

Harlan/Hoagland/Monroeville/Woodburn/New Haven

12U Major Boys Baseball Rules

Updated 4/20/26

General Rules:

- 1) All rules fall under IHSAA regulations unless superseded by specific rules below.
- 2) Games will be played 6 innings or after a complete inning ends upon the game clock reaching 1 hour and 45 minutes, whichever comes first (see timing rules below).
- 3) Only the umpire or a board official can suspend the game due to weather.
- 4) If weather suspends a game to where it cannot be played on the original day scheduled, it will be considered complete if 4 innings were played or 3 1/2 innings with the home team leading.
- 5) Games will be called complete by the umpire if a team is ahead by 15 runs or more after 4 innings or 10 runs or more after 5 innings.
- 6) Each available player is required to play two full innings of defense and bat once when the game goes a full six innings.
- 7) Free defensive substitutions are permitted except for the pitcher (see pitching rules below).
- 8) No new innings will be started after 10:45pm. Game must be stopped promptly at 11:00pm and rescheduled picking up where the game ended.

Player Eligibility Rules:

- 9) Player must be 12 years old or younger as of April 30th of the current year to be eligible for the Major Division. Any exception requires board approval, and a player granted an exception will not be eligible to pitch.
- 10) A team must have a minimum of eight players to start a game or the game will be declared a forfeit. A ninth player may be added to the lineup before the start of the second inning. If a player is added late, he will be added at the bottom of the batting order.
- 11) Teams may only bring up players from their own park's 10U Minor League. Using players from another 12U major team or a child who is not registered at their own park's baseball program is not allowed. Called up players cannot pitch but can play any other defensive position.
- 12) If a sick or injured player leaves the game and a substitute is not available, that position in the batting order will be skipped and will not count as an out. The injured/sick player may not return to the game.

Equipment Rules:

- 13) The home team must supply the umpire one new Tournament or Competition Grade Senior Little League[®] certified baseball prior to the game. The visiting team will supply one Tournament or Competition grade Senior Little League[®] certified baseball for backup which can be a used ball in acceptable condition. Acceptability of the ball's condition will be determined by the umpire.
- 14) Bases will be spaced 70 feet apart with the pitching rubber set at 50 feet from home plate.

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- 15) All bats must be stamped with the "USA Baseball" certification. Using a bat without the "USA Baseball" certification will be grounds for coach and player ejection.
- 16) Metal cleats are not allowed. Cleats must be of rubber or molded plastic construction.
- 17) No jewelry is permitted except if required for medical or religious purposes. If needed, permitted jewelry then must be taped down.

Timing Rules:

- 18) Start time of the game will be declared by the umpire just prior to giving the ready for play signal prior to the first pitch.
- 19) For the purposes of time, the next inning begins at the time of the third out in the bottom of the previous inning. No new inning will start after the game clock has 1 hour and 45 minutes unless the previous inning ended in a tie.

Additional Timing Rules for Games Ending in a Tie Ballgame:

- If another game is scheduled on the same field after the current tied game, only one extra inning will be played. If the game is still tied after that inning, the game will be rescheduled and resumed from the point where the game stopped.
 - If there is not a game scheduled after the current tied game, the game may be played continue until 11pm with no new inning starting after 10:45pm.
- 20) Upon a weather delay, the game clock is stopped. The game clock will restart at the time the umpire signals ready for play after the delay.
 - 21) Tournament games will follow regular season timing rules except for the championship game. The championship game will be played the entire 6 innings regardless of time.

Pitching Rules:

- 22) Pitchers are limited to 80 pitches and/or five innings per game, whichever comes first. Pitchers are also limited to a total of nine innings and 130 pitches, whichever comes first, in a calendar week which runs Monday – Sunday. Pitched innings limit and total pitch count in a week will stand regardless of make-up games (end of season tournament excluded – see amended tournament rules below). If a player hits a pitch limit in the middle of an at bat, the remaining pitches will not go against their pitch total if they are replaced immediately following the faced batter.
- 23) A pitcher who has thrown 80 pitches in a game must have a rest period of 4 total days.
- 24) A pitcher who has thrown **more than** 60 pitches in a single game must have a rest of 2 total days before pitching again. If a player hits 60 pitches during an at bat and is immediately replaced, only 60

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pitches need to be recorded on the pitcher verification sheet and would be immediately available to pitch in upcoming games without a rest period.

Clarification Example for Rules 22-24: A player who starts a batter on pitch 58 would hit 60 pitches with a 2-0 count on a batter. That pitcher can finish the batter and if the total pitches go above 60, it will only count as 60 total pitch count game on the pitcher verification sheet. A pitcher who starts a new batter having thrown 60 pitches would have the full number of pitches counted on the pitcher verification sheet and towards his total pitch limit for the week and require rest days. Additionally, a pitcher who hits 80 pitches while facing a batter can complete the at bat, but the pitcher would need to be immediately replaced before facing another batter with only 80 pitches recorded.

- 25) One official pitch will constitute one official inning towards the pitcher's game and weekly total.
- 26) A pitcher who has been removed from the mound may not return to pitch for the remainder of the game once a replacement pitcher delivers one legal pitch.
- 27) Coach's mound visits are permitted. A pitcher must be replaced upon the second visit in the same inning or the third visit in a game.
- 28) Prior to June 1st, Pitchers will receive one balk warning by an umpire before baserunners are granted a free base. Coaches are permitted a free mound visit to discuss a balk warning without that visit being counted as an official mound visit per rule 27. After June 1st, balks will be enforced with no warnings and no free mound visits.

Additional Rules for Tracking Pitches

- Coaches are responsible for tracking pitch counts and innings pitched. Coaches shall report the numbers with the opposing coach after the game to have a pitcher verification sheet signed. If a coach refuses to sign, please reach out to your park's board president for a resolution. (Official Pitcher Verification Sheet in Addendum)
- If a coach shows up to a game without their signed pitcher verification sheet from the previous games in the calendar week, all pitchers for that team will have a 30-pitch count maximum for that game.
- Total pitch and inning counts for the whole tournament are revised below.

Amended rules for the End of Season Tournament

- Pitchers are limited to a total of 130 total pitches and 11-innings, whichever comes first, for the end of season tournament.
- If inclement weather or other non-man-made situations do not allow for a complete game, the game will be completed on the next possible date from the point at which it was stopped. The game will be played as if on the original day. All pitching records will reflect the original scheduled game.
- Same rest rules apply to the tournament.
- Total pitch count and inning limit for the tournament apply regardless of rainouts or re-scheduled games.

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Batting Rules:

- 29) Teams must bat through a 9-player batting lineup at a minimum. Coaches may choose more than a 9-player lineup but must declare the number of batters in the lineup prior to the start of the game. The batting order cannot change during the game. An out will not be charged in the 9th position if a team must play the game with only 8 players. Coaches choosing to use a batting lineup with more than 9 batters will face an out for the vacated batting position if a player is ejected with no replacement available. Injury does not constitute an out in the line-up. An injured player may not re-enter a game (see rule 12).
- 30) Batters may be re-inserted into the game. However, re-inserted batters may only return into the same position in the batting order in which they originally batted.
- 31) The batter may not square to bunt or “show bunt”, pull back, and then take a full swing. (Also known as “slash bunting”). If this occurs, even if only on an unsuccessful attempt, the batter will be out.
- 32) A batter will be warned for throwing the bat upon the first occurrence. The second infraction by the same player will result in the batter being declared out and all baserunners being returned to their previous bases.
- 33) If a batted fair ball goes out of Field of Play (either under or over the fence), the defensive player is to put their hands up as a signal to the umpire. If confirmed by the umpire, hit will be awarded a ground rule double. The umpire may also declare the ball out of play at his or her own discretion.

Base Running Rules:

- 34) Advancing to 1st after a batted ball, runners must use the orange bag (when provided) if there is going to be a play at first base.
- 35) Base runners may steal any base at any time. Leadoffs are permitted in this league.
- 36) Baserunners must avoid contact. Runners do not have to slide if there is a play being made on them. However, intentionally running over or into defensive players is not permitted and will be cause for player ejection at the umpire’s discretion.
- 37) Headfirst sliding is permitted.
- 38) The infield fly rule will be enforced.
- 39) Drop third strike rule applies. When there are 2 outs, the batter may try to take first on a dropped third strike even if the first base is occupied.

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- 40) If a ball is thrown out of play by the defensive team, the runners are awarded up to one additional base, beyond what the runner would've accomplished at the umpire's discretion.
- 41) Teams must have a coach at first and third base. Players are not permitted to coach the basepaths.

Administrative Rules:

- 42) Weather and mandatory school functions are the only acceptable reasons to cancel a game. Weather cancellations are to be communicated by the hometown board to the visiting team's board 1 hour or more prior to game time. The coaches of both teams should coordinate a rescheduled date and time within 7 days. If the game is not rescheduled within 7 days, coaches should escalate to their park's board president for assistance.
- 43) The division representative (sometime called the "league rep") will gather results, maintain standings, and post the league standings in a public forum.
- 44) Coaches are responsible for reporting game scores to the division representative.
- 45) League standings are based on the team's overall record. If two teams finish with the same record, the tie breakers in order of priority will be: head-to-head record, defensive runs allowed, offensive runs scored. League Standings will also determine seeding for the end of season tournament.
- 46) There will be no "coaches' option" regarding these rules. Coaches who agree to override any league rules will result in an automatic forfeit for both teams.
- 47) Trophies will be given out for the Champions and Runner's Up for both regular season and the end of season tournament.

Conduct Rules:

- 48) Any coach who is ejected from a game by an umpire shall serve a one game suspension for the next available game.
- 49) No alcohol or smoking in the proximity of the playing areas, concessions or areas where families and players gather. Coaches, managers, and/or scorekeepers will be immediately ejected including a once game suspension if caught smoking or drinking on park grounds.

