2024 Rules and Regulations

2024

SOUTHWEST COUNTY CONFERENCE BOY'S BASEBALL

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Definitions:

League The individual baseball organization Clinton Twp., Hanna, LaCrosse, & Union Mills.

Conference The individual Baseball organizations that have joined together to form one body.

Officers Officers will be elected to represent the conference. They will be President, Vice president, and Secretary/Treasurer.

When conducting business during a meeting each League will have one vote. The voting member may be one of the league officers or their designee. Roberts Rules of Order will be used.

1-There will be a continuous batting order. All players who are on the team must bat in the lineup. Coaches may substitute defensively at their discretion.

2-There will be no designated hitter used by the Conference.

3-There will be no limit amount of time outs in the Conference.

4-A fifteen run rule will apply after 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead for Juniors and Intermediate divisions, not in the Instructional division.

5-There shall be no intentional walks; the pitcher must not alter his pitching to throw four balls to prevent a batter from having an opportunity to hit the ball.

6-There will be no steel cleats or spikes allowed at the T-ball & Juniors Division. The Intermediate Division will have the option of using steel cleats or spikes.

7-The length of a game is 6 innings, 3 ½ innings if the home is ahead and the game is called due to rain or darkness by the umpires.

8-Each player must have a permanent address during the season and must play for the League area in which he lives, any exceptions will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

9-In the event of a League not being able to field a team, the players who have not signed up in their League area may not transfer to another. Only those who have properly registered in their League area may transfer.

10-All teams must have a minimum of 8 players of normal divisional age to assemble a team for said division.

11-After April 15th of each year, no new players may be added until the President, Vice President, or Secretary/Treasurer of the Conference is notified by letter or verbally. In case of verbal notification, a written notification shall be sent to the Conference Secretary/Treasurer within 48 hours of the verbal notification.

12-No new teams may enter the conference after April 15th.

13-No lateral movement of players between teams of the same division is allowed.

14-Each League must provide two copies of official rosters and proof of insurance for each registered team, to the Secretary/Treasurer by May 1st of each year.

15-All scheduled Saturday morning games shall start no later than 10:00 am, and all scheduled Saturday afternoon games shall start no later than 2:00 pm.

16-All scheduled weekday games shall start no later than 6:00 pm. No new innings will start after 8:00 pm. The final score will revert back to the previous completed inning. If the coaches and umpire cannot come to an agreement, the game must be completed from the point at which play stopped. Games may start before 6:00 pm as long as both teams agree to these conditions.

17-If a team cannot be fielded by 6:15 pm for weekday games, 10:15 am for Saturday morning and 2:15 for Saturday afternoon games, the opposing team may demand a forfeit of said game.

18-A team may play with 8 players. Each time the open slot for the 9th batter comes up it will constitute an out.

19-The home team in any scheduled game of the Conference shall have the responsibility of informing the visiting team, within a reasonable time prior to the beginning of the game, in the case of threatening weather. The visiting team manager shall be available by phone to accept such information within 1 hour before the starting time of said game. No penalty shall be included for failure to notify; however, all managers are urged to conform to the best of their ability.

20-Regularly scheduled games, which are called due to an act of God, shall be rescheduled by agreement of the managers of the teams involved no later than the immediate Sunday that follows to start by 6 p.m. All postponed games are to be played before the first tournament game. If the managers are unable to reach an agreement, the officers of the Conference will set the reschedule date.

21-In the case of a tornado warning or watch, or thunderstorm warning, or if lightning is spotted, no game may begin.

22-Managers of the winning team have until Sunday of that week to report their scores to the conference designee who will report them to the Conference Secretary. If the scores are not reported, the Conference Secretary will notify the team or teams by phone and the managers will have 24 hours to report the scores, or game(s) will be recorded as a forfeit. The scores from the final week of regular season play must be in Friday evening of the final week.

23-Umpires must be 17 years of age or older. The Umpires provided shall be responsible and have a good working knowledge of baseball and its rules. They should be of good character and proven integrity.

24-After the games start; all umpires are responsible only to the Conference officers.

25-Managers shall discuss all ground rules with each other in the presence of the umpires prior to each League game.

26-The Home team should furnish the home plate umpire. The visiting team can and should furnish one or more base umpires.

27-The President or Vice-President, of the Leagues playing, has the right to rule out any umpire who, in their judgment, is not honest and/or is unqualified.

28-A base umpire may call time and ask for opinions from one or more umpires on any close play at his base in which he feels he is unable to make a fair and accurate decision. (All umpires should be informed of this before each game)

29-No players, coaches, or managers shall participate in this discussion. All disputed decisions will be ruled by a conference of all umpires involved in the game.

30-The home plate umpire will act as judge and cast the additional vote in case where the umpires are unable to reach an agreement.

31-A protest board will be appointed by the Conference President to settle games played under protest only if the umpire and manager can't agree, as well as on other special decisions. This board shall be a neutral board with no people from the teams involved in the protest.

32-Umpires decisions on judgment calls shall be final. Managers may call time to request explanations from the umpires on the rule interpretations.

33-Managers are responsible for the actions of their fans, players, and coaches. One warning will be given to managers about abusive coaches or fans. The managers may be given time to settle the problem. If the condition persists, the game may be forfeited.

34-Every offensive player in the field of play (excluding congratulations for a home run) must wear a helmet. It shall be the responsibility of the team manager to strictly enforce this rule. The umpire shall declare any batter out that enters the batter's box without a helmet with earflaps.

35-All base runners must wear a helmet. The use of a facemask is encouraged, but not mandatory, for all batters & base runners.

36-The catcher shall wear a head protector, mask, body protector, protective cup, baseball protective shin guards, and throat protector, which is either part of or attached to the catchers' mask. (The protective cup is optional for Instructional Division)

37-Any player warming up a pitcher at any location shall wear protective gear; Coaches and managers are exempt from this rule. Players who do not comply may be banished from the game after a warning.

38-Any infield fly is a fair play ball, not including a line drive or attempted bunt, which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when first and second; or first, second, and third are occupied and before there are two outs. (Instructional Division is exempt from the in-field fly rule)

39-The home team shall furnish 2 new, good quality baseballs to the umpire at the start of each game.

40- The use of tobacco, of any type or form, shall not be permitted by players before or during games.

41-There will be no ties for Conference titles. If there is a tie for the Conference title, a play-off game will be scheduled.

42-If bats do not have a rubber grip, they are to be wrapped with some type of tape no more than 18" or less than 8" from the handle. (Electrical tape cannot be used, wooden bats are exempt)

43-Alminum bats will be permitted, the length to weight ratio will not be enforced.

44-For player discipline, there will be a 1st warning issued, the 2nd warning will involve a (1) game suspension of the next game played, the 3rd warning issued is an automatic ejection from the league.

45-If a player is being used as a substitute for an upper division, that player can't play unless the player has been playing their regular division schedule.

46-If a player is brought up as a substitute for an upper division, the regular division players have a precedence to play over the substitute player from the lower division.

47-Teams will be required to be made up of boys only.

Size of the Diamonds:

Intermediate Division**:** 78 ft. baselines	54 ft Pitcher's mound
Junior Division**:** 60 ft. baselines	46 ft. Pitcher's mound
Instructional Division**:** 60 ft. baselines	46 ft. Pitcher's mound

Divisional amendments and/or exceptions:

Intermediate Division: Players must be 12, 13, or 14 years old. A player whose 15th birthday falls on or after May 1st of the year in question is eligible to compete and complete the playing season. If a player is 15 years old per the age requirements and is a Freshmen in High School, they are eligible to play but are not permitted to pitch or catch.

1- SEE ATTACHED PAGE #9.

2- The portable pitching mound is to be placed on top of the ground level and not buried for any reason.

Junior Division: Player must be 9, 10, 11, years old. A player whose 12th birthday falls on or after May 1st of the year in question is eligible to compete and complete the playing season.

1- There shall be no lead-off until the catcher "catches"/touches the ball. If a base runner leaves the base before the catcher "catches"/touches the ball, it will be ruled a no-pitch. The ball is dead. The batter keeps the same count. The runner must return to the same base.

2- If a runner is called for leaving the base too soon the team will receive a warning for the game. The second and subsequent infractions shall result in the base runner being called out.

3- There shall be no drop third strike

4- A portable pitching mound should be used if available. Both managers must agree to the use of the portable pitching mound before the game. Without mutual agreement, the portable pitching mound shall not be used by either team in said game. The portable pitching mound is to be placed on top of the ground level and not buried for any reason.

5- A Junior player will be allowed to throw no more than a recommended 80 pitches &/or 4 innings total for each game.

Instructional Division: Players must be 6, 7, or 8 years old, although players may start early if they are in kindergarten. A player whose birthday falls on or before May 1st of the year in question is eligible to compete and complete the playing season. The 4th year Instructional player will be allowed to play up in the Junior Division as a permanent player at the Manager's option. The league may decide if a player may start playing at 5 years old.

1-A batting tee will be used for the first 3 innings of each game.

2-Each player shall hit the ball from the tee and the ball will travel 10 feet into fair territory. There shall be an arc, with a 10-foot radius starting from the back point of home plate, marked on the field in fair territory for the umpire to use in making this call. This arc will be removed at the beginning of the 4th inning.

3-During the first 3 innings (hitting from the tee) the player pitcher must have his foot on the pitching rubber.

4-During the first 3 innings (hitting from the tee) if the batter swings and misses the ball or if he hits the tee, it will constitute a strike. Three strikes are an out.

5-At the beginning of the 4th inning the batters will be pitched to by their coach, or a designee. The pitch is to be thrown with an overhand motion with the coach or designee having at least 1 foot inside the pitcher's circle. (Pitcher's circle: A circle marked on the field, having a 15foot diameter centered on the pitching rubber)

6-It is the coach's, designee pitcher's responsibility to remain in the pitchers' circle and out of the way of any play, including a play to the pitchers' circle to stop play.

7-Each batter will be allowed 6 pitches. If the 6th pitch is fouled, it will count as a no pitch. (Intent: For the batter to be able to hit the ball and fielders to field the ball.)

8-If a pitch strikes the batter that pitch is a no pitch and will not be included in the 6 pitches.

9-During the last 3 innings, the player playing the pitchers position must have both feet in the inside the pitchers' circle.

10-All bats used in the Instructional division must have a diameter of 2 5/8 or less. 2 ¾ bats are not allowed in this division.

11-If an instructional division player is in the line-up and he becomes ill or cannot play for any reason, his inability to participate will constitute an out.

12-A runner advancing may be stopped by one of the following methods.

A-The baseball is returned to the pitcher within the pitching circle to stop play. When the pitcher has possession of the ball in the pitchers' circle stoppage of play occurs. At this time, any runner

who has not advanced farther than halfway point toward the next base must return to the previously occupied base. (There shall be halfway points marked on the field between 1st and 2nd base, 2nd and 3rd base, and 3rd base and home plate to be used by the umpire in making this call.)

B- The lead runner is played on and stopped at a base.

13-Stopping the lead runner (calling time-out) is the same as the ball being in the circle & the play will be "dead".

14-When the 9th batter comes up to bat there will be 2 outs on the batting team. When an out is made or the ball is the pitcher possession in the pitching circle, play stops. A runner must have physically touched home plate before the pitcher has the ball in the pitching circle or a force play is made for the run to count. A run will not count if the player from 3rd base touches home plate when there is an out at 1st base.

15-A runner must remain on base until the ball is hit.

16- Each team may field 10 players. The tenth player MUST be an outfielder, Max of 4 players in the outfield. The outfield is defined as behind the baseline running from first to second and second to third.

17-There will be a 7 run per inning limit

Tournament Rules and Regulations:

1. A player must have played on ½ of the regular season games to be eligible to play in the tournament. Any exceptions due to illness, injury, vacations, or extenuating circumstances may be brought to the Conference officers for a final vote at least 24 hours before the tournament week begins. Each League must present a tournament roster to the Conference officers at a meeting to be held before the tournament begins.

2. For any changes in the tournament scheduling, the League officers in charge of the tournament must meet with the managers and coaches of the involved teams to settle the problem. In the event of no agreement of the officers and managers, the Conference officers shall have the final say.

3. In the event that any Intermediate teams have players involved in IHSAA baseball tournaments the League officers in charge of the tournament shall reschedule SWCC tournament games.

4. All protests involving tournament play shall be settled by an impartial board of 3 people to be appointed by the conference officers before or on the day of trophy presentations.

5. Home plate umpires shall not be from either team for tournaments. All teams will furnish at least 1 base umpire for every game that they are playing. Officers of the Leagues in charge of the tournament shall contact and assign home plate umpires.

6. All tournament games shall be complete games, including those games suspended by an act of God, and will be picked up at the point of suspension and completed. If a batter is unable to resume his position, a substitute and/or original player in that position of the batting order, can be brought in and would resume the same count.

7. One licensed umpire shall be hired for the tournament championship game in the Junior and Intermediate divisions. A minimum of 1st and 3rd bases will be umpired by the Leagues Presidents or their designees.

8. IHSAA rules about innings pitched will be waived for all tournament play.

9. Conference rule 1 will be waived for Junior and Instructional divisions.
Intermediate divisions will set a lineup and substitute according to IHSAA rules.

SWCC Little League Pitch Count Limits Rule

Reference: 2014 Official Little League pitch count limits and mandatory rest rules.

Adopted: May 2015

Pitch Count Limits:

1. Intermediate Division (12-14 yrs. old): Maximum of 85 pitches thrown per day.

Enforcement:

1. Each team shall designate an official scorekeeper (score bookkeeper).

2. Scorekeeper will count pitches within the scorebook (foul balls included).

3. After each half-inning BOTH scorekeepers shall meet and compare each pitcher's pitch counts and communicate the pitch counts to each head coach.

4. After each game has ended, each pitcher shall be listed at the bottom of the team's scorebook along with the number of pitches thrown. AND EACH scorekeeper OR head coach shall sign EACH scorebook.

5. The opposing head coach may request to see the previous game's pitch count records before each game. Once the game has started the head coach may NO LONGER request to see any pitch count records.

Mandatory Rest Periods:

51-85 pitches thrown	= 3 days' rest
36-50 pitches thrown	= 2 days' rest
21-35 pitches thrown	= 1 days' rest
1-20 pitches thrown	= 0 days' rest

Other Important Rules:

1. Re-entry of a Pitcher: Any pitcher removed from the mound MAY return to the mound ONE TIME ONLY in a game. Once the pitcher is removed from the game for a second time, he may NOT return to the mound again that day.

2. Multiple Games: Players may NOT pitch in more than ONE game per day.

3. Suspended/ Tie Games: Pitches thrown in a suspended / regulation tie game will be charged against a pitcher's eligibility. If suspended games are resumed on another day, pitchers of record at the time the game was suspended will be allowed to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for THAT day IF they have rested the proper number of days.

4. Completion of Pitching to a Batter: If a pitcher reaches the pitch count limit for their given age/division while facing a batter (in the middle of a count) the pitcher may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base, the batter is retired, or the third out is made to complete the half-inning.