

# IOWA BASEBALL LEAGUE RULES

[www.IowaBaseballLeague.com](http://www.IowaBaseballLeague.com)  
5th & 6th Grade Division–2017

## A. RULES AND UMPIRES

1. Except for IBL modifications "Official Baseball Rules" apply. These rules can be found at [www.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/mlb/official\\_info/official\\_rules/foreword.jsp](http://www.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/mlb/official_info/official_rules/foreword.jsp)
2. Changes in IBL rules are approved by the IBL Board which consists of the division co-ordinators, IBL founder and the IBL commissioner.
3. All players must have been in the 6th grade or lower for the 2016-2017 school year. Players may play for only one IBL team.
4. Home teams supply 2 competent umpires for each game. The home plate umpire must be at least 17 years of age and unrelated to players or coaches. Except in unusual circumstances, the home plate umpire should not be a coach of either team.
5. Rosters should be turned into the division coordinator by April 20, 2017. Roster changes after that date require league approval. Roster additions after June 1 require that a player be dropped from the roster.
6. Home team will select its dugout first.
7. Scores or weather-related postponements must be reported by both teams within 48 hours. Results not reported on time may result in a loss being charged to both teams.
8. Each team will be responsible for establishing two e-mail addresses. Address need not be the team manager but should allow team contact by the division coordinator.

## B. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

1. Players must wear complete uniform which consists of team shirt/jersey, pants and hat. Managers and coaches should also wear team identification shirt/ jersey and hat.
2. Players can not wear jewelry, including watches, necklaces, bracelets or rings.
3. Player's unique number should be on shirt/jersey, and name if possible.
4. Metal spikes are not permitted.
5. Home team will provide at least two new, good baseballs for each home date.
6. Maximum bat barrel size will be 2.25" in diameter.

## C. GAME LENGTH

1. Single games will consist of 7 innings and doubleheaders will be 5 innings each game.
2. Four innings will be considered complete games for single contests and three innings will be a complete game for doubleheaders.
3. After game starts, pitchers get 5 warm-up pitches between innings.
4. For single games, a 10 run rule will be in effect at the conclusion of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning and a 20 run rule will be in effect at the conclusion of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning. For doubleheaders, the 10 run rule will be in effect at the conclusion of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning and a 20 run rule will be in effect at the conclusion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning.
5. There will be a 10 minute break between games of a doubleheader.
6. It will be the joint responsibility of coaches, players and umpires to keep the games going.

## D. POSTPONEMENTS

1. All games will be played at the scheduled time except for bad weather or field conditions.
2. Games postponed because of bad weather or field conditions will be rescheduled by the IBL unless teams have scheduled their own make-up games. Make-ups may be scheduled by the IBL on any open date.
3. Managers are asked on their registration forms to submit dates when they will not be able to play. The IBL will attempt to honor a reasonable number of requests but **no guarantees are made**.
4. Once the schedule is set, rescheduling requires approval by the IBL board.

## E. PARTICIPATION

1. Each player must play in the field at least 3 innings of a 7 inning game, 2 innings of each game of a doubleheader and start at least 1 game of a doubleheader. However, coaches may hold players out of games for disciplinary reasons or team rule violations.
2. Teams may play only 9 players in the field but all players present shall constitute the batting order. That is, teams will bat through the roster of all players present. Late players will be added to the end of the order.
3. Open defensive substitution is allowed to enable coaches to fulfill minimum requirements.
4. Team must have at least 7 players in a game at all times.

## F. PITCHING

1. Pitchers shall not pitch more than 6 innings a day, with a maximum of 9 innings in any 7 day period. One pitch counts as an inning pitched. However, games made up because the originally scheduled games were postponed by bad weather or field conditions are exempt from the 7 day rule.
2. Once a player has been removed from the pitching position, he is not eligible to pitch again in that game.
3. Pitchers must have 40 hours of rest after any day of pitching 4 innings. However, games made up because originally scheduled games were postponed by bad weather or field conditions are exempt from this rule.
4. Pitching rubber shall be at 48 feet (front of rubber to back point of plate). Home team will be responsible for installing a pitching rubber at that distance.

## G. BATTING

1. Batter cannot run on dropped third strike.
2. No infield fly rule.
3. The strike zone will be plate width horizontally and from the player's neck to the top of his shin vertically.

## H. BASERUNNING

1. No leading off until the pitch crosses the plate. First team offense receives a warning, the second time a runner is automatically out.
2. Stealing of second and third is allowed only after the pitch crosses the plate.
3. A runner cannot score on a catcher's play of any attempted steal and cannot score on a wild pitch or passed ball. A runner stealing third cannot score on a bad throw on the play.
4. Catcher/fielder can not block a base and the catcher cannot set up on the baseline but may move up the line to field a throw. If a catcher/fielder blocks the plate or base other than to field a throw, the runner is automatically safe.
5. Baserunners are not required to slide but if significant contact results on a close play, the runner is out if he does not slide.
6. With two outs, a courtesy runner (the last out) should be used for a runner who is the catcher.

## I. BEHAVIOR

1. Players, coaches and fans will be expected to display good sportsmanship and appropriate behavior. Coaches will have the responsibility for controlling abusive fans. Coaches should not argue judgement calls with umpires and should set a good sportsmanship example at all times. Since the IBL does not require certified umpires, it is the responsibility of umpires **AND** managers to see that IBL and baseball rules are accurately interpreted and followed.
2. Umpires have the right to eject players, coaches or fans who exhibit unsportsmanlike or inappropriate behavior. Umpires may declare a forfeit in extreme circumstances.
3. The rules, goal and objectives of the IBL will be upheld at all times.