

St. Paul Highland Ball 2018 Baseball Rules



A League (A)
AA League (AA)
American League (AL)
National League (NL)

Rules Categories

1. Game Play & Scoring
2. Players & Playing Time
3. Batting
4. Base Running
5. Pitching
6. Equipment
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Click on each worksheet for specific rules in each category.

These rules are not to be modified without the approval of the Board.

1. GAME PLAY & SCORING	A	AA	AL	NL
Games are 6 innings. Game is official after 4 innings. 3 1/2 innings counts as a complete game if the home team is winning going into the bottom of the 4th inning.	✓	✓	✓	
Games are slotted for 1:30. When no game follows or daylight is not a concern, there is no time limit .	✓	✓	✓	
No inning may start after the 1:15 minute mark when a game is scheduled to follow your game.	✓	✓	✓	
5 runs per inning limit. Typically, inning will end when 5 runs have been accumulated no matter how many outs; however, an inning in which the completion of the play involves more than five runs being scored will count towards the score for that inning. (For example: bases are loaded and 4 runs have already scored. Batter hits a double and 3 runs score. Total for the inning is 7).	✓	✓	✓	
The last inning will allow 10 runs. Coaches must agree and declare the last inning of play. Inform the umpires.	✓	✓	✓	
<p>If you have played less than 4 complete innings: * the game will be completed at a later date. * the game will restart from where it was left off.</p> <p>Therefore, it is very important that you get together with the other coach and note the particulars of the suspended game (e.g. who is on base, the count on the batter). Make sure your scorebooks match up, etc..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Your lineup/order should remain the same. - The conclusion game will be played so that you play enough additional innings to complete a game. If for some reason weather is threatening the conclusion game, you just need to complete the 4th inning to make it official. - You and the opposing coach will determine how many total innings you want to play (4, 5 or 6) taking into consideration the rest of the leagues' schedule and field availability. 	✓	✓	✓	
NL games are 7 innings. To be official, the game must go 4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead, 5 innings if the visiting team is ahead. If a game is tied at the end of regulation, whether 4 and 1/2 innings, or five innings, or seven, or by time limits, it is a tie game.				✓
Ten-run rule. The five inning ten-run rule applies.				✓
No inning may start after the 1 hour and 45 minute mark when a game is scheduled to follow your game.				✓

1. GAME PLAY & SCORING	A	AA	AL	NL
Games are slotted for 2 hours. When no game follows or daylight is not a concern there is no time limit .				✓
No inning to start after 9:50pm. All games to be complete by 10:00pm.	✓	✓	✓	✓
No infield fly rule.	✓	✓		
No extra innings in regular season games while school year still in session. Tie games after a complete game, or time limit is reached, will remain a tie even if your game is last game of the day. Once school year is over (date to be announced by league), teams may play extra innings if the time limit has NOT been reached or if there is no game scheduled after your game. Both coaches must agree to play extra innings.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rainouts: All rainouts will be declared and communicated by League President/Vice President of Field Operations or Commissioner (i.e. not coaches). Games will be officially rescheduled by League Commissioner.	✓	✓	✓	✓
PLAYOFFS (seeds): seeds will be decided by winning percentage, then head to head competition, then total runs for the season, then total runs in head to head competition, and then a coin toss (best 2 out of 3).	✓	✓	✓	✓
PLAYOFFS: Extra innings will be played to break a tie. A winning team needs to be declared.	✓	✓	✓	✓

2. PLAYERS & PLAYING TIME	A	AA	AL	NL
Each player shall sit once before a player sits twice.	✓	✓	✓	✓
All players will play a minimum of 4 innings in the field provided there are no multiple unexcused or excessive absences.	✓	✓	✓	✓
9 players on the field.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Catcher is considered an infield position.	✓	✓	✓	✓
A team must have a minimum of 8 players present at game time or the game is forfeited.	✓	✓	✓	✓
<p>Each player must play at least 2 innings in the infield before the first 5 innings are completed.</p> <p>No player can only play in the infield in the first 5 innings.</p> <p>All players must play at least 1 inning in the outfield before the conclusion of 5 innings.</p>	✓	✓	✓	
Coaches are responsible to submit a master batting order to their League Commissioner prior to opening day.	✓	✓		
Each player's position in the batting order will be moved up one notch for each completed game.	✓	✓		
Visiting teams, which may play only five or six innings in the field, should if possible get all players their four innings within the first six innings.			✓	✓
Substitutions. There is unlimited substitution, except for pitchers (see Pitching section).			✓	✓
Coaches violating playing time rules may be subject to suspension of minimum of 1 game and up to removal of coaching duties.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coaches may reduce playing time for players with multiple unexcused or excessive absences, or for disciplinary reasons. Immediately notify the league commissioner of the action taken and the reasons for those actions. Coaches are highly encouraged to work out all issues with the player and parent and/or legal guardian.	✓	✓	✓	✓
A player may not be disciplined merely for poor play. The penalty for violation of this rule is forfeiture of the game, and the coach will be suspended by the league upon confirmation of the violation.	✓	✓	✓	✓
PLAYOFFS: Regular season suspensions and dismissals carry over into the playoffs.	✓	✓	✓	✓
PLAYOFFS: the batting order will be allowed to be re-set once prior to the start of the playoffs, but will remain in place once the playoffs begin.	✓	✓		

2. PLAYERS & PLAYING TIME	A	AA	AL	NL
CALLING UP PLAYERS				
If you will have fewer than 9 players, you may invite a player from the league below and of your affiliated teams (to be assigned by the commissioner at the start of the season - e.g. A League would pull from Rookies; AA League from A League, AL League from AA League, etc.). Players from affiliate team should be first consideration. As a last resort, a player from lower non-affiliate team may be used.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Call-Up/Substitute List: coaches are encouraged to rotate called-up players and should not continually call up the same players out of convenience.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Substitute players may not pitch or catch, and will be slotted last in your batting order.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Substitute players may not play more innings than one of your own players; however, coaches should play call-ups the same amount as if the player was a rostered player.	✓	✓	✓	✓
A team with 8 players has the right, but not the obligation, to use a player from the opposing team (the last player in the batting order in the top of the first inning; after that, the last out in the previous half inning) in the field.			✓	✓
The team with just 8 players bats 8 without penalty.			✓	✓
A team short of players may borrow players from other teams with consent from the opposing team's coach.			✓	✓
No borrowed player may pitch.			✓	✓
Borrowed players must bat at the bottom of the batting order.			✓	✓
In the borrowing of players, the following principle must be observed: * the purpose of borrowing is to enable the borrowing team to play the game, not to gain an advantage that team would not otherwise have had. The penalty for use of an ineligible player is forfeiture of the game.			✓	✓
PLAYOFFS: Players may be borrowed from another team only, if absolutely necessary, with the express permission of the league commissioner. The player must be identified to the commissioner by name.	✓	✓	✓	✓

3. BATTING	A	AA	AL	NL
Round-robin batting (all players bat).	✓	✓	✓	✓
A player who arrives after batting orders have been exchanged and his/her team has begun batting should be placed at the end of the batting order. Rookies follow the grid rules.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Player leaving the game. In the event a player leaves the game permanently, voluntarily or due to injury, illness, etc., his/her spot in the batting order is vacated without penalty.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Temporary absence. In the event a player leaves the game temporarily due to injury, illness, etc., that player's coach must immediately notify the opposing coach; the player's spot in the batting order is then vacated without penalty and the player may return to that spot in the batting order when able. This rule requires good faith: bad-hitting players may not be removed temporarily due to phantom injuries.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bunting: Each team is allowed 1 player "attempting" to bunt per inning. If more than 1 player attempts to bunt after that, the 2nd player will receive a dead ball strike called on them. Bunt "attempt" defined as a bunt that results in an out or batter reaching base. Attempt to also include a third strike attempt resulting in an out.	✓	✓	✓	
Batter may not advance on a dropped third strike.	✓	✓		
No fake bunts allowed. A fake bunt and hit-away in which player reaches base will not be allowed. Player will return to the at-bat and coached warned.	✓	✓	✓	
No on deck batters.	✓	✓		

4. BASE RUNNING	A	AA	AL	NL
Any runner is out when the runner does not slide OR attempt to get around a fielder who HAS THE BALL and is waiting to make the tag.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Any runner that deliberately crashing into a defender who has the ball, for the sole purpose of knocking the ball loose, is automatically OUT.	✓	✓	✓	✓
If a close play occurs and the runner does not slide and makes incidental contact with the defender before he has the ball, no call should be made.	✓	✓	✓	✓
In attempting to get around a fielder who has the ball waiting to make the tag, the runner must not run more than 3 feet to either side of a line that goes between him and the base he is advancing to. If he does, he is out.	✓	✓	✓	✓
If the defender does not have possession of the ball, and a collision occurs as he steps into the path of the runner as he attempts to catch a thrown ball, there is no penalty, unless the umpire judges the collision to be deliberate and malicious.	✓	✓	✓	✓
With two outs, a pinch runner is allowed/recommended for the catcher (the player who made the last out has to be the pinch runner).	✓	✓	✓	✓
No headfirst slides unless retreating to the base they came from. If headfirst slide occurs, play will stand. Umpire to address issue with coach and coach to reinforce no headfirst slide rule with team.	✓	✓		
Stealing is allowed.		✓	✓	✓
Stealing allowed after 4th game at League Commissioner's discretion.	✓			
No delayed steals. A delayed steal by a player will result in player returning to original base.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Runners may advance on their own risk if the exchange between the catcher and the pitcher is mishandled (missed/ dropped/overthrown).	✓	✓	✓	✓
A runner may advance at his own risk on a wild pitch/passed ball to any base.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Runner may not leave until the ball crosses the plate. Any runner leaving early will receive 1 warning, the 2nd warning he will be called out.	✓	✓		
Runners may advance one base on an overthrow at their own risk after which the play is dead this also applies to plays between the lines. (e.g. player steals second throw goes into centerfield the runner only advances to 3rd base); however, if another throw is made to attempt an out and is misplayed the runner may advance (e.g. the center fielder attempts to throw the runner out at 3rd and the ball is misplayed the runner can advance at their own risk).	✓	✓		

5. PITCHING	A	AA	AL	NL
Pitcher limited to 4 warm-up pitches. The catcher will throw down to 2nd base on the 4th pitch.	✓	✓		
<p>If player delivers one pitch in an inning he shall be charged for one inning pitched.</p> <p>Exception: In the event a game is cancelled/suspended, such as in the case of rain, before becoming an official game, the innings pitched in that game do not count.</p> <p>Exception: If a cancelled/suspended game is made up later in the season, innings pitched during that game do not count toward the inning limit.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓
The pitching week is Sunday to Saturday.	✓	✓	✓	✓
No balks.	✓	✓		
Balks: The umpire will issue 1 warning per pitcher and the runner/batter will not advance. It is a dead ball warning. After that warning any balk by the same pitcher will be handled as a balk, runners advance.			✓	✓
No curveballs. Dead ball warning, replay the pitch.	✓	✓		
No intentional walks.	✓	✓		
A player may only pitch 2 innings per game, 5 innings per week.	✓	✓		
Players may pitch 3 innings per game, 6 innings per week during the month of May. Starting June 1, players may pitch 4 innings per game, 6 innings per week.			✓	
No player may pitch more than 4 innings per game and 7 innings per week.				✓
No pitcher re-entry. Once pitchers are replaced for any reason, they are not eligible to return as pitcher.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pitchers MUST be replaced if they walk, HBP, or any combination of both, for 3 consecutive batters.	✓	✓	✓	
A pitcher must be replaced upon 2nd visit to the mound by any coach. One free visit to mound by any coach, 2nd visit results in pitcher removal.	✓	✓	✓	✓
PLAYOFFS: A pitcher may be pitch more than seven innings per week, but never more than four innings per game, in a modified rolling seven pattern, i.e., four innings one game, three the next, then four, etc.. The commencement of playoffs marks the beginning of a new pitching week.				✓

6. EQUIPMENT	A	AA	AL	NL
Player with braces are encouraged to wear a mouth guard. Parental discretion.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rubber cleats only.	✓	✓	✓	
Steel cleats are allowed.				✓
Bats must be 2 1/4" with unlimited weight differential. No big barrels. OR you may follow MBT bat restrictions below.	✓	✓		
Bats must be 2 1/4" with unlimited weight differential or bats must be between 2 1/2" and 2 3/4" and have a -10 differential or less (i.e. 30" – 20.0 oz.). OR you may follow MBT bat restrictions below.			✓	
Bats must be 2 3/4" or smaller with a -5 or less differential. Bats must be 2 5/8" or smaller with a -3 or less differential. OR you may follow MBT bat restrictions below.				✓
<p>The following MBT bat restrictions must be followed for PLUS Tournaments. MBT bat restrictions may be followed for In-House games as well.</p> <p><u>9U-13U</u>: Bats must have new USA Stamp. Bats must be 2 1/4" with unlimited weight differential or bats must be between 2 5/8" and have a -11 differential or less (i.e. 31" – 20.0 oz.)</p> <p><u>14U-15A</u>: Bats must have USA Stamp. Bats must be 2 5/8" with -5 or less differential.</p> <p><u>15U</u>: Bats must have new USA Stamp. Bats must be 2 5/8" with a -3 or less differential.</p>				
Consequence for player using non-approved equipment shall result in that batter being OUT. 2nd infraction within same game results in coach ejection.	✓	✓	✓	✓
PITCHING DISTANCES AND BASE PATHS				

<u>Age</u>	<u>Pitching Distance</u>	<u>Base Paths</u>
10	45-46 ft.	60 ft.
11	45-46 ft.	65 ft.
12	52-54 ft.	75 ft.
13	52-54 ft.	75 ft.
14 & Up	60.5 ft.	90 ft.

7. Coaching Expectations	A	AA	AL	NL
Coaches will maintain a positive and respectful attitude towards all.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coaches will not argue or make comments to the umpires regarding calls on the field during the inning - violation is ejection from game and suspension for additional game(s), at the league's discretion.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coaches may talk to umpires between innings to discuss calls or to note rules violations.	✓	✓	✓	✓
On game days only three coaches per team are allowed on the field once the first pitch is thrown.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Only authorized and approved coaches in dugouts and coaching bases. No other persons are allowed to coach teams, ever.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shoes are encouraged for all coaches on the field.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alcohol consumption by coaches prior to a game or practice is strongly discouraged on days when coaching.	✓	✓	✓	✓