



## **CITISPORTS Baseball League**

### **2019 Rules (Revised 1/2/19)**

*All divisions shall follow the latest NFHS Baseball rules with the exceptions to those rules listed below.*

#### **1. PLAYERS & SUBSTITUTIONS**

- A. All team members must hustle on and off the field.
- B. Uniforms of all team members should be of the same color and style. Pants must be worn. Absolutely no gang paraphernalia, and all jewelry must be taken off prior to the game. All shirttails must be tucked in and hats on straight. For individual players, uniform sleeves may vary in length but shall not be ragged, frayed, or slit. If pitcher's sleeve is exposed, they shall not be white or gray.
- C. Playoff Eligibility - For a player to be eligible to participate in playoff games or championship games, he/she must have played in at least one half plus one of the regular season game by his/her team. (ex: a team plays 14 games, a player must have played in 8 games.) The only exception to this rule will be the following:
- D. Injury Clause – If a player is injured and cannot play for an extended period of time, the manager must report the injured player to the CITISPORTS commissioner within 24 hours, followed by a letter describing the injury and the date of occurrence, even if the injury occurs outside of CITISPORTS play. If a player is present at a game but will not be playing due to a short-term injury, that player must be identified to the umpire and home team in order to get credit for that individual game.
- E. **Rosters and Roster Changes –**
  - 1. **Players are NOT allowed to be rostered on more than one Citisports team in the same age division**
  - 2. **Players CAN be rostered across multiple age groups within the same organization or a different organization if the age group is not offered at that organization.**
  - 3. **Each team roster can contain up to a maximum of 3 non-eligible players. A non-eligible player is defined as a player that resides outside of the borders of the City of Pittsburgh or any designated RBI Community**

Note: Eligibility is based on where a player lives, not necessarily where they go to school. A player may attend a private school within the City of Pittsburgh, but live in Wilkinsburg. That player's school district is Wilkinsburg.

- F. A completed roster must be turned into the CITISPORTS commissioner not later than the annually scheduled mandatory coaches meeting. A team will not receive their schedule and will not be permitted to play until a completed roster is turned in. Teams may add or delete players from their rosters only prior to their first game only as per established player registration guidelines.

The goal of CITISPORTS is to promote fair and competitive sports opportunities for children. The entry of community all-star teams into age group leagues offered by CITISPORTS is not permitted.

G. Age Restrictions:

1. Little League "Players shall not turn 13 years of age before April 30, 2019"
2. Pony "Players shall not turn 15 years of age before April 30, 2019"
3. Colt "Players shall not turn 17 years of age before April 30, 2019"
4. Super Colt "Players shall not turn 19 years of age before April 30, 2019"

H. There will be a maximum and a minimum age of players that will be allowed for each established league. This rule applies to both rostered and call-up players. They are as follows:

PONY – maximum 14-years old, minimum 11-years old

COLT – maximum 16-years old, minimum 13-years old

SUPERCOLT – maximum 19-years old, minimum 15-years old

## 2. LINE UPS

A. Line up options will be 9 batters, 10 batters(EH), or Continuous Batting Order

a. Mandatory Playing Time Pony and Colt

i. 9 Batters or 10 Batters(EH) = 2 consecutive innings in the field and 1 at bat

1. Re- entry: When a starter is re-entering, they must return to the same spot in the batting order, but can play anywhere on the field, except the pitcher if he already has pitched. The starter may re-enter one time only. Home team must get all substitutes in by the top of the 6th inning. The visiting team must get all substitutes in by the bottom of the 5th inning. Substitutes must be inserted in a position within the batting order that will assure they receive at least one at bat. This rule applies even if the home team does not bat in the bottom of the 7th inning.

2. An EH (extra hitter) can be used, but is not mandatory. The EH is the only starting player that does not have to play on the field.

a. The EH cannot be substituted for.

b. The EH may be used as a defensive sub at the coach's discretion.

c. The EH does not have to play two consecutive defensive innings. However, the EH cannot be entered into the game as a defensive substitution until after the second inning is completed.

d. The EH may also be used as a pitcher.

e. If removed from a game, regardless of the reason, and cannot continue, when the EH position comes around in the batting order, it will result in an out the first time only. After that, it will be bypassed.

ii. Continuous Batting Order = 1 inning in the field (free substitution) and in the batting order for entire game

1. Re-entry: Free substitution will apply while using a continuous batting order. Players can be replaced on and off the field as often as wanted and will remain in the same batting slot for the duration of the game.

b. No mandatory playing time in Super Colt

c. In the event of a completed game every player must meet the minimum playing time requirements listed above. Any team not meeting this requirement will forfeit the game, even if

it is discovered after the conclusion of the game. (If a game is shortened due to weather, darkness, or 10-run rule and does not reach a maximum 6.5-7 innings, this rule will not apply.)

- B. **Starting line-up:** must consist of players that are present at game time. Once that line-up has been submitted to the umpire and the opposing team and the game begins, any late arrivals must be entered as substitutes and follow the CITISPORTS rules.
- a. **Late arrivals** – A rostered player arriving after the start of the game and prior to the start of the second inning must be entered into the game (as per CITISPORTS rules). After the start of the second inning, it is not required to enter that player. If you choose to play a late arrival (after the second inning), you must abide by the substitution rule, with the exception of the SUPER COLT division. Any rostered player is eligible to play. Any late arrivals must be reported to the umpire and opposing team.
  - b. **Players under League or team suspension:** A team that is not using a player present at the game due to disciplinary reasons must notify the opposing team's scorekeeper and home plate umpire prior to the start of the game for approval. It will then be up to the umpire whether this player will be allowed to sit on the bench during the game.
  - c. **Starting with 8 players:** All teams must make every attempt to start a game with 9 players. You can end a game with 8 players. Exception: In a case of unforeseen circumstances a team may start with 8 players. That team will receive an out in the #5 spot in the batting order for the remainder of the game or until a 9<sup>th</sup> player arrives and is inserted into the #5 spot.
  - d. **In game injuries:** If a team has a position player removed from the line-up due to injury, ejection, etc. and does not have an unused substitute available, the last player removed from the line-up will be reinserted into their original spot in the batting order and their substitute will be moved to the now open batting order spot. If no one is available, the team will continue with an open spot in their batting order and when that position comes up at bat, it will be an automatic out for the remainder of the game. This does not apply to the extra hitter (EH). Please see Rule J-5.

NOTE: Though the home team is the official scorekeeper, both teams are responsible to insure this provision is adhered to.

### 3. CALL-UPS

- A. Teams are permitted to draw a player or players from a lower age group only. CITISPORTS reserves the right to request any and all verifying paperwork. Call ups will be from current Citisports Baseball team rosters from the same organization or for Pony; players from any Little League roster previously submitted to Citisports for the year. All Call Ups must be within 3 years of the age limit for the division. (reference rule 1.1)

Note: Any organization that fields a team at both the PONY A developmental league and the AA competitive levels will be allowed to use a player from the A level as a call-up to the AA level. At no time will a player be allowed to be used as a call-up from the AA level team to the A level team. Also, players are not permitted to be rostered on both the A and AA teams.

1. A team calling up a player for the above purpose is required to allow that player to participate in the game, with the exception of SUPER COLT division teams.
2. Any player used in this manner must play the required minimum number of innings (as per CITISPORTS rules). This applies even if the legal numbers of rostered players are present at game time.

3. Once a call-up is used by a team, they are not permitted to be used as a call-up by any other team.
4. Call-ups may not be used as pitchers.

#### **4. PITCHERS**

A. PONY league pitchers can pitch a maximum of 9 innings per week. COLT and SUPER COLT league pitchers can pitch a maximum of 10 innings per week. A full week is designated as 12:00 am Monday morning to 11:59 pm Sunday night.

1. If a player pitches 3 or less innings in a game, they must receive a mandatory 24-hour rest period between appearances. If a player pitches 4 or more innings in a game, they must receive a mandatory 40 hour rest period between appearances. Rest period is determined as of the start of the game.

Exception: In the case of multiple games in a single day, a player may pitch a maximum of 7 innings per day before the required rest period will be applied. The rest period will be determined by the start of the game time of the last game they pitched in. One pitch thrown constitutes a full inning. This applies to any player used as a pitcher, including the EH.

- B. In the PONY division, umpires will give one warning per pitcher on a balk and will penalize on the second. There will be no balk warnings in the COLT and SUPER COLT divisions.
- C. Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a protective face mask.
- D. Any pitcher caught defacing the ball shall be ejected.
- E. Any player called up from a lower age group team may not be used as a pitcher.
- F. Hit by pitch – CITISPORTS will refer to the high school rule book concerning this matter. There is no limit to the number of batters hit by pitch. The only exception is found in the High School rule book "6-2 article #3, Intentionally Thrown Close to a Batter". The pitcher may be ejected if the act is judged to be intentional. Any actions taken will be up to the discretion of the umpires.
- G. If a player is dual rostered on both a PONY and a COLT team or a COLT and a SUPER COLT team, and that player is used as a pitcher, their total number of allowable pitches per week will be based on the limits set for their age appropriate league. All innings pitched, by that pitcher, for either team, will count towards those limits regardless of which level they pitched in.

If a player used as described above exceeds their maximum allowable innings for that week, the game they pitched in that caused them to exceed those limits will be recorded as a forfeit and the opposing team will receive a win in the standings. The forfeit will still be applied even if the offending team wins or loses the game.

#### **5. BATTERS**

- A. Must wear a NOCSAE approved double ear helmet.
- B. Must keep one foot in the batter's box at all times. This will result in an automatic strike with the following exceptions.
  1. The batter is forced out of the box by a pitch.
  2. The batter attempts a drag bunt.

3. The batter swings at a pitch and his/her momentum carries them out of the box.
  4. The pitcher attempts a play at a base.
  5. The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the mound.
  6. Time is granted.
  7. The catcher leaves the catcher's box.
  8. The catcher does not catch the ball.
  9. On a foul or tip ball the player will not be penalized for stepping out of the batter's box unless he does not make an attempt to get back in a timely manner.
- C. **Legal Bats:**
1. Super Colt = Wooden Bats Only
  2. Colt = Stamped BBCOR.50 or any Super Colt Legal Bat
  3. Pony = 2018 or newer USA Bat Stamp (There is no drop weight limit) or any Colt or Super Colt legal bat
- D. **Illegal Bat Rule:** Player will be called out if he steps into the batter's box or area designated as such with an illegal bat.
1. Umpires will not check a bat unless a request is made from a coach or a catcher
  2. Any play resulting from the use of an illegal bat will be reversed back to the previous position and batter will be called out.
  3. Violations will be reported to Citisports and recorded for the season. Multiple violations will result in discipline for player, coach and organization the following way:
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Violation: written warning to organization, player and coach
    - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Violation: 1 game suspension for Player and Head Coach
    - iii. 3<sup>rd</sup> Violation: 3 game suspension for Player and Coach, review with possibility of league expulsion.

## 6. FIELD & EQUIPMENT

- A. Home team is responsible for insuring field is playable.
1. Home team must inform Citisport's staff 2hrs prior to scheduled game time if field will not be playable or risk forfeit.
  2. Citisports will make every effort to visit any questionable fields the morning of weekday games.
- B. Home team is responsible for field setup. (i.e. bases, pitching rubber, home plate, etc.) Home teams are required to place foul lines on the field that run from home plate to the outfield foul pole. Although batter's boxes will not be required, it is highly recommended that the home team also include them in their field set up.
- C. PONY field measurements: mound at 54' and bases at 80'
- D. COLT and SUPER COLT field measurements: mound at 60'6" and bases at 90'
- E. Catchers in all divisions must wear a hard cup in addition to the standard catcher's gear (i.e. **1 piece hockey style mask**, chest protector, and leg guards).

## 7. GAME RULES

- A. All games will be 7 innings. There will be a 15-minute grace period. If any unforeseen circumstances cause a team to be unable to start the game with the minimum number of players by game time or expiration of grace period, CITISPORTS reserves the right to extend the grace period as needed. Any team arriving past the grace period or is a no show for the game without prior knowledge to a league official will be assessed the current forfeit fee.

- B. **Reschedules:** Any game cancelled due to inclement weather must be rescheduled with the new date, time and location reported to Citisports within 24 hours. (emphasis on the 2hr window where the game should have been played)
1. If teams can not agree on a new date, Citisports will schedule the game on the next available date/time for teams according to the Citisport's schedule within reason.
  2. If one participant can not field a team on that date they shall take a forfeit.
  3. If neither participant can field a team on that date then the game shall be recorded a "No Contest"
- C. There will be a **2 hour time limit**. However, if an inning is in progress, it will be finished in its entirety. No new innings will be started after 2 hours. Umpire controls the clock in conjunction with the home team. If an injury occurs, the umpire may stop the clock as long as need to attend to the injured player.
- D. **Ten run rule** will apply after 4.5 or 5 innings. The losing team must receive their at bats in the inning.
- E. **Darkness/Weather:**
1. If a game is called due to darkness or inclement weather prior to a legal game (4.5-5 innings), the game will be replayed in its entirety.
  2. If a game has reached its legal limit and is tied at the end of a complete inning, the game will be recorded as a tie.
  3. If a legal game (5 complete innings) is suspended in the middle of an inning, we revert back to the last complete legal inning and the score at that time will be recorded.
- F. **Offensive Conferences:** Teams are given 1 offensive conferences per inning not to exceed 1 minute.
- G. **Defensive/Pitcher Conferences:** Coaches are permitted 1 trip to the mound per pitcher. A second conference will be used to make pitching change. Conferences are limited to one coach, pitcher and catcher only.
- H. **Courtesy Runners** – At any time a team at bat may use a courtesy runner for the catcher or pitcher on record from the previous inning. The player used as the courtesy runner must be the player that made the last out. Courtesy runners will be allowed for an injured base runner the first time only.
- I. Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal. For CITISPORTS purpose, a legal slide is considered as being feet first for PONY league and feet or hands first for COLT and SUPER COLT league. PONY league players can go back to the bag hands first. For further instances of legal and illegal sliding, see rules 2-23-1-2 and 8-4-2, a, b, c, d, e in the NFHS rule book. A runner will be called out and will be ejected, if in the opinion of the umpire, they initiate malicious or intentional contact with the fielder in the act of making a play on them. If during a fielder's attempt to place a tag on, a runner causes contact to occur, this may constitute illegal contact by the runner. It will be up to the decision of the umpire.
- J. If in the opinion of the umpire a fielder intentionally applies a fake tag and this causes the runner to slide, it shall result in the ejection of the fielder and an award of one base to the runner. All other forms of obstruction by fielders on runners are covered in the NFHS rule book 8-3-1 and 8-3-2.
- K. Ground rules, dead ball areas, and awarding of bases – Existing home field ground rules will only determine dead ball territories. A no "free home" rule is applicable in the following situation only. CITISPORTS rules dictate that a pitched ball that gets lodged in the back stop area or goes through the fence in the backstop area will result in a "dead ball" with no runners advancing. For awarding of bases in other "dead ball" situations, refer to the NFHS rule book, rule 8, base running.

- L. Playoff games – The time limit rule will be waived for all playoff games. Home team is to be determined by playoff seeding. Location to be determined by CITISPORTS based on availability, staffing, and time constraints. If a playoff or championship game is suspended due to unseen circumstances, it will be replayed ASAP from the point the game was suspended.

All pitchers will start playoff week with a full complement of allowable innings (9 or 10). All mandatory rest periods will be waived during the playoffs.

- M. All championship games will be played in their entirety, time permitting. The 10-run rule will not be in effect. If circumstances dictate, CITISPORTS reserves the right to reschedule championship games to a time and location of the league's choice. Additionally, all pitchers will be eligible for up to 7 full innings for the championship game. All PONY AA Championship games at PNC Park or other official venue will be played at 90' bases and 60' pitching mound distances.

## **8. PROTESTS**

Protests must be made at the time of occurrence and announced to the umpire in charge and opposing team. All protests shall be referred in writing to the CITISPORTS commissioner within 24 hours of the occurrence and shall be accompanied by a \$25 protest fee. This protest will become null and void if written request and fee is not received within the 24-hour deadline.

## **9. CONDUCT**

- A. All participants in a CITISPORTS game are expected to act in a respectful manner towards fellow players, coaches, fans and umpires.
- B. CITISPORTS will not tolerate any physical violence, foul language, or verbal abuse of players, coaches, fans and umpires.
- C. Absolutely no guns or weapons of any kind. Use of profanity by coaches or players is not permitted. No smoking or use of any tobacco products in or around the dugout areas.
- D. Failure to abide by any of the above guidelines or any other action deemed to be unsportsmanlike in nature may result in disciplinary action taken by the commissioner at the time of the offense is not limited to ejection from game or game area.
- E. Managers and assistant coaches will receive a minimum of a one game suspension if they are ejected from a game for any reason. The length of the suspension is then subject to further review based on the severity of the actions of the offending party prior to and following the ejection. Managers and assistant coaches will have 24 hours from the time of the incident to submit a written appeal to the CITISPORTS baseball commissioner. The commissioner will review the appeal and make a final ruling on the suspension.
- F. Player or coach ejections will result in an ejection the following game as well. Ejections will also continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if a longer suspension is warranted.

## **10. STANDINGS & POINT SYSTEM (Updated 4/8/19)**

Win = 3 points

Loss = 1 points

Tie = 2 point – If neither team is ahead in the score at the end of a game that is deemed complete, a tie will be recorded.

Forfeit = -2 points (2 points to be deducted from the final total of any team that forfeits a game). The tiebreaker rules will be used as necessary to break any ties in the standings.

Forfeits – Any team that forfeits 3 games will be under consideration for suspension from the league. Any team that forfeits 3 games during the regular season is disqualified from participating in league playoffs.

Any team cancelling within 24 hours of their scheduled game time for a non-weather related reason will automatically receive a forfeit. The game will not be rescheduled. Any team forfeiting a game within 2 hours of the start time will incur a forfeit fee of \$110 to pay for the umpires. Any team that has forfeited a game and owes fees associated with that game will not be eligible to participate in the league playoffs unless those fees are paid prior to the start of the playoffs. After 4 forfeits, a team is automatically removed from the league.

## 11. CLEARANCES

All coaches and other team personnel must be certified by their organization as having all required PA state criminal background, child abuse clearances, and either an FBI fingerprint clearance or have submitted the required FBI waiver form in accordance with PA state law and City of Pittsburgh requirements. Organizations must complete and submit to the CITISPORTS commissioner a notarized certification sheet. Anyone not listed on that form will not be permitted to participate in any CITISPORTS game. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Random checks: will be made at games without notice!

1. Only accredited adults submitted to Citisports and rostered players are allowed on the team bench or designated area
2. Please register and submit as many adults as you like with Citisports.
3. If at any time a team is found to be in violation of the clearance rule, the game will be stopped and the offending team will receive a forfeit.
4. A second violation will result in removal of that team from the Citisport's league for the remainder of the season.