBCOR, USA, Or wood bats.
  - In the 13-16 Rec Division, 13 year old players may use USA bats, BBCOR, or wood. All other players **must** use BBCOR or wood bats only.
  - All other bats except as specified above are illegal bats
    - **Penalty for an Illegal Bat** - If the illegal bat is identified and is replaced before an at-bat has concluded, there is no penalty. If the illegal bat is identified after an at-bat has concluded but before next pitch or play, the batter that used the illegal bat shall be declared out and all base runners shall return to the bases they occupied prior to the final pitch.
- **Scoring games**
  - The winning manager is responsible for reporting the final score (tie games – both managers should report) on the NMBL website (scoring password 13909)
  - Failure to report a score shall result in a no-contest (0 Points). 2 Points will be awarded for a win, 1 Point for a tie and 0 Point for a loss.
  - However, BOTH managers should report the score
  - BOTH managers are responsible for entering pitch counts for their team
- **Game length** - All games shall be 7 innings unless the umpire rules otherwise due to weather, injury, or ejection issues.
- **Cancellations**
  - No cancellations for lack of players will be tolerated. Field conditions and weather are the only reasons to cancel a game.
  - The decision to cancel the game for weather or field conditions will be made by the home team manager any time before the start of the game.
  - CALL THE UMPIRES ASSIGNED TO WORK THE GAME.
  - If the game is called within 1 hour of the start time of the game, the umpire is

- due a ½ fee).
- Any game cancelled because of conflicts with players competing in other leagues, tournaments or sports will result in the offending team forfeiting and be responsible for the umpire fees for both teams.
- Each team in the event that the umpires show shall wait for a period of 30 minutes before cancelling the game.
- The game must be rescheduled within 72 hours. Each manager must mutually agree to the date and time of the game and the home team will be responsible for notifying the proper umpire assignor as to the date, time and location of the game.
- The manager shall also notify the league by sending an email to [northeasternmabaseball@gmail.com](mailto:northeasternmabaseball@gmail.com).
- **Games not played are NO CONTEST.**
- **Playoffs**
  - In the playoffs, if a game is started and stopped at any point for weather, or darkness, that game will be completed the next day from the point in the game that it was suspended.
  - If the suspended game is the third game of a series it will be completed the next day at the same site.
  - If the suspended game is the first or second game of the series it will be played prior to the start of the next game.
- **Player eligibility for the playoffs:**
  - A player must have appeared in at least 50% of the team's regular season games.
  - Should a player be listed on the team's roster but injured, if the injury is reported to the league the player will receive credit for an appearance for those games missed due to injury.
- **Umpire Fees – Each team will split the umpire fees every game.**
  - 13U, 16U: Each umpire shall be paid \$70 and if only 1 umpire shows up, he will be paid a 1 ½ fees, \$90. If the game is canceled within 1 hour of game time, each umpire will be paid \$35. Umpires are entitled to full payment after the first pitch is thrown.
  - Rec 13-16: Each umpire shall be paid \$65 and if only 1 umpire shows up, he will be paid a 1 ½ fees, \$80. If the game is canceled within 1 hour of game time, each umpire will be paid \$35.
  - Umpires are entitled to full payment after the first pitch is thrown.
- **Baseballs:** Each team will supply 2 Game Balls prior to the Start of the Game, and then alternate putting in game balls when the umpire requests them.
- **Playing Rules – Official Rules of Baseball, National League Rules (no DH).**

## Other Rules:

- **Playing with less than 9 players**
  - In all divisions, a team may start play with 8 players but **must** record an out as PO2 in the 9th spot.
  - If a team drops to 8 players for any reason after starting with 9 or more players, an out is to be recorded as PO2 in the **missing** spot.
  - If a team has less than 8 players 30 minutes after the scheduled start of the game, then the game is to be recorded as a forfeit.
  - If a team starts with 8 or more players but drops below 8 players for any reason, the game is over immediately, and is to be recorded as a forfeit.
  - No game is to be played with less than 8 players at any time.
- **Ejections**
  - If a manager is ejected, that team must have a coach to replace him. If not, the game is a FORFEIT.
  - If a player is ejected from a game and that team does not have any way to legally re-enter or substitute into that spot in the batting order, the opposing manager will choose from any rostered players who have been removed from the game a player to re-enter. If none are available, and the team drops below 8 players, the game is FORFEITED.
  - **If a player, coach, or manager is ejected for any reason – the player, coach, or manager is suspended for the remainder of the game that they are ejected from plus the next physically played game.**
  - The League President must be notified of all ejections by the manager at [northeasternmabaseball@gmail.com](mailto:northeasternmabaseball@gmail.com)
  - An ejection will be reviewed by the league to determine what further action should be taken, if any, beyond the mandatory one game suspension from the next game physically played.
- **Batting Order**
  - **13U and 16U Competitive Division: EH/Extra Hitter(s)** – There is no limit to how many EH players are allowed at the start of the game. (Teams can bat 9 or more players at their preference).
    - At any time after the start of the game one or more EHs can be added to the bottom of the lineup at the manager's discretion.
    - At no time once added can any EH spot be removed: the lineup may not be shortened once it is added to.
    - EHs thus added may be substituted for using regular substitution rules as above.
    - EHs may be freely substituted on defense as well.
    - The EH may become the pitcher.
  - **13-16 Rec Division - Continuous Batting Order**
    - All players present at the start of the game must be present in the lineup
    - Late arrivals are added at the bottom of the lineup at the manager's discretion
    - Free defensive substitution is permitted.
- **Re-entry Rules:** Starting Players may re-enter the game after being substituted for BUT ONLY IN THE SAME SPOT IN THE BATTING ORDER.
  - Substitute Players may NOT re-enter a game.
  - EXCEPTION – If a player is injured and with all substitutes having entered the

- game, the manager of the team with the injured player may insert into the lineup a player that normally would be able to re-enter the game.
  - The umpire-in-chief at the game will judge all injuries and will determine if a substitute is necessary.
- **Protests** – The team protesting the game will notify the plate umpire of the protest. The plate umpire will notify the Umpire-in-Chief and the league President of the protest within 24 hours. A final determination will be made by the League President.
- **Regulation Game Called**
  - If the score is TIED at the end of an inning, Visitors score and Home team does not RE-TIE, this is a TIE Game (1 Point to Each Team).
  - If the Home team leads at the end of an inning, the Visitors TIE or take the LEAD and the Home team does not TIE or re-take the lead, the GAME is OVER, the Score reverts to the end of the previous inning and the Home team WINS.
- **Collision Rules** - 2021 American Legion Collision Rule 1.H is being used:

#### **1.H. Collisions.**

The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid collisions whenever possible.

1. When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly is in possession of the ball, the umpire shall judge:
  - a) Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (the runner could have reached the base without colliding) or unavoidable (the runner's path to the base was blocked), or
  - b) Whether the runner was actually attempting to reach the base (plate) or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder.

**PENALTY** – If the runner a) could have avoided the collision and reached the base or b) attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner shall be declared out, even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

**Ruling 1** – If the fielder blocks the path of the base runner to the base (plate), the runner may make contact, slide into or collide with a fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base or plate.

**Ruling 2** – If the collision by the runner was flagrant, the runner shall be declared out and ejected from the contest. The ball shall be declared dead.

2. If the defensive player blocks the base (plate) or base line without the ball, obstruction shall be called. The runner is safe and a delayed dead ball shall be called.

**Ruling** – If the runner collides flagrantly, he shall be declared safe on the obstruction but will be ejected from the contest. The ball is dead.

3. **Collisions at home plate.** A runner attempting to score may not deviate from his direct pathway to the plate in order to initiate contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate), or otherwise initiate an avoidable collision. If, in the judgement of the umpire, a runner attempting to score initiates contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate) in such a manner, the umpire shall declare the runner out (regardless of whether the player covering home plate maintains possession of the ball). In such circumstances, the umpire shall call the ball dead, and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the collision. If the runner slides into the plate in an appropriate manner, he shall not be adjudged to have violated Rule 1.H.

**POINT OF EMPHASIS**

Any player who, in the judgment of the umpire, maliciously contacts another player is automatically ejected and, if the offender is a runner, is declared out. The American Legion is concerned that some coaches may not explain to their players that malicious contact is illegal. The majority of intentional collisions occur at home plate, where the catcher is blocking the plate. Runners should be instructed to slide directly to the plate or away from the catcher to avoid making contact with the catcher, especially when the defender is in possession of the ball. Umpires have been instructed that if there is any intentional and excessive force, or if there is any intent to injure another player, the offending player shall be ejected from the game. The malicious contact penalty will be enforced whether committed by an offensive or defensive player. Any player ejected by an umpire is automatically removed from the tournament, unless the tournament director reinstates that player.

- **Balk Rule:** There is no warning for balks. If a pitcher balks during a game, the umpire should call it. If an umpire wants to give the player/manager an explanation as to what the pitcher did to commit the balk, that would be encouraged, but is not required.
- **Mercy Rule:** For the 2021 season, there is a Mercy Rule. If a team is winning by 10 runs or more at the end of five innings of play, the game will be over and reported as a win for that team. If the home team is winning by 10 runs or more going into the bottom of the 5th inning the mercy rule will take effect and the game is over.

● **Pitch Counts:**

Division	Daily Max Pitches Allowed	PITCHES (REQUIRED REST) If the pitcher starts below a threshold but crosses a threshold during an at-bat and is then removed, record the threshold passed, not the final pitch count: e.g. starts with 72, ends with 76, record 75 pitches.				
<b>U13 /</b>	95	1-20 (0 days)	21-35 (1 day)	36-51 (2 days)	52-75 (3 days)	76+ (4 days)

<b>REC</b>						
<b>U16</b>	95	1-30 (0 days)	31-45 (1 day)	46-60 (2 days)	61-75 (3 days)	76+ (4 days)

Revisions:

1.0 initial version 1 July 2021

1.1 Clarifications for 2021 Legion collision rule we use in NMBL, and on playing with less than 9, reformat for readability 15 July 2021

1.2 typo in pitch counts fixed so ranges don't overlap 5 Aug 2021

1.3 clarify thresholds crossed in pitch counts and ejection forfeits 12 Aug 2021