

North League Baseball/Softball Rules

7th-9th Grade 2023

GAME TIME:

- 75 minute games; No new innings after 70 minutes
- Game clock will start right at game time or after the previous game is over and players have cleared the dugout. Be prepared to hustle.
- No forfeits, organize games with players that are present
- If game is tied when time expires, North League Tiebreaker will be used: 2 outs with the last batter at 3rd base
- SLAUGHTER RULE: 15 runs after 3 innings or 1 hour
- There will be NO postponing or rescheduling games
- Rainouts will not be rescheduled except when less than 7 games are played in a season

	Pitching	Base Distance	Uniforms: No metal cleats
7th-9th Softball:	40 feet- 12" softball	60 feet	Shorts can be worn with slider shorts underneath
7th-9th Baseball:	52 feet- baseball *player may only pitch in 3 innings per game	80 feet	Long pants should be worn

DEFENSE:

- All players must play at least 2 innings on defense
- Catchers are required to wear full protective equipment
- INFIELD FLY is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive or an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied, before two are out. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder who stations himself in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.

BATTING/OFFENSE:

- Each team **must bat all players**. Helmets must be worn at all times when batting or running.
- Baseball: Leading off and base steal are allowed
- Softball: Can leave base and/or steal after the ball has left the pitcher's hand
- On third strike or called third strike (even if dropped by catcher) the batter is out. No throw to first is necessary.
- We will enforce an avoid contact or must slide rule at all bases. Malicious contact-runner will be ejected. It is the discretion of the umpire if the runner is trying to avoid contact.

SOFTBALL ONLY: 8' Radius Rule

- The base runner, while the pitcher has the ball within 8-foot radius of the pitching mound, must immediately attempt to advance to the next base or return to her base.
- Failure to do so, base runner will be called out
- Once the runner returns to a base, for any reason, she shall be declared out if she leaves the base unless a play is made on her or another runner; or the pitcher released the ball to the batter

SPORTSMANSHIP:

We encourage all spectators and participants not to question or argue with the decisions of the umpire. An important part of this program will be to teach good sportsmanship and learn to accept all decisions rendered.

*No profane or abusive language is allowed!!! Or the player will be ejected.