



Palmetto Baseball Association

2024 Official By-Laws

PALMETTO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
2024 OFFICIAL BY-LAWS

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1.0 – Game Start

- 1.01 All official game start times are posted on the league website. A 30-minute grace period is allowed & applies to both teams. If a team has any issues (i.e., mechanical, accident, etc.) they must contact the opposing team &/or a senior board member. If a team has 9 players at the official posted game start time, the game must begin. Upon the event that a team has less than 9 players at the end of the grace period, the game can still be played if BOTH teams agree. Umpires must sign books and when the empty slots come up in the batting order, they are automatic outs. (Also reference bylaw 8.02). Game time can be changed with agreement from BOTH teams. Double Headers must be played as scheduled on the posted league schedule.
- 1.02 In the event of inclement weather, the home team's coach will make the decision on whether the field is playable by an hour and half before the scheduled game time. If inclement weather occurs after the game begins, the umpire(s) will be responsible for determining whether conditions are safe for teams to continue play. The umpire fee will be prorated if inclement weather occurs after the game starts. (Also reference bylaw 2.05)

2.0 – Umpires

- 2.01 The league will assign 2 umpires to all regular season games.
- 2.02 The umpire fee for a 9-inning game is \$100 per umpire and the fee for a 7-inning game is \$80 per umpire. Both teams will pay umpires. Umpires must be on the field, ready for ground rules, no later than posted scheduled game time. The umpire fee for play-off games is \$100 per umpire. If both teams agree to a nine-inning game for the second game of a Double Header, there will be a mandatory run rule in effect and the umpire fees go to \$90. The mandatory run rule for a 9-inning game is 10 runs after 7 innings. Game 1 of a 7-inning game is not timed but has a mandatory run rule of 10 runs after 5 innings. Game 2 of a double-header has a 2-hour, 30-minute time limit or 10 runs after 5 innings run rule. A fielder can only get 1 timeout per inning to talk to the pitcher. If a fielder goes a second time in the same inning, it will count as a mound/coaches visit. If the catcher goes to the mound at any time, it will count as a coaches/ mound visit. If the catcher visits the mound twice in the same inning, the pitcher must leave the game.
- 2.03 In the event an umpire does not show up for a game, a fan can umpire the game upon approval from BOTH teams. He will receive the normal umpire fee of \$85. If the scheduled umpire arrives after the game starts, the 2 teams have the option of not using their services that day & he/she will not receive any umpire fee. If an umpire officiates a game by their self, the umpire will receive full pay. BOTH teams must agree to an umpire calling the game alone.
- 2.04 All umpires need to be paid at the plate during ground rules discussion. If a team refuses to pay at the plate during the ground rules discussion, a forfeit may result and a \$50 fine. In the event of a rainout before the game is considered official (5 innings), the umpire must return to the make-up game and call for ½ of the fee plus \$25 travel fee.
- 2.05 If an umpire is present on the field & the game is rained out, a fee of \$25.00 is to be given to the umpire for travel. Umpires need to be contacted an hour and half before the posted scheduled game time. If an umpire is contacted before arriving, no travel fee will have to be paid. The full umpire fee will be paid to the umpire when he returns to call the make-up game. In the event of an incomplete game that must be rescheduled later, in which the umpires have already received their fee, the umpires will receive a \$25 travel fee to complete the game.

3.0 – Field Conditions

- 3.01 All fields must be kept in good playing condition (i.e., grass cut, lines marked, etc.). The manager is responsible for keeping the field in playing condition. Violation of this rule may result in a \$50.00 fine. The umpire will use his/her discretion on a field's playing condition.
- 3.02 Each team must give the umpire(s) the ground rules for their home field prior to the start of the game. No ground rules will contradict the official rulebook. All fields must be marked from the start of the game. Other markings should show homeruns, dead ball territory, coaches' boxes, etc. If a team doesn't agree on the ground rules set by a home team, the umpire(s) will decide any conflicts.

4.0 – Uniforms

- 4.01 All players must be in uniform. All coaches must be in team apparel.
- 4.02 All players must bat with a helmet.

5.0 – Equipment

- 5.01 No metal bats allowed. Bats must not have any cracks.
- 5.02 Home teams are responsible for providing enough baseballs to complete the game. If the home team does not have enough baseballs to complete the game, the game may be forfeited to the visiting team. An umpire can ask for baseballs from the visiting team. If that team does not have enough baseballs, the forfeit will stand.
- 5.03 Dixie Youth, AAU & USSA baseballs are the ONLY balls that are banned by the league. College level, professional level, High School, or adult men senior league level balls are the ONLY balls allowed. Teams caught playing with Dixie Youth, AAU, or USSA baseballs may be fined \$50.00 & the game possibly forfeited to the opposing team. Coaches are responsible for making sure their team complies with this rule.

6.0 – Players and Rosters

- 6.01 All players must be registered on the PBA website rosters. Final rosters must be submitted to the league at the end of the first half of the regular season. No manager will be allowed to play a player that is not on the PBA website rosters. Any additions must be called in to the league administration before the player plays in a game. Violation of this rule may result in a forfeit of the game(s) that the player played in, a \$100 forfeit fine & a possible player fine of \$50.00.
- 6.02 A team's final roster, at the end of the first half, can consist of thirty-five (35) members. It is the manager's responsibility to see that his team is in proper order. Each player listed on the roster must play four (4) games to be eligible to play in post season tournaments & play-offs. Players will not be able to participate in post season tournaments or play-offs if they do not comply with this rule. College players, high school players, & players 19 & under before August 1st, are exempt from this rule provided the team has the available roster spots. They must show proof of participation in such activities. Books may be checked before the play-offs for the four (4) game minimum requirements. Active minor/major league players must have competed in 4 regular season games to become eligible for play-offs.
- 6.03 Players must be listed on the PBA website roster & the Player Liability Form by their legal first & last names. No initials or nicknames will be allowed. First initial & full last name can be in the book & on the lineup card. Players with the same name or initials must be distinguished. Players must be able to show identification upon request at any time. Violation of this rule can result in a protest of the game.

- 6.04 Players can be added only during the 1st half of the season if their name has been submitted to the league & he has signed the league's Player Liability Form. A player cannot compete in any contest without having their name on the PBA Website roster & the Player Liability Form
- 6.05 A player is locked in with a team once they play in Preseason Tournament. They are locked in until the Waiver Period (Also reference by-law 6.10).
- 6.06 If a player wishes to join a different team during the off-season, he must obtain a release from their previous team & be cleared by the league board before he can play for any other team in the league.
- 6.07 The pitcher is the only player on the field where a Designated Hitter (DH) can be utilized.
- 6.08 Extra hitter is optional. The Extra Hitter can only hit. The Extra Hitter can't sub in the game, and the Extra Hitter can't have a pinch runner. The Extra Hitter position can be subbed in for another hitter that's not in the game. Once a team starts the game with an Extra Hitter, it must finish with an Extra Hitter. When giving the ground rules, the team that's utilizing the Extra Hitter must notify the umpires at the plate. The lineup card must read "EH".
- 6.09 P.R.E.S. Rule (Player Re-Entry)
1. You have a DH & 2 EH
 2. All fielders can re-enter on defense.
 3. You can't re-enter the batting order.
 4. The number of batters that start the game must be the same to end the game
 5. Both managers must agree on the P.R.E.S Rule at the plate. If both managers don't agree, then the P.R.E.S Rule doesn't apply.
 6. The P.R.E.S. Rule doesn't apply in Post Season Play.
- 6.10 Dates for the Waiver Period will be announced in the last week in June. Teams can pick up to four (4) players during this period. To add a player from inside the league, the player must be in good standing and released by their current team and placed on the waiver wire. If all criteria are met, a player's name must be submitted to the league starting at 8:00am Monday of the waiver wire period and no later than 9:00pm Wednesday of the same week. No player will be moved after 6:00pm on Friday of the waiver period week. If a team has 35 players, which is the maximum roster limit, they must release a player to make room to add a player. Once a team signs a player during the waiver period, that player is locked into that team and can't be removed. Players must participate in four (4) Palmetto Baseball Association games to be eligible for post season play. If a player is not assigned to a new team, he can return to his current team if there are available slots, and it will count as one of the team's transactions.
- 6.11 Once a player plays in a PBA event, he is locked into the PBA League. This includes the Preseason Tournament. If a player is locked into the PBA league and plays for another rival league, they will NOT be able to return to the PBA till the following season upon board review and a possible \$50 fine. Non-PBA players remain eligible UNTIL they play in a PBA event. *Exemptions to this by-law are college summer league, fall league season, travel baseball leagues that are not affiliated with the PBA, softball leagues, and any league that's not a conflict of interest.

7.0 - Misconduct and Disciplinary

- 7.01 Disrespect &/or harassment toward league board members & officials will NOT be tolerated. This includes (& is not limited to) any instances, verbally, on electronic devices, on social media forums, &/or any types of collusion. Punishment may result in a suspension from the league, &/or a fine also determined by the league, & subsequently require going before the league board before any reinstatement.

- 7.02 No alcoholic beverages will be allowed on or around the immediate playing field. Coaches & managers are responsible for making sure their team complies. Violation of this rule may result in a \$25.00 fine & possible suspension.
- 7.03 Throwing bats, helmets, or any equipment may be subject to an automatic ejection (determined by the umpire) & a \$25.00 fine. A warning may not be given.
- 7.04 Fighting of any form &/or verbal threats of violence may result in a \$200.00 fine & suspension for the duration of the season. Persons violating this rule must come before the league board before they can be reinstated. An appeal process can be applied.
- 7.05 Intentionally throwing at players/batters will be determined by the umpire as to whether a player will be ejected from the game.
- 7.06 If a team's representative/coach is ejected from a game his/her 1st offense is free, a 2nd offense may result in a \$50.00 fine. For any offense thereafter, the fine is subject to an increase by \$50.00. After the 3rd offense, reference By-Law 7.07. Each team gets only one (1) free ejection.
- 7.07 If a player is ejected from a game for any type of misconduct, a fine may be issued. Payments must be made by cash or money order. NO checks are accepted.
- 1st offense: \$25.00 fine
 - 2nd offense \$75.00 fine
 - 3rd offense: \$75.00 fine & suspension for one (1) game
 - 4th offense: Possible suspension for the duration of the season determined by the board.
- A reinstatement fee may be required to the league.
- 7.08 Any player, coach, or team representative that bumps or makes direct contact with an umpire or communicates a threat, directly or indirectly, to an umpire may be suspended for the duration of the scheduled season, including post season tournaments & play-offs. A \$100.00 fine may be assessed that will carry into the next season. Punishment for the violation of this rule will be determined by the board. Also, players are restricted in questioning an umpire's judgement and if they do so, MAY face an ejection from the game by the umpire and an ejection fine from the league.
- 7.09 Players are responsible for paying their fines. Fines must be paid to the league before playing in another game. Fines must be paid to league administration (not umpires) by cash or money order. Checks are NOT accepted.

8.0 – Forfeits, Postponements and Protests

- 8.01 A team may request a game to be postponed due to a funeral. The opposing team's approval is not required. All requests must be submitted to the league board.
- 8.02 If a team cannot play a game because they do not have enough players available, the game will be forfeited to the other team. The forfeiting team must pay both umpire fees & a forfeit fee of \$100.00. The forfeiting team must contact the opposing team & the league board on game day. The forfeiting team will have to travel back to the other team's field the next time they are scheduled to play. Both teams are still required to pay the umpires for travel if they show.

8.03 Teams will be allowed 3 forfeits. Fines will be imposed as follows:

- 1st offense: \$100 fine
- 2nd offense: \$100 fine
- 3rd offense: \$100 fine

Any forfeits after the 3rd offense may result in a team being suspended for the remainder of the season. Teams can go to the league board with an appeal to remain in the league. If a team wins the appeal, a reinstatement fee will apply. If the team loses the appeal, a fee of \$100 will carry over to the next Palmetto Baseball Association season. Forfeits will affect a team's reimbursement package. Any forfeit fines will be deducted from the forfeiting team's reimbursement package.

8.04 The regular season will be completed no matter how many make-up games are to be played. All games will be determined by a win or loss. Any game not played will be treated as a forfeit. If a team has started & not completed a game (i.e., darkness, inclement weather, etc.) & then wishes to give that game away, the game will be treated as a forfeit & there will be no \$100 fine assessed. If a make-up game is not played within season play, each team will be fined \$25 and the home team will be awarded the win. Make-up games will be rescheduled immediately after the cancellation.

8.05 At the end of the season, if the last game does not affect the standings, that game can be "given" away to speed up the play-offs process with no fines assessed. Make-up games are included.

8.06 Protests must be submitted at the game before the umpires leave the field. If a team wishes to submit a protest, a \$100.00 bond must be given to the umpire at the time of the protest. This is the only time that money other than the umpire fee should be given to the umpire. All parties must sign the book during the game for the protest to be valid. Once the umpires leave the field, a protest cannot be presented. If the team wins the protest, the bond will be returned to the team. A protest can be announced anytime during a game. If a protest involves a player's eligibility, The PBA Website roster is the valid, legal determining document.

9.0 – Meetings and Events Participation

9.01 All teams must have a representative attend all meetings; called or mandatory. If a team is not represented, a \$25.00 fine may be imposed & kept on record.

9.02 All-Star players will be decided by draft. Coaches for the 2 All-Star teams will be determined by the top 2 teams in the league at the halfway point of the season & these top 2 coaches will pick the All-Star Players. Players must have played in six (6) games for consideration. All #1 round draft picks will receive an award/prize to be given at the All-Star game. If a player who is drafted cannot attend the All-Star Games, that player forfeits any prizes awarded. The player draft will be as follows:

Round 1 of the All-Star Draft

- Team #1 & Team #2, alternating, will get 3 draft picks, with Team #1 starting the round.

Round 2 of the All-Star Draft

- Team #1 & Team #2, alternating, will get 4 draft picks, with Team #1 starting the round.

Round 3 of the All-Star Draft

- Team #1 & Team #2, alternating, will get 5 draft picks, with Team #1 starting the round.

Round 4 of the All-Star Draft

- Team #1 & Team #2, alternating, will get 5 draft picks, with Team #1 starting the round.

- 9.03 A team must participate in the league banquet to receive any cash prizes or reimbursements. If a team does not attend the league banquet, they forfeit any cash prizes or other reimbursements owed to them by the league.

10.0 – Postseason Play

- 10.1 The team with the best league record will have the home field advantage throughout the playoffs. Head to-head will be used to determine home field advantage for teams in the same division.
- 10.2 Top seven (7) teams are automatically guaranteed spots in the play-offs. The #8, #9, #10, and #11 ranked teams will play a play-in game for the 8th play-off seed at a neutral site determined by the league. (Example: #8 vs #11 and #9 vs #10 and then the winner of these two games will play for the 8th seed in playoffs).
- 10.3 The first round of the play-offs will be the best of 3 games. The second round of the play-offs will be the best of 5 games. The third (Final) round of the play-offs will be the best of 5 games.

11.0 – League Membership

- 11.01 2024 League Entry Fee is \$450.00 per team & must be paid by April 15, 2024. Teams will not be allowed to participate in any games after April 15th if not paid in full. Any missed games will count as a forfeit with a \$100 fine. The Player Registration Fee is \$35 and is required per player. Fees must be paid with cash, PayPal, Venmo, CashApp, or money order. NO checks are accepted.
- 11.02 A team that stays out of the league for one (1) season will be treated as a new team when they return. If a manager returns, that manager is responsible for and must pay all old outstanding fines, the new joining fee for that season, and a \$25 reinstatement fee. The manager in question MAY have to go before the league board for approval. 2018 league charter teams have the privilege of always being considered a returning team when determining any entry fees.
- 11.03 All teams are required to fax, email, or screen shot their Stat Sheets by each Tuesday during the season. This will determine how players are rewarded during the season & at the banquet and eligibility for the PBA Hall of Fame. The league will not be responsible for any errors or misrepresentations. Coaches are ultimately responsible for their players being recognized.