

# 2018 SCBA Minors Through Seniors Division Baseball Rules

**General:** These supplemental rules apply to ALL Minors, Majors, Juniors and Seniors unless specifically noted otherwise.

## Rule 1: Players, Field and Equipment

**Number of Players:** A minimum number of 8 players may be used to start a game.

**Minors and Majors:** Each team will field 10 players, with 4 playing outfield.

**Juniors and Seniors:** Each Team will Field 9 players, with 3 playing outfield.

### The Field:

**Minors:** Pitcher's rubber to the back edge of home plate is 46 ft. Distance between the outer edges of each base is 65 ft.

**Majors:** Pitcher's rubber to the back edge of home plate is 50 ft. Distance between the outer edges of each base is 70 ft

**Juniors:** Pitcher's rubber to the back edge of home plate is 54 ft. Distance between the outer edges of each base is 80 ft

**Seniors:** Pitcher's rubber to the back edge of home plate is 60 ft 6 inches. Distance between the outer edges of each base is 90 ft

**The Bat:** The maximum bat diameter allowed is 2 5/8". The SCBA will allow bats that carry the certifications of USSSA, USA, BBCOR or BPF 1.15 for the 2018 season. The difference between the length and the weight of the bat (drop) may be no more than:

**Minors:** -12

**Majors:** -10

**Juniors:** -5

**Seniors:** -3.

**The Glove:** The player playing the catcher position is required to wear a catcher's mitt. **Minors ONLY** may use a regular glove, but strongly advised to use a catcher's mitt. Gloves must conform to all other specifications in the NFHS Rule Book.

**Helmets:** Must meet the NOCSAE Standard, not be cracked and padding must be secure and complete. Enforced by the umpire.

**Protective Cup:** All male players playing the catcher position are required to wear a protective cup. This will be enforced by the umpire. It is highly recommended that ALL male players wear cups.

**Cleats:** Molded cleats may be worn. Metal cleats are permitted in Juniors and Seniors only.

## Rule 2: Playing Terms and Definitions

**Intentional Base On Balls:** "Stated intentional walks" are only allowed in Minors. All other divisions the pitcher must throw 4 balls to walk the batter.

**Infield Fly:** The "infield fly rule" is in effect for all divisions EXCEPT Minors. No infield fly rule for Minors.

**Inning:** A new inning begins when the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is recorded from the bottom of the previous inning.

**Strike Zone:** The height of the strike zone is determined by the batters normal batting stance.

## Rule 3: Substituting – Coaching – Bench and Field Conduct

**Minimum Playing Time:** No player will sit the bench for 2 consecutive innings and no player may sit twice before all players have sat one inning. Equal playing time for all players is required in all divisions. Violations are to be reported to the division coordinator.

### Rotation:

**Minors:** No player will play the same position for more than 2 consecutive innings and no more than 3 innings for the entire game. The pitcher is exempt from this requirement though pitch count rules apply. *Each player must play in the infield at least once in the first 3 innings.*

**Majors & Juniors:** No player will play the same position for more than 3 consecutive innings and no more than 4 innings for the entire game. The pitcher is exempt from this requirement though pitch count rules apply. *Each player must play in the infield at least once in the first 3 innings.*

**Seniors:** Rotation is highly encouraged but not required.

**Coaching:** The head coach must attend the pregame conference and is the sole team representative to communicate with the umpire(s).

**Bench and Field Conduct:** All coaches and players are expected to participate in a sportsmanlike manner and uphold the integrity of the game. All NFHS conduct rules apply and will be enforced.

## Rule 4: Starting and Ending Game

**Starting a Game:** The game begins as soon as the umpire calls 'Play'. Official Start Time is kept by the Plate Umpire and will be announced to both head coaches prior to the first pitch.

**Regulation Game:** A complete game consists of 6 innings. Seniors games are 7 innings. A game called by the umpire due to weather, darkness or time limit is regulation if 4 or more complete innings have been played, or if the home team has scored more runs in three or more innings than the visiting team has scored in four or more innings.

**Time Limit:** No new inning may start 1 hour 45 minutes from the start of game (2 hours for Juniors and Seniors).

**Intra-Inning Time Limit:** To maximize the amount of play during the time limit, teams should take the field and be ready to play within one minute of the last out on their at bat. This will be enforced by the umpire. *Catchers need to be equipped and ready to take the field in a timely manner.*

### Run Rule:

**Minors and Majors:** Each team may score a maximum of 5 runs per inning. Once the 5<sup>th</sup> run crosses the plate any remaining base running situations that result from the current play should be completed, but only the 5<sup>th</sup> run will count.

**Juniors and Seniors:** The game shall end when either team is behind 10 or more runs after 4 innings.

#### Rule 5: Suspension of Play

**Suspension of Play:** NFHS rule specifications are to be followed. Once lightning has been spotted, or thunder has been heard, it is an automatic 30 minute delay. Play cannot resume until it has been 30 minutes from the most recent lightning strike or rumble of thunder. This time will count against the time limit except for tournament games.

#### Rule 6: Pitching

**Pitching Limitations:** See the tables below for pitch count regulations. **'Days of Rest'** refers to **Calendar Day(s) off**. If a pitcher reaches the max per day limit for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: 1) That batter reaches base; 2) That batter is put out; 3) The third out is made to complete the half-inning

League Age	Pitches Per Day
17 & 18	105
13 to 16	95
11 & 12	85
9 & 10	75
7 & 8	50

League Age 14 & Under Rest Requirements	
# of Pitches	Days of Rest
66+	4
51 - 65	3
36 - 50	2
21 - 35	1
20 or less	0

League Age 15 - 18 Rest Requirements	
# of Pitches	Days of Rest
76+	4
61 - 75	3
46 - 60	2
31 - 45	1
30 or less	0

**Trips to the Mound:** Maximum 2 trips per inning per pitcher. The pitcher must be removed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> trip. A coach cannot visit a pitcher twice during the same batter. Doing so results in ejection of the coach and removal of the pitcher after completion of the at bat.

#### Rule 7: Batting

**Batting Line-Up-** All players present at the game are to bat in a continuous rotation throughout the game. Any player arriving late will be added to the bottom of the batting line-up.

During the regular season only, if a player that is present at the start of the game has vacated his spot in the batting line up, it shall **NOT** be counted as an out. If a player is ejected during a game, his spot in the line-up will count as an out at any time during tournament or regular season.

**Bunting:** Bunting is permitted and should be taught as a skill to players.

#### Rule 8: Base running

**Leading Off:** Permitted for Majors, Juniors and Seniors. **Minors:** The base runner on any base (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>) is allowed a maximum of a six (6) foot lead-off. If the runner crosses the six (6) foot line before the pitch crosses the plate, the runner is out.

**Stealing Bases:** Permitted in Majors, Juniors and Seniors. **Minors:** Stealing is permitted when there are 2 Strikes on the batter and once the pitched ball has crossed home plate. Runners may NOT steal home on any pitch (uncaught, passed ball or wild pitch). Players should be encouraged to make throws to the appropriate base.

**Uncaught Third Strike:** For Majors, Juniors and Seniors, a batter may advance to first base on an uncaught third strike if first base is not occupied or if there are two outs. If a batter attempts to advance without being entitled to advance, all runners advance at their own risk and any attempted play by the defense is at their own risk. **Minors:** A batter may NOT advance to first base on an uncaught third strike.

**Courtesy Runner:** With two (2) outs and the catcher or pitcher on base, the coach may elect to place a courtesy runner in their place. The courtesy runner will be the player that made the last out, no exceptions. A catcher replaced by a courtesy runner must catch the next ½ inning and a pitcher replaced by a courtesy runner must pitch to the first batter of the next ½ inning until that batter hits or is retired.

#### Rule 9: Scoring – Record Keeping

**Official Score:** The Home team is responsible for keeping the official score and pitch count for each pitcher. The visiting team should reconcile their scorebook and pitch count with the home team after each inning. The game will not be delayed solely for the resolution of discrepancies.

**Reporting of Scores:** The winning team is responsible for entering the results and scores into the SCBA website. This should be done as soon as reasonably possible after the conclusion of the game.