

Baseball - 15u-18u (Freshmen-Senior)

OBJECTIVES

The Baseball - 15u-18u (Freshmen-Senior) level provides a structured league for competitive play combined with sportsmanship, skill development, and teamwork. All rules are based on High School Federation regulations unless otherwise noted.

The Baseball – 15u-18u (Freshmen-Senior) division shall be comprised of players that are Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors in High School and will be 15, 16, 17 or 18 years old as of April 30th of this year.

GAME RULES

Base Path:

90 feet

Pitcher's Mound:

60 feet and 6 inches

Innings/Mercy:

7-inning maximum, 3 outs or 6-run maximum per half-inning

5 inning minimum

Mercy rule applies if one team has a lead of 19 runs after 4 innings, 13 runs after 5 innings, or 7 runs after 6 innings.

Games are considered official and the score after the last full inning is recorded when one of the following conditions occur:

At least 5 full innings are played and time limit was not reached due to uncontrollable circumstances.

The Mercy rule conditions are met

At least 4 full innings are played and game cannot be completed on the same day due to weather.

Transition time between innings should be no more than 2 minutes.

Time Limit:

None

*-no new inning after 2 hours -
-Some locations or double headers may require time limits*

Rules Overview:

The infield fly, dropped third strike, and balk rules are in effect.

Progressive lead-offs and free stealing is allowed

Players:

Each team will field a maximum of 9 players. Each team will field a minimum of 8 players. If a player leaves the game for any reason other than ejection, a team may continue a game with a minimum of 8 players. If a team has less than 9 players in attendance, they may "borrow" a player(s) from the opposing team or call up players from a younger GCYBSA team. **All borrowed players must be currently registered with GCYBSA** and may not play at the pitcher or catcher positions.

of own league

For playoffs, no pick up or "borrowing" of players is allowed.

Lineups:

Team lineups should be exchanged 5 minutes prior to the beginning of the game. All players present at the beginning of a game will be included in the batting lineup. Late players may be added to the end of the lineup and will play in proportion to the inning in which they arrive. Exchanged lineups must include jersey numbers.

If a player leaves the game for any other reason, but an ejection, their scheduled at bat will be skipped and NOT declared an out. In the case of injury, they may return and resume the same position in the batting order without penalty.

Batting out of order, as defined in rules of baseball, is an appeal play and will be considered an out if the opposing team successfully appeals to the umpire.

Players must play at least 4 full innings. *Scheduled 2 of 4 3 of 6 innings*

Game Umpires:

2 umpires will be provided by GCYBSA.

The umpire will determine if a game should be called for weather, darkness, or time limit. If, in the judgment of the umpire, a team attempts to stall/delay a game in order to affect the outcome of the game, the umpire shall declare a forfeit against the offending team. This is a judgment call and is not subject to protest.

Criticism of any umpire's decision will NOT be tolerated. Managers and coaches MUST back the umpire decisions at all times. Both team managers should assist the umpire in immediately by stopping any spectator criticism. The ONLY person who may address the umpire is the manager or acting manager. Persons who attempt to address the umpire and are not the manager or acting manager are subject to ejection from the area of the field at the umpire's discretion. Managers are responsible for the conduct of players, parents, and fans.

Any coach who is ejected from a game is subject to disciplinary action by the league, which may include, but is not limited to, the possibility of the ejected coach's participation in the umpiring of a future game.

Volunteer umpires, also known as pick-up umpires, may be used upon agreement of both managers. If both managers agree to play with a pickup umpire, the game will be official. Volunteer umpires will call balls/strikes from behind the pitcher.

Base Running:

Progressive lead-offs and free stealing is allowed

Dropped 3rd Strike Rule does apply: In the case of a dropped 3rd strike, the batter may attempt to advance to 1st base with 0 or 1 out provided 1st base is unoccupied. The batter is not out unless tagged, thrown out at first base, or the batter leaves the batter's box with no intention of running to first base. If 1st base is occupied with less than 2 outs, the batter is out. Any base runners may attempt to advance at their own risk. With two outs, the batter may attempt to advance to 1st base whether it is occupied or not. Any force plays remain intact (i.e. the bases are loaded, and strike 3 is dropped, the catcher can pick the ball up and touch home plate for the force out).

Infield fly rule DOES apply and will be called by the umpire when appropriate.

An infield fly is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive nor an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, (this rule does not preclude outfielders from being allowed to attempt to make the catch) and provided the hit is made before two are out and at a time when first and second bases or all bases are occupied. When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an infield fly, the umpire immediately announces it for the benefit of the runners. If the ball is near a baseline, the umpire shall declare, "Infield fly, if fair." The ball is live and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball.

Sliding is recommended when a tag is imminent at the base the runner is advancing to.

A courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher and catcher at anytime and must be used for the catcher if they are on base with 2 outs or the 5 run limit is being approached. Courtesy runners may also be used for a player who is injured while at bat or running bases. If utilized, the courtesy runner shall be the batter who made the last out. The same courtesy runner may not be used more than once per half inning. If a second courtesy runner is required, the batter who made the second to last out shall be used. Courtesy runners should be ready to enter the game when the pitcher or catcher is at bat or on base.

If a ball is overthrown and out of play, the runner(s) are awarded the base they are advancing towards plus 1 base (1+1) even if it allows a runner to score.

Pitching:

Per week limits - 1 game: 21 outs; 2 games: 36 outs; 3 games: 45 outs; 4 games: 54 outs.
Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched an out.

Coaches should use discretion regarding innings pitched if a player throws an excessive number of pitches or complains of a sore arm. A pitch count is recommended, but not required. Do not overuse your pitchers.

GCYBSA reserves the right to use alternative pitching rules for playoff games.

The following pitching rules apply for games that are suspended and then resumed after the night break (the next day or another day). The portion of the game played before suspension will count as being played on the scheduled day and the portion of the resumed game will count as being played on the resumed day.

Any innings pitched or outs recorded during a forfeited game shall count towards the pitcher's allotted innings.

Pitchers starting an inning receive 5 warm-up pitches, relief pitchers may receive up to 10 warm-up pitches.

Balks will be called on pitchers (one warning will be given during the 1st 2 weeks of the season).

Intentional walks are allowed. The manager will inform the umpire and the batter will be awarded 1st base without pitches being thrown.

A pitcher will receive a warning for the first two batters they hit when pitching. . If a third batter is hit by the same pitcher, they will automatically be removed from the pitching position and allowed to play any other position allowed under the lineup rules stated above.

Managers/coaches are allowed 3 trips to the mound per pitcher. Upon the third visit and thereafter, the manager/coach must remove the pitcher on each visit. Trips to the mound should take no more than 1 minute.

Other than prescription eyewear, pitchers may not wear sunglasses and any long sleeve shirt worn under a pitcher's uniform must not be white.

Teams playing outside tournaments should use GCYBSA pitching rules throughout tournament play. Rules are derived from nationally recognized rules-any plans for deviation from these rules must be approved by the GCYBSA.

EQUIPMENT

Game Balls:

An age-appropriate baseball will be provided by the league and used in games. Each team should supply one new game ball for each game. Additional balls from practice bags may be used if necessary.

Bats:

Wooden and aluminum bats are allowed.

Bat drop must not exceed -3 and cannot be longer than 36 inches, the barrel cannot exceed 2 ¾ inches in diameter, and must have a BESR certification stamp.

Batting Helmets:

Helmets are required to be worn by all players that are batting, running, or on deck. Players are not to take the helmet off until they have returned to the dugout. Helmets must be worn by any player coaching a base.

Team Gear:

GCYBSA supplies each team with an equipment bag containing a first-aid kit, ice packs, scorebooks, measuring tape, bats, balls, tee, bases, helmets, and catching gear. The equipment is the responsibility of the team coach and is to be returned to the equipment manager at the end of the season.

Uniforms:

All players must wear GCYBSA issued team jerseys and hats during games. Players must wear baseball pants. Baseball cleats are the recommended footwear and sandals, or boots cannot be worn by players or coaches.

Metal cleats are allowed.

CANCELLATIONS:**Rain-Outs:**

The weather line, 734-394-5489 will be updated at 4 p.m. daily, by 8 a.m. for 9 a.m. Saturday games and by 10 a.m. for 11 a.m. Saturday games.

Make-Up Games:

The GCYBSA Program Coordinator will determine the dates/times of any make-up games.

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Additional Rules & GCYBSA Coaching and Safety Tips

1. Each coach is given medical information along with their team roster. Parents are encouraged to remind coaches and other parents of important medical conditions, allergies, and other necessary information.
2. Parents and players should consult the website www.gcybsa.com for information on rainouts or field changes, generally for weather issues the Canton Sports Center Weather Hotline is also used 734-394-5489. However, not all fields are governed by CSC Weather Hotline. The weather hotline may suggest that games are delayed; GCYBSA starting times are never delayed by announcement on the hotline. In weather situations, the hotline or website will indicate your instructions for the evening. It may indicate that all games are cancelled, 8pm games are cancelled, or specific games at a particular location are cancelled. It should not be assumed that because games are cancelled in one location or specific time slot that all games are cancelled for that evening. Unless specifically advised, always assume that you should show up at the field at the scheduled game time. If games are rained out, then practices are cancelled as well.
3. Thunder and lightning: the umpire will suspend play when lightning is sighted. At locations without lightning detection equipment, play will not be resumed until a minimum of 30 minutes has passed since the last sighting. Good judgment should be used when determining if any weather-related conditions compromise safe play.
4. There will be no throwing of the bat. Batters will receive two warnings, on the third offense the batter is out and runners on base will not advance. If a batter is called out for throwing the bat 2 times in a single game, they will not be allowed to bat for the remainder of the game.
5. Only one on-deck player is allowed, and must be in the designated on-deck area. For safety purposes use of weighted bats, weighted sleeves, weighted doughnuts, and use of multiple bats to warm up in the on-deck area is prohibited in all T-ball and Coach-Pitch Leagues.
6. It is recommended that an assistant coach serve as the "Dugout Manager". All equipment including bats and helmets will be kept in the dugout area. Non-players, other than managers and coaches, are not permitted in the dugout area. If all of the approved managers/coaches cannot attend a specific game, it is the manager's responsibility to call the commissioner PRIOR to the game to obtain PRE-APPROVAL for substitute managers/coaches. Each team should ensure that the dugout is cleaned up before the team leaves.
7. Just in case, it is suggested that coaches bring ALL equipment to EVERY game.
8. It is recommended that T-Ball coaches hold a player's bat until the ball has been safely placed on the tee and is ready to be put into play.
9. If a player opts not to wear the provided helmet w/facemask then he/she must purchase his/her own, and wear it at his/her OWN RISK. It may not be shared with other players on the team. Use of ANY equipment not provided by the GCYBSA is worn at a player's OWN RISK and should not be shared with other players under any circumstances.

10. Coaches should make sure their equipment bag is clean and includes all provided equipment before returning it at the end of the season.
11. **There is no smoking, no alcohol and no pets allowed at any GCYBSA practice or game.**
12. NO PRACTICING BEFORE THE GAME ON THE INFIELD. You may take infield practice in foul territory.
13. Call-Ups: If you know that you will be short players for a game, please contact the League Director to have players called up from a lower league. Called up players cannot pitch, must not play more than any team player and must bat last. Games will not be rescheduled for lack of players. The only exception is a school event that affects half the team. Borrowed players must be currently registered GCYBSA players.
14. Jewelry/Casts: Breakaway rope necklaces may be worn. Exposed neck chains (other than the breakaway rope type), watches, bracelets, and earrings, and all exposed items that may be hazardous or cause possible injury may not be worn during the game. Medical alert ID bracelets or necklaces are allowed but must be taped. If the above infraction occurs the umpire can call time-out, and issue one warning to the offending player to remove/tape down the item in question. Prosthesis may be worn. Any metal that is part of a brace must be covered.
15. No fans are allowed to sit directly behind home plate unless these are the only bleachers available.
16. Home Plate Obstruction Rule: the runner approaching home plate with the catcher waiting for the ball MUST slide into home plate rather than collide with the catcher and try to make him drop the ball. Any runner failing to abide by this rule will be declared out. There should be no intentional collisions at home plate or any other base, this ruling is made at the umpire's discretion. In addition, the catcher must not block the base path unless he has the ball in his possession; catchers failing to abide by this rule will result in the runner being declared safe.
17. Base coaches must be 12 years of age or older. If team members are base coaching, they must wear a helmet.
18. Value of awards and material gifts to individual players must not exceed \$5.00. No award shall be made to players on the basis of comparable skills and accomplishments.
19. Solicitation or fundraising by the GCYBSA players in or out of uniform is prohibited, except for fund raising projects under adult supervision. Such projects must have the Board of Directors approval.
20. For insurance purposes, any practices or games outside the Plymouth-Canton School District or communities must be approved by the GCYBSA Board of Directors.
21. No head coach may resign and appoint a parent coach without notifying the GCYBSA.