

SECTION 17 BASEBALL

A. Specific Rules For Baseball

1. The Official Rules Book is the current year's National Federation of High Schools Baseball Rule Book. Rulings shall be made and governed by the following priorities: First – any League Bulletin issued by the AAA Athletic Office; Second - these AAA Middle School Bylaws, Rules and Regulations; Third - the Official Rules Book.
2. The home team is responsible for providing a pitching plate and the bases.
3. The playing distances shall be as follows: Pitching = 54 feet; Bases = 90 feet.
4. The home team shall have the choice of benches, and only authorized personnel are allowed in the bench and team areas. See these Bylaws Part I, Sections 17.
5. Pre-game infield practice is to be according to the following schedule unless an adjustment is made by agreement of both coaches:
 - a. Home team's infield starts one half hour prior to game start time;
 - b. Visiting team's infield starts fifteen minutes prior to game start time.
6. Each team will give the umpire two baseballs to start the game. Teams will alternate in providing baseballs (home team first) as needed during the game.
7. The plate umpire is responsible for designating the Official Scorer and resolving any scorekeeping disputes. (usually the home team's book will be official). The Official Scorer should sit as near to home plate as possible. If the plate umpire fails to designate an official scorer, then the home scorer shall assume such duties.
8. There is a 20 minute grace period beginning with the official scheduled game time. See these Bylaws Part IV, Section 16(I).
9. A regulation game is seven innings. A league, playoff or championship game is also considered regulation if terminated by field conditions after five or more innings or if one team is at least 10 runs ahead after 5 or more innings. A game is also regulation if terminated by the White Flag Rule. A game is also official if terminated by the time limit or ends in a tie in those situations set out in subsection (A)(10) of this Section where one extra inning is played beyond the time limit.
10. Playing time is limited to two hours and fifteen minutes from the start of the game. The time limit cannot be extended to break a tie. However, if an inning ends within the time limit, or if seven innings have been played within the time limit, one extra inning shall be played in order to break the tie. Tiebreak, Playoff, and Championship Games do not have a time limit.
11. White Flag Rule: Anytime a team is losing by 15 or more runs, that team's coach may terminate the game.
12. Baseball caps, if available, shall be worn by all players. The pitcher must wear a baseball cap while pitching.
13. All participants must be properly equipped for safety in accord with NFHS rules.

14. Athletic supporters and protective "cups" are required for all male catchers.
15. Cleats are not required, but if worn, any player wearing cleats must wear rubber cleats only.
16. The NFHS Speed-up Rules may be used (catchers only).
17. The NFHS Designated Hitter Rule may be used.
18. Pitchers may pitch only ten innings maximum per week, Monday through Sunday. A pitcher who delivers one or more pitches during an inning is charged with one inning pitched.
19. The legality of each and every bat is governed by NFHS rules as modified by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), EXCEPT there shall be no weight to length restriction, the barrel diameter shall be 2 & 5/8 inches maximum, BESR and BBCOR performance standards are not required except as provided in subsection (A)(20), and minus three standard is not required.
20. Composite bats are not legal in the AAA Middle School baseball league during the 2011-12 season except where they meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR). This regulation shall be revisited annually in order to adjust for changes in the bat manufacturing market, changes in safety standards, and the ability for bat manufacturers to certify that their bats are tamper proof and have passed the Accelerated Break In (ABI) procedure.

B. League Structure

1. Each year the league will be divided into two divisions which are aligned in a Primary (Division A) and a Secondary (Division B) classification based upon each team's performance the previous year.
 - a. The previous year's participating teams will remain in their respective divisions, except that the top two teams from Division B will be advanced to Division A, and the bottom two teams from Division A will be dropped to Division B.
 - b. Any new entrant will be placed into either division at the discretion of the Commissioner of Athletics.
 - c. The divisions shall be balanced numerically (i.e. neither division shall have more than one more team than the other division). If necessary, the top 3 teams may be advanced from Division B or the bottom 3 teams may be dropped from Division A.
2. The current year's league will be divided into two divisions as listed herein:

Division A

Aptos
Denman
Francisco
Giannini
Hoover
Lawton
Lilienthal
Marina
Presidio

Division B

Everett
Fong Yu
King
Lick
Mann
Revere
Rooftop
Roosevelt
Visitacion Valley

3. The division members listed herein may be altered by the Commissioner of Athletics at his or her discretion.