

**BEDFORD BABE RUTH
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL, INC.**

SPECIAL RULES

for

SOFTBALL DIVISION

2011

Bedford Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball, Inc.
Special Rules

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SPECIAL RULES FOR BEDFORD BABE RUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL , INC. SOFTBALL DIVISION

In general, the rules governing participating in the programs of Bedford Babe Ruth Baseball/Softball , Inc. (**BBRBS**) shall be those rules set forth by the Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc.

However, certain **SPECIAL RULES** have been adopted by the Board of Directors to better serve the purpose of **BBRBS**, which is to provide recreation in the sport of softball for boys and girls from the ages of 6 to 16. At no point shall winning become more important than the participants themselves and their instruction in the game of softball. The Baseball/Softball Commission will be responsible for advising the Board of Directors as to the application of the following rules as they pertain to the purpose of **BBRBS**. The decision of the Board of Directors is final regarding the application of the following rules as they pertain to the purpose of **BBRBS**.

A softball player's 'league age' will be determined by their age as of August 31.

I LATE REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

The deadline for Registration shall be established by the Board of Directors on a yearly basis and shall be made known in the registration information letter made available from year to year.

The Board of Directors, after Registration occurs, shall establish a specified number of slots available for player participation at all levels of play. Any Registration which occurs after the deadline specified by the Board of Directors shall be placed on a waiting list. In the event that openings become available after the deadline, the procedure for establishing the priority for players on the waiting list shall be as follows:

- A. Players on the waiting list shall be placed in one of three categories, and within those categories in chronological order of registration:
 1. new to the town after Registration deadline;
 2. town resident prior to the deadline, but new to **BBRBS**;
 3. town resident prior to the deadline and a previous participant in **BBRBS**.

- B. In the event that a slot or slots become available, priority shall take place in the following order:
 - 1. new to the town after the Registration deadline;
 - 2. town resident prior to the deadline, but new to **BBRBS**;
 - 3. town resident prior to the deadline and a previous participant in **BBRBS**.
- C. Within each category, the order of priority shall be determined by the earliest date of Registration and each category must be **totally vacant** before proceeding to the next category.
- D. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that a returning Intermediate League player is on the waiting list, that player shall be allowed into the program only if:
 - 1. an opening on his/her previous Intermediate League team is available, **AND**,
 - 2. he/she is, or becomes, first on the waiting list.

II MANAGERS AND COACHES

- A. Managers and coaches will be selected on their knowledge of softball, coaching experience and ability to work with children.
- B. All managers shall be nominated annually by the Baseball/Softball Commission with the approval of the Executive Board.
- C. Managers shall select two (2) coaches with the approval of the responsible Softball Commissioner. If the manager is unable to select the two (2) coaches required, then the coaches shall be appointed by the responsible Softball Commissioner. All selections will be approved by the Board of Directors. Applicants for manager must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- D. Managers and coaches shall adhere to the rules and regulations of **BBRBS** as adopted by the Board of Directors. Failure to comply will be grounds for removal.

- E. Managers and coaches may be removed only for failure to comply with rules and regulations or for conduct detrimental to the purpose of **BBRBS**. Removal shall require a two-thirds vote of those present at a scheduled or special Board of Director's meeting.
- F. Managers shall be responsible for any player who violates Headmaster Rule #19, (see Appendix A for latest revision), for knowing the league age (based on a July 31st cutoff date) of all their players, and for the proper maintenance and use of all equipment, including uniforms issued to their team.
- G. Junior Softball League Managers shall be required to prepare and maintain a defensive lineup sheet for each game, and be prepared to provide it to the commissioner upon request.
- H. Junior team composition will be 12 to 15 players.

III PLAYER DRAFTING

- A. The Commissioners of the Senior, Intermediate and Junior leagues will convene a pre-draft Managers meeting immediately following the conclusion of tryouts to discuss each player in the draft. The purpose of this meeting is for Managers to discuss the players recommended as selections in the first four rounds of the draft.

The Manager's children shall be slotted in the round agreed to by all of the Managers at the pre-draft meeting. If Managers cannot agree on the appropriate round to slot the Managers children, the Commissioner for that particular league will assign the round and that decision will be binding.

If a Manager is unable to attend the pre-draft meeting immediately following the tryout session, that Manager may designate an alternate to attend the meeting and participate in the discussions.

Specific procedures will be outlined by the Baseball/Softball Commission.

- B. Thirteen (13) through sixteen (16) year old players must be drafted into the Senior Softball Division.
- C. Twelve (12) year old players must be drafted into the Intermediate League. Eleven (11) year old players are eligible to be drafted into the Intermediate League.

- D.
 - 1. Nine (9) year old players must try out for Junior softball; however, because of safety reasons, players may be assigned to the Rookie Division.
 - 2. Ten (10) year old players may be eligible for draft into the Intermediate Softball League if deemed qualified by the Baseball/Softball Commission.
 - 3. The Junior League will be comprised of nine (9), ten (10), and eleven (11) year old players.

- E. In general, the following will hold true:
 - 1. The Senior Softball Division (13-16), Intermediate and Junior Softball Divisions will be an open draft, and the teams will be reformed each year.
 - 2. Rookie League Teams will be assigned by the Rookie Commissioner, and in general the following will hold true:
 - A) 7 year old and 8 year old players will be assigned to the Rookie Division;
 - B) 6 year old players will be assigned to the T-Ball Division.

- F. In the Junior League, any sibling(s) of an assigned or drafted player must be taken with that team's next available pick(s), unless directed otherwise by the Baseball/Softball Commission as specified in paragraph III L

- G. The Baseball/Softball Commission may provide guidance each year on the draft to resolve parental requests about siblings and any other sibling related issue.

IV PLAYER REPLACEMENT

- A. If the roster of an Intermediate Softball Division team is permanently reduced to fewer than eleven (11) due to the loss of players, the manager shall immediately notify the Intermediate Softball Commissioner. The Intermediate Softball Commissioner shall then select, from the Junior Softball Division, the oldest and most qualified player based on ability and safety factors considered. Selection from Junior Softball Division teams shall be made uniformly, that is, no second player will be selected from a team until all Junior Softball Division teams have given up at least one player. The Intermediate Softball Commissioner will notify the Board of

Directors of the player selected. The Board will order the permanent transfer of the player to the Intermediate Softball Division. Once the permanent transfer assignment has been made, that player is officially on the Intermediate Softball Division team and the player cannot play on another team.

- B. A manager, if not in agreement with the Intermediate Softball Commissioner's assignment, may appeal the decision at that time.
- C. The Board of Directors shall be the final arbitrators of the Intermediate Softball Commissioner's assignment if the manager appeals.

V PLAYER PARTICIPATION

VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC FORFEITURE OF THE GAME.

- A. In the Senior Softball Division (13-15), all players on the roster attending a game must play a minimum of three (3) innings in the field in a game of six (6) or more innings.
- B. In the Senior Softball Division, Intermediate Softball Division or Junior Softball Division, any player listed as a pitcher with a school team, may not pitch or catch for a **BBRBS** Spring Season team, without the consent of the school team's coach, until that school team's season ends.
- C. An Intermediate or Junior Softball Division player who attends a game must play at least two (2) innings in the field. Junior Softball Division players should finish a season with very near equal playing time. Intermediate and Junior players can be **defensively** withdrawn and reentered as many times as desired during the course of a game. For record purposes, an absentee should be charged with six (6) innings of time or as many innings as are played that game.
- D. The Senior Softball Division, Intermediate Softball Division, Junior and Rookie Softball Division shall bat through the entire roster in a game, whether or not the batter is playing in the field at that time. The batting order may be adjusted from game to game to reflect the needs of the team and to assist in giving the players equal opportunity to hit over the total season – unless specified differently based on outside league affiliation. For record purposes, a player who is absent from a game should be credited with the average number of times at bat for that game.

- E. No inning during a game shall begin after two hours and thirty minutes of playing time has elapsed. The score at that time shall be the final score. No inning during a twilight game in the month of April and May is to be started after 7:30 p.m., whereas, twilight games in the month of June may not have an inning started after 8:00 PM. During the Spring Season, except during the playoffs, any game, even if tied, in the Junior Softball Division and Intermediate Softball Division will end after six (6) innings and in the Senior Softball Division will end after seven (7) innings.
- F. In the Senior Softball Division:
1. A player may pitch a maximum of seven (7) innings per calendar week. If a pitcher delivers one (1) pitch in an inning, that pitcher shall be charged for one (1) inning pitched. The calendar week for BBRBS Softball Division is Monday through and including Sunday - unless specified differently based on outside league affiliation.
 2. If a game fails to reach the regulation minimum limit of 4 1/2 - 5 innings played, it is not a regulation game, BUT, pitching records, as described above, will be kept - unless specified differently based on outside league affiliation.
- G. In the Intermediate and Junior Softball Division:
1. A player may pitch a maximum of seven (7) innings per calendar week. If a pitcher delivers one (1) pitch in an inning, that pitcher shall be charged for one (1) inning pitched. The calendar week for **BBRBS** Softball Division is Monday through and including Sunday.
 2. If a game fails to reach the regulation minimum limit of 3 1/2 - 4 innings played, it is not a regulation game, BUT, pitching records, as described above, will be kept.
- H. In the Senior Softball Division, Intermediate, and Junior Softball Division if a player arrives after the lineups have been given to the umpire and before the first pitch of the top of the third inning, the player must be added to the lineup and will bat last in the batting order (i.e. if there were originally eleven players in the lineup, this player would bat twelfth).
- I. Player participation, suspensions and disciplinary actions:
1. Any participant failing to report for three (3) consecutively scheduled games shall be automatically suspended for the

remainder of the season upon notification to the Baseball/Softball Commission, unless a valid reason is presented and accepted.

2. For disciplinary reasons, managers are allowed to keep a player on the bench for a given game, if he first notifies and gets the approval of the Commissioner of Baseball/Softball or Softball Commissioner beforehand.
3. Any player ejected from a Spring Season game will be suspended for two (2) full games which will begin with the game immediately following the infraction. The player must be in uniform and on the team bench in order to fulfill the game suspension.
4. A second offense calls for an automatic suspension and the player must appear before the Baseball/Softball Commission to determine the length of the suspension.
5. A third offense calls for an automatic suspension from **BBRBS** for the remainder of the season. Because of the seriousness of this situation, the Board of Directors will review all the circumstances of each case before final action is taken. The Board will also review the case before reinstatement is allowed the following year.

VI TO ALL MANAGERS AND COACHES

A. PLAYING RULES:

All softball games shall be played according to the RULES and REGULATIONS of the AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION with the exceptions listed in the BBRBS SPECIAL RULES FOR SOFTBALL DIVISION.

B. COLLISION RULE:

A runner shall be called out when he/she does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder, at any base, when either the fielder has the ball and is waiting to make the tag, or the throw is on its way (umpires judgment controls) and the fielder is about to catch the ball for the purpose of making the tag. In any case, contact must be made for this rule to apply.

C. HIT BATSMAN:

If three (3) batters are hit in a game by the same pitcher, that pitcher ***MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE GAME*** as a pitcher unless specified differently based on outside league affiliation.

D. FIRST AID SUPPLIES AND ICE PACKS:

These items, as issued, are required as part of the game equipment. You are to notify your Softball Commissioner for replacement supplies as needed. Failure to have these items at the games when needed for application will result in a one game suspension of the manager.

E. BASE COACHES:

Any player who is a base coach ***MUST*** wear protective head gear. Base coaches must remain in the coach's box and must not interfere with the play or use his/her privilege to confuse the opposition.

F. OFFICIAL GAMES:

Regular season games which are shortened by either rain or darkness, shall have the score revert back to the last inning and declared official if at least 3 1/2 innings (Intermediate and Junior Softball Division) or 4 1/2 innings (Senior Softball Division) have been played with the home team ahead, or 4 innings (Intermediate and Junior Softball Division) or 5 innings (Senior Softball Division) if the visiting team is ahead. The only exception to this rule will be in the event that the home team ties or takes the lead in the bottom half of the inning which is not completed. In this case (where each team has had an equal number of times at bat) the score shall not revert back to the last complete inning, but instead shall stand as played.

G. RAINED OUT OR POSTPONED GAMES:

The President, his designate or the Umpire in Chief (of **BBRBS** or the game) shall be the judge as to whether a game shall be started because of unsuitable weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field. A game called or postponed after at least one inning has been completed, will be continued from that point in the game when it was suspended. The home team will be responsible for documenting the point in the game when the suspension occurred, including the number of outs, runners on base at each of the bases, the batter scheduled to receive the next pitch and the count on the batter, if any. Line ups of both teams will remain intact from the point of suspension.

H. MAKE-UP GAMES:

Rained out or postponed games must be made up within seven (7) days as directed by the responsible Softball Commissioner, unless the Softball Commissioner determines that a later date is in the best interest of **BBRBS**. Automatic forfeits will be issued to teams failing to comply unless specified differently based on outside league affiliation.

I. UNIFORMS:

All players must be in complete uniform to play.

1. The Senior Softball Division complete uniform shall consist of the **BBRBS** provided team shirt, hat, and pants. Hats worn on the field by the players must be team issued.
2. The Intermediate and Junior Softball Division complete uniform shall consist of the **BBRBS** provided team shirt, pants, and hat.
3. The Rookie Softball Division uniform shall consist of the team hat and shirt provided by **BBRBS**.

J. WARM-UP:

Thirty minutes prior to the start of the game the VISITING TEAM will have the playing field for fifteen (15) minutes for warm-up, followed by the HOME TEAM for fifteen (15) minutes. Home team occupies the first base dugout (bench).

******PLEASE NOTE: BECAUSE OF LIABILITY COVERAGE, ONLY TEAM MEMBERS AND THE COACHING STAFF ARE ALLOWED IN THE DUGOUT OR ON THE TEAM BENCH.**

K. GAME TIME:

All games must start on time. A team not having eight (8) players at game time will be allowed fifteen (15) minutes to field eight (8) players unless specified differently based on league participation. Failure to do so will result in an automatic forfeit.

Home team provides the softballs and two (2) bases, first and second base. The visiting team provides third base.

L. PROTESTS:

A protest must be filed in writing in accordance with BR0.08 within twenty-four (24) hours to the responsible Softball Commissioner or the Commissioner of Baseball/Softball. These items must be satisfied when filing a protest:

1. umpires must be notified at the time of the protest;
2. the rule must be cited;
3. head umpire must sign the score book acknowledging the protest.

M. EJECTION OF MANAGER OR COACH:

Any manager or coach ejected from a game will be suspended for one full game, which will be the game immediately following the infraction, and the manager or coach will be required to appear before the Baseball/Softball Commission to explain his/her actions. Any manager or coach ejected from a second game will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

VII SENIOR SOFTBALL DIVISION RULES

A. DIVISION COMPOSITION:

1. The Senior Softball Division of **BBRBS** shall consist of no fewer than two (2) teams
2. Each team shall consist of no fewer than eleven (11) players.

B. GAMES:

1. One patched umpire shall call each game.
2. A regulation game is seven (7) innings.
3. A continuous batting order will be used.
4. Free defensive substitutions are allowed. All players who attend a game must play at least three (3) innings in the field;

VIII INTERMEDIATE SOFTBALL DIVISION RULES

A. DIVISION COMPOSITION:

1. The Intermediate Softball Division of **BBRBS** shall consist of no fewer than four (4) teams.
2. Each team shall consist of no fewer than eleven (11) players.

B. GAMES:

1. One patched umpire shall call each game or an umpire(s) provided by BBRBS.
2. The defensive team may consist of ten (10) players. As a minimum, eight (8) defensive players shall be on the field at any one time.
3. A regulation game is six (6) innings.
4. A continuous batting order will be used;
4. Free defensive substitutions are allowed. All players who attend a game must play at least two (2) innings in the field;
5. Base runners may not leave the base until the ball crosses the plate
6. The pitching rubber will be placed 40 ft. in front of home plate.
7. An inning will end if a team scores six (6) runs before three (3) outs are recorded. The play on which the sixth (6th) run scores will end at its normal conclusion. Thus, more than six (6) runs, but no more than nine (9) runs, may score in any time at bat. However, this rule does not apply the last inning of any game or in extra innings of any play-off game.
9. A 12 inch softball shall be used.

IX JUNIOR SOFTBALL DIVISION RULES

A. DIVISION COMPOSITION:

1. The Junior Softball Division of **BBRBS** shall consist of no fewer than three (3) teams.
2. Each team shall consist of no fewer than eleven (11) players.

B. GAMES:

1. One patched umpire shall call each game or an umpire(s) provided by BBRBS.
2. The defensive team may consist of ten (10) players. As a minimum, eight (8) defensive players shall be on the field at any one time.
3. A regulation game is six (6) innings.
4. A continuous batting order will be used;
5. Free defensive substitutions are allowed. All players who attend a game must play at least three (3) innings in the field;
6. Base runners may not leave the base until the ball crosses the plate.
7. Runners starting at first or second base are entitled to advance (passed ball) or steal one base only per pitch. Runners starting at third base may not steal or advance (passed ball) home but are liable to be put out if they come off the base.
8. If the catcher of the defensive team attempts to make a play on a runner starting at third base and the ball is overthrown, the runner may not advance.
9. The pitching rubber will be placed 35 ft. in front of home plate.
10. An inning will end if a team scores six (6) runs before three (3) outs are recorded. The play on which the sixth (6th) run scores will end at its normal conclusion. Thus, more than six (6) runs, but no more than nine

(9) runs, may score in any time at bat. However, this rule does not apply in the last inning of any game or in extra innings of any play-off game.

11. An 11 inch softball shall be used.

X ROOKIE SOFTBALL DIVISION RULES:

A. DIVISION COMPOSITION:

1. The Rookie Softball Division of **BBRBS** shall consist of no fewer than three (3) teams.
2. Each team shall consist of no fewer than eleven (11) players.

B. BATTING:

1. All rostered players present for the game shall bat in order, whether playing defensively during that inning or not.
2. There is no bunting.
3. An inning is over when all rostered players present have batted or three (3) outs are made, whichever occurs first.
4. Batting helmets must be worn by the batter, base runners, and any players acting as base coaches.
5. A manager or coach of the offensive team will be the pitcher. He/she will pitch underhand from the pitcher's rubber at a distance of 35' and will not act as a fielder. At the discretion of the managers at each game, eight (8) year old players on the defensive team shall be allowed to pitch three (3) consecutive pitches per batter to eight (8) year old players on the offensive team. If the offensive player has not put the ball in play within the first three (3) pitches by a qualifying defensive player, the manager or coach of the offensive team will pitch to the batter. Managers of each team must discuss prior to the start of each game players who will be allowed to pitch and consider any potential safety concerns.
6. Each batter will receive a maximum of six (6) hittable pitches per at bat as determined by the pitcher. If the batter does not hit in the six (6) pitches or has three (3) swinging strikes, the batter is out.
7. Stealing is not permitted.

8. No advance on overthrows unless the ball goes out of play, then one (1) base only.

C. FIELDING:

1. The defensive team may consist of ten (10) players. As a minimum, eight (8) defensive players shall be on the field at any one time along with two **BBRBS** approved managers or coach. The player playing the pitcher position will stand behind and to the left of the designated offensive manager or coach pitcher. The defensive team may have one manager or coach positioned in the field.
2. Players shall catch. All catchers shall wear the appropriate **BBRBS** provided catcher's gear.
3. All players present must play a minimum of two (2) innings defensively; however, players may enter and be withdrawn from the game as the manager or coach deems necessary. **It is required that all players on the team play an equal number of innings by the end of the season.** The object of the Rookie Softball Division is to teach.

D. GAME:

1. A regulation game is six (6) innings.
2. A called game is complete if three and one half (3 1/2) innings (home team ahead) or four (4) innings are completed.
3. Home team supplies the softballs and two (2) bases.
4. Keeping the defensive line-up sheet is required.
5. The ball is dead and the play stops once the ball is back to the pitcher and a player is in control of the ball. Runners will return to the base they have achieved.
6. Score will be kept.
7. An eleven (11) inch softball will be used.

XI PLAYOFF FORMAT:

- A. All teams in the Intermediate Softball Division, Junior Division and Senior Softball Division(players) will be eligible to participate in the playoffs.
- B. Playoffs shall be of the double elimination format.
- C. First round positions shall be determined by the overall standings at the end of the season. In an eight (8) team league, the first (1st) place team will open against the eighth (8th) place team, second (2nd) place against the seventh (7th) place, etc.
- D. Standings will be determined by the total number of points a team has at the end of the season. Total points shall be computed as follows:
 - 1. Win - Two (2) points
 - 2. Tie - One (1) point
 - 3. Loss - No points
- E. Teams will be kept apprised of the standings by the responsible Softball Commissioner, or designated representative, at regular periods.
- F. Actual playoff organization may vary dependent upon the number of teams in a league. The Commissioner of Baseball/Softball and/or the President will determine the arrangement by league.
- G. The following two way tie breakers shall be used to determine the final standings:
 - 1. head-to-head competition;
 - 2. least runs allowed head-to-head;
 - 3. run spread (runs scored minus runs allowed) head-to-head;
 - 4. most runs scored head-to-head;
 - 5. random selection by the President or his representative.

H. Three Way Ties:

1. As soon as a three way tie is broken, the remaining teams will immediately start at the top of the two way breaker. If two teams are eliminated on the same tie breaker, the remaining team is the winner. It is the intent of this rule to eliminate the bottom team, that is, the tie is broken from the losers standpoint.
2. Least runs allowed in games between tied teams.
3. Run spread in games between tied teams.
4. Most runs scored in games between tied teams.
5. Three or more way ties will be determined by random selection by the President or his representative.

XII ALL-STAR GAMES (IN TOWN):

- A. The All-Star managers shall be the managers of the first and second place teams, and they may choose any individuals in **BBRBS** to be their coaches. If a manager declines the position, the responsible Softball Commissioner, with the approval of the President, shall select the manager.
- B. In a six (6) team league, the teams will be comprised of players from the first, fourth and fifth place teams who will play against a team comprised of players from the second, third and sixth place teams. In a four team league, teams will be comprised of six (6) players each from the first and fourth place teams and will play a team comprised of six (6) players each from the second and third place teams.
- C. The teams comprised of players from three (3) teams will be selected in the following manner: three players from each team will be selected by their respective managers, and the All-Star manager will then select three (3) additional players from the remaining player rosters.

XIII SUMMER TRAVEL LEAGUE:

- A. The managers of the Summer Travel Teams shall be appointed by the Board of Directors which shall also confirm the coaches as selected by those managers.
- B. The Travel Team manager may invite any league players to try out.
- C. All players selected for the teams must present the manager with a Release Form signed by his/her parent(s) and a birth certificate.
- D. The Travel Teams shall be approved by the Board of Directors before the teams compete in any tournaments or leagues.
- E. The Travel Team manager shall inform the President or his representative in advance of any conflict in scheduling that would cause the Travel Team to not play in any game or tournament that the team is scheduled to play.

SPECIAL RULES FOR BEDFORD BABE RUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL , INC.

APPENDIX - A

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC COUNCIL - RULE 19

(This rule applies only on days when school is in session.)

- I A student may practice or play only once in any one day. A non-school team is deemed to be a team, if it has two or more of the following: (1) coach, (2) schedule of contests, (3) schedule of practices, or (4) uniforms. A student who practices or competes with the school team may not participate with a non-school team on the same day.
- II Softball or baseball batting practice may be held at an alternative site if (1) no opportunity exists at the game field for batting practice, and (2) batting practice immediately precedes the game or departure to the game site.
- III Any player who violates this rule for the first time shall be declared ineligible for the next two (2) consecutive interscholastic events or two (2) weeks of a season in which the player is a participant, whichever is greater. The penalty is effective from the date of his/her last participation in a High School sport. Any student who violates this rule a second or subsequent time shall be declared ineligible for participation in any high school sport for forty-five (45) days from the date of his/her last participation in a high school sport.
- IV For the purpose of this rule, a “day” shall include the time from 12:01 AM to 11:59 PM.

THE IMMEDIATE ADVANTAGES OF THE REVISED RULE ARE:

- I Dual participation on a school team, and also on a non-school team, is allowed at the time, provided there is no conflict. This applies to all sports, contact and non-contact, for both girls and boys, and at all levels, varsity, junior varsity and ninth grade.
- II The rule is simpler. The complex exceptions have been removed and replaced by a simple positive statement.
- III The penalty is less severe, yet it is stringent enough to be effective. It penalizes only the individuals who violate the rule and not the other members of the team who observe the rule.