RULES: Seniors AL (14u-15u) Grades 8 & 9			
Field Dimensions	**Base distance**	90'	
	Pitching distance	60' 6"	
	Mound	yes	
General Rules	**Innings**	7	
	Game duration - hard stop	2 hours	
	Players needed to start	8	There will be a 15 minute grace period if a team does not have 8 players.
	All players must play 6 outs by the end of inning #:	5	Failure to comply with this rule or encouraging players to be absent or late shall result in disciplinary action.
	Wildcat batting order	yes	Late arriving players will be added at the end of the lineup card.
	Max batters per inning	no limit	
	Max runs per inning	no limit	
	Defensive Conferences	3 per game	
	Defensive Substitutions	unlimited	Unlimited defensive substitution shall be allowed providing the playing time rule has been complied with.
	Mercy Rule	15 ahead after 4 10 after 5	
	Forfeits allowed	yes	A team must have at least eight (8) players when on defense or the game will be declared a forfeit. The game may be played as a scrimmage.
Equipment	**Helmet Cage/Jaw Guard Required**	no	Equipment requirements will follow standards of the National Federation High School Rules with the exception of 7th graders permitted to use -11 USSSA/USA Bats. *Due to the short timing of Spring 2025, 8th graders are not required to use BBCOR bats.
	Max Barrel Size	2-5/8"	
	Bat Requirement	BBCOR -3	
	Wooden Bats	yes	
	Metal cleats	yes	
Pitching	**Max pitches or innings/day whichever occurs first**	95 pitches/game OR 4 innings/day	o Pitcher must be removed when he/she reaches pitch or innings limit - whichever comes first. o Pitchers (after one pitch) may play other positions and cannot return to pitch after being replaced. o A pitcher is determined to have thrown an inning against their limit as soon as one pitch has been thrown. o See PitchSmart Guidelines for pitch counts and required days of rest.
	Intentional walks	yes	An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count. The ball shall be declared dead before making the award. NFHS 2-4-3.
	Balks	yes	
	Curveballs	yes	
Baserunning Batting Fielding	**Infield fly**	yes	
	Dropped 3rd strike	yes	
	Bunting	yes	
	Thrown bat	enforced	1st offense - Bench warning Subsequent offenses -Out
	Courtesy runner required for catcher w/ 2 outs (player who made last out)	yes	
	Leading	yes	
	Stealing	yes	
	Advance after steal	yes	
	Stealing home	yes	
	Plays at home plate - catcher	-	o Unless the catcher is in possession of the ball, the catcher cannot stand/block the pathway of the runner as he is attempting to score. The runner will be awarded home. o The exception is if the catcher moves INTO the pathway of the runner in order to field a throw, and the Umpire determines that the catcher could not have fielded the ball without blocking the pathway of the runner and that contact with the runner was unavoidable.
	Plays at home plate - baserunner	-	Baserunner MUST slide when there is a play at home plate. Failure to slide will result in the runner being called out.
	Headfirst slides	yes	
	Basecoaches Helmet Required	yes	Base coaches are required to wear helmets provided by the RBBA. The umpire shall not start an inning until all base coaches are compliant.
Conduct/Other	Any coach entering the field of play to dispute an umpire's call without calling time and approval from the umpire will be immediately ejected and may be suspended.		
	Coaches shall refrain from criticizing an umpire and from making anticipatory ball/strike, safe/out or fair/foul "calls" of plays to intimidate or influence the umpire, and shall take reasonable action with their players, parents and fans of the team to secure their cooperation with this rule. Upon receipt of a complaint from an umpire or from an opposing manager regarding compliance with this rule by coaches, players, parents or fans, a manager shall ask the offending individual associated with his/her team to comply or to leave the vicinity of the field.		
	Coaches shall not permit their players, fans or parents to purposely hector or distract the opponent's players, either directly by comment or indirectly by the playing of music, singing, chanting or excessive cheering, even if ostensibly for your own batter. Upon the opposing Coach's complaint in this regard, a Coach shall take action to terminate the distracting behavior of his/her team.		
	Walkup music is not permitted.		
	Sunglasses that produce glare affecting a player's ability to see should be individually removed.		