

2025 STLBFL FINAL RULES

Addendum of Superseding Exceptions

Preface

All league games will be played using the rules and guidelines set forth in the "Official Rules of Major League Baseball" unless otherwise specified below. Rule exceptions for St. Louis *Baseball Forever League* (STLBFL) are enumerated below and supersede any other published or implied rules.

1.00 OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE SUBSTITUTIONS AND HITTING

1.01 Offensive and Defensive Players as Separate and Independent

Offensive and defensive teams are separate and operate independently of each other. Teams may make unlimited defensive substitutions, except that pitchers who are removed from the pitching position may re-enter to pitch one time only. A pitcher may not re-enter to pitch during the same inning from which he was removed. Players may be substituted defensively, at any time, without affecting the player's offensive status in the line-up. Defensive changes for positions other than pitcher need not be reported to the umpire or the opposing team. Offensive players who are removed from the hitting line up via pinch hitter or pinch runner are allowed to continue participating in the defensive line up. Players who are removed from the offensive line up via an injury runner cannot re-enter the game in any capacity.

1.02 Number of Hitting Slots

Teams may use nine or more hitting slots in their line-up. There is no maximum number of line-up slots however, a team must have at least nine batting slots unless they are forced to play with only eight players for that game. If a team is forced to play with 8 players because (i) only eight players are available or (ii) the team loses a player to injury, then the team is permitted to bat eight without penalty. However, if a team is forced to play with eight players because a player is ejected, then the team must take an automatic out for that spot in the batting order until that slot is filled with a 9th player.

1.03 Minimum Players Needed to Play

Teams must have at least 8 roster-certified players in the game at all times in order to play an official game. The eight players must be ready to play within the 15-minute grace period. The grace period begins to toll at the official game start time. See Rule 5.03

1.04 In-game Additions to Bottom of Lineup

Once a lineup is set and presented to the opposing team, players may be added to the end of the lineup after giving notice to the umpire and the opposing manager.

1.05 Lineup Reductions

Once a lineup is set and presented to the opposing team, it may only be reduced in the following exceptions; A player is ejected from the game and replacement player is not available. (See Rule 1.02), or a player is injured in the course of the game, or a player knows he will have to leave the game prior to its completion and his manager gives notice to the opposing manager and umpire at the lineup exchange. If the manager still has at least 8 filled batting slots in the line-up excluding the injured/absent player, the manager must notify the umpire and opposing manager of the situation and remove the batting slot from the lineup. The batting line-up will skip to the next batting position for the remainder of the game without penalty to the offensive team. If the injured/absent player is the 8th player of a team playing the game with only eight players, the game is forfeited at that juncture. Under no circumstance is a team permitted to field nine players and bat eight players.

1.06 Base Running - Courtesy Runner

The STLBFLL allows the use of some substitute runners for the batter (base runner) of record other than pinch-running. The two types of substitute runners and the rules that govern the use of a courtesy runner are described in this article while the use of an injury runner is described in article 1.10. Each type of substitute runner has its own identity and is independent of each other. Neither of the two types of substitute runners, Courtesy Runner and Injury Runner, are a sub-set of the other.

1.06(a) Courtesy Runner

A **Courtesy Runner** is a substitute runner who is allowed to replace a batter once that batter reaches base. Each team will be allowed the maximum of three (3) courtesy runners per game. (Note: See Special Provisions for the 60+ and Senior Divisions) **The player who was put out last must be the Courtesy Runner.** With regard to Rule 1.09.(a) the following applies:

1. Each manager must designate the batter(s) needing **Courtesy Runner(s)** and notify the opposing manager prior to the start of the game. If a manager does not designate the batter(s) needing Courtesy Runners(s) prior to the first pitch of the game he has forfeited the right to designate any undesignated or additional batter(s) needing Courtesy Runner(s) for the remainder of game play.
2. During game play under no circumstances will the transfer of the right to the use of a **Courtesy Runner** from one player to another be allowed, even in the case of injury. The right to a Courtesy Runner must be attached to an individual player prior to the start of the game. During game play if any player is injured while he is a base runner and feels he must leave the base path (field of play) he has only the right to the relief of an Injury Runner as outlined in Rule 1.11 or a pinch runner (a bench player). Rule 1.06 outlines the disposition of a player who is injured while participating in game play in any other capacity (as a fielder, for example) and needs to be removed from the lineup.

3. **The player who was put out last** shall be defined as the last previous player (excluding players designated to use a Courtesy Runner or Injury Runner and any player functioning, at the time he was last put out, as a Courtesy Runner or Injury Runner) who was put out regardless of whether or not they reached base during his time at bat.

CLARIFICATION – A batter who fails to reach base and runners who have reached base and are forced out on a fielder's choice play or runners that have reached base and are put out stealing or are thrown out trying for an extra base are all considered “the player who was put out last”. The “player who was last put out” can never be:

- a. A player designated to use a Courtesy Runner, or*
- b. A player designated to use an Injury Runner, or*
- c. A player who was functioning as a Courtesy Runner, when last put out, or*
- d. A player who was functioning as an Injury Runner, when last put out.*

- 1.06(b)** If a batter designated as needing a **Courtesy Runner** opts to run for himself, or forgets to get a Courtesy Runner and subsequently runs, he will lose his Courtesy Runner for the remaining portion of the game.

- 1.06(c)** One or both players occupying one position in the batting lineup under the A/B provision as outlined in Rule 1.10 may be allowed a **Courtesy Runner**. However, Courtesy Runners are attached to individual players and not positions in the batting lineup.

CLARIFICATION – For example: If player 1A and player 1B occupy position 1 in the batting lineup and player 1A is allowed (using) a Courtesy Runner while 1B is not, then when player 1A comes to bat and reaches base he is allowed a substitute runner while when player 1B comes to bat and reaches base he must run for himself.

- 1.06(d)** The offensive team that is invoking a **Courtesy Runner** has 60 seconds to make the runner change. If the runner is not replaced within this time period, the original runner must run and the right to use the Courtesy Runner for that particular batter will be forfeited for the remainder of the game. The 60-second time limit will begin at the moment that the umpire calls for time at the end of the play.

- 1.06(e)** The offensive manager may elect to substitute a courtesy runner (Last player put out) for the player who is currently occupying the catcher's defensive position when this player is on base with 2 outs. This action is not mandatory, can take place at any time during the game and does not count toward the maximum number of courtesy runners allowed.

- 1.06(f)** In the event that a player needing a Courtesy Runner reaches base and there has yet to be a player put out on the player's team (at the beginning of a game where no outs have been recorded) the Courtesy Runner will be the player in the last spot in the batting lineup (excluding players designated to use a Courtesy Runner).

- 1.06(g)** **PENALTY** with respect to Courtesy Runners: When an improper Courtesy Runner is used, and the defensive team appeals to the umpire before the first pitch to the next batter, the umpire shall declare the Courtesy Runner out. After the first pitch is thrown, then the improper runner becomes the Courtesy Runner of record and the right to appeal is forfeited.

1.07 A/B Batting Line Up Position

A manager may declare at the time lineups are exchanged (prior to the start of play) a lineup where two (2) players occupy any one batting position. There is no prescribed order in which the two players in the A/B position in the lineup must bat or how often.

*CLARIFICATION: There is no requirement that player A and B alternate turns a bat, nor is there any requirement that both players' bat. The only requirement is that when it is the turn of the batting position that both A and B occupy together either player A or player B bats and that neither player A nor player B bat in any other lineup position. **Under no circumstances may player B become a substitute runner for player A or vice-versa.***

CLARIFICATION: Once a batter goes to the plate in an A/B situation he must finish his at bat and run for himself until he is put out, scores a run or the ½ inning comes to an end, unless the player is allowed (using) a Courtesy Runner or Injury Runner as outlined in Rule 1.09 or he is removed from the lineup and replaced with a bench player.

Once a manager declares the use of this A/B system, he must continue using it for the remainder of the game. A hitting position that is vacated due to injury and for which there is no replacement player will be skipped over without penalty. Hitters in an A/B lineup may be pinch hit for, just as any other player.

*CLARIFICATION: When an A/B spot in the batting lineup is scheduled to bat, a manager may pinch hit for either player A or B but never both, simultaneously. During any one at bat only one of the A/B players may be removed from the lineup through pinch-hitting. The manager must declare which player is being replaced and this batter shall be removed from the batting order for the remainder of the game. **Under no circumstances may an A/B Batting Lineup Position be invoked/instituted after the start of play.** Under no circumstances may a player in an A/B Batting Position be moved to a different lineup position. **Once a player is in an A/B spot he cannot be used to "fill in" for a player who becomes injured and vacates his spot in the lineup.***

1.08 Injury Runner

1.08(a) If in the course of the game a player reaches base, subsequently becomes injured, and has not been allowed (using) a Courtesy Runner and there are no bench players available to replace the injured player, the player may have a substitute runner. This substitute runner will be called (labeled or referred to as) an **Injury Runner**. The player functioning as the **Injury Runner** will be the choice of the opposing team's manager. The opposing team's manager may choose any player from the batting lineup of the injured player's team to function as the **Injury Runner**, with the following exceptions:

1. The **Injury Runner** may not be on base, at bat, on deck, in the hole or scheduled to bat immediately after the player in the hole, at the time of the injury.
2. The **Injury Runner** may not be a player using a Courtesy Runner as outlined in Rule 1.09.(a), at the time of the injury.
3. The **Injury Runner** may not be a player who previously was allowed to use an Injury Runner but who's spot in the lineup has not yet been vacated, at the time of the injury.
4. The **Injury Runner** may not be a player occupying an A/B spot in the lineup as outlined in Rule 1.10, at the time of the injury.

The opposing team manager selecting the **Injury Runner** from the batting lineup of the injured player's team has 90 seconds to make his choice, from the moment he is notified that an **Injury Runner** is needed/invoked. If the opposing team manager does not make his choice within this time period, the Injury Runner must then be **the player who was put out last**, with the manager of the Injury Runner's team given an additional 90 seconds to identify and place on the base path the correct runner. With regard to Rule 1.11 the following applies:

The player who was put out last shall be defined as the last previous player (excluding players designated to use a Courtesy Runner or Injury Runner and any player functioning, at the time he was last put out, as a Courtesy Runner or Injury Runner) who was put out regardless of whether or not they reached base during his time at bat.

CLARIFICATION – A batter who fails to reach base and runners who have reached base and are forced out on a fielder's choice play or runners that have reached base and are put out stealing or are thrown out trying for an extra base are all considered “the player who was put out last”. The “player who was last put out” can never be:

- a. A player designated to use a Courtesy Runner, or*
- b. A player designated to use an Injury Runner, or*
- c. A player who was functioning as a Courtesy Runner, when last put out, or*
- d. A player who was functioning as an Injury Runner, when last put out.*

Once the **Injury Runner** has been put out, scores a run or the ½ inning comes to an end, the injured player's spot in the batting lineup is vacated (and skipped over for the remainder of the game) without penalty as outlined in Rule 1.06. In addition, the injured player must vacate his position in the defensive lineup, and he may not play either offense or defense for the remainder of the game.

*CLARIFICATION: Once a player is granted an Injury Runner, he may not take part in any part of game play, he is “done for the day”. **Injury Runners are for the sole purpose of allowing a player who is injured while a base runner and is not put out a substitute runner. So, it is to allow an injured player who is on base and injured to leave the game and not forfeit/concede an out. The disposition of players injured in some other way and need to leave the lineup during the course of the game is outlined in Rule 1.06. Once an injured player leaves the base path and is replaced by an Injury Runner, he may not re-enter the game for any reason, not even to replace the Injury Runner. A player will not be allowed (granted) an Injury Runner if there is a bench player available to replace him. THERE is no limit to the number of times a team can invoke the Injury Runner rule.***

1.08(b) PENALTY with respect to Injury Runners: When an improper Injury Runner is used, and the defensive team appeals to the umpire before the first pitch to the next batter, the umpire shall declare the Injury Runner out. After the first pitch is thrown, then the improper runner becomes the Injury Runner of record and the right to appeal is forfeited.

1.09 Shared Line Up Rule

The STLBFLL allows teams to use the shared line up rule in lieu of the Courtesy Runner Rule and A/B Batting Line Up Rule.

- 1.09(a) Offensive substitution: The STLBFLL uses the Shared Lineup position to enter more than one player in any offensive batting order position.
- 1.09(b) Offensive substitution is unlimited, provided said player stays in the same spot in the lineup once he is placed there (i.e., a batter and a runner for that batter may occupy the same position in the offensive lineup; the manager must declare who is batting at that lineup position if there is a change. Neither player may appear in any other offensive lineup slot.) A manager may use an unlimited number of players in any lineup slot, but those players cannot be used elsewhere offensively.
- 1.09(c) A shared position in the offensive lineup may be initiated any time at a manager's discretion. **However, the original batter in the lineup must bat in his first at-bat, unless he is physically unable to bat due to injury or otherwise. In this scenario, the original batter is ineligible to bat or run the bases for the remainder of the game. If a replacement player is not available to pinch hit, then the original batting position will be vacated and the batting line-up will skip to the next batting position for the remainder of the game without penalty to the offensive team.**
- 1.09(d) Managers must notify umpires when players in shared-lineup positions are being switched the first time in the game. (Penalty for failure to report: Handle same as batting out of order, and to challenge, follow the same rules that apply to batting out of order – ORB 6.07.)
- 1.09(e) There are no courtesy runners when using the shared lineup rule except Rule 1.07(e) which allows a courtesy runner for the catcher with 2 outs. Managers cannot use the A/B lineup rule while using the Shared Lineup Rule.
- 1.09(d) Any player entering a game as a runner (i.e., player has not played offensively to that point), thereby creating a shared position in the batting order, must bat the next time that batting order position comes to the plate. This rule does NOT require players to alternate once initiated; it requires that the runner get the next at bat. This requirement does not apply to a succeeding game if the runner shares in the late innings and the batting position does not come up again in that game. (Penalty for failure of runner to bat: Handled as a batting out of order (ORB 6.07), and, by rule, it is the responsibility of the defense to bring the fact of the 'improper' batter to the attention of the plate umpire. In case the 'improper' batter reaches base and is called out via rule 6.07, the player (who ran as a shared position) will then be the 'proper' batter next time the batting order position comes to the plate.
- 1.09(f) If a manager elects to "pinch hit" for a batter who occupies a shared line up spot with another player within the batting order, the manager must declare the batter who is being replaced and this batter will be removed from the batting order for the remainder of the game.

2.00 PITCHING

2.01 Hand to Mouth

The pitcher is permitted to go to his mouth on the dirt portion of the mound as long as he is not on the rubber and wipes off before going to the rubber.

2.02 Re-entry

Pitchers removed from the pitching position may re-enter to pitch one time as long as they do not re-enter to pitch in the same inning from which they were removed. An exception is granted if the relief pitcher becomes injured and the coach needs the removed pitcher to return in order to complete the inning.

2.03 Uniform Restrictions

The pitcher may not wear white or gray long-sleeved undershirts, or wear batting gloves, wristbands or jewelry on his **pitching arm** while he is on the mound.

2.04 Hitting Batters

Any pitcher who hits three (3) batters with pitches in the same inning or four (4) batters with pitches during a game must be removed from the pitching position and is not permitted to pitch for the remainder of the game. He may continue to hit and/or play defense.

2.05 Intentional Walks

(Repealed on 1/6/18, MLB Rules Apply)

3.00 SAFETY ISSUES

3.01 Collisions

Any offensive or defensive player who initiates intentional and high-impact contact with an opponent shall be called out and subject to ejection. No obvious or malicious attempt to initiate contact will be tolerated.

Base runners shall not use roll blocks or go out of the baseline to initiate contact. Slides should be directly to the bag and the slide may not go past the bag. **Players must slide into the base or give up their right to a base** (by stopping or leaving the base path) if the defensive player has possession of the ball. (NOTE: A base runner need not slide directly into a base as long as he slides in a direction away from the infielder attempting to make a play.) Under no circumstances can a base runner attempt to “take out” a fielder to “break up” a double play.

A defensive player shall not block the base or be in the base path so as to impede (obstruct) the base runners right to that base. A defensive player should not reach into the runner to catch a throw. A defensive player shall always leave a direct path open to the runner attempting to advance to a base. If a collision does occur under any of these circumstances, the runner will be considered safe and the obstruction rule shall be enforced.

Runners are not required to slide to a base or home plate, but it is recommended that runners slide on any close play. Runners who do not slide and initiate contact with the fielder will be called out and may be ejected if the umpire rules the contact was malicious or intentional.

3.02 Decoy Tags

Defensive players shall not use decoy tags, verbal inducements or any phantom play to coerce a runner to discontinue his advancement or to slide unnecessarily. A player that violates this provision is subject to potential ejection with the runner awarded at least one base or as many bases as he would have advanced without the violation.

3.03 Verbal Interference – Verbal Obstruction

Offensive players, (base runners, base coaches, players within the dugout) shall not intentionally confuse a fielder by verbally inserting themselves into the defensive play as if they were a fielder. Any offensive player that violates this provision is subject to potential ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct with the runner or batter being called out for interference.

3.04 Bloody Injuries

If a player incurs an injury which results in an open bleeding wound or bloody saturation of the uniform, then the game should be stopped and the player should be given appropriate medical treatment. This should be done at the direction and discretion of the umpiring crew. If the player can be treated without undue delay, play should be stopped until the player has received proper treatment. A player may not return until the umpiring crew and coaching staffs are satisfied that no danger remains to other players from the transfer of blood-related disease due to contact with the injured player.

4.00 OFFICIAL GAMES - CALLED GAMES - RAINOUTS

4.01 Inning Requirements for Official Game

A game becomes official in the following circumstances:

- The teams complete a regulation nine inning game (or more if extra innings); or
- The teams complete five innings (4.5 innings if home team leads) before the umpires' rule to cease play for any reason, (darkness, light malfunction, sprinkler system activation, player injury, civil unrest, rain, fog etc.); or
- There is a 10-run discrepancy at the end of 7 innings or more (6.5 innings if home team leads); or
- The teams completed at least 5 innings and the teams have played for 3 hours (or in accordance with alternative field-specific time restrictions established by the EC) so that no new inning would begin after the 3-hour time limit. If an inning has begun prior to the 3-hour time limit, then that inning shall be completed (unless called for other reason such as weather, etc.)
- **New innings begin immediately upon the 3rd out of a preceding inning.**

4.02 Called Games

4.02 (a) If a game is called for any reason, it is an official game:

- If five innings have been completed;
- If the home team has scored more runs in four and a half-innings than the visiting team has scored in 5 innings.
- If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fifth inning to take the lead, even if the home half of the inning is not completed when play is ceased.
- If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fifth inning to tie the score when play is ceased, it shall be a tied game and indicated as such in the league standings.
- If an official game is called with the score tied, it shall be a tied game and indicated as such in the league standings.
- If a game is called before it has become an official game, the game shall be declared "No Game."

4.02 (b) A called game ends at the moment the umpire terminates play. In the event an official game is called while an inning is in progress, the final score and statistics for the game will be that score and statistics from the last completed inning except;

1. In the event the home team enters the home half of the 5th inning trailing and has tied or taken the lead when the game is called, the final score and statistics will be those at the moment play ceased regardless if the home half of the 5th inning has been completed.
2. In the event the home team enters the home half of an inning later than the 5th inning trailing and has tied or taken the lead when the game is called, the final score and statistics will be those at the moment play ceased regardless if the home half of the inning has been completed.
3. In the event the home team enters the home half of the 5th inning with the score tied and the game is called before the inning is completed without the home team taking the lead, the game is not official and shall be declared "No Game."

4.02 (c) All called games which have achieved an official status are final. There are no suspended games in the St. Louis Baseball Forever League, including playoffs. Any game called during an incomplete inning shall revert back to the previously completed inning, unless the game is called in the home half of an inning in which the home team entered the inning trailing and has tied the game or taken the lead.

4.03 Rescheduling Cancelled or Rained Out Games

The league CFS will reschedule games which are cancelled or rained out. The CFS will provide a list of available dates to the 2 managers involved in an attempt to reschedule a "lost" game. The managers will negotiate and notify the CFS on an agreed date and field. If the managers cannot reach an agreement or fail to participate and notify the CFS, the game will not be rescheduled. Any possible refunds for "lost" games will be provided to the teams during the succeeding off season.

4.04 Umpire Notification

In the event of rain, the EC will collaborate with the vendors, managers and any source available in an effort to determine the playing conditions of a field. The EC may cancel a game if after monitoring the weather radar and forecast it is their opinion a line of storms is imminent and almost certain to cause an unplayable field. As soon as the parties decide a game must be postponed or cancelled for any reason, the EC or his designee will contact the umpires and managers to notify them of the decision. Managers are responsible for notifying their players of postponements.

5.00 PREGAME & GAME PROTOCOL

5.01 Pre-game Infield

Teams should cooperate to ensure that both get a fair opportunity for infield/outfield practice before the game. Generally, the home team has the field until 15 minutes before the game. The visiting team has the field 15 minutes prior to the game.

5.02 Time between Games

When multiple games are scheduled at the same site on the same day, there will be a minimum of 15 minutes between games (unless games are running behind and both managers agree to start early).

5.03 Grace Period

Teams will be granted a 15- minute grace period to produce enough roster players to avoid a forfeit. A team must have at least 8 (eight) of its players to start an official game. If the 15-minute grace period is invoked, the time used will be deducted from the time limit. The game clock begins running at the scheduled start time.

5.04 Baseballs and Retrieving Foul Balls

The Home team shall supply 3 new baseballs per game while the visiting shall supply 2 new baseballs per game. The team at bat is responsible for retrieving foul balls.

5.05 Exchanging Line-up Cards

5.05(a) Managers are required to use line up cards provided by the league. The team manager or representative is required to submit a line-up, including last name, first initial if the team roster has more than one player with the same last name, and jersey number of all players present at the time of ground rules, to the opposing manager and Umpire in Chief. **A PLAYER NOT PRESENT AT TIME OF LINE-UP EXCHANGE SHALL NOT BE INCLUDED ON THE PREGAME LINEUP CARD.** Managers shall indicate on the line-up card and declare to the umpire and the opposing manager at the time of ground rules if a team will be using the "shared line up rule" (Rule 1.12) or the "courtesy runner and A/B batting slot rule" (Rule 1.09 and 1.10) Players arriving after the start of the game may be added during the course of the game once the opposing team's coach has been notified of the addition. The Umpire in Chief shall keep a copy of the line-up cards and ensure that the line-up cards are exchanged prior to the start of the game. Once presented, the lineup card is the official document to be used when determining the proper batting order.

5.05(b) Injured players who are present earning game credit shall be listed on the "Roster" section of the line-up card. Managers should indicate on the card and notify the opposing manager that the listed player is earning game credit only and is not eligible for game play. Players listed as earning game credit only cannot be used in the offensive or defensive line ups in any capacity.

5.06 Both Teams Keep a Scorebook

Both teams should keep scorebooks and communicate changes in the offensive line-up and pitching position to the opponent's scorekeeper.

6.00 UMPIRES

6.01 Authority

The Umpire in Chief will be the official STLBFL representative during the course of all games. His decisions are final. Protests can be filed only in the event of a call that is in direct conflict of the league-sanctioned rules. Umpire judgment calls may not be disputed or officially protested in the league office.

6.02 Protests

Protests are allowed only on rules interpretations or player ineligibility violations. Protests must be filed with the league office within 48 hours of completion of the game being protested. Protests on a judgment call by an umpire will not be accepted. To protest a game, a manager must: notify the umpire and the opposing manager that the game is being played under protest; write in the official team's scorebook the situation and on what grounds the game is being protested; and sign the official scorebook. Protesting teams asking for a formal ruling from the EC must write a check for \$25 to STLBFL and submit it with a written report to be reviewed by the CUR and the EC. The CUR will review and rule on the matter unless he is associated with one of the teams playing in the game being protested. In this situation, the EC will assign a qualified, neutral and objective party to rule on the protest. If the protest is upheld, the \$25 will be returned to the manager.

7.00 EQUIPMENT

7.01 Uniforms

All teams must have baseball uniforms consisting of caps, numbered jerseys, baseball pants, socks and baseball footwear. Each player's uniform must be of similar design to his teammates' uniforms. In the event a team has players with a duplicate number displayed on their jersey or a player without a number on their jersey, the manager shall declare these players during the pregame home plate conference with the umpires and the opposing manager. Managers who are not players shall not be required to wear uniforms.

7.02 Wood Bats

STLBFL is a wood bat league. Composite, wood and wood/metal (handle) bats are allowed. Bats must be manufactured by an authorized supplier and cannot be altered in any way

8.00 SCOREKEEPING STATISTICS & STANDINGS

8.01 Official Scorebook

The home team scorebook is the official scorebook unless the home team cedes the responsibility to the visiting team and informs the umpire thereof. The league encourages teams to agree on universal criteria for determining hits and errors to avoid extreme statistics inflation by some teams and wide disparities in statistical record keeping.

8.02 Standings and Recording of Scores

The CC will maintain official league standings. Managers must record scores and player attendance in the Home Teams Online (HTO) database within one week of game completion. Opposing managers should validate attendance of the opposing team. Noted discrepancies should be forwarded to the league (ML). **Failure to enter scores and player attendance within one week of game completion will result in NO players receiving credit for that game.** Managers may appeal players game attendance to the EC. Appeals should include supporting documentation. (Photo copies of line-up cards, scorebook etc.) If the EC grants the appeal, the opposing manager will be notified.

8.03 Final Standings, Ties and Playoff Seeding

Final league standings will be determined by won/lost percentage. Head-to-head won loss followed by head-to-head runs allowed, then by head-to-head runs scored then a coin toss will decide ties.

8.04 Copies of League By-Laws and Playing Rules

All managers are required to have a current copy of the League By-Laws, Playing rules and Field Guide Lines in their possession at league games. Access to electronic copies stored on portable devices or access to the league web site is acceptable.

8.05 Accuracy of On-Line Rosters

Managers are required to keep on line rosters accurate by indicating proper uniform numbers associated with each player along with the word "Waiver" contained in the player's name for any player who has been granted an under-age exception. Note: Duplicate uniform numbers are acceptable.

9.00 FORFEITS

9.01 Forfeit Provisions

A team will forfeit a game under the following circumstances:

- If fewer than 8 players are available within 15 minutes of the official start time of the game (15-minute grace period); or
- If fewer than 8 players are available after the start of (or during) the game because players are lost due to ejection or injury; or
- If a team uses an ineligible player; or
- If one of its players fails to leave the complex after being ejected.

9.02 Team Penalties for Multiple Forfeits

Any team that forfeits two games in one season must meet with the EC to determine what sanctions or interventions may be imposed. Individual circumstances should be considered before rendering a decision.

9.03 Scoring Forfeits and Player Credit

If a game in progress results in a forfeit, all players present shall receive game credit. If a game is forfeited prior to the official start, all players on the roster of the winning team shall receive game credit while no players on the losing team shall receive game credit. All games which result in a forfeit will be scored a 9-0 victory for the winning team with the winning team scoring 1 run per inning. Individual player stats for both teams for forfeited games in progress may be entered into the league web site.

9.04 Advance Forfeit Notification

Managers are expected to notify the EC as soon as possible if they are likely to forfeit a game due to an insufficient number of players. If a team notifies the EC in advance and there is no expenditure of funds for fields or umpires, the forfeiting team will be allowed to participate in any financial credits issued during the off season for the forfeited game. If the lack of timeliness of the notification causes any expenditure for fields or umpires, the forfeiting team will not be allowed any financial credit during the off season for the forfeited game.

10.00 CODE OF ETHICS & PENALTIES

10.01 Managers Responsible for Team Behavior

Team managers have the responsibility for their team's actions prior to, during, and after all games.

10.02 Player and Fan Conduct

All players, managers and fans will abide by the following Code of Conduct and all other rules of the STLBFL. Players and managers found guilty of violating the Code of Conduct below shall be subject to the penalties set forth in this document's Table of Penalties chart. Regardless of the following, the EC reserves the right to extend or reduce suspensions at their discretion if investigations reveal circumstances which warrant further consideration.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- All players and coaches are expected to exhibit a sense of sportsmanship and play with due regard to the safety of the umpires and other players.
- No player or coach shall lay a hand upon, shove, strike, or threaten an official.
- No player shall lay a hand upon, physically attack or threaten, shove strike, or punch a player, manager, coach, spectator before, during or after a game, nor retaliate for being shoved, struck, punched or threatened.
- No player will use unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of the game against the body or person of an opposing player.
- No player shall use abusive, threatening or foul language toward an umpire, opponent, manager, teammate, spectator before, during or after the game.
- No player shall refuse to abide by an umpire's decision that results in game disruption and/or delay.
- No player shall excessively object, argue, or protest an umpire's decision.
- No player shall throw equipment (including helmets, bats, gloves or other baseball gear in anger or frustration with excessive force.
- No player shall use equipment that exceeds the limits allowed by the League.
- No player shall play in a game without a properly completed and submitted liability waiver.
- No player shall knowingly participate in a game outside the proper age division or misrepresent a players age for any purpose.
- No manager or player shall knowingly play a non-rostered player; or otherwise misrepresent a player's identity.
- No manager shall submit false information on official League website, including submitting names of players as present who were not present at the game, and/or changing earlier submissions to credit players for games where they were not present.
- No player shall bring alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs into the dugout or field, and no player shall consume alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs during the game or be upon the field at any time in an intoxicated condition.

- No player shall participate in any game during the term of a suspension; or otherwise violate the terms of a suspension.
- The Executive Council may suspend or expel any player or coach, or may impose sanctions or probations to any player or team for conduct that is prejudicial or detrimental to the welfare, interest, reputation, or character of the league.

10.03 Penalties

- (1) **Ejections:** *Whenever a player is ejected, the team manager must notify the Chairman of Umpires (CUR) or his designee within 12 hours of the end of the game via phone, text or email. Failure to notify the CUR within the allotted time shall result in a minimum 1 game suspension for the manager.*

Ejected players, coaches or fans must leave the field of play immediately and the playing site upon gathering their belongings. Failure by the ejected player to comply with this rule may, at the discretion of the umpire, result in a team forfeiture of the game and if so, then the ejected player and his manager will receive an automatic 2 game suspension. The ejected player's lineup spot will be filled by a substitute if one is available. Otherwise, the ejected player's lineup spot is skipped in subsequent at bats.

- (2) **Probation:** A player may play and a manager may manage while on probation. Probation is defined as a period of time or number of games in which no further rule infractions or behavior problems may occur for a player or manager.

Should a player or manager, while on probation be ejected from a game, have a grievance filed against him or be cited for disrupting a game, his case shall be subject to immediate review by the EC for suspension and/or expulsion.

- (3) **Suspension:** Players and managers who are suspended for a game, games, or season are not allowed to participate in any way in all League (i.e., all age divisions) games during the suspension (this includes, but is not limited to coaching, managing duties, warming up, sitting of the bench and dressing out). Suspended players and managers may be spectators at games during their suspension provided they have no contact with their teams and do not make comments or take actions that cause a distraction or disrupt play on the fields as determined by the umpires. Remainder of the season suspensions include suspensions from all League, and post-season activities including playoffs. Reinstatement following any season long suspension requires EC approval. Games that are called or cancelled for rain or other reasons will not be counted toward suspensions of a specific number of games. The game has to end as a win, loss, or tie to be counted toward the suspension.

- (4) **Expulsion:** A player or manager receiving a League expulsion shall be prohibited from any and all League sanctioned games and activities from the date of the expulsion. Reinstatement following any expulsion requires EC approval.

10.04 Appeals: If a player would like to appeal a suspension or other decision by the League, then he must submit an appeal to the EC in writing (email is acceptable) no later than five (5) days after the initial decision. A player still cannot play during an appeal process.

Table of Penalties

No player ejected from a game may return to play in any age division until the ejection has been reviewed and return to play has been approved by the EC. Whenever a player is ejected, the team manager must notify the Chairman of Umpires (CUR) or his designee within 12 hours of the end of the game via phone, text or email. *FAILURE TO NOTIFY THE CUR WITHIN THE ALLOTTED TIME SHALL RESULT IN A MINIMUM ONE (1) GAME SUSPENSION FOR THE MANAGER.*

	Offense	Penalty	Appealable?
(1)	Shove, strike, punch, fight with, or physically attack an umpire before, during or after a game.	Game ejection. Expulsion from the League. Police will be called and charges will be filed with local jurisdiction.	YES
(2)	Physically attack or threaten, shove, strike, or punch a player, manager, coach, spectator or League official before, during or after a game, whether initiated or in retaliation.	Game ejection, with automatic suspension from all age divisions until further notice. Additional suspension up to and including expulsion from the League is possible pending complete review of the incident.	YES
(3)	Refusal to abide by an umpire's decision resulting in game disruption and/or delay.	Game ejection, plus automatic one (1) game suspension, subject to additional suspension or probation, pending review by the Chairman of Umpires (CUR).	YES
(4)	Excessively objecting, arguing or protesting an umpire's decision.	Game ejection, plus automatic one (1) game suspension.	NO
(5)	Excessive use of abusive, offensive, threatening or foul language directed toward an umpire, opponent, coach, manager, League official or spectator before, during or after a game.	Game ejection, plus automatic two (2) game suspension, subject to additional suspension or probation pending review by the Chairman of Umpires (CUR).	NO
(6)	Use of unnecessary rough tactics during the course of play against an opponent.	Game ejection, plus automatic one (1) game suspension. If action was deemed with intent to injure then automatic three (3) game suspension, subject to additional suspension or probation pending review by the Chairman of Umpires (CUR).	YES
(7)	Throwing equipment in anger or frustration with excessive force, including helmets, bats, gloves or any other baseball gear.	Game ejection, plus automatic (1) game suspension. Subject to additional suspension or probation pending review by the Chairman of Umpires.	NO
(8)	Consume alcoholic beverages or use illegal drugs prior to or during a game or participate in a game while under the influence of either alcohol or drugs.	Game ejection, automatic three (3) game suspension, subject to additional suspension or probation pending review by the EC.	NO

(9)	An ejected player not leaving the field of play and premises which resulted in a game forfeit by the umpire.	Automatic two (2) game suspension for player and manager.	NO
(10)	Playing in a game without a properly completed and submitted Waiver.	Game ejection, automatic suspension for the remainder of the season for all age divisions, and team's forfeiture of all previous games where the player participated, subject to further review by the EC.	YES
(11)	Use of equipment that exceeds the limits allowed by the League (i.e., illegal bat, using metal spikes on a field or part of a field inappropriately, etc.).	Game ejection, automatic one (1) game suspension for the player.	NO
(12)	Knowingly participate in a game outside of the proper age division or misrepresent player's age for any purpose.	Game ejection (if discovered during a game), forfeiture of all games where player illegally participated, automatic suspension of player (and manager if complicit) for remainder of the season in all age divisions, subject to additional suspension or probation pending review by the EC.	YES
(13)	Knowingly playing a non-rostered player; or misrepresenting a player's identity.	Game ejection (manager and player, if discovered during a game), forfeiture of all games where player is found to have participated. Manager is suspended for the remainder of the season for all age divisions (as a player and manager) with up to an additional 2-year suspension pending review by the EC. The player is suspended for the remainder of the season in all age divisions and subject to an additional suspension pending review by the EC.	YES
(14)	Submitting false information via on-line postings (official League web site), including submitting names of players as present who were not present at the game, and/or changing earlier submissions to credit players for games where they were not present.	Automatic disqualification of team from playoff participation, automatic two (2) year suspension of the offending manager for all divisions (as a player and manager) pending review by the EC.	YES
(15)	Participating in any game during the term of a suspension; or otherwise violating the terms of a suspension while it is in place.	Automatic suspension for the remainder of the season. If caught participating during a "suspension for the remainder of the season", then automatic Expulsion.	YES

11.00 Special Provisions for the 60+ Division

11.01 Batters Forced Out at First Base

Batters may NOT be thrown out at first base by any defensive player who starts the play with one or both feet in the outfield grass. Outfielders may throw to any other base to record outs on force plays however, this play cannot be continued to 1st base to complete a forced double play upon the batter. Batted balls touched by a defensive infielder (through the legs counts) may be recovered by the same fielder in the grass and he may attempt a play at first base. Defensive players may throw behind the runner at first from the outfield. Once a batter runner reaches first safely, any attempt to advance is at the runner's risk.

11.02 Mercy Rule

East Conference - Games shall be considered complete if there is a **12**-run or more discrepancy at the end of 7 innings or more (6.5 innings if home team leads). All other aspects of Rule 4.01, Inning Requirements for Official Game, apply.

West Conference - Teams are limited to 5 runs in any half inning. However, if in achieving the 5 maximum runs allowed per half inning, an over-the-fence home run is hit with men on base that results in more than 5 total runs, all of the runs will score and be counted. This rule will apply to all innings except the 8th and 9th innings. During these innings, each team may score as many runs as possible. Exception: If the umpires declare the last inning of play due to the 3-hour time limit being reached and the last inning is prior to the 8th inning, the last inning shall not be subject to the 5-run limit. This shall be enforced at the time of the umpire's notification thus it is possible that only the bottom half of the last inning is not subject to the maximum run limit. Note: There is no mercy rule being used in the West Conference.

11.03 Number of Courtesy Runners

Each team will be allowed the maximum of four (4) courtesy runners per game.

11.04 West Conference – Runner Cannot Steal Second Base

Runners Cannot Steal Second Base

All base runners are prohibited from attempting to **steal** 2nd base. Base runners may attempt to advance to 2nd base on a wild pitch, passed ball, *any errant pickoff attempt on them or any lead runner or any mishandled throw attempting to retire a lead runner from stealing a base.*

A wild pitch, passed ball, errant pickoff attempt *or mishandled throw* is defined by the catcher or fielder failing to catch the ball. Catching the ball on a bounce constitutes a catch. Runners do not have to retag first base prior to attempting to advance.

Any runner who **mistakenly or inadvertently** attempts to **steal** or advance to 2nd base, must return to 1st base before being tagged out by a defender unless this runner successfully reaches (tags) 2nd base in which case the play is dead and the runner is automatically out.

A runner on 3rd base may not advance if a runner **makes any attempt** to **steal** 2nd base.

If a dropped third strike occurs with 2 out and runner is on 1st base, normal baseball rules apply

12.00 Special Provisions for the Senior Division

12.01 Batters Forced Out at First Base From Outfield

Batters may NOT be thrown out at first base by any defensive player after a batted ball has reached the outfield grass. Batted balls touched by a defensive infielder (through the legs counts) may be recovered by the same fielder in the grass and he may attempt a play at first base. Defensive players may throw to any other base to record outs on force plays however, this play cannot be continued to 1st base to complete a forced double play upon the batter. Defensive players may throw behind the runner at first from the outfield. Once a batter runner reaches first safely, any attempt to advance is at the runner's risk.

12.02 Maximum Runs per Inning

Teams are limited to 5 runs in any half inning. However, if in achieving the 5 maximum runs allowed per half inning, an over-the-fence home run is hit with men on base that results in more than 5 total runs, all of the runs will score and be counted. This rule will apply to all innings except the 8th and 9th innings. During these innings, each team may score as many runs as possible. Exception: If the umpires declare the last inning of play due to the 3-hour time limit being reached and the last inning is prior to the 8th inning, the last inning shall not be subject to the 5 run limit. This shall be enforced at the time of the umpire's notification thus it is possible that only the bottom half of the last inning is not subject to the maximum run limit. Note: There is no mercy rule being used in the Senior Division.

12.03 Runners Cannot Steal Second Base

All base runners are prohibited from attempting to steal 2nd base. Base runners may attempt to advance to 2nd base on a wild pitch, passed ball, *any errant pickoff attempt on them or any lead runner or any mishandled throw attempting to retire a lead runner from stealing a base.*

A wild pitch, passed ball, errant pickoff attempt *or mishandled throw* is defined by the catcher or fielder failing to catch the ball. Catching the ball on a bounce constitutes a catch. Runners do not have to retag first base prior to attempting to advance.

Any runner who mistakenly or inadvertently attempts to steal or advance to 2nd base, must return to 1st base before being tagged out by a defender unless this runner successfully reaches (tags) 2nd base in which case the play is dead and the runner is automatically out.

A runner on 3rd base may not advance if a runner makes any attempt to steal 2nd base.

If a dropped third strike occurs with 2 out and runner is on 1st base, normal baseball rules apply

12.04 Courtesy Runners

Teams are allowed the use of unlimited courtesy runners. Managers, at any time during a game, may declare the use of a courtesy runner for a player who has reached base safely. The courtesy to be used is the last player in the lineup who was put out and is not in need of a courtesy runner. Base runners who have been assigned a courtesy runner are **not** required to use a courtesy runner in subsequent at bats. Managers are encouraged not to use this rule to purposely gain an advantage.

12.05 All players must Bat and Play the Field

Unless due to injury or player request, all players present at a game must play at least 2 innings in the field and receive at least 1 plate appearance.

13.00 Post Season Rules - Format - Tie Breakers

All regular season rules apply to post season games including mercy rules except for those rules listed below.

13.01 Post Season Time Limit

There is no time limit for all STLBFL post season games.

13.02 Player Eligibility

Players participating in postseason play must be on the roster and have appeared (*Appeared being defined as completing at least 1 plate appearance or playing 1 defensive inning in the field. An inning being defined as 3 defensive put outs*) in at least **8** of the regular season games played for the team with which they finish the season in order to be eligible to participate in STLBFL league playoffs. A player that does not officially appear in a game may be credited for an appearance if they are present for at least 3 innings, in uniform (at a minimum, must wear his team jersey) and listed on the lineup card

13.03 Divisional Format

13.03 (a) 43 Division Format

The eight 43 Division teams will consist of a single conference. The 8 teams will play the 7 opponents within the division 3 times each for a 21-game regular season schedule. Upon completion of the regular season, the 8 teams will play a double elimination tournament. Tournament seeding will be determined by the final regular season standings.

13.03 (b) 53 Division Format

The eight 53 Division teams will consist of a single conference. The 8 teams will play the 7 opponents within the division 3 times each for a 21-game regular season schedule. Upon completion of the regular season, the 8 teams will play a double elimination tournament. Tournament seeding will be determined by the final regular season standings.

13.03 (c) 60 Division Format

The twelve 60 Division teams will consist of two conferences. The East Conference will consist of the Bud Light, Cardinals, Dodgers, Jets, Patriots and Pirates. The West Conference will consist of the Black Sox, Blue Dragons, Boomers, Grays, Patriots 65 and Stars.

East Conference - Teams within the East Conference will play the teams within their conference 4 times each. Each team will play 20 regular season games. Upon completion of the regular season, the East conference will be divided into 2 tournaments. Seeds 1 through 3 and seeds 4 through 6 will play a 2-game round robin tournament with 1 of the 3 teams being eliminated. The 2 remaining teams will play a 2 out of 3 championship. For the championship series, the best seed will be home team in the first game; and, the other team will be home team in the second game. The best seed will be home team for the third “if needed” game. The following tie breakers will be used to determine winners in the round robin portion of the tournament.

1. Regular Season Record
2. Regular Season - Head-to-Head Record
3. Runs Allowed in Round Robin.
4. Coin flip

West Conference - Teams within the West Conference will play the teams within their conference 4 times each. Each team will play 20 regular season games. Upon completion of the regular season, the West conference will play a single elimination tournament until 2 teams remain. The 2 remaining Teams will play a 2 out of 3 championship. Seeds 1 and 2 will receive a 1st round bye.

13.03 (d) Senior Division Format

The six Senior Division teams will consist of a single conference. Teams will play each of the 5 remaining teams 4 times. Each team will be scheduled to play 20 regular season games. There is no post season tournament in the Senior division.

13.03 Post Season Tie Breakers

- 13.03 (a)** If a post season game is tied after 9 innings, play shall continue into extra innings to determine a winner. In the event a post season game is ceased by the umpire for any reason (weather, lights, etc.) and the scored is tied, then the game shall be declared a tied game and the following tie breakers will be used to determine the winner. Note: With the exception of rule 12.01, all other elements of Rules 4.01, 4.02 and 4.03 will apply to post season play; specifically there will be no suspended games in post season play.

Tiebreakers

1. Head to head regular season won loss.
2. Head to head regular season runs allowed.
3. Head to head regular season runs scored.
4. Coin toss.

13.04 Championship Games

In the event a post season championship game or series ends in a tie, teams will be declared co-champions.

13.05 Double Elimination Tournaments – Home Teams

Throughout a double elimination tournament, the team with the higher original seeding will be the home team for all games except when the final 2 remaining teams play a second “if needed game” where the home team will be decided by a coin flip.