

Sophomore Division

A. SAFETY EQUIPMENT

A NOCSAE approved protective helmet with full ear flaps will be worn by all batters, base runners and catchers.

- A catcher must wear a chest protector, shin guards, protective cup (MALE CATCHERS ONLY), NOCSAE approved helmet, mask and a throat protector.
- Shin guards MUST have knee and metatarsal protection (soccer style shin guards are NOT acceptable).
- Any Player warming up the pitcher must wear a mask and cup while in the down or crouch position.

Metal cleats will be allowed for participants (coaches and players) thirteen (13) years and up.

- **If a player is found to be using their metal cleats with malicious intent within a game, that player will be ejected from the game being played and automatically suspended from the following game.**

B. BATS

In adherence with Northwest baseball's move into Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Baseball, all players must use a Babe Ruth Baseball approved bat. The rule is as follows:

13-15 BASEBALL DIVISION

The bat may not exceed 34" in length, and the bat barrel may not exceed 2 5/8" in diameter. All aluminum/alloy barrel bats and all composite handle (only aluminum/alloy barrels are allowed. Only composite barrel bats certified and marked BBCOR .50 will be allowed. Wood barrel bats conforming to the specifications of Official Baseball Rule 1.10 are allowed.

The complete rule and a list of non-compliant bats can be found on the following website: <http://www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx>

PENALTY

- If the illegal bat is discovered prior to a batter completing his "at bat" the bat is simply removed from play and the "at bat" continues.
- A player who uses an illegal bat or non-conforming barrel dimension and hits a fair ball will be ruled out. No advancement on the bases will be allowed, and any outs during the play shall stand. This is an appeal play. The "at bat" will be considered legal once a pitch is thrown to the next batter.
- Any bat discovered prior to the game that does not conform to the above rule shall be directed to be removed immediately and not be allowed for use during the game.

D. PLAYING FIELD

1. Bases: 90 feet apart.
2. Pitching Rubber 60 feet from back point of home plate.
3. Second Base 113 feet 2 inches from back point of home plate.

E. PLAYING RULES

1. Runners may lead and steal.
2. Infield fly is in effect.
3. Batter may run to first on drop 3rd strike. (*MLB Dropped 3rd strike rule*)
4. Home team will be the official scorer.
5. RUNNERS must avoid contact, if there is a play being made on them.
6. In player pitch age groups, a courtesy runner is allowed for the **catcher only**.
 - The courtesy runner shall be any player who is not currently in the game.
 - Use of a courtesy runner does not burn the substitute.
 - If no substitutes are available, the last batted out is to be used as the courtesy runner.
 - If there is no substitute or last batted out, the courtesy runner option cannot be used until the above listed criteria can be met.

F. PITCHING RULES

Babe Ruth Rule 0.06

1. Pitchers may only pitch 7 innings per week.
2. A Babe Ruth 13-15 pitcher must have two (2) calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he pitches more than three (3) innings in any one game.

WARNING: DO NOT VIOLATE ANY PITCHING RULES.

3. Balks will be called with no warnings. Umpires can explain the balk called.

G. LENGTH OF GAME

1. Game shall be 7 innings with the exceptions below.
2. No new inning after two (2) hours.
3. Mercy Rule – 10 runs after 5 innings or 15 after 4 innings.
4. If a game is called by the umpire, it will be considered a complete game after 5 innings and been played (4 ½ innings if home team is leading).

H. PLAYER PLAYING TIME

1. Each player must play 2 innings on defense and have 1 at bat. This rule applies to both teams even if the last inning is not required due to the home team leading. The only exception to this rule are when the games are shortened due to the run mercy rules or when games are shortened due to whether or lighting conditions
2. EP Rules are in effect.
3. PENALTIES: If the playing time rules are violated the player who did not get the mandatory playing time must play every inning of the next game. The manager must not attend the game and is prohibited from coaching the game in any manner.