

Farmingdale Baseball League, Inc.



UNIVERSAL RULES

(Rules of Play including rule changes made through October 4 , 2016)

FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC.
EXECUTIVE BOARD & KEY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

PRESIDENT:	Joann Vazquez
1st V.P.:	Tim Fierst
2nd V.P.:	Matt Sclafani
2nd V.P.:	Andrew Frigerio
2nd V.P.:	Chris Horowitz
2nd V.P.:	Rich Zarrilli
TREASURER:	Andy Panetta
SECRETARY:	Kathleen Simpson

Baseball Shack: 249-7375 Fax # - 249-8203

E-Mail Address: FBLI@optonline.net
Website www.fdalebaseball.com

COMMITTEES:

EQUIPMENT:
Director: Matt Sclafani

TOURNAMENT TEAMS:
Director: Tim Fierst

RULES:
Chairman: Tim Fierst

PROTEST:
Chairman: Tim Fierst

ToB & School FIELDS:
Director: Andrew Frigerio

Refer to the Executive Committee Roster for the complete list of all League Directors, Assistant Directors and Committee Chairpersons.

MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE HELD THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, The meetings begin at 8:00 pm from October through March, and at 8:30 pm from April through September.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The affairs and general management of FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC. are administered by the Executive Board of Officers.

The established policies, operating procedures, and controls of the entire program are under the direction of the President of FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC. and the Executive Board.

The local leagues can operate under a charter granted by Little League Baseball, PONY Baseball, Connie Mack, Babe Ruth, as decided by the Executive Board. The leagues are autonomous to the degree that they may elect their own officers and carry out related functions, but, must adhere scrupulously to the rules, regulations, and operating procedure established by FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC., and the Constitution and By-Laws of FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC.

Experience of the Executive Board in making the benefits of this program available since 1951, has resulted in a sound and proven framework of workable local league organization and procedures. This is flexible enough to accommodate conditions under which local leagues may operate.

FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC., its Executive Board and Executive Committee, is independent, but, due to the fact that this program is financed, in part, by the taxpayers of this community under the direction of the Farmingdale Youth Council, the Board must adhere to and comply with certain standards set by Youth Council. One of these is that every boy and girl wishing to play baseball or softball will have the opportunity afforded him or her, when complying with the registration procedures.

The following rules, established by the Executive Committee of FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC., have been adopted with the purpose of gearing the entire program to a standard procedure, regardless of leagues or level of play in the community.

The rules set forth in these Universal Rules will supersede all regulations set forth by chartered leagues and local leagues, with the exception of tournament play. All leagues and teams must comply with and adhere to all rules set forth in the Universal Rules. For Boys Leagues, any issues not covered by these Universal Rules shall then be primarily governed by Pony Baseball Rules and secondarily by Major League Baseball Rules. For Girls Leagues, any issues not covered by these Universal Rules shall then be primarily governed by ASA (American Softball Association) Rules.

No local league or teams may change or have the option to change any rules set forth in this publication. Violation of rules or protested games will be submitted to a Protest Committee, as appointed by the President of FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC. Violations of rules, in many cases, as spelled out in the Universal Rules, may result in forfeiture of a ball game. Decisions by the Protest Committee cannot be appealed, and as such will be considered final.

ARTICLE 1 – Charter

DIRECTORS of all leagues assigned to FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC. must submit their local league charter to the President and Executive Board for review.

ARTICLE 2 - Organization - Leagues/Teams

Each league assigned to FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC. will maintain the same standards in regard to team sizes and amounts as prescribed by this Association. After having received approval from the Executive Board, the Director of each league will appoint a manager for each team in his or her league. All coaches will be approved by the Executive Board. There will be no restrictions on the make-up of the managers or coaches pertaining to their sex. For local league play the manager and/or coaches cannot be player managers or player coaches. Rookie, A, AA, Farm, and Travel may have up to three (3) coaches per team. *Amended March 4, 2014*

- A. No local league Director will have the right to create teams or increase rosters, without the permission and approval of the President and Executive Board of FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC. Based on the year's registration, some of the following leagues may be combined, or the age breakdowns changed, if necessary, with the approval of the Executive Board of the FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC.
(Amendment adopted March 7, 2000)
- B. Rookie League - (5 & 6 year olds)
The number of teams assigned to this league will be determined by the year's registration.
- C. A League - (7 year olds)
The number of teams assigned to this league will be determined by the year's registration.
- D. AA League - (8 year olds)
The number of teams assigned to this league will be determined by the year's registration.
- E. AAA League - (9 & 10 year olds)
The number of teams assigned to this league will be determined by the year's registration. Each team will have a maximum of fourteen (14) players, if possible.
- F. Boys Juniors League - (11 and 12 year olds)
The number of teams assigned to this league will be determined by the year's registration. Each team will have a maximum of fourteen (14) players, if possible.
- G. Boys Minors League – (13 year olds)
The number of teams assigned to this league will be determined by the year's registration. Each team will have a maximum of fifteen (15) players, if possible.
If there are insufficient number of players Boys Minors may be incorporated into the Boys Seniors League at the discretion of the Executive Board.
- H. Boys Seniors League - (14 and 15 year olds)

The number of teams assigned to this league will be determined by the year's registration. Each team will have a maximum of fifteen (15) players, if possible.

I. Majors League - (16, 17 & 18 year olds)

The number of teams assigned to this league will be determined by the year's registration. Each team will have a maximum of fifteen (15) players, if possible.

J. The Girls Softball Leagues, for local play will consist of three leagues:

1. Girls Farm - consisting of girls, 5, 6, 7, and 8 years old. The number of teams assigned will be determined by the year's registration.
2. Girls Juniors (Minors) - consisting of girls, 9 and 10 years old. The number of teams assigned will be determined by the year's registration.
3. Girls Juniors (Majors) - consisting of girls 11 and 12 years old. The number of teams assigned will be determined by the year's registration.
4. Girls Seniors - consisting of girls, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 years old. The number of teams assigned will be determined by the year's registration.

(Article 2 amended March 2012)

K. FBI may field/sponsor teams in the following leagues and/or tournaments at the discretion of the majority of the Executive Board:

1. Any Travel League or Tournament (7 – 18 year olds). Players must meet registration requirements. In the event of a conflict in scheduling between an in-house game and a Travel League game, the player must attend the in-house game;
2. Any Travel League for 7 to 18 year old boys, as authorized by the majority of the Executive Board, provided that the same restrictions set forth in subparagraph J (1) apply;
3. Any Travel League for 7 to 18 year old girls, as authorized by the majority of the Executive Board, provided that the same restrictions set forth in subparagraph J (1) apply;
4. Stan Musial League (19 years and older);

Amended March 4, 2014

L. The President of FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC. may coach but may not be the manager of any team within local Farmingdale league play, but may manage a tournament or travel team. In the event the President must step down the First Vice President must relinquish any in-house team he or she is managing to the coaching staff immediately. A League Director may not manage or coach any team in his or her league, whether in-house or tournament or travel.

(Article 2 was amended February 2, 2010)

M. Any person who is proposed as a manager or coach in any League or for any Travel or Tournament team who is otherwise engaged as a manager, coach or member of a team or league independent of and not affiliated with Farmingdale Baseball League, Inc. may not manage or coach any team in any League or any Travel or Tournament team without the express permission of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE 3 – Registration

The Executive Board will be the only body to set dates and fees for registration.

- A. Leagues requesting separate or additional registration dates must do so with the approval of the Executive Board.
- B. Under no condition will any league officers or officials request, increase or attach an additional fee to the official registration as prescribed by the Executive Board of FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC.
- C. At no time will a league official request a donation or contribution, without direct permission of the President or the Executive Board.
- D. Proof of age must be presented on or at registration of any new boy or girl in this Association.
 - 1. Registration cards must be turned in to FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC. immediately following registration.
 - 2. The President and the Executive Board will have the right to request from parents, proof of age of any boy or girl registered in this organization, as they deem necessary or see fit, and have the right to suspend, if this request is denied.
- E. All girls and boys playing in FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC. must meet the resident or the out-of-district requirements as defined by FARMINGDALE YOUTH COUNCIL, INC., with the exception of the Stan Musial League.

ARTICLE 4 - Pilot Programs

The FARMINGDALE BASEBALL EXECUTIVE BOARD has the authority to implement a one (1) year Pilot Program to evaluate a new program. Before exercising a Pilot Program, the program must be presented to the Executive Committee for their approval by a simple majority. The section of the Universal Rules that would be in conflict to Pilot Programs will not be enforced.

ARTICLE 5 – Player Draft

Ratings and Drafting for AAA, Boys Juniors, Boys Seniors, Boys Majors, Girls Junior and Girls Seniors Leagues:

- A. The local league director will be responsible for conducting the Ratings of players within their leagues, and for conducting a draft of those players by the managers in each respective league, in accordance with the Universal Rules. Any draft conducted by a league director not in accordance with the procedures outlined herein shall be reported immediately to a member of the Executive Board and if in the opinion of the Executive Board, such discrepancy is material, the draft will be voided and a new draft, in accordance with the procedures outlined herein, shall be conducted.
- B. RATINGS - All players registered prior to scheduled ratings shall participate in the ratings, without exception. Only the league director may exempt a registrant from ratings with approval from the Executive Board for a valid reason. All registrants participating in the ratings will be

rated by managers and by the league director on a scale of 1 to 5. If a registrant has been exempted from participating in the ratings, by the league director for a valid reason, or if a child registers after the ratings is held, the child shall be rated by the league director, who will base such rating upon information obtained by him relating to the child's capabilities and baseball experience, preferably by physical rating if possible. In the event that the league director is not able to obtain sufficient information to determine a rating, that child's rating shall be "U" for unrated, and all children rated "U" shall be assigned by lottery by the league director, after all rated children have been drafted.

- C. After all ratings have been compiled and averaged, each child registered to a respective league shall be assigned a sequential number based on his average rating, numbers to start with "1" (for a child with the best average rating) continuing to the highest number, that being the number of children registered for the league. The league director shall have the final "say" on the number assigned to each child, and shall be the sole person responsible for resolving any "ties."
- D. All children registered for their respective league shall then be divided into a number of groups, the number of children in each group being equal to the number of teams to be fielded that year in that league as determined by the league director. The first group shall be comprised of the child assigned the number "1" and the next best children until the group is complete, and all subsequent groups shall be filled with the next highest rated children until all groups are complete. Each group shall then comprise a "draft round" for purpose of this article. The order of selection for Round 1 shall be determined by lottery and once established, the order shall be inverted every round, for example, if there are twelve Teams, the drafting shall proceed as follows:

ROUND 1:

1 2 3 4 5

ROUND 2:

5 4 3 2 1

ROUND 3:

1 2 3 4 5

ROUND 4:

5 4 3 2 1, etc.

- E. Before "round drafting" is commenced, each manager must select his child, and if he wishes to protect one coach's child he shall select that child at that time. These children will be assigned to that manager's team and that team shall lose its pick in the "round" where those children had been assigned based upon their rating. In the event that both the manager's child and coach's child have been selected and both were in the same draft round, that team shall forfeit its selection in the next round.
- F. In the event that two siblings are registered in the same league, the manager that selects one sibling must select the second sibling in the round in which he is assigned based upon his rating. In the event that both siblings are assigned the same draft round, the team that selects them shall forfeit its selection in the next round.

- G. After all selections as set forth in Section 5 of this Article have been made, round drafting shall commence, in the order as previously picked by lottery, with each team being afforded one selection per round, unless the pick has already been used (under Section 5 or Section 6). In round drafting, a manager may pick any child registered for the league who has not been previously selected, except the unrated players.
- H. All trades will be transacted at the conclusion of the draft and must be Approved by the league director.
- I. Players registered after the draft has been conducted will be assigned to a team by lottery amongst those teams with the least amount of players at the time of the player's registration
- J. In the discretion of the league director with approval of the Executive Board, Boys' Seniors and Juniors may use consensual ratings for their draft. *(March 2007)*
(Article 5 amended March 7, 2000)

ARTICLE 6 – Collections

No local leagues or league officials will be permitted to conduct or allow a collection or solicit contributions without the direct permission of the Executive Board of FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC.

ARTICLE 7 - Awards and Trophies

The Executive Board reserves the right to approve any awards and presentations.

- A. Trophies or awards for teams or individual merit or player skills, etc., presented to any team or playing member of FBLI will be the responsibility of the Executive Board only.
- B. Leagues or teams, who violate this Article, will forfeit and be excluded from all awards and trophies designated for their league or team as presented by the Association.
- C.
- D. No person or league will have the authority to permit or authorize the sale of photographs, magazines, jackets, etc., or any other item for the purpose of private enterprise or profit without the direct permission of the Executive Board of Officers.

(Article 7 amended March 7, 2000)

ARTICLE 8 – Violations

Any league officer or league member who violates Articles 6, 7, or 13 of Farmingdale Baseball Universal Rules will be suspended pending a hearing per the provisions of the By-Laws of FBLI.

ARTICLE 9 – Equipment

The handling and distribution of equipment is the responsibility of the Board of FBLI and the Equipment Director.

- A. The deposit amount for uniforms shall be determined by the Executive Board of FBLI.
- B. Team rosters must be submitted to the Executive Board of FBLI before any equipment can be issued to that League or team.
- C. League schedules must be submitted to and approved by the Executive Board of FBLI before the start of the season. A copy of the League schedules shall be provided for the Equipment Director.
- D. No equipment will be replaced until the broken or defective article is turned in.
- E. Only the Executive Board of FBLI will have the authority to collect deposits and set dates for pick-up and return of equipment or uniforms.
- F. Team names, colors and numbers will be assigned by the Executive Board of FBLI only.
- G. Team bags will be issued to the assigned manager or coach who will sign for same. No one but a manager or coach will be issued team gear.

NOTE: IF IN MID-SEASON, A MANAGER IS REPLACED, HE OR SHE MUST RETURN ALL TEAM EQUIPMENT TO THE EQUIPMENT STAFF AND IT MUST BE RE-ISSUED TO THE NEW MANAGER, WHO WILL SIGN FOR IT.

- H. No boy or girl will be permitted to play or participate in any ball game unless he or she is wearing the prescribed uniform, including cap, socks or tee shirt assigned to his or her team.

NOTE: AFTER THE FIRST ISSUE OF AN ITEM, SUCH AS TEE SHIRTS, OR CAPS, PLAYERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE REPLACEMENTS FOR SAID ITEMS FROM FBLI, IF SAID ITEMS ARE TORN, STOLEN OR LOST.

- I. Only that equipment issued, or approved, for play by FBLI will be permitted to be used in any ball game scheduled or authorized by the League, with the exception of gloves and bats as allowed by the appropriate rule book of the respective league. Any equipment supplied by FBLI must be available to all players on both teams. (*Amended March 7, 2000*)
- J. No alterations may be made on any uniform issued by FBLI, without the direct permission of the equipment staff.
- K. Metal cleated baseball shoes may not be permitted in Farmingdale local league play, with the exception of the Majors League.
- L. It is strongly recommended that managers make every effort to encourage the wearing of protective cups by all male players. (Boys Leagues – “A” through Majors)
- M. All infield players in the Girls’ FARM division and Juniors-Minors division must wear a softball protective facemask.
- N. For the “AA” League/Division, all batters must wear caged helmets.

ARTICLE 10 - Special Games

Any games or scrimmages, other than games listed and presented to the President, Secretary and Equipment Staff of FBI as prescribed scheduled games, (not including playoffs, World Series and regulation tournament games) will be considered special games, and must have the approval of the President of FBI, or his/her representative.

NOTE: SPECIAL GAMES PLAYED WITHOUT THE DIRECT PERMISSION OF THE PRESIDENT OF FBI WILL RESULT IN THE AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION OF MANAGERS, COACHES OR LEAGUE OFFICIALS INVOLVED. PERSONS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SAID TEAMS AND GAMES, SUCH AS MANAGERS OR COACHES, MUST ASSUME ALL RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING THE COST OF INJURIES OR LIABILITIES INCURRED AS A RESULT OF SAID GAMES, INCLUDING ALL LEGAL AND PUNITIVE ACTIONS, AS INSURANCE BENEFITS DO NOT COVER SPECIAL GAMES WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OR PERMISSION OF THE PRESIDENT OF FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC.

(Amended March 7, 2000)

ARTICLE 11 – Tournament/Travel Teams

- A. Prior to conducting tryouts for a Tournament/Travel team, candidate players and their parents should be informed of the Tournament or league rules when possible;
- B. Managers of Tournament/Travel teams must follow the Tournament or league rules for that particular tournament or league;
- C. Players for any Tournament/Travel team must be registered in Farmingdale Baseball League and must play in their respective in-house leagues to be eligible to play in a travel league. In the event of a conflict in scheduling between an in-house game and a travel league game, the player must attend the in-house game. The following exceptions are permitted:
 - 1. **Players who are registered in FBI but are unable to play in their in-house leagues due to injury, illness or family circumstances, may play on a Tournament/Travel team with the approval of the league director and the President of Farmingdale Baseball League.**
 - 2. **Boys who register as age 14 or older and are participating on a spring school sports team have the option to try out for an FBI travel team with or without participating in the in-house league.**
 - 3. Boys who register as age 16 or older have the option to try out for an FBI travel team without participating in the in-house league.)
- D. Tournament and Travel team age qualifications are set forth as determined by the Tournament/Travel Age Chart provided by the Executive Board;
- E. All Tournament/Travel teams must hold open tryouts that are available to ALL registrants of FBI that are eligible to play in the Tournament/Travel league, except that the Tournament/Travel

teams for the Boys' 13u and older teams and Girls' 16u and older teams may be by invitation and not by open tryout.

- F. Once a player is selected for a Tournament/Travel team, is notified and accepts, no manager may change this selection;

NOTE: NO TOURNAMENT TEAM WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM A TOURNAMENT, WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF FARMINGDALE BASEBALL LEAGUE INC. AND THE TRAVEL/TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR OF THE LEAGUE.

- G. Players who tryout for the Boys' 12u Cooperstown Team must have been registered and played in-house for FBLI for the previous season as an 11u player.
- H. Each Tournament team shall consist of an adequate number of players to play in the Tournament/Travel league. The Tournament director(s) shall, with the consent of the team manager and the Executive Board, determine the actual number of players. Replacement of any selected players can only be made upon the approval of the Tournament Directors and the Executive Board.
- I. Tournament teams shall only play in tournaments approved by the Tournament Directors and the Executive Board. The tournament teams shall submit a list of proposed tournaments to the Tournament Director for approval prior to committing the team to those particular tournaments.
- J. A Tournament or Travel team manager may request and possibly include, with the approval of the Executive Board, players from one (1) age level beneath that of his team's, on his Fall Season (Sept – Nov) roster, in such a case where his team's roster may not be complete after all players of his team's primary age have been considered for inclusion on said team, or if in jeopardy of said team's roster being below the minimum amount of players required to register for a Fall travel program or Fall tournaments.
- K. With the approval of the Tournament/Travel Directors, a Tournament/Travel team manager may choose to select, and place on his roster, a limited number of alternate players (reserved players) who meet the following criteria:
 1. Must be a current registered FBLI player
 2. Must have attended tryouts for THAT particular team.

These "alternate players" shall be placed on the team's roster and will not be charged a fee.

ARTICLE 12 - Parades, Fund Raising, etc.

Parades, Fund Raising, etc. will be classified as part of the regular seasonal activities of FBLI.

- A. Players in FBLI (both boys and girls) will be required to take part in the above-mentioned activities as prescribed by the Executive Board.
- B. Managers, coaches, umpires and all adult workers will be required to cooperate with and participate in the above-mentioned activities, or take part in said activities, as directed by the Executive Board of FBLI.

- C. Failure to comply with this section may result in the termination of membership of an adult or player, from further participation in FBLI.

ARTICLE 13 – Safety

- A. Besides the umpire, any member of the Executive Board or the Executive Committee, for the purpose of safety, will be the only persons authorized to stop or suspend any game regardless of the level of play, if he or she feels said game is being played or conducted under unsafe conditions, or managers, coaches or umpires are not complying with established safety rules. Any league official, who observes a violation of any safety rule, shall take immediate action to correct the violation.
- B. Every manager, coach and umpire must comply with and enforce safety rules.
- C. All spectators must comply with all safety rules.
- D. Batters, base runners and player coaches must wear helmets as required.
- E. No bat swinging except at the plate and in the on-deck area.
- F. On-deck batters will be in the on-deck area wearing a helmet as required.
- G. There will be only one batter in the on-deck area at one time.
- H. Managers and coaches shall instruct players not to throw the ball until the receiver is ready.
- I. Managers are to set aside an area for their dugout. Players will be required to stay in this designated area. No wandering will be permitted during ball games.
- J. Managers, coaches and umpires shall keep all persons away from behind the backstops. When requested to do so by managers, umpires will stop the game until this condition is corrected. *(Amended March 7, 2000)*
- K. There will be no throwing of bats or helmets. After a warning, if a player continues to do so, said player will be ejected for the game.
- L. No bike riding on ball fields while game is being played.
- M. Only official equipment issued by FBLI will be permitted in any game (See Article 9).
- N. Managers and coaches are to instruct their teams that there will be no ball playing unless manager or coach is present.
- O. If a player is removed from a ball game, the player must remain with his or her team until the game is completed - unless the player is injured or ill.
- P. No jewelry is to be worn during practice or games. Notwithstanding the foregoing, new piercings are permitted provided they are covered with band-aid or tape. *(Amended March 2006)*

- Q. All play will stop until a violation is corrected.
- R. The following rule, usually referred to as the Pete Rose Rule, will be in effect in all Farmingdale local league play: A base runner will be called out if the runner does not either: slide, give himself up, or attempt to get around a fielder who is in position to catch a thrown ball to a base, or who has the ball and is waiting to make a tag. If, in the umpire's judgment, the runner was deliberately attempting to use excessive force, then the umpire may also eject that runner from the game.

ARTICLE 14 - Scheduling Games

The local league Director has the authority to schedule his/her season games, subject to Article 9(c). League Directors are responsible for the rescheduling of rained out or postponed games, and games may not be rescheduled by agreement of the managers without the consent of the Director. All World Series, Playoff or Local League All-Star games must be played to completion except for the league run rule. ("Official" games shortened by rain or darkness must be completed, except as contemplated by Article 17 F herein. Amended March 2004)
(Amended March 7, 2000)

ARTICLE 15 - Starting Times

Game starting times will be selected by the local league Director as published in his or her own schedules. Players and all adults involved are to report to the field before scheduled start times.

- A. Prior to the start of each game, the visiting team shall be provided the playing field for ten (10) minutes of pre-game practice, beginning at ten (10) minutes prior to the start of the game. The home team shall be provided the playing field for ten (10) minutes of pre-game practice, beginning at twenty (20) minutes prior to the start of the game. Only one (1) team may occupy the playing field at any given time prior to the start of the game. Either team may occupy the playing field should the other choose to decline any portion of their respective pre-game practice time.
(Amended March 7, 2007)
- B. At the scheduled starting time, the umpire will call "PLAY" from the playing field, at which time play is to begin.
- C. FOR AAA, BOYS JUNIORS and BOYS MINORS LEAGUES ONLY:
Games can be started with eight players. In that event, the ninth player in the continuous batting order becomes an "invisible" player and as such becomes an automatic out* when that position comes up in the batting rotation. If that position in the order becomes the third out in an inning, the inning is over. The exception is that the game CAN NOT end with the automatic out. In that event, the ninth position in the batting order is skipped. If the players arrive after the game is started with eight players, the ninth position is filled with the first arriving player and there is no penalty. Each arriving player becomes the tenth player, eleventh player, etc. Once a team has nine players in the game, the team CAN NOT go back to eight players, with the exception of when a player is removed from the field because of injury. At no time can a team play with less than eight

players, under any circumstances. If such occurrence happens, the team attempting to do that automatically forfeits the game. In the event a team is allowed to start a game with eight players and the opposing team has nine players, and the team with nine players loses a player (injury, player leaves, etc.) the game shall be allowed to continue. That is the only circumstance in which a team can drop from nine to eight players other than a player being removed for injury.

FOR BOYS SENIORS and BOYS MAJORS:

Games can be started and played with eight players. There is no specific penalty for playing with 8 players.

(Amended February 2, 2010)

- D. In the event a team does not have 8 (eight) players or cannot muster a manager or coach, a grace period of twenty (20) minutes will be given, after which a forfeit will be called. Any adult may assume the duties of a coach and the game will proceed. In the event of a scheduled doubleheader, the waiting time shall be 20 minutes from the scheduled start of the first game before declaring the first game a forfeit, and 35 minutes from the scheduled start of the first game before declaring the second game a forfeit, if a ninth player does not arrive. The absence of an official umpire will have no bearing on the forfeit.
(Amended March 7, 2000); Revised March 4, 2014
- E. Managers are not permitted to make mutual agreements regarding grace periods of game starting times as covered by this Article.

ARTICLE 16 – Umpires

- A. All youth league and Ponytail umpires assigned to FBLI, including league Umpire Coordinators will be under the supervision of the Commissioner of Umpires or FBLI. Umpires will be in complete charge of the games in which they are umpiring. They will enforce all rules and regulations.
- B. The chief umpire and his staff will be the only adults permitted on the playing field during the game, except in the case of injury when both managers will be permitted on the field. The umpire and/or umpires will be the only authority in regard to the ball game in progress.
- C. The league officers will not direct or interfere with the umpire in his management of a ball game.
- D. The umpire should stop a ball game in the interest of safety. It is most important that the managers and the umpires together discuss the ground rules prior to the start of the game to avoid unnecessary disagreements during the game.
- E. A clear-cut understanding of when the game will be terminated according to the rules set forth by the league, e.g., darkness or specified time beyond which a new inning may not start, should be understood and explained before the start of each game.
- F. Once both managers have agreed on the selection of a pick-up umpire, in the case where no umpire is available or scheduled, this umpire will be in control of said game as a regular umpire would.

- G. On a request of the Commissioner of Umpires, local league Directors must supply him with a schedule of games.
- H. The Commissioner of Umpires will have the power to declare a game "no contest" if an unauthorized umpire is assigned by any individual other than himself or any league Director, when a scheduled umpire is present.
- I. The Commissioner of Umpires can request the termination of any umpire's services as an umpire, if he has proof that his umpiring does not meet the standards of FBLLI.

ARTICLE 17 – Players

A boy or girl must play in every scheduled game at which he or she is present under the following rules:

- A. If a boy or girl misses a practice scheduled by his or her manager, or a regularly scheduled game without an excuse or without notifying his or her manager prior to their absence, said manager may bench this player, if he or she desires, by informing the opposing manager before game time, and will not have the option of playing said player once notification is given.
- B. Innings - a manager must play every boy and girl present at the start of a scheduled game as follows:
 1. For Girls Softball see table Section “J” of this Article.
 2. For Boys Leagues see Section “I” of this Article.
- C. In a game that does not complete the required amount of innings, but is still considered an official game, (less than six innings in AA, AAA, Farm,; less than seven innings in Boys (Jr., Sr. and Major), Girls (Jr., Sr.) the player or players who have not completed their required innings in the field and required time(s) at bat must start the next scheduled game, play their required innings in the field and required time(s) at bat, with no exceptions.
- D. Forfeiture - failure to comply with this Article will result in an automatic forfeit when reported to the League Director who in turn will report said protest to the Protest Committee.
- E. World Series and Playoff Games - This Article 17 will apply to all World Series and Playoff Games, regardless of the number of boys and/or girls at said games.
- F. Completed games are determined as a game in which a winner and loser can be determined at the end of the last completed inning. The number of innings for a complete game shall be:
 Six innings - Boys AA, Boys AAA, Boys Juniors and Girls Farm.
 Seven innings - Boys Seniors, Boys Majors, Girls Juniors, and Girls Seniors.

If a game is called for darkness, weather or any other unforeseen reason, except injury, it shall be considered a complete game if a winner and loser can be determined after the number of innings listed below.

Four innings – Boys AA, Boys AAA, Boys Juniors and Girls Farm

Five innings - Boys Seniors, Boys Majors, Girls Juniors, and Girls Seniors.

If the home team is leading after the visiting team has completed the required number of innings to complete the game, the home team shall not bat; however, all players are required to play the minimum number of innings in the field. If a game is called before the required number of innings, yet a sufficient number of innings have been played to have a complete game (example: A boys major game is called for rain at the top of the fifth inning with the home team leading) all players who have not played the required number of innings shall start in the field in the teams next game. *(As amended March 2004)*

If called during the home team at-bat, and the home team is ahead, the game shall be considered complete, with the home team as winner. **Otherwise, the score shall revert to the end of the last completed inning, and the winner/loser determined by that score.** *(Amended March, 2005)*

- G. At the time line-ups are exchanged, all players in uniform at the start of the game are presumed eligible for play, unless the manager notifies the other manager that a player by name is sick or injured and will not play. Each manager should advise the other as to how many substitutes he or she has. If a player or players arrive after this has been done, said player or players may be played at the discretion of the manager, in which event, the requirements of Article 17, Section B, must be complied with.

NOTE: AUTOMATIC FORFEITURE AS STATED IN ARTICLE 17, SECTION B, IS SUBJECT TO VISITING AND HOME TEAM OR BOTH AS MENTIONED ABOVE.

- H. At a continued game (a game that has been suspended and the score is tied) managers must play the same players that were playing at the time the game was suspended. If this is not possible due to absent, injured, or disciplined players, the manager will substitute in the following sequence:
1. Players who were playing in suspended game and then were replaced (first out, first back)
 2. The remaining players on the roster.

The minimum required innings in the field and the required time(s) at bat shall be suspended for the continued part of a suspended game as well as Article 19 and Article 20.

I. Boys Baseball Rules

	Rook	A	AA	AAA	JRs.	MINORS	SRs.	MAJORS
1. Six innings per game (Rookies: 4 innings per game or 90 minutes, whichever comes first)	*	X	X	X	X			
2. Seven innings per game						X	X	X
3. Base distance	50'	50'	55'	60'	70'	80'	90'	90'
4. Pitching distance			38'	44'	48'	54'	60'-6"	60'- 6"
5. Balks called					Instructional	X	X	X
6. Continuous batting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7. Bunting				X	X	X	X	X
8. 6 runs per ½ inning			X					
9. 4 walks per ½ inning			X					
10. No stealing	X	X	X					
11. Leading					X	X	X	X
12. Stealing				X	X	X	X	X
13. Sliding	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
14. No infield fly	X	X	X	X				
15. No inning will start 15 min. prior to the start of the next game.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
16. PITCHING RULES SEE BELOW PITCHING RULES								
18. No forfeit	X	X	X					
19. Dropped 3 rd strike rule in effect					X	X	X	X
20. Three innings in field	X			X	X	X	X	X
21. Two innings in the field		X	X					
22. Ten players in field ****	X	X						
23. Nine (9) batters per ½ inning	X							
24. Stealing Home					X	X	X	X
25. Safety Bag ***		X						
26. Mercy Rule**** (see page 21) FBLI requires all mercy rules to have equal at-bats.				15 after 4	10 after 5	10 after 5	10 after 5	10 after 5
27. Hit batters – A pitcher hitting 3 batters during an inning or 5 batters during the game must be removed as pitcher for the remainder of the game.			X	X	X	X	X	X
28. Can play with 8 (See Article 15 paragraph C)			X	X	X	X	X	X

Supplemental Baseball Bat Restriction Chart:

1. Ages 12 and under – all bats must be 2 ¼ inches in diameter and comply with current Little League requirements (see <http://www.littleleague.org/learn/equipment/basballbatinfo/batrules.htm> for the current Little League bat requirements).
2. Ages 13 and above – all bats must meet the BBCOR Standard and be identified on the bat as being compliant with the BBCOR Standard.
3. All ages may use wood bats. Wood bats shall not be more than 36 inches in length, nor more than 2.61 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30 inches) at its smallest part. Furthermore, all wood bats must conform to MLB specifications.

(Amended March 5, 2013)

Supplemental Rookie League Rules:

1. No score shall be kept – all games end in a tie.
2. The “pitcher” should remain near the pitching mound (40’ from home plate).
3. A batter shall be held to a single on infield hits (runners advance 1 base only).
4. A batter shall be held to a double on ground balls through the infield (runners advance two bases).
5. A batter (and runners) can advance as far as possible on an outfield fly.

Supplemental “A” League Rules:

Pitching Machine Rules:

1. Under no circumstances are children to be permitted to operate the pitching machine. Only the team’s manager, coaches or authorized parents will be allowed to operate the pitching machine. The actual pitching machine shall be located approximately thirty-eight feet (38’) from home plate.
2. Each batter shall be allowed a maximum of five (5) hit-able pitches in which to put the ball in play. If after five (5) hit-able pitches, the player is unable to put the ball into play, the batter is considered out. A batter shall be pitched another ball if his last hit-able ball is fouled off.
3. If a batted ball hits the pitching machine or generator, it will be considered a dead ball, and the batter shall be awarded first base.

“A” League (specific) Rules:

1. Batting order is consecutive and must include all players present. Every player shall bat once per inning regardless of runs scored or fielded outs.
2. If a player makes an out at any base, the player shall leave the field.
3. A batter shall be held to a double on any ground ball that goes thru the infield (runners shall advance two bases). A batter and runners may advance as far as possible on an outfield fly.
4. Base runners shall not advance on overthrows at any time, even if the throw to the base ends up in the outfield or out of play.
5. All teams must play with a catcher, even if they have less than nine (9) players.
6. The defensive infield shall consist of six (6) players, who must be in standard baseball positions, including the catcher and one (1) player in the pitcher’s position who may be placed on either side of the pitching machine. Pitchers **MUST** wear a helmet with a cage.

Supplemental AAA and Junior League Rules:

1. Runners may steal bases, but may not leave the base they are occupying at the time of the pitch until pitched ball has reached or passed the catcher. Once the pitcher has stepped on the rubber with possession of the ball, any runner who, in the umpires' discretion, leaves the base before the pitched ball reaches or passes the catcher, the pitch shall be considered a dead ball and the runner returned to the base after which time the umpire shall issue a warning to the offending team. If, after the umpire issues said warning, in the umpires' discretion, the runner leaves the base before the pitched ball reaches or passes the catcher, the pitch shall be considered a dead ball and the runner shall be called out. No runner can steal home plate from third base. The only way a runner can score is on a ball that originated as a hit ball, a hit batter, base on balls or a walk.
2. In the event of a tie game after a reasonable number of innings, considering delay to the next scheduled game, the game may be suspended at the discretion of the League Director or Assistant Director, or a member of the Executive Board, and shall count as a suspended game, to be completed if necessary to determine the standings at the discretion of the League Director. All other games will be to conclusion, unless suspended by the umpire or a Board member for safety reasons or for darkness. There shall be no time limits placed on any game, except for weekday evening games played on lighted fields after which a night game is scheduled, in which event no inning shall start within fifteen (15) minutes before the next scheduled game. In the event a game has not been played to be an official game, the game shall be continued and finished from the point of suspension.

MERCY RULE:

AAA League:

If a team is leading an opponent by at least fifteen (15) runs after four (4) or more completed innings have been played, or after three and one half (3 ½) innings if the home team shall have a fifteen (15) run lead at the end of its third inning, or before the completion of its fourth inning, the game shall be terminated and the team in the lead shall be declared the winner. No game shall end in "sudden-death" fashion until both teams have had equal opportunities to bat.

(Boys JRs. / Boys SRs. / Boys Maj.):

If a team is leading an opponent by at least ten (10) runs after five (5) or more completed innings have been played, or after four and one half (4 ½) innings if the home team shall have a ten (10) run lead at the end of its fourth inning, or before the completion of its fifth inning, the game shall be terminated and the team in the lead shall be declared the winner. No game shall end in "sudden-death" fashion until both teams have had equal opportunities to bat. *(Amended March 2007)*

ARTICLE 7 (I) 16

PITCHING RULES

1. These rules shall be in effect for all in-house and travel teams formed under the provisions of the Universal Rules, Constitution and By-Laws in effect and as amended from time to time at the opening of each season.
2. Pitchers can only pitch in one game per day.
3. It is the responsibility of the individual team manager and coaches, along with the appropriate League Director, to ensure the well-being of their pitchers regardless of what the rules permit.
4. If a pitcher reaches his/her daily pitching limit while pitching to a batter the pitcher may continue to pitch until the batter is put out or reaches base. This remains subject to the manager's discretion.
5. PITCH COUNT – Every manager is responsible for delegating a person to count pitches thrown by his/her team pitchers, as well as the pitchers for the opposing team. At the end of EVERY inning, or when a pitcher is removed from the game as pitcher, both teams will record the pitch count for every pitcher in their team scorebook. Additionally, at the end of EVERY inning both teams will confer with each other to confirm the pitch count. If there is a discrepancy, the League Director/Ass't. Director will have the final say. Upon completion of the game the pitch count will be reported to the League Director with the final score. This information will be available for all managers, League Directors and FBLI Board members to inspect.
6. PITCHING RESTRICTIONS:

FOR 14U AND UNDER (15 AND OLDER FOLLOW NFHS RULES)

AGE GROUP	PITCHES ALLOWED/DAYS REST	MAX PITCHES/DAY	
7U	1-20	0	40
	21-30	1	
	31-40	2	
8U	1-20	0	55
	21-35	1	
	36-55	2	
9U	1-20	0	65
	21-40	1	
	41-65	2	
10U	1-20	0	65
	21-40	1	
	41-65	2	

11U	1-20	0	70
	21-40	1	
	41-60	2	
	61-70	3	
12U	1-20	0	70
	21-40	1	
	41-60	2	
	61-70	3	
13U & 14U	1-20	0	75
	21-40	1	
	41-60	2	
	61-75	3	

The “Days of Rest” equal full calendar days after the game in which the pitcher pitches ends.

- Any violation of this rule must be immediately communicated to the League Director and/or Assistant Director and/or FBLI Board League Liaison. If a manager observes a violation he/she must inform the umpire AND the opposing manager immediately. If it is determined that this pitching rule has been violated, the pitcher shall be immediately removed as a pitcher. All managers and coaches are advised that the purpose of this rule is to insure the well-being of all pitcher and to provide the opportunity to pitch to as many players a possible, and is not meant to capitalize on an administrative error by another manager or coach.

J. Girls Softball League Rules

	Farm	Juniors	Seniors
1. Innings per game	6	7	7
2. Standings will be kept	NO	YES	YES
3. Ten (10) players on the field	YES	YES	YES
4. Base distance	50'	60'	60'
5. Pitching distance	32'	35'	43' <i>(Amended October 2016)</i>
6. No Balks	YES	YES	YES
7. Continuous batting	YES	YES	YES
8. Defensive changes may be made any time after the 1 st inning. Free substitution is allowed providing each player plays the required number of innings in the field, in accordance with Rule 17K (11). No substitution allowed on offense during an inning, except for an injury	YES	YES	YES
9. Bunting	NO	YES	YES
10. Runs per ½ inning	YES - 5	YES - 4	NO
11. Innings on the field	2	2	3
12. 4 walks per ½ inning	YES	YES	NO
13. Stealing	NO	NO	YES
14. Leading once ball passes catcher.	YES	YES	NO <i>(Amended March 2006)</i>
14 (a) Leading once ball is released by pitcher	NO	NO	YES <i>(Amended March 2006)</i>
15. Sliding	YES	YES	YES
16. Infield Fly Rule	NO	NO	YES
17. No inning will start 15 minutes before the next scheduled game	YES	YES	YES
18. No Pitching Rest rule	YES	YES	YES
19. Forfeit	NO	YES	YES
20. Tagging up after a legally caught ball.	NO	YES	YES
21. Game can start with 9 players and finish with 8.	YES	YES	YES
22. No out will be charged for any missing player in batting order	YES	YES	YES
23. Base awarded for hit batter.	NO	NO	YES <i>(Amended March 2003)</i>
24. Pitcher may return to the mound once , after being removed from the pitching position.	YES	YES	YES
25. Intentional walks	NO	NO	NO
26. Late arriving players will be placed at the bottom of the batting, and they should play the field for the indicated innings whenever possible. If there are not sufficient innings left in the game, the player must play the field at the earliest opportunity.	YES	YES	YES
27. "Windmill" Pitching	5/6 – Tee/Coach/Machine 7/8 - Coach	YES	YES
28. Courtesy Runner- must be used for catcher after 2 out by inserting last batted out.	YES	YES	YES <i>(Amended March 2006)</i>

	Farm	Juniors	Seniors
29. Mercy Rule- Home team leading by 15 runs after 4 1/2 innings or visiting team after 5.	YES	YES	YES <i>(Amended March 2006)</i>
30. Hit batters – A pitcher hitting 5 batters during the game must be removed as pitcher for remainder of the game. (Adopted March 2007)	NO	NO	YES
31. Safety Bag	YES	YES	YES <i>(Amended March 2006)</i>

Supplemental Girls Softball Rules

The following items shall supersede the corresponding line items on the current “Girls Softball Rules Chart” and shall apply:

Item #10 – *(Girls Juniors)* The eight (8) run limit per ½ inning shall apply in Girls Juniors as it does currently in Girls Farm League.

Item #12 – *(Girls Farm & Girls Juniors)* Four (4) walks per ½ inning shall apply. After the fourth walk – if a pitcher throws ball three to a batter, the batter’s coach shall take the mound (the pitcher shall remain in position as a defensive player) and continue pitching to the batter, encouraging the batter to swing – the coach may throw a five (5) pitch limit. Once that batter either gets on base or strikes out, the original pitcher shall resume pitching to the next batter up.

Item #13 – *(Girls Juniors)* There shall be NO stealing during the first half (1/2) of the season. During the second half (1/2) of the season, a runner may steal a base only after the pitch has crossed home plate (no leading). The following conditions shall also apply:

- (2) steal limit per ½ inning of second base.
- (2) steal limit per ½ inning of third base.
- NO stealing home plate.

Item #23 – *(Girls Juniors)* There shall be NO base awarded for hit batter during the first half (1/2) of the season. During the second half (1/2) of the season, a batter who is struck by a pitch (after making a reasonable attempt to avoid being struck) shall be awarded first base.

(Amended February 2, 2010)

ARTICLE 18 – Pitching

- A. (Boys – AA thru Majors) Should a pitcher hit three batters in the same inning, the pitcher shall be removed from the mound for the rest of the game. Should a pitcher hit five (5) batters during the course of the game, the pitcher shall be removed from the mound for the rest of the game. In either case, at the discretion of the umpire the pitcher can be removed from the game depending on the severity of the infraction. *(March 2007)*
- B. Pitching infraction in any FBI League, as prescribed by said league in their respective rules and regulations, as modified by these Universal Rules, will mean that the team in

mention will be subject to an automatic forfeiture of said game at the time the game violation is discovered or reported to the League Director and the Protest Committee, regardless of the time elapsed after said game. For purpose of calculating the number of innings pitched by a player in a week, innings pitched in school play shall be included, and shall be counted first. For example, if a pitcher pitches five innings in school ball, he may only pitch five innings in league play, if he/she is limited to ten innings a week. By way of further illustration:

Day 1 - Player pitches 3 innings in school play;
Day 3 - Player pitches 5 innings in any FBLI play;
Day 5 - Player pitches 5 innings in school play.
FBLI team will forfeit the intramural game played on Day 3.

- C. All players must confirm to pitching restrictions as prescribed by their said league in their respective rules and regulations. This includes players who are playing on an FBLI travel teams. Pitchers who are playing on a FBLI travel teams will prioritize their innings for in-house play and may use any remaining innings for travel play.
- D. No officer of any league, including the Executive Board, can waive pitching rules (those rules relating to pitcher's rest, innings per week, and innings per day) as prescribed in the rulebook by the respective leagues.
- E. In A, AA, AAA, JR., SR., AND MAJOR a second trip in one inning to the pitcher's mound, by a manager or coach will not cause the pitcher's removal from the game; the pitcher must be switched to a different position, or removed.

(Article 18 was amended February 2, 2010)

ARTICLE 19 - Free Substitution

Free substitution will be permitted. Any player may re-enter the game an unlimited amount of times as a fielder between innings as long as all players complete their required innings in the field as per Article 17.

Note: (Boys Leagues) Any pitcher removed from that position shall not be permitted to pitch again in the same game. Any player who plays less than a full inning in the field because of a substitution during the inning will be deemed to have not played that inning as per Article 17.

- A. In the event a player or players gets injured or becomes ill during a ball game, after all substitutions have been made or completed as per Article 17, of these Universal Rules, the team in mention will be permitted to go their bench and replace said player or players in the following manner:

1. If injured or ill player was a starter or in the original lineup and did not replace any other member of his or her team the manager must then replace this player with the first substitution as made in said game.
2. If injured or ill player replaced another member of said team, replaced player must be returned to the lineup.
3. If a player is injured because of an illegal action as declared by an umpire, by a player on the opposing team, cannot continue to play and there are no substitutes available, then the game will be declared a suspended game and will be completed at another time, as rescheduled.

ARTICLE 20 - Substitutions

- A. Not more than one substitution will be permitted for each spot in the original batting lineup (batting order), except in the case of an injury or sickness by a substituted player, in which case Article 19 will prevail.
- B. Substitutions must be made at a point early enough in the game to insure that the substitute will play the required innings in the field and will bat at least once in a completed game, per Article 17, taking into consideration that no batters must reach base to enable the substitute to go to bat.
- C. Penalty: the team in mention will be subject to an automatic forfeiture of said game at the time the game violation is discovered or reported to the League President or Protest Committee, regardless of the time elapsed after said game.
- D. All members of all leagues must comply with these Articles.

ARTICLE 21 - Arguing and Conduct

Arguing or fighting will not be permitted on the ball fields assigned to FBI or on any fields in which Tournament Teams play.

- A. League umpires are strongly requested to eject from a ball game any team official or player who aids or participates in an argument or fight with another manager, player or game official.
- B. Any player or team manager or coach, or other adult ejected from a game will be required to leave the ball field or grounds. Adults or players who violate this section are subject to suspension.

- C. Any player or team manager or coach, or other adult present in the dugout, who fails to comply or who fails or refuses to leave the field or grounds, when directed to do so by an umpire or League Officer will be informed that his or her team will forfeit the game.
- D. Profanity will not be permitted by any spectator, player, manager, coach or adult present in the dugout. A manager or coach has the authority to remove from the game any player from his or her team who uses profanity during the course of that game. Umpires shall have the right to eject from the field any player, manager, coach or spectator who uses profanity. The umpire shall have the authority to forfeit the game if a player, manager or coach fails to refuse to leave, and shall have the right to suspend a game if a spectator fails or refuses to leave.
- E. In the event any manager, coach or other adult in the dugout during the course of a game or pre-game practice, or directly after the game, is ejected from the game or engages in fighting, profanity, or makes contact with an umpire, he/she shall attend a hearing before the Board and the Director of the League before being allowed to be present in the dugout during a game again. The Director of the League must file an Incident Report with the Board within 24 hours after learning that a manager, coach or adult in the dugout has been ejected from a game, or has engaged in fighting, profanity or makes contact with an umpire.
- F. Only players involved in game, managers, coaches (Including those permitted by 15 (c) herein) shall be permitted on bench and/or dugout area. (*Adopted March 2006*)