GAME FORMAT and RULES

I. AGE RULE

Players in their respective age groups must not reach the next age before May 1, 2024. It is permissible for a player to play up from their designated age division, but they may not play down.

II. PHILOSOPHY OF THE LEAGUE

- A. Keep the integrity of this great game of baseball in mind during the Advanced Fall Baseball League. Play only those players who are rostered with your team. All players, coaches and spectators are to behave in a manner that reflects the positive **FUN** associated with the game. Unsportsmanlike conduct will result in removal from the league without a refund.
- B. The focus of the AFBL is competitive participation and player development. NOTE: It is the responsibility of all coaches to find equal playing time defensively for rostered players. Remind

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yourself that success of the league is **NOT** measured by wins and losses, but rather by the level of improvement and development a player has. Everyone will benefit from this league if we remember that this is for the kids and the focus of this league is their development as an athlete and a person.

III. GENERAL RULES

- A. Each team must supply one new game ball which is provided. Additional balls are to be supplied alternately as needed.
- B. The home team will keep the official scorebook.
- C. Line markings, field-dragging and bases are the responsibility of ALL the teams involved. Although all locations will have the fields dragged, there will be rakes at each field. When teams have completed their game, they are responsible for raking the field. Typically, the losing team rakes the field. Some of the locations will have grounds crew available, but please do your part help keep the mounds and baselines playable for the next games.

D. Metal or wood bats allowed.

15u-18u: BBCOR or Wood

14u: USSSA Stamp/USA Stamp (-5 or -3), BBCOR, or wood.

10u-13u: USSSA Stamp, USA Stamp, BBCOR are all allowed (players can use their bat from the summer).

E. Courtesy Runners: A courtesy runner for the catcher and pitcher can be used at any time.

Projected substitutions are not allowed. Exception: Courtesy Runner(s) for an injured player will be the player making the most recent out.

- F. All teams may use a continuous batting order and implement free substitution.
- G. There will be no pre-game infield unless time allows.
- H. Batters will start with a 0-0 count.
- I. 10u-12u will play 6 inning games. 13u and above will play 7 inning games.

I. Run Rules

- i. Differential of 10 runs after 5 innings
- ii. Differential of 10 runs after 4 innings (10u-12u)
- J. If teams do not have a sufficient number of players for their game, they may be disqualified from bracket play.

IV. CONTINUOUS BATTING & FREE SUBSTITUTION (See Exception)

If someone becomes injured, it will NOT be an automatic out when that player comes to at-bat again.

V. UMPIRES

The AFBL provides umpires.

If an umpire does not show up, please arrange for a mutually agreeable substitute to be used. Call Jesse Tollefson at 651.324.7639, Michael Jensen at 612.718.5254, or Adam Barta at 612.750.7320 the following Monday to notify them of the problem and be sure to submit an umpire no show invoice (email) within 48 hours to the Blizzard Baseball Academy office (substitute umpires will be paid \$40.00 per game).

VI. GAME LENGTH

6 (10u-12u) or 7 innings or a 105-minute limit, whichever comes first. If a team is in the midst of an inning at the time limit, that team will finish that full inning. No new inning will start after the 105-minute limit. A new inning begins at the moment of the 3rd out of the previous inning. There are no 'HARD STOPS'.

Games may end in a tie.

Championship Play (Playoffs)

Clarification: If the game is tied at the end of regulation (7 innings or 105-minute limit), the away team will start the next inning with the bases loaded (last 3 recorded outs) with one out. The bottom half will do the same. If still tied after one extra innings, teams will start bases loaded, zero out. There is no time limit in the championship game.

VII. STANDINGS and REPORTING SCORES

- A. We will keep current standings on www.tourneymachine.com, but coaches will be responsible for inputting weekend scores, highlights, recaps, etc. In addition, both teams are also responsible for reporting scores via:
 - a. Tourney Machine www.tourneymachine.com
 - b. If you are having problems, you can email jesse@minnesotabaseballacademy.com
 - c. You can also text scores to Jesse Tollefson @ 651-324-7639 or Michael Jensen @ 612.718.5254

Please include age group, team names and scores if e-mailing/texting.

Tourney Machine Instructions

Go to www.tourneymachine.com

Click "Log-in" – if on a phone use the "Mobile Login" option

Username: scoutstop21 Password: AFBL2021

If on a computer – click "Manage"

Click the header "Post Scores"

Select your division and enter the score for your game each week

If on Mobile App – Click "ScoutStop AFBL Series #1" then click "Post Scores by Division" and follow the links to get to your division/games.

- **B.** If there are any issues with reporting scores, please email <u>jesse@minnesotabaseballacademy.com</u>.
- VIII. LEAGUE STANDINGS AND TIEBREAKERS

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AFBL seedings will be determined by the team with the highest winning percentage in each division at the conclusion of the season (Ties count as ½ a win and ½ a loss). Ties in the standings will be broken by the following procedure:

- 1) Head to head competition (when applicable)
- 2) Least runs allowed
- 3) Run Differential
- 4) Most runs scored
- 5) Coin flip

IX. COACH/PLAYER/SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

A. All players, coaches and spectators are to behave in a manner that reflects the positive fun associated with the game of baseball. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated, and

includes but is not limited to: verbal abuse, arguing, judgment calls, physical aggression, profanity, tantrum-like acts, confronting, taunting opposing fans, players and/or coaches.

- B. Please keep in mind that you are coaching youth baseball. Therefore, unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Unsportsmanlike conduct will result in removal from the league without a refund. Unsportsmanlike conduct does include verbal/physical abuse or harassment of members of the same team by a coach, player or spectator.
- D. Any player, coach or spectator ejected or removed from a fall baseball league game due to unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

Any person that has been suspended must appeal their case to Minnesota Baseball Academy.

RAINOUTS and RESCHEDULING

Please check the weather the night before AND the morning of practice and game days. We will update the website (www.blizzardelitebaseball.com), social media (Twitter: @ScoutStop, @MNBlizzard, @BlizzardBasebal) and/or send texts and e-mails. Updates will be made throughout the day. We will do our best to get the fields ready to play!

Your first form of communication for cancellations or postponements will be on www.blizzardelitebaseball.com

Games may NOT be rescheduled if time does not allow for it. If we have fields and time slots available, we will reschedule games.

- I. Coaches Conduct
 - I. CCS (certificate of common sense)
 - II. Role Models
 - III. Arrive to field 45 minutes prior to game minimum
- II. Coaches Apparel
 - Shorts/baseball pants/wind pants (no jeans)

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- II. Team shirt or pullover
- III. Tennis shoes or turf shoes no open-toed sandals
- III. Player Conduct
 - I. 1st offense (coach administrator discretion) if offense is considered minor meeting with coach-major (fight-explicit outburst) termination from league
 - *no refund
 - II. 2nd offense terminated from AFBL *no refund