

# 2012 LEVEL IV 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE LEAGUE High School Federation Rules

The Level III Program uses **2012 National Federation of State High School Association's** baseball rules. The following are the **League modifications** to those rules for all age groups & divisions with references to NFHS rules where appropriate.

Note: Third-base dugout goes to the HOME team.

## **RULE 1 - Players, Field And Equipment**

- 1-2-1 The diamond shall be **80** feet between bases.
- 1-2-11 The pitching rubber shall be **54** feet from the point of home plate to the front of the rubber.
- 1-3-2 No Bat Restrictions regarding length or weight.
- 1-3-4 Bat Restrictions: Per National Federation Guidelines and USSSA, FCBC Level III and Recreational Teams permits only the following bats to be used:
  - BBCOR certified (stamped BPF 1.15),
  - or bats with the new USSSA BPF 1.15 mark on its taper,
  - or Wood Bats.
- 1-4-1 Metal cleats may be worn
- 1-5-5 Catchers must wear a helmet which includes ear protection. The mask must have an attached throat protector.
- 1-5-12 Jewelry shall not be worn (See 3.3.1d) except for religious or medical medals ... taped and worn under the uniform ...

## **Rule 2 - Playing Terms and Definitions**

- 2-19 The Infield Fly Rule is in effect.

## **RULE 3 - Substituting - Coaching - Bench & Field Conduct - Charged Conferences**

- 3-1-1 A team may start and play a game with 8 players and not be charged with an automatic out for the missing 9th player.
- 3-1-1 On defense, free substitution shall be allowed. All players will play – at minimum – every other inning. All players must be allowed to play one full defensive inning in the infield within the first three innings.
- 3-1-2 Pitcher Re-entry: Only the starting pitcher will be allowed re-entry as a pitcher - and this only once per game. A pitcher who re-enters is still bound by the League Pitching Restrictions as outlined below (Rule 6.1.6).
- 3-1-4 On offense the batting order shall contain the entire roster of players present.
- 3-1-5 With any injury that requires the removal of a player from a game, the player must have written permission from a parent (or legal guardian) and a doctor to resume play.
- 3-1-1 Base-runners may only be substituted in the case of injury. In such case, the player who made the last out may be inserted for an injured base-runner.
- 3-2-1 Coaches are not required to be in team uniform. However, coaches must wear athletic attire that corresponds to his team's uniform colors. A player base-coach is required to wear a batting helmet. Players and coaches will show respect for the game by wearing hats bill-forward except while playing catcher.
- 3-3-1a Pitchers/Catchers that are warming up within the foul area of the ball field **MUST** have a PROTECTIVE Player between them and the field of play. **THIS WILL BE ENFORCED.**

3-3-1g Bench and Field Conduct

'A Coach, player, substitute, attendant or other bench personnel shall not: commit any unsportsmanlike act to include, but not limited to,

5. Pitchers/Catchers that are warming up within the foul area of the ball field **MUST** have a **PROTECTIVE** Player between them and the field of play. **THIS WILL BE ENFORCED.**
6. any member of the coaching staff who was not the head coach (or designee) in 3.2.4 leaves the vicinity of the dugout or coaching box to dispute a judgment call by an umpire.

The rules further state: For the head coach, the duties of controlling the dugout and team behavior includes being both accountable and responsible for the actions of assistant coaches and all other team personnel ... the head coach is the only coach responsible for communications with umpires, and it is not the role of the assistant coach to dispute or appeal play situations and rulings. (p.65, Points of Emphasis, paragraph 2)

**PENALTY:** The umpire shall eject the offender from the game, unless the offense is judged to be of a minor nature. The umpire may warn the offender and then eject him if he repeats the offense. **FCBC Reserves the right to suspend any assistant coach who violates this rule.**

3-3-1j 'A Coach, player, substitute, attendant or other bench personnel shall not:

be outside the designated dugout (bench) or bullpen area if not a batter, runner, on-deck batter, in the coach's box or one of the nine players on defense.'

We insert this rule not as a modification, but as a reminder to coaches. When your team is on Offense you are allowed two base-coaches (3-3-1). When your team is on Defense the entire coaching staff should be in the dugout.

3-3-1c, m Due to safety concerns, we reiterate the following NFHS rule as written:

A coach, player, substitute, attendant or other bench personnel shall not:

- c. carelessly throw a bat

Penalty: ... the umpire shall issue a warning to the coach of the team involved and the next offender on that team shall be ejected ...

- m. deliberately throw a bat, helmet, etc.

Penalty: The umpire shall eject the offender from the game.

3-3-1p Use of tobacco or tobacco-like products within 250 feet of the dugout is prohibited for all players, coaches, and team personnel (scorekeepers, attendants, etc.). Offenders shall be ejected immediately upon discovery, and the league may impose additional sanctions.

**RULE 4 - Starting and Ending the Game**

4-1-1 The umpire-in-chief shall decide if the grounds and conditions are suitable for play at game-time. Every effort will be made by umpires to start the game even if it necessitates a delay of up to thirty (:30) minutes.

4-2-1 The 10 run rule is in effect, after 5 full innings.

4-2-1, 2 Games shall start and end on time. A game shall consist of six innings or 1 hour and: 45 minutes. No new inning shall start after the time limit. The start of a new inning is the exact time that the 3<sup>rd</sup> out occurs in the previous inning (This prevents teams from stalling the next inning). Once time has expired the visiting team finishes their half of the inning per normal rules (6 inning rule in effect). If the home team is behind then they bat until they get 3 outs or win the game. If the game is then tied the clock is set for 15 minutes. The game plays until someone wins or time expires (at which point the current inning plays out until completed). If the game is still tied then it is recorded as such. Games ended by darkness or weather will be official if four innings (3 1/2 if the home team is ahead) are completed.

- 4-2-3 Rainouts will only be rescheduled for one game for standings. Managers may reschedule games at their option, but they will not be recorded for standings.

### **RULE 6 - Pitching**

6-1-1 to 3 Balks will be called.

6-1-6 Pitchers are limited to pitching 6 innings per game and 7 innings per week. A week consists of Sunday through Saturday.

7-1-2 A player that leaves the game due to injury or illness will not be allowed to re-enter the game. If only 8 players remain, an automatic out will be recorded whenever that player's spot in the batting order comes up.

### **RULE 8- Base Running**

8-1-1b The Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> Strike IS in effect.

8-4-2b1 **Any runner is out when he ... does not legally slide and causes illegal contact ...**

As point 2 of the rule clearly states, 'Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal.' The rule does not say that - in order to be a legal play - the player must slide. There is no 'must slide' rule. The rule is concerned about the quality (legality) of the slide, not a necessity of it. The rule is in place for players trying to intentionally take-out the defenseman at 2B.