



**GREATER LOWELL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

## **League By-Laws**

Last updated: April, 2019

League President: Jonathan McDonald

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## **GLBA HISTORY**

The GLBA is an over-18 men's baseball league that was established in the Spring of 2005 by Leo Avila Sr. Since then, the league has undergone many significant changes. In 2018, the Greater Lowell Baseball Association became registered as a non-profit and also incorporated.

All of the regular season games are played at Ryan Field, located in South Lowell, and Campbell Field, located in Pawtucketville, weeknights and Sunday evenings, at random, beginning at 8:15 pm. All-Star event is held annually on a Sunday in either July or August at Shawsheen Technical High School in Billerica, MA.

## **REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE**

All players in this league **MUST** be at least eighteen (18) years of age prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> in the season commencing. Each manager is given liability waiver forms that must be filled out and signed by each player. All completed forms **MUST** be returned back to league or team designee that is assigned to handle the insurance policy paperwork by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Should a 'new' player be added to the team roster during the season, a form **MUST** be filled out and returned before that player participates in any sanctioned practice or game.

Players returning from year-to-year must **NOT** have any outstanding money due from the previous year. If there is an issue, the player cannot return and play anywhere in the league until the debt is settled.

Once the season begins, players are allowed to switch teams within the first six games of the year. Must be authorized by both managers and president of the league.

## **TEAM ROSTERS**

Each team is charged an amount, established during the off season by the league administration, as the entrance fee for the season and **MUST** be paid in full by April 1st. This fee **DOES NOT** include the cost of uniforms and umpire fees. Each team pays \$75 cash to the umpires at the beginning of each game (change made 2019). Some teams have, in the past, been sponsored by a local business in order to help defray the cost of uniforms.

Each team is limited to eighteen (18) 'active' roster spots until the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July recess. After the season commences and before the last out is made of the last game scheduled just before the July 4<sup>th</sup> recess, each team can drop and add players from their rosters. When rosters changes occur, a liability waiver form **MUST** be filled out and given to the President of the league

to update the insurance policy. Player liability insurance is covered within each teams' entrance fee on the first fifteen (15) players on each team roster. Should a team decide to field more than fifteen (15) players, they will be charged separately for each additional player over the fifteen (15) player roster. After the July 4<sup>th</sup> recess is complete, teams MUST drop down to a fifteen (15) player roster.

In order for a player to be eligible for the playoffs, he player MUST have participated in at least five (5) games during the regular season. If a player has played for more than one (1) team, ALL games are counted.

## **UNIFORMS**

All teams MUST have players in full uniform by the 1<sup>st</sup> game of season. All uniforms (shirts/pants/hats) MUST look identical with the obvious exception being the player's name/number on the back of the shirt. Player names are NOT required to be on the uniform but unique player numbers are. Base coaches who are NOT 'rostered' players MUST be wearing at least a team shirt and hat when coaching the bases. Lastly, NO team logo/patch/etc. on the uniform can contain the image of a baseball.

During the off season, each team who wishes to change its name and/or colors can only do so at the approval from the rest of the league. This prevents teams from having uniforms of the same color and design. This rule also holds true for new teams wanting to enter the league.

Violation of this rule is NOT a protestable offense during a game, but is subject to a fine to be assessed at the discretion of the league.

## **RULES**

Other than the exceptions listed in this section, the GLBA utilizes the Official Baseball Rules produced by Triumph Publications:

1. A ten run 'mercy' rule is in effect during all games except the final round of the playoffs. If a team is winning by ten or more runs after five innings have been completed, unless the home team is already winning going into the bottom half of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, the game will terminate. Should the game be beyond the 5<sup>th</sup> inning and the visiting team attains a lead of ten runs or more in the top half of the inning, the home team is allowed their at-bat in the bottom half of the inning to try and reduce the lead below ten runs.

2. The M.I.A.A. 'Slide to Avoid' and 'Collision' safety rules are in effect at ALL times and bases. The MIAA (Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Asso.) slide rule states that a runner who is advancing to the next base MUST slide directly into that base if he/she decides to slide. He/she DOES NOT have to slide but does run the risk of interference being called. The collision rule is another safety rule implied. Example of this is if fielder is obstructing base path of runner attempting to advance. Runners ARE NOT permitted to make flagrant contact with the fielder. If in the judgment of the umpire, the fielder is obstructing the runner, then obstruction is signaled which 'protects' the runner to the next base so long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to advance. Should a runner flagrantly run into a fielder, he/she is ejected. If in the judgment of the umpire incidental contact was made, depending on the type of play, the umpire can rule either obstruction on the fielder, interference on the runner, or nothing.
3. Fake tags are NOT allowed. If a defensive player fakes a tag on a runner at any base without possession of the ball, the umpire will call obstruction, award the runner one (1) base and both teams will be warned. A second offense in the same game by ANY player will result in ejection.
4. Any player/coach, who is warming up the pitchers, either between innings or in foul/dead ball territory, MUST wear helmet or mask.
5. Although it is highly recommended that all batters wear a 'double' earflap helmet, they can choose to use the 'single' earflap helmet. However, if they choose to use the 'single' earflap, the earflap MUST be 'pointed' towards the pitcher.
6. There is only one (1) 'on deck' batter allowed outside of the dugout. At Ryan Field, the 'on deck' circle is at the furthest end of the dugout. This is due to close proximity of the dugouts and home plate.
7. Each half inning will begin once the base coaches are in their proper position in the coach's boxes. Base coaches, who are also players, are to be in full uniform (hat included) and not to be wearing any catcher's equipment. Other participants such as managers and coaches can perform base coach duty so long as they are wearing at least their team shirt and hat.
8. Baseballs hit 'out of play' MUST be retrieved ASAP. Players in the dugout MUST make the effort to get the balls. Should some of the balls become irretrievable (swamp, woods, pools, etc.), a new ball MUST be thrown into the catcher or handed to the umpires. Teams

will alternate supplying a new ball unless a home run is hit. The team hitting the home run is responsible for replacing the home run ball if it is not retrievable.

9. The HOME team is responsible for contacting the visiting team manager and the league President in the event where a game needs to be postponed. The league president will contact the scheduled umpires and notify them of a cancellation. A minimum of ninety (90) minute notice prior to the scheduled start of their game is required. If umpires are either not contacted or contacted less than ninety (90) minutes before the scheduled starting time, both umpires will be paid at half fee (\$35 each). The HOME team is responsible for these fees. If the HOME team does not pay both umpires BEFORE their next scheduled game, they will NOT be allowed to play their next game.
10. In most cases, teams can begin/end a game with only eight (8) players. If a team has only eight (8) players at the scheduled time of the game, the game will start. However, if a team has less than eight (8) players at game time, a fifteen (15) minute grace period is allowed before a forfeit will be declared. After the grace period has expired, the game is declared an immediate forfeit if the home team has less than eight (8) players. If the visiting team has less than eight (8) players, they can begin their at-bat. If the time comes when the missing player is due up or it's time for the visiting team to take the field and the eighth player still hasn't arrived, a forfeit is then declared at that point. If a team starts the game with eight (8) players, the team begins the game with one (1) spot in the batting order becoming an automatic out. If a team ends the game with eight (8) players AND utilized the E.H. during the game, then two (2) spots in the batting order become automatic outs. The two (2) outs are recorded into the two (2) vacant batting spots created by the two (2) players who had 'filled' them.

***Important Notes:***

- a. A team CANNOT finish a game with eight (8) players if the result in getting to eight (8) players is due to an ejection. In this case, the team automatically forfeits the game. Some legitimate cases of finishing a game with eight (8) players are: injury, player leaves game due to an emergency, etc.
- b. Players in the 'starting lineup' from both teams who are present and listed on the line-up cards are given credit for a forfeited game, whether or not they played in the game. This also goes for games that are declared forfeits at the game site before it has started. Players listed as 'substitutes' on the line-up cards and who DO NOT play in a forfeited game, are NOT credited with a game played.
- c. Any team who 'forfeits' a game, whether it occurs before or after a game has started, is responsible to pay FULL fee to both umpires. If this is not done by the team at the game

site, they have until their next game to send the umpires their fees. And again, the penalty for NOT paying the umpires on time is that the team is prevented from playing their next scheduled game.

- d. Overhanging trees at both Campbell and Ryan fields are to be played as 'walls'. Should the ball bounce back into the field of play, even if it hits a tree in home run territory, it is a 'live' ball.
- e. Once a pitcher is removed from the mound, whether he is sent to another defensive position or the bench, he CANNOT pitch again in the game, even if his removal from the mound was done on the 1<sup>st</sup> trip by the manager. If he was the starting pitcher, he is allowed to re-enter the game but cannot pitch again and MUST remain in the same spot in the batting order.
- f. Pitchers will NOT be allowed to do the following: Wear golf/batting glove under their fielding glove, wear sweatbands around their wrists, wear white or gray long sleeve shirt under their uniform, use multi-colored glove, use gray or white glove, use glove with white laces or wet their fingers while on the rubber.
- g. Game participants (ie: players/managers/scorers/coaches/etc.) that are ejected from any game as a result of physical contact with another game participant or umpire receive an automatic lifetime ban from the league. Game participants who are ejected due to verbal confrontation/infractions receive no discipline from the league on their first ejection. A minimum one game suspension is enforced after the second ejection. If a game participant is ejected for verbal infractions for a third time in the same season they receive an automatic lifetime ban from the league. If a league manager is witness to a player(s) from an opposing team that is acting in a manner that is a detriment to the league (eg: taunting of players before/during/after game) he will address it directly with that player(s) manager whether or not there are umpires around and ask that immediate corrective action be taken. If the opposing manager does not take necessary action to correct this issue, the manager reporting this issue will seek help from the umpires (if they are present) or can report such actions to the league President. At which point, the league President is to attend the next game involving these player(s) to observe.
- h. For regular season games only, a two and one half (2 1/2) hour time limit per game remains in effect. This limit is set from the game's original starting time and not when the game actually starts. Therefore, should there be a delay due to inclement weather, team(s) waiting for enough players during the fifteen (15) minute grace period or overrun of a

previous game, the time allotted in which to play the game is shorter. For games scheduled in the evening, NO inning is to begin after 10:45pm. This is a safety issue as the lights are normally scheduled to shut off automatically just after 11:00pm. If top half of the last inning runs close to 11:00pm, umpires have discretion to end game immediately. Should a game become 'official' and the score is tied at the end of the last full inning completed, each team is given one (1) point in the standings. A team receives two (2) points for every win. \* Important Note: In a game that is deemed 'official' and another inning has started when play has terminated, should the visiting team have tied or taken the lead in that inning before the home team has completed their half inning at bat, the game will revert back to the score of the last full completed inning. If the home team takes the lead during their half of the inning at bat when play was stopped, the score at that time will stand.

- i. Anytime this league has a scheduled evening game at any field that is to start immediately after a youth game, the youth leagues have precedence until 8:15pm. However, the youth games cannot go past 8:15pm. If the youth games go beyond 8:15pm, the umpires working this league need to address this issue with the umpires working the youth game. NO players/managers/etc. is to enter the field until the issue is resolved by the umpires.
- j. The only make-up games, postponed earlier in the year that will be played after the regular season has ended, are the games which will have an effect on the team standings unless there is time to play them all. Still, some make-up games may not be played if it will cause such a delay in the completion of the playoff schedule to the point of going beyond the field permit dates for September.
- k. Absolutely NO vehicles are permitted to be on the fields in trying to assist in preparing them for a game. The league will risk losing its permits should this occur and fields are damaged.
- l. All problems relating to lights being out at the fields MUST be reported to the President (GreaterLowellBaseball@gmail.com) as soon as the problem is known.
- m. The winning team is responsible for reporting the game score within 24 hours of the completion of the game to the league's President either via text, phone call or email. Please be prompt in doing this. Updated standings on the internet are solely dependent upon the scores being sent in a timely manner. Winning teams not abiding by this will be fine \$5.00 per infraction.



- n. The league allows the use of wooden or composite wood bats only! The penalty for the use of illegal/altered bats are as follows:
- If an illegal/altered bat is caught while batter is in batter's box or is caught immediately after his at-bat is finished, the penalty is the player is EJECTED from the game and is SUSPENDED ONE (1) additional game. If the batter reached base, this is counted as an OUT and all runners who advanced MUST return back to their original bases at the 'time of the pitch'. The bat is removed from the game and field area.
  - If an illegal/altered bat is 'discovered' during the game, but is NOT currently being used by the player at-bat, the bat is removed.
  - In order for a bat to be challenged, it MUST be: currently in use or located 'openly' in the field/dug out area. Bats that stay inside player bags are not to be considered!
- o. Any losing team who files a 'protest' MUST do so within 24 hours after the end of their game to the President of the league. The fee for doing this is \$15.00.
- p. Courtesy 'runners' are NOT allowed to be used in lieu of a substitution. If an injury occurs during the game to a player, he must either be removed from the game, and use the league's re-entry rule later in the game, or stay in the game and continue to run for himself. Exception: If at the discretion of an umpire a player shows signs of a concussion, the umpire will remove this player from the game and that player cannot return. This is NOT a challengeable decision by either the player or his manager.
- q. To assist in speeding up games a little, this league has implemented the 'batter' MUST leave 'one foot in the box' rule. This rule prevents batters from stepping out of the box unnecessarily. Umpires will give initial warning. Should the same batter do this again, an automatic strike is called without the pitcher having to pitch the ball. When taking signs from base coach, the batter can leave one foot in the box and shift his body quickly to read the signs.

## **FIELD PERMITS**

Fields are reserved for this league from late April through the middle of September as follows:

- Monday Evening – 8:15pm until lights out
  - Tuesday Evening – 8:15pm until lights out
  - Wednesday Evening – 8:15pm until lights out
  - Thursday Evening – 8:15pm until lights out
  - Friday Evening – 8:15pm until lights out
  - Sunday Evening – 8:15pm until lights out
1. Should an issue arise in which an additional team/league claims to have permits for the said field during a scheduled GLBA game, the home team manager **MUST** contact the league President **IMMEDIATELY**. The league president will provide documentation of field permits to both the home team manager.
  2. Garbage belonging to the league participants (players/fans/umpires/etc) **CANNOT** be left behind in the dugouts/stands/etc. If the garbage barrels are already ‘filled’ to capacity, then the participants must take their garbage with them when exiting the parks. The city can revoke the permits at any time for this violation !

## **GAME PRELIMINARIES**

During the ‘ground rules’ conference held at home plate between the two (2) managers and umpires, the following must be done:

1. Games **CANNOT** be attempted to be played without league assigned umpires!
2. Home team **CANNOT** be on the field.
3. Each manager **MUST** state to the umpires that all team equipment has been checked and is legal.
4. Each team manager supplies plate umpire with three (3) new baseballs.
5. Each team’s line-up cards **MUST** be filled out completely **AND** accurately (names and jersey numbers). The batting order/starting line-up is to be listed on the left side of the line-up card. All bench/substitute players are to be listed on the bottom of the line-up card

as it is easier to move the bench players' names up onto right side of the card next to the players' name they are replacing. Then, their names are to be 'scratched' from the bottom of the line-up card.

6. Each team is responsible for paying one (1) umpire at the fee of \$ 70.00. Cash only will be accepted! Games will not start until both umpires have been paid.
  - a. If there is only one (1) umpire doing the game, the fee is \$ 105.00 (\$ 52.50 per team). NO umpire is to be paid more than \$ 105.00 for single duty.
  - b. In the case where only one (1) umpire shows up BUT is not physically capable of calling balls/strikes from behind the plate, the teams can decide NOT to play and reschedule this game after the end of the regular season. However, the umpire will be paid \$ 35.00 (each team pays half).
  - c. In the case where both umpires show up but one (1) is injured during the course of the game AND cannot continue, the game will commence, even if the remaining umpire can only call balls/strikes from behind the pitcher's mound. Both umpires will still be entitled to the \$ 70.00 fee each.

## **LEAGUE PLAYOFFS**

The playoffs will commence immediately after the end of the regular season and, if time permits, after all meaningful make-up games are played. So long as there are MORE THAN six (6) teams in the league and there are two divisions, the top three (3) teams in each division at the end of the regular season standings qualify for the playoffs. The 2nd and 3rd place teams in each division play one another in either a one (1) game playoff or best-of-three series to advance to the next round. League President will decide length of series as playoff time nears. Then, the winners play their respective 1<sup>st</sup> place teams in their divisions in a best of three (3) series. After which, the two (2) remaining teams play for the league championship in another best of three (3) series. If the league consists only of one division, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place teams play each other in a one game playoff. After which, the winner plays the 1<sup>st</sup> place team in a best-of-three series while the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams do the same. The winners of these series then play for the league championship in a final best-of-three series.

In all best-of-three playoff series teams alternate home and away for the 1<sup>st</sup> two (2) games beginning with the highest seed having home field for game 1. If 3<sup>rd</sup> game is necessary, highest seed coming into the series is home team. For the final championship series only, the 10-run mercy rule is not in effect.

When teams are tied in the standings at the end of the regular season and tie-breaker rules need to be applied to determine playoff seeding. During the playoffs, if a game is suspended, prior to completing the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, it is continued from the point of interruption at the next available playing date for that series. Five (5) completed innings constitutes an official game. If the game is beyond the 5<sup>th</sup> before being stopped and another inning has started when play has terminated, should the visiting team have tied or taken the lead in that inning or if the home team has come back to tie the score, the score will revert back to the last full inning completed. The team who has the lead after the last full inning completed is the winner. Only if the score is tied after the last full inning was completed will the game continue from the point of interruption at the next available playing date. If however, the home team has taken the lead during their half of the inning at bat when play was stopped, the score at that time will stand.

Umpires reporting for the ‘continuation’ portion of the game will be paid additional fees as this could quite well be a separate set of umpires as many umpires work multiple leagues and are not always available on short notice. If there is another game scheduled immediately after the ‘continuation’ portion of the game and the SAME set of umpires are working both games, the fee to each umpire will be ten (10) dollars per inning of the ‘continuation’ game and full game fees for the regularly scheduled game. If the ‘continuation’ portion of the game is all that is scheduled to be played or a different set of umpires will be working the scheduled game after the ‘continuation’ game has completed, then ALL umpires will be paid a full game fee for both games.

Players who ARE NOT in attendance for the first portion of a ‘suspended’ game ARE ALLOWED to participate in ‘continuation’ portion so long as they are ‘rostered’ players at the time the ‘continuation’ portion is played.

The cost of the playoffs, except umpire fees, is shared equally amongst all teams and is taken directly from the league treasury. Umpire fees are still to be paid in the same manner as they are handled during the regular season. The playoff costs include: extra baseballs (if needed), trophies, All-Star Event fees and extended field permits for September which MUST be requested to the city of Lowell’s Park and Recreation Dept. by the league President mid-August.

## **TEAM, PLAYER & FAN CONDUCT**

As much as this is a recreational league, this league does require its participants to act in a manner that maintains the ‘spirit’ of the game. Any and all acts of unsportsmanlike conduct WILL NOT be tolerated. Players that are ejected or suspended for any reason will be brought to the umpire President’s attention and he will decide and enforce the suspension. Manager has 24 hours to appeal suspension to league director which will then review the case with the other managers. A

vote between all managers (not including appealing team) to decide if suspension will be upheld or reduced.

First ejection could face 1 game suspension, 2<sup>nd</sup> ejection, player will receive 1 game suspension and \$75.00 fine that must be collected by league President before player can return to playing. 3<sup>rd</sup> ejection will face 1 game suspension and \$150.00 fine before returning to team. 4<sup>th</sup> time in single season player will be banned for remainder of season and will be brought up during offseason meeting to decide if they can return.

Batters who throw their bats in frustration will either be warned or immediately ejected. This is up to umpire's discretion. Should a warning be granted, then the next offense by any player is cause for immediate ejection.

Many participants enjoy having their families in attendance to watch the games. Any use of pronounced profanity will result in automatic ejection from the ballgame. The umpires have also been advised to monitor and act on any issues related to the taunting of players/coaches/managers towards one another. The goes the same for obscene gestures that may be directed towards one another. The managers are ultimately responsible for the behavior of their players and coaches.

Should any of the fans become unruly during a game, the umpire upon his discretion will call time and ask that the managers try to resolve the situation. At which point, if the fan(s) are asked to leave and refuse to do so, the police will be called. The game will commence only AFTER the situation has been rectified.

The use of alcohol, smoking tobacco and illegal drugs amongst the league participants is strictly prohibited. Players caught drinking/ or already drank too much before game will be ejected and face 1 game suspension. 2<sup>nd</sup> time, player will face 3 game suspension and \$75.00 fine paid before returning to team. 3<sup>rd</sup> time same player ejected will be banned for remainder of season and Manager will be ejected from game too. (if player and manager both ejected and team cannot field 9 man lineup (if game has already begun) or 8 man (before first pitch) the team will forfeit the game.

If the same team faces 4 ejections due to alcohol, the manager will be ejected and face one game suspension for each incident.

## UMPIRES

All umpires are to be given a copy of these by-laws prior to the start of the season. Some umpires work many leagues throughout the spring/summer months and must become aware of the unique rules that this league incorporates.

Umpires **MUST** arrive at their games assignments no later than twenty (20) minutes prior to the start of the game. During their mandatory pre-game conference, they are not to be interrupted by the game participants.

It is encouraged that umpires wait thirty (30) minutes before postponing a game due to inclement weather. However, if the field conditions deteriorate to the point of becoming unplayable or the weather becomes a safety issue, it's always in the judgment of the umpire to postpone before the thirty (30) minutes are up. The league does not want to receive a complaint that a game was called off due to a 'passing' shower in which lightning was not a factor.

It is advised that the plate umpire wear two (2) ball bags during the games. This gives them the ability to hold up to six (6) baseballs. This keeps the game moving should the game balls be hit out of play in a short period of time and become difficult to retrieve. When the plate umpire is down to one ball, he should announce it. If the balls that have been hit out of play, are not back yet, the teams **MUST** supply the plate umpire more baseballs immediately. After the initial supply is given to the plate umpire at the beginning of the game, new balls **MUST** be supplied by each team on an alternating basis unless a home run is hit. In that case, the team who hit the home run **MUST** supply the plate umpire with a replacement no matter which teams' turn it was to supply the next ball.

Plate umpires **MUST** also carry a couple of pencils in their ball bags. Due to some of this league's unique rules, it makes use of line-up cards that must remain accurate throughout the game. When substitutes enter the game, the plate umpire's lineup card **MUST** be updated as to ensure the players are credited for the game.

Only the game participants (ie: players/mgrs/coaches/scorekeepers) are allowed in the dugouts during the game.

It is important for all umpires to take these precautionary measures should blood or other potential infectious materials enter the game. If any portion of his uniform is cause for this problem, that portion needs to be removed and replaced. If the player cannot stop the bleeding, remove the portion of the uniform in question and/or cover the wound within a reasonable amount of time, he needs to be removed from the game. If the bleeding player is a pitcher and the wound is not covered, even if the bleeding is stopped, he is not allowed to pitch. Should blood be spotted on a ball anytime during the game, the ball is to be removed immediately from the game.

## **LEAGUE MEETINGS**

This league is run by a 'Board of Directors' which consists of the manager of each team. The League President (Jonathan McDonald) oversees the operation of the league and is responsible for settling disputes, maintaining the league's treasury, ordering necessary items (ie: insurance, field permits, baseballs), making up game schedule, taking minutes of all meetings, maintaining website, maintaining league by-laws, working with the Umpire Assigner, etc. An agreed upon stipend is paid to this person for all these duties.

Umpire assigner to the league is responsible for scheduling umpires for each game and filling in for absent umpires. Also responsible for handing out suspensions after ejections and reporting them back to League President. For all league meetings, each team **MUST** send at least one (1) representative, preferably the manager. However, the manager may send a designee for the team.

Teams with **NO** representation at the meetings, will automatically lose their rights to vote on any issue that is discussed and requires a decision. **NO** absentee balloting/voting is allowed. When there are league issues that **MUST** be voted upon, each team is allowed to cast one vote unless their team is involved in a dispute (ie: protested game).

A quorum for voting on issues at the meetings is representation from at least fifty (50) percent of the teams. If there is less than fifty (50) percent of team representation at a meeting, a topic can be brought up and discussed but **CANNOT** be voted on.

## **EXTRA HITTER (E.H.) & RE-ENTRY RULES**

This rule only applies to players who were part of the original batting order at the start of the game. Each player in the original batter order **MUST** bat at least once, unless injury occurs, before a substitute player can enter into the game. At which point, the original player can 're-enter' the game once, back into his original batting spot. Once a substitute player leaves the game in favor of the original player or another substitute, he **CANNOT** re-enter the game unless he is replacing a player who has been removed from the game due to injury and there are **NO** other eligible players available. At which point, the substitute re-entering the game can go into the batting position of the player he is now replacing. If the 'original' player was pitching at the time he was replaced, he can still re-enter the game, but **NOT** as a pitcher.

Umpires will mark their line-up card by moving the substitute's name to the sixth spot in the batting order and scratching it from the list of available substitutes located in a different portion of the card. Since the original pitcher is still eligible to re-enter the game, his name will be moved on the line-up card to the area located underneath the substitutes but **NOT** scratched from the sixth spot in the order.

## **EXTRA HITTER (E.H.)**

The player designated as the E.H. at the beginning of the game MAY enter into a fielding position into the game but, once this is done, his spot in the batting order MUST now remain a fielding position. The player whom he replaced on the field MUST now assume the role of E.H. and his spot in the batting order is now relegated to E.H. duties. The substitution and re-entry rules are still available for both these positions. However, the plate umpire MUST be notified when either position is substituted for as to identify who is filling the E.H. spot in the batting order.

The player who was replaced on the field by the original E.H. can now ONLY enter into a fielding position again if one (1) of the following occurs AND there are NO more bench players available to the team: an injury, an ejection or a voluntary removal from the game (ie: player gets called to go home). The goal is to still have each team use nine (9) fielders, even though there are ten (10) batters in the order. Should this situation occur, the injured/ejected/voluntary removed player's batting spot now becomes an automatic OUT whenever his turn at-bat comes up for the remainder of the game.

The E.H. position follows the same re-entry rules as a normal positional player. He is allowed to 're-enter' the game once and is must be back into his original batting spot

The E.H. MUST be selected prior to the game and listed on the line-up card

**Exception 1:** Any substitution for the E.H. MUST bat at least one (1) time in the batting order, prior to the return of the prior E.H.

**Exception 2:** When a team only has 9 players or less to start the game, the E.H. is not a spot in the batting order.

If a team has ONLY 9 players at the start of the game and, prior to batting around, more players show up, the team may designate one (1) late arriving player as the E.H. However, they are NOT obligated to do so and could still play with just nine (9) batting spots.

## **E.H. RULE VIOLATION PENALTIES:**

### **First offense of the season**

1. E.H. is ejected BUT not suspended one (1) game
2. Team manager is suspended one (1) game

### **Second offense of the season**

1. E.H. is ejected BUT not suspended one (1) game



2. Team manager is suspended one (1) game and fined \$ 50.00. Fine MUST be paid by the team manager 'out of his own pocket'. The team deposit CANNOT be used for this infraction.

### **Further offenses**

1. E.H. is ejected BUT not suspended one (1) game
2. The League retains the right to use their discretion in assessing further penalties upon the manager

*\* Important Note: If, for whatever reason, an illegal E.H. substitution occurs, whether it be offensive or defensive, and is NOT identified at the time it occurs or later in the game, AND the offending team wins, this is not a protest able offense.*

### **DH rule**

A DH can be used following major league baseball rules. A dh can hit for pitcher only . if a pitcher comes off the mound and is moved to a position they now must hit in the dh spot and the player that was dh is now removed from game along with the position. You can use and dh And eh in same line up and still bat 10 batters. The eh is considered a position. No player in line up already can be moved to dh position. Players not in game can be put in the dh spot if the dh is coming out of the game as a swap.

### **The “MC” Pinch Runner Rule (Est. 2019).**

For injured players, one pinch runner per inning is allowed in regular season play. The pinch runner will be the last recorded out. Mark Cibulski, Manager of the Black Sox is allowed a pinch runner at all times, regular and playoffs included due to his condition.