



# NORTHWEST IOWA YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

2023 Rules and Regulations

# Rules and Regulations

## 1) MAXIMUM / MINIMUM AGE LIMITS

- a) Maximum
  - i) Minors - A player who has completed 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade, but has not entered 7<sup>th</sup> grade and will not be 14 years old before **August 1, 2023**.
  - ii) Majors - A player who has completed 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, but has not entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade and will not be 16 years old before **August 1, 2023**.
- b) Minimum
  - i) Only 5 players of a lower class age can be used. That is, only 5 players of Minors age can play and be on a roster of Majors team. Coaches are urged to use good judgment and discretion in the selection of these players. **REMEMBER THE SAFETY OF THE PLAYER SHOULD BE THE PRIME CONSIDERATION!**
  - ii) Violation of this rule will result in forfeiture of the game or games involved. The NWIYBL Board, at their Annual Meeting, will review continued violations.

## 2) ELIGIBILITY

- a) Each player must play with a team from the school system in which they are enrolled (or open-enrolled) if a team is sponsored there. If the school system has more than one town sponsoring a team, players should play with the team from their legal residence. Law says the voting precinct or township of the parent defines legal residence. Special consideration may occur at the NWIYBL Board's discretion in conjunction with representatives from the towns involved.
  - i) A team may not, under any circumstances, recruit players away from another town sponsoring a team.
- b) No player may participate in the NWIYBL sanctioned tournament unless his name appears for 22 innings in the scorebook of the team that lists him on the roster. The player need not have appeared in 22 innings, but must have been with the team during 22 innings of play.
- c) The following programs have signed up for the league: Alta, Aurelia, Battle Creek-Ida Grove, Cherokee, Danbury, Galva-Holstein, Kingsley-Pierson, Lawton-Bronson, Laurens, Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn, Merville, Maple Valley Anthon-Oto, Newell-Fonda, Odebolt-Arthur, Odebolt-Arthur-Battle Creek-Ida Grove, Remsen, River Valley, Schaller-Crestland, Sloan, Sioux Central, Storm Lake, and Whiting. All teams will play under the direction of these programs. Any new teams or programs must be approved by the NWIYBL Board.
- d) This is an open signup league. No player that signs up will be excluded from a roster on a team. No exceptions.
- e) The NWIYBL discourages programs from creating all star teams and any practices that are contrary to the interest of sportsmanship and fair play.
- f) The League reserves the right to exclude any team from participating in the NWIYBL and the NWIYBL Tournament.

## 3) ENTRY FEE AND ROSTERS

- a) Entry Fee
  - i) Teams must be registered by **April 1, 2023**
  - ii) The entry fee for the League this year is **\$50.00** for Minors and **\$50.00** for Majors.
  - iii) This fee must be sent in on or before **May 1st**. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of all League games played prior to and after this date.
    - (1) Send check to NWIYBL C/O Joe Kucera PO Box 638 Storm Lake, Iowa 50588.
- b) Rosters
  - i) A roster containing the Name, Address, Grade, and Date of Birth of each player must be submitted on or before **May 1st**.

- (1) Additional name/names may be added to your roster if done so by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ii) You must submit a roster for each division that you have teams participating in. Non-compliance will result in forfeiture of all NWIYBL games played after that date.
- 4) UNIFORMS AND COACHES
- a) Uniforms
- i) In this league, players are required to wear matching uniforms with numbers on the back.
- ii) Coach's uniforms are optional.
- b) Coaches
- i) Coaches may coach either First or Third Base. An adult or team member listed on the roster may coach the vacant position.
- ii) Coaches must be a high school graduate or 18 years of age.
- iii) Coaches will be held responsible for compliance with all NWIYBL rules.
- 5) DISTANCES
- a) Minors: Bases are 70'; Pitching Rubber 50'6"; Home Plate to 2<sup>nd</sup> Base 99'.
- b) Majors: Bases are 80'; Pitching Rubber 55'6"; Home Plate to 2<sup>nd</sup> Base 113'1".
- 6) STARTING TIME
- a) Minors: 6:00 p.m.
- i) No new inning after 8:00 p.m., unless there is no majors game. Games may result in a tie.  
(1) A new inning begins after the last out of the prior inning
- b) Majors: 8:00 p.m.
- i) 30 minutes after completion of Minors game, but no earlier than 7:30
- c) Time Limits
- i) If two games in one evening (typically Minors followed by Majors) there will be a time limit of 1.5 hours per game.  
(1) This only applies if at least one of the communities is still in school  
(2) Once both communities are done with school – normal start and end times will apply
- ii) No new inning begins after 1.5 hours of games play  
(1) A new inning begins after the last out of the prior inning
- d) Games will start **Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** and the regular season will end **June 16<sup>th</sup>** giving us 11 playing dates and the league tournament will start on **Monday June 19<sup>th</sup>** and end **Thursday June 29<sup>th</sup>**.
- i) The tournament may go until July 7<sup>th</sup> depending on entrants into league tournaments.
- 7) PROTESTS AND EJECTIONS
- a) The Iowa High School Athletic Association has a rule stating the decisions of the field umpires are final. In other words, there are no protests.
- i) If you believe that a rule has been misapplied, call time and discuss it with the officials.  
(1) This does not apply to judgment calls.  
(2) Actions sometimes speak louder than words, if you are going to visit with an umpire about a situation do it in a professional manner.
- b) Ejections (per IAHSAA)
- i) If a player is ejected, the player must stay in the dugout under the coach's supervision.
- ii) If a coach is ejected, the coach must leave the confines of the facility.
- iii) If a player or coach is ejected, he must sit out the remainder of that day and the next playing date.
- 8) EQUIPMENT
- a) Metal spikes are illegal in Minors.
- i) Majors may wear spikes

- b) Aluminum bats are allowed in both divisions. All bats must be 36 inches or less. The thickest part of an aluminum bat has to be 2 3/4 inches or less. The length to ounce ratio (3 oz. less than length) DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS LEAGUE.

- i) Aluminum bats must have the **USSSA BPF 1.15 or USA Baseball** stamp on them  
(1) BBCOR Certified Bats are also eligible – high school bat standard (-3)



- c) All wooden bats must have the (BBCOR) Stamp on it, which simply means if not one solid piece of wood, it must have the stamp on the barrel.



- d) It is mandatory that the catchers wear a helmet, throat protector (if not a “hockey style mask”), and a protective cup.
- e) Helmets must be worn at all times by the batter, runners, on deck batter, and player standing in coach’s box.
- f) NATSI approved helmets are required.
- g) No jewelry will be allowed with the exception of medical alert bracelet or necklace.

9) INNINGS AND PLAYER REQUIRED TO COMPLETE GAMES

- a) **Minors** teams may start or finish games with 9 or less players.
- i) **5 innings** for a complete game
- ii) 3 innings in case of rain, if called by the umpire.
- iii) 10 run rule will apply after 3 innings, with the inning to be completed.
- iv) If tied after 5 innings. We will play extra innings with the batter who made the last out from the previous inning starting on second base. (Game still may end in a tie. If a Majors game follows no new inning may start after 8 PM)
- b) **Majors** teams may start or finish games with 9 or less players.
- i) **6 innings** for a complete game
- ii) 4 innings in case of rain, if called by the umpire.
- iii) 10 run rule will apply after 4 innings, with the inning to be completed.
- iv) If tied after 6 innings. We will play extra inning with the batter who made the last out from the previous inning starting on second base.

10) INNING RESTRICTIONS PER PITCHER PER 3 FULL CALENDAR DAYS

- a) Minors: Can pitch a maximum of 7 innings on 3 **consecutive days rest**. That means that if they pitch 7 innings on Monday, they need to rest Tuesday, Wednesday AND Thursday. If they pitch 4 innings on Monday, they have a maximum of 3 innings left on Thursday.
- b) Majors: Can pitch a maximum 9 innings on 3 **consecutive days rest**. That means that if they pitch 9 innings on Monday, they need to rest Tuesday, Wednesday AND Thursday. If they pitch 6 innings on Monday, they have a maximum of 3 innings left on Thursday.
- c) Coaches Option- Minors pitcher may pitch on Majors team, provided he does not exceed the minimum limitations cited above. We ask that coaches use care and caution, and not require that any player pitch above his physical ability.
- d) Any pitching that takes place out of the league needs to be monitored closely. We recommend that a players follow the criteria list in 10.a. and 10.b. for all innings thrown in a week, either league or non-league games. This includes games played in tournaments, high school varsity or junior varsity, etc.
- e) If a player throws one pitch it is considered an inning pitched.

11) DAYS OF GAMES

- a) Games will be played on Mondays and Thursdays for both Majors and Minors teams.
- b) Places, dates, and time of scheduled games may be changed by the agreement of the respective coaches. This is permitted to accommodate a team who may have a problem gaining access to a lighted field, etc. Coaches should make an effort to cooperate as much as possible to find a workable solution to such conflicts.
- c) The intent of the Monday-Thursday schedule is to leave weekends free for family activities.

12) EXTRA GAMES

- a) Games played by your team not scheduled by the NWIYBL are optional.
  - i) Remember to use care with young arms

13) MAKE UP GAMES AND SUSPENDED GAMES

- a) Scheduled NWIYBL games, which have not been completed by **June 15<sup>h</sup>**, will count as ½ win and ½ loss in NWIYBL standings.
  - i) Games not made up by **June 9<sup>th</sup>** will count as ½ win and ½ loss to determine tournament seeding.
    - (1) These games can and should still be played
- b) All postponed games should be made up as soon as possible for they help determine the NWIYBL standings.
- c) If a game is called because of darkness, it will be continued at a later date with play commencing from point of suspension. The line up and batting order of each team shall be a replication of that which existed at the time of suspension.
- d) Fair effort has to be put forth by both teams to get together to make up or resume games, or games will be forfeited.
- e) For safety reasons, upon observation of lightning, any coach or umpire can request a 30-minute game delay.
  - i) 30 minute delay starts over for each additional lightning strike

14) UMPIRES

- a) To expedite the game, we should assist our umpires by complying with the following rules:
  - i) 8 warm-up pitches for a relief pitcher, unless weather is damp or cold.
  - ii) Have the batters come up to the plate in the correct batting order.
  - iii) Be sure the batter comes to the plate with a helmet that is properly placed on the batter's head.
    - (1) There is no penalty for a player not having a helmet on when player steps into the batter's box.
  - iv) All base runners must wear helmets. A runner will be declared out if he intentionally removes his helmet while he is a base runner.
  - v) Chalk your playing field; mark out foul lines to First Base and delineate batter's box.
  - vi) Keep the players in the dugout or on the bench as opposed to letting them run around. This is important for obvious reasons. Players in the dugout (open) entrance should also have a helmet.
  - vii) Keep equipment, bats, etc. near dugout or bench and not on the playing field. Your assistance in these matters will help reduce needless injuries.
  - viii) It is required that you have an orange safety bag at 1<sup>st</sup> base.
- b) All umpires must be graduated from High School, unless certified.
- c) The home team is to furnish the umpires and **at least one must be certified by the IHSAA**. It is strongly recommended that the certified umpire or most experienced umpire be behind the plate for the Majors game.

- d) If the home team is unable to find at least one certified umpire, the game will be forfeited to the visiting team. The game should then be played for fun if it is agreed upon by both coaches.
  - i) Coaches are ineligible from umpiring any of their own team's games.
  - ii) If it has been proven that a game has been played without a certified umpire, the game will be forfeited to the visiting team.
- e) Each should get their local umpires qualified and registered with the IHSAA.
- f) Players are not allowed to dispute an umpire's decision.
- g) Unsportsmanlike conduct by players, fans, and coaches will not be tolerated (Example: profane language, throwing bats or helmets, etc.)
- h) The certified umpire-in-chief may warn players and spectators on rules f. and g. above once, and then they may remove them from the game or game area for repeated violations. Some violations may warrant immediate ejection from a game. (per IAHSAA rules: player and/or coach is ineligible the following game)
- i) Each community should be sure that all league umpires read this material and **NFHS** rulebook prior to working NWIYBL games.
- j) It is suggested that Umpires wear official Iowa High School Athletic Association uniforms.

15) INSURANCE

- a) The Northwest Iowa Youth Baseball League urges each team to purchase insurance; however the NWIYBL has never carried insurance for the teams.

16) MISCELLANEOUS

- a) Only coaches and their assistants will be allowed on the playing field.
- b) A scorekeeper will be allowed on the bench, not on the playing field, unless it is an assistant coach.
  - i) Maximum of 2 coaches on the field during game play
- c) All calls by the umpire will be final unless that call involves a rule.
- d) No automatic intentional walks – a player must receive 4 balls.
- e) When 1<sup>st</sup> base is occupied and the third strike is dropped (not dropped on a transfer) by the catcher, the batter is out. If 1<sup>st</sup> base is open the batter can run.
  - i) Does not apply with two (2) outs

17) LEAGUE IMPROVEMENT

- a) If you can recommend a constructive improvement for the league, please direct it to the NWIYBL President. It may be conveyed either verbally or in the form of a note or letter.

18) AWARDS

- a) The teams finishing first and second place in the League tournament will receive trophies for both Majors and Minors.

19) FIRST AID KIT

- a) It is strongly recommended that each team have a First Aid Kit available at all games.

20) HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL RULES

- a) The preceding rules are intended as a supplement to the National Federation of High School Associations Rulebook. The official baseball rulebook will govern all cases other than those cited on the preceding pages.

21) LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

- a) The NWIBL will sponsor an all league tournament directly following NWIYBL play. It will begin June 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - i) Tournament details will be outlined on page 7

- b) Teams need to have their payments and rosters submitted by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**, and win/loss records submitted by **June 9<sup>th</sup>**
- c) The team you enter into the tournament must be the same team you played with in division games.
  - i) A player must have been with that team for a minimum of **22** innings during division play. Example: Town A has two Majors teams for the regular season; they cannot combine teams into one for the tournament.

## 22) **LINE-UP OPTIONS AND SUBSTITUTION RULES**

- a) Line-up Options
    - i) Each coach must choose one of the 4 lineup options before the game begins making sure both coaches and umpires are aware of everyone's intentions.
      - (1) **9 Players:** A team batting **nine** (9) players and ALL substitutions will follow NFHS guidelines.
        - (a) Minimum Play Time (MPT)
          - (i) Players must play 2 Innings (6 defensive outs) in the field.
          - (ii) MPT does not apply if:
            - 1. Game is shortened due to darkness/weather/time.
            - 2. Game is shortened due to 10 Run Rule
            - 3. Player is disciplined by coach, is injured, or is ejected by umpire
        - (2) **Free Substitution:** A team batting **all** players may interchange fielding positions (NOT for the pitcher) forgoing the reentry rule.
          - (a) The pitcher will follow the NFHS guidelines regarding substitution.
            - (i) The starting pitcher is the only pitcher that may reenter as a pitcher
          - (b) no pinch runners allowed
          - (c) no pinch hitting allowed
        - (d) Minimum Play Time (MPT)
          - (i) Players must play 2 Innings (6 defensive outs) in the field.
          - (ii) MPT does not apply if:
            - 1. Game is shortened due to darkness/weather/time.
            - 2. Game is shortened due to 10 Run Rule
            - 3. Player is disciplined by coach, is injured, or is ejected by umpire
      - (3) **9 players plus EH** (extra player): A team with **more than 9** players using a tenth player as an extra hitter for the duration of the game. A team using an extra hitter may interchange fielding positions (NOT for the pitcher) forgoing the reentry rule.
        - (a) The pitcher will follow the NFHS guidelines regarding substitution.
          - (i) The starting pitcher is the only pitcher that may reenter as a pitcher
        - (b) Any substitutions of the starting ten players by bench personnel will follow NFHS guidelines.
      - (c) Minimum Play Time (MPT)
        - (i) Players must play 2 Innings (6 defensive outs) in the field.
        - (ii) MPT does not apply if:
          - 1. Game is shortened due to darkness/weather/time.
          - 2. Game is shortened due to 10 Run Rule
          - 3. Player is disciplined by coach, is injured, or is ejected by umpire
    - (4) **Using a DH with 9 Players:** A team batting nine (9) players with one of those being the DH (designated hitter). All substitution rules follow NFHS guidelines.
      - (a) Minimum Play Time (MPT)
        - (i) Players must play 2 Innings (6 defensive outs) in the field.
        - (ii) MPT does not apply if:
          - 1. Game is shortened due to darkness/weather/time.
          - 2. Game is shortened due to 10 Run Rule
          - 3. Player is disciplined by coach, is injured, or is ejected by umpire
- b) Substitution rules (NFHS rules)
  - i) **9 players** or 9 players plus **EH** or **DH:**
    - (1) Any starting player may be withdrawn and reenter once. The player must reenter at his original batting position, whenever he is in the lineup.

- (2) A substitute (bench player) may not reenter after being withdrawn.
- (3) Only a starting pitcher may reenter to pitch
- ii) **Free Substitution:**
  - (1) Free substitution on defense because all players have a batting position
  - (2) There will not be an automatic out for injured players if the Free Substitution lineup is used, as long as there at least 9 players are in the lineup
  - (3) Only the starting pitcher may reenter to pitch

## NWIYBL TOURNAMENT 2023

- 1) Cut-off on payment for the League dues is May 30. If not paid, NWIBL Board will not schedule teams in the tournament.
- 2) Tournament will be divided into a “Championship” bracket and a “B Championship” bracket at both Minors and Majors levels.
- 3) Tournament dates for 2023: June 19, June 22, June 26, June 29 & June 30.
  - a) Game times are still 6 and 8. – Game times and locations will be determined later
- 4) On June 9<sup>th</sup>, records will be due for seeding and pairings for the tournament.
  - a) Majors records will receive primary consideration with Minors records being taken into consideration IF POSSIBLE.
  - b) Teams with higher seeds will host games until Finals. Finals location will be selected by geography and field availability.
    - i) Neutral site – IF POSSIBLE.
- 5) Games after June 9<sup>th</sup> won’t count for tournament seeding, but will count for division championships (when applicable).
- 6) If you coach a team and lose in the tournament, you may not help coach another team in the tournament.
- 7) “Home” team will be considered the host community. If it is a neutral site game a coin-flip will determine “Home Team”.
- 8) EACH team is responsible for supplying two (2) balls for EACH tournament game.
- 9) Minimum Play Time rules do not apply to tournament games. Minimum Play Time rules should be addressed by individual communities, with coaches and players, so expectations are known.
  - a) Winning team is responsible for entering game results online.
- 10) Results will be posted as soon as entire day’s results are in.



# Score Reporting Instructions

Website: <http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=northwestiowayouthbaseballleague>

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Team: Test Division  
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Majors Baseball

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Day	Date	Time	End Time	Status	Score	Visitors	Home	Venue	Umpires
Fri	2/23/2018	6:00 pm		TBP		Smithland #3	Diamond Center #1	TBA	

Select DIVISION drop box and select the division your team participates in.

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Team: All teams ▼

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Day	Date	Time	End Time	Status	Score	Visitors	Home	Venue	Umpires
Fri	2/23/2018	6:00 pm		TBP		Smithland #3	Diamond Center #1	TBA	

Select the “Report Scores” button

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**Begin Date:** February ▼ 23 ▼ 2018 ▼

**End Date:** February ▼ 23 ▼ 2018 ▼

**Division:** Test Division ▼

**Location:** All Locations ▼

**Score Reporting Password:** \*\*\*\*

Search Cancel

Select the date of game to be recorded.

- Can enter a large date range to find game

Enter Score Reporting Password

- 2023 (is password)

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Day	Date	Time	End Time	Status	Division	Visitors	Home	Location		Officials
Fri	2/23/2018	6:00pm		TBP	Test Division Test Division	Smithland #3	Diamond Center #1	TBA	<a href="#">Report Score</a>	

Select "Report Score" of the game you want to score

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Report Game Score

Date: Friday, February 23, 2018 @ 6:00:00 PM  
Location: TBA  
Game Status:  ▼  
Smithland #3:   
Diamond Center #1:   
Headline:   
Game Summary:

Enter score of both teams

Select "Completed" on Game Status drop down

- Or game will not show in Game Results or Standings

Select "Submit" after game marked Complete and scores are entered.

**2023**  
**Northwest Iowa Youth Baseball League**  
**Board of Directors**

President

Joe Kucera

Storm Lake

Cell: (712)368-5146

[jkucera@slcsd.org](mailto:jkucera@slcsd.org)

Vice President

Member

New NWIYBL Website:

<https://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=northwestiowayouthbaseballleague>

Important Dates:

- April 2 - Last day to register team
- April 18 - Schedule posted
- May 1 - Deadline for roster
- May 1 - Deadline for payment
- May 11 - First league game
- June 1 - Roster additions / corrections
- June 9 - Record Submission (9 games)
- June 15 - Last Regular Season Game
- June 19 - Tournament begins