

PLANO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
LOCAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
15-18 High School Leagues

The [Major League Baseball Official Rules](#) will be the prevailing rule book except where superseded by the USSSA national by-laws or by these PBA local rules. USSSA national rules and by-laws can be found online at www.ussa.com.

All PBA regular season and playoff games are governed by these rules.

1. Eligibility:

- 1.1 Players that turn 19 years of age on or before the next April 30th are not eligible.
- 1.2 No player may play on two different teams within the same PBA JV or Varsity League at any time.
- 1.3 To be eligible to play in post-season games for a team, a player must have played in 50% or more of that team's regular season games. Eligibility for post-season may be appealed in writing to the League Director, and exceptions for injury or other reasons may be made on an individual case basis.
- 1.4 A team (including each of its coaches) must be in good financial standing with PBA and its sponsors to be eligible for scheduling.
- 1.5 If a player is found to be playing illegally for another team, then the player will be ejected from his next legal game, the coach of the offending team will be ejected from his team's next game, and the offending team will forfeit all games in which the illegal player participated.

2. Guest Players:

- 2.1 GUEST PLAYERS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT ANYTIME. All players participating must be registered with PBA and on the team's official roster.

3. The Playing Field:

- 3.1 The distance between the bases will be 90 feet. The distance from the home plate to the nearest outfield fence will be approximately 375 feet. The front side of the pitcher's rubber to the back of home plate will be 60 feet 6 inches.
- 3.2 Players warming up during the game shall do so inside the playing field in outfield foul grounds.

3.3 Home team shall occupy the first base dugout.

3.3a In the post-season tournament (including the league championship game), home team will be the team with the better seed (better place in the regular season standings).

3.4 The use of the infield for pre-game warm-ups is prohibited.

3.5 Players are not allowed to practice hitting regulation baseballs during pre-game warm-ups, except into a net.

4. Equipment:

4.1 Base runners and batters are required to wear helmets.

4.2 Catchers are required to wear protective cups.

4.3 Catchers are required to wear full catcher's gear.

4.4 Scull caps are permitted in this age division.

4.5 Metal spikes are permitted in this age division.

4.6 Jewelry is allowed as long as the umpire does not feel it is a safety issue.

4.7 Official size baseballs will be used in this league.

4.8 Bats must conform and not exceed 2 5/8 diameter and minus 3 ounce difference from the length.

5. The Game:

5.1 Games are to begin within ten minutes of their scheduled time. Each team will have 10 minutes beyond the scheduled start time to field a team. Once both teams have the minimum required players present the game will begin immediately. **There is a firm walk-off time of 8:10 for all early weeknight games.** The score will revert back to the last complete inning. *From 7:50 – 8:10 any visit to the pitcher will result in that pitcher being immediately removed from the mound. The new pitcher is allowed 8 warm-up pitches.*

5.2 Definitions:

(End of) Regulation Time = 1 hour and 40 minutes running time.

Any inning that begins before the End of Regulation time will be completed before teams are required to walk off.

Complete Game = 7 innings or End of Regulation Time, whichever comes first. A halted game as described in 6.3 shall also be considered complete. A forfeited game shall end with a score of 7 to 0, in favor of the non-forfeiting team.

Exception: League Championship Games will not be time-limited games; they will be played out the full number of innings, subject to the run rules described in Section 13.

- 5.3** A new inning is deemed to have started once the last out is recorded in the previous inning.
- 5.4** In the event a game ends in a tie and there is still time remaining, the game will proceed into extra innings. In the event that time expires during an extra inning, the game will continue until a winner is determined in that inning, or the inning has been completed. However, if the early weeknight walk-off time (8:10) arrives prior to the finish of an extra inning; the game will be scored a tie.
- 5.5** A tie will count as a half game won and a half game lost.
- 5.6** No new inning may begin after 10:20p.m.
- 5.7** Coaches are required to provide lineup cards to the umpire and the opposing coach and/or scorekeeper prior to each game. The lineup card should provide each player's first name, last name, and uniform number. In addition, the lineup card should provide the first and last names for the head and assistant coaches.

6. Game Minimums:

- 6.1** All teams must have at least eight players to start the game. If a team drops below eight players for any reason the game will be ruled a forfeit.
- 6.2** If a team drops below nine players because of player ejection, the game will be halted and ruled a forfeit.
- 6.3** A game halted, for any reason, after 5 innings (4 ½ if home team is ahead), will be considered a complete game and will be official (with the exception of forfeits as described in 6.2).
- 6.4** If a game is suspended for any reason, when it is resumed, it will be resumed from the point of interruption (from the exact game situation and time played) as documented in the official scorebook.

7. The Hitter:

7.1 Teams may bat the entire roster with free substitutions, bat 9 or bat 10 with and EH at the coaches discretion. Teams batting 9 or 10 must follow the proper substitution guidelines as outlined in the USSSA rules 8.02.

http://www.usssabaseball.org/documents/BylawsRules_Jan1_2010.pdf

7.2 No Slashing - On the first offense, if a batter squares to bunt and then swings at the pitch (slashing), with or without runners on base, the batter is out, the runners go back to their bases, and the third-base coach is given a warning. On the second offense, the batter is out, the runners go back to their bases, and the third-base coach is ejected.

7.3 With a runner on 3rd attempting to steal home with the pitch (either on his own or in conjunction with a squeeze bunt), the batter must bunt or take the pitch. If the batter swings instead, the ball will be dead with runners returning to their original bases, the batter will be out, and the 3rd base coach will be EJECTED. NO WARNING will be given in this situation.

7.4 If a base runner leaps over or hurdles a fielder to avoid a tag, unless the fielder is prone on the ground, the runner will be declared out and the ball will be live.

7.5 Batting order

7.5a For teams batting the entire roster, players who arrive late for the start of the game shall be added to the team batting order at the end and bat when this position comes up.

7.5b For teams batting the entire roster, players who leave before the end of the game may do so. Their position in the batting order will be ignored for the rest of the game and no out will be charged, unless the player's absence reduces the team to less than nine players.

7.5c For teams batting the entire roster, the batting order position for a player that is ejected will be ignored for the rest of the game and no out will be charged, unless the player's ejection reduces the team to less than nine players (see Rule 6.2). For teams batting 9 or 10 with an EH, the batting order position for a player that is ejected may be replaced.

8. Pitching:

8.1 There are no pitching limits in these age divisions.

9. Defensive Play:

9.1 Obstruction by Fielders: The Major League Baseball definition of "Obstruction" shall apply in this league except that fielders holding runners on base may not block their base by dropping their leg down, parallel to the ground, between the runner and the base while receiving a pickoff throw from the pitcher. This shall be deemed "Obstruction" by the umpire and the runner shall be awarded one base. All other runners forced by this award shall also advance.

10. Minimum Play Time:

10.1 There are no minimum playing time rules in these age divisions.

11. Defensive Coaches:

11.1 One defensive coach may position himself outside of his dugout but must remain adjacent to his dugout at all times. No other defensive coaches are allowed on the field.

12. Scorekeeping:

12.1 Each team should have a designated scorekeeper and use a regulation style score book. The home team will be the official scorekeeper and, on fields that have electronic scoreboards, the visiting team will provide a scoreboard operator. In the event the home team cannot provide a scorekeeper, the visiting team's scorekeeper will become the official scorekeeper.

13. Run Rules:

13.1 The game will be halted when a team achieves the following leads:

- 20 runs after one or two innings
- 15 runs after three innings.
- 10 runs after four innings.
- 8 runs after five innings.

14. League Standings:

14.1 Regular season play will be for end of season tournament seeding only.

14.1a Seedings will be based on the following:

- Overall Won / Loss record
- Head to Head competition
- Average runs allowed
- Average runs earned
- Coin toss

15. Tournament Tie Breaker Rule:

15.1 In the post-season tournament, once the Regulation Time is reached, the current inning will be played to completion. If the score is tied at this point, then the game will continue according to the Texas Shoot Out Tiebreaker rule as defined below. There will be no Walk Off Time in post-season play.

15.1a In the league championship game, if a full set of innings have been played and there is a tie, then the game will continue according to the Texas Shoot Out Tiebreaker rule as defined below.

15.2 In the Post Season Tournament, the Texas Shoot Out Tiebreaker rule will be utilized. In that situation, each half inning will start with the bases loaded and one out, with no count on each batter. Each team will continue the batting order from the previous inning, with the three (3) previous batters occupying the bases: the

last batter occupying 1st base, the next to last batter occupying 2nd base, and the batter before that occupying 3rd base. The game will continue in this fashion until a winner is determined. All other rules remain the same (i.e., pitching rules, run limit rules, etc.)

16. Sportsmanship:

16.1 There is a “ZERO TOLERANCE” rule in the High School Leagues.

16.2 Under no circumstance will the use of “foul” or abusive language be tolerated during a PBA sanctioned event (including practices).

16.3 The umpire has the authority before, during, and after the game to eject a coach, player, or spectator if, in his judgment, unsportsmanlike behavior is taking place and the situation warrants such action. Such ejection automatically results in a suspension of the coach, player or spectator according to the length defined below. There will be no appeal or protest of such ejection. The appropriate League Director and League Commissioner will review such incidents to consider if further disciplinary actions are needed. In this case a DRP will be convened to consider such action.

16.3a Length of Suspensions

First ejection: Next game

Second ejection within a single season: Next 3 games

Third ejection within a single season: Remainder of season plus
Disbarment from PBA

16.3b Suspensions carry over to or from regular season games to PBA-hosted tournaments, playoffs, or championship games.

16.3c Coach comments or complaints about officials should be directed to: PBA Director of Umpiring, through your League Director.

16.3d The League Director will notify a coach or player suspended as a result of an ejection under this rule of additional game suspensions. However, coaches suspended under the provisions of 15.3a, above, are responsible for enforcing the appropriate suspension on themselves, assistant coaches or players ejected, whether a notice from the League Director is received or not. A player or coach who appears at or participates in a game for which he has been suspended under this rule shall be treated as having a Third Ejection within a single season and the team shall forfeit the game.

16.4 A team’s official coach of record is responsible for the actions of the team’s players, parents, and spectators and reserves the right to stop play and recommend suspension of a player, parent, or spectator. The recommendation of player suspension is subject to review by the league director and league commissioner.

16.5 If a coach is required to leave the premises and does not comply without delay, the umpire may suspend the game and issue a verbal warning to the remaining coaches on the team. If, in the umpires judgment, the offending coach has not complied, the umpire will stop play and the game will be ruled a forfeit. In the event that the umpire declares a forfeit under this provision, the pending suspension against the offending party shall be increased by an additional game.

16.6 Any complaint about a coach's behavior should be made in writing to the appropriate league director.

16.7 Any complaint about a game official should be made in writing to the appropriate league director.

17. Acts of Disbarment Include:

Disbarment is the suspension from all PBA activities (including practices) for at least the remainder of the current season. A disbarred person can only be reinstated upon that person's application to and subsequent approval of the PBA Board of Directors. A DRP will be convened to hear the allegation and determine the penalty. Disbarment will be the penalty for any of the offenses described below.

17.1 Physical attack on an umpire, league official, coach or fan during a game or immediately following a game, played under the administration of PBA.

17.2 Player, coaches, manager or sponsor threatening an umpire, league official, coach or fan.

17.3 Any officer, director, umpire, player, coach, manager or sponsor fighting, using unsportsmanlike conduct or abusive tactics or derogatory or unbecoming acts that is detrimental and not in the best interests of PBA.

17.4 Destruction of property or abuse of property of PBA or the City of Plano.

17.5 Fans, spectators and players are prohibited from shouting harassing, disparaging remarks or profanity to opposing players or coaches on the field. Umpires are instructed to call time, and eject the fan or spectator.

17.6 Three ejections during a single season.

18. All Leagues:

18.1 The Commissioner and League Directors have the authority to interpret and to submit suggested rules changes to the Rules Committee but not to change rules without approval. Changes by the Rules Committee can be made and communicated at any time to ensure the league can benefit from any approved suggestions.