

**BIG NINE LEAGUE BASEBALL
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

1. SCHEDULES

- A. The league schedule shall consist of one single game and one double header against each school.
- B. The schedule for league-counting games may not be altered, except with the OK of the league baseball AD.
- C. Weekday league single game starting times through April 15th will be: no lights – 3:00pm, with lights - 4:00pm. Weekday league single game starting times after April 15th will be: no lights – 4:00pm, with lights – 5:00pm. League doubleheader starting times through April 15th will be: Friday no lights – 1:00pm, with lights - 3:00pm. Saturday start will be 11 AM. Friday starting times after April 15th will be: no lights – 2:00pm, with lights – 4:00pm. Saturday start will be 11 AM. By mutual agreement between both schools, starting times may be altered.

2. POSTPONED, CANCELLED, OR SUSPENDED GAMES

- A. In the event that games are postponed, canceled, or suspended they must be made-up.
- B. If weather or darkness interferes with play so that the game is called (ended), by the umpire, it is a complete game if:
 - 1. Five full-innings have been played, or if the home team has scored a greater number of runs in four or four and a fraction turns at bat that the visiting team has scored in five turns at bat; or
 - 2. Play has gone beyond five full innings. If the game is called when the teams have not had an equal number of complete at bats, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last complete inning; except if the home team in its half of the incomplete inning scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, the final score shall be recorded when the game is called. (This is the National Federation Rule.)
- C. In the case of a suspended game, the game will start from the point at which the game was terminated. The pitcher limitation rule is in effect for all who pitched on the day of the suspended game.
- D. Tie games will follow National Federation rules.
- E. FOR CLARIFICATION- A Suspended game will be considered any game which is stopped for any reason prior to completion or before enough innings have been played for it to be considered a complete game.

3. UMPIRES- Local association umpires are to be used for all league games.

4. TEN (10) RUN RULE- is in effect for all league and league play-off games.

5. STATE ASSOCIATION RULES- All State Association rules pertaining to pitching,

coaching, substituting, etc., are to be followed.

6. PRE-GAME WARM-UPS

A. Approved pre-game warm-up schedule (Rev. May 2016)

- ~~85~~ 90 minutes before starting time – hitting for home team (30 min)
- ~~55~~ 60 minutes before starting time – hitting for visiting team (30 min)
- ~~25~~ 30 minutes before starting time – infield for home team (10 min)
- ~~15~~ 20 minutes before starting time – infield for visiting team (10 min)
- ~~5~~ 10 minutes before starting time – final prep of field (~~5~~ 10 min)

Example of pre-game schedule is:

Let's assume that a baseball DH was scheduled to start at 3:00pm. This would be the pre-game schedule for that DH.

- ~~1:35~~ 1:30 home team hitting for 30 minutes
- ~~2:05~~ 2:00 visiting team hitting for 30 minutes
- ~~2:35~~ 2:30 home team infield for 10 minutes
- ~~2:45~~ 2:40 visiting team infield for 10 minutes
- ~~2:55~~ 2:50 final prep of field for ~~5~~ 10 minutes
- 3:00 play ball!

Rules governing this pre-game warm-up schedule are:

1. No visiting team may hit at their own school site before traveling on game day.
2. The home team may not start hitting earlier than ~~85~~ 90 minutes before the scheduled starting time in order to get in more than 30 minutes of batting practice on game day.
3. Both teams will hit under the same circumstances. That means if the home team hits in two cages and has protective screens. The visiting team will also be allowed two cages with protective screens. If the home team chooses to hit on the field or other fields then the visiting team may also hit on the field or other fields. **Pre-game hitting shall be equitable for both teams.**
4. If, for whatever reason, either team chooses not to take batting practice the other team will still be allowed pre-game hitting if they choose.
- ~~5. If a home school regularly announces starting line ups and or plays the national anthem before the game the above schedule may be moved ahead 5 minutes as long as: a) both teams have arrived on the site and b) both coaches agree to the 5 minute adjustment. Realizing that all games should start promptly at the scheduled starting time the intent of this mutually agreed upon adjustment is to see that this happens. It is not to allow any additional pre-game team warm-up time.~~
5. **Each team is allowed one cage between games.**

7. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP- REPRESENTATIVES TO STATE REGIONALS

A. Three umpires will be used for District Tournament games. Umpires may be representative of our associations, as assigned by the District Director in conjunction with the Assigning Secretaries, with an effort to have a neutral plate umpire.

8. LEAGUE TIES- In case of ties, the procedure for determining places is as follows:

A. For all ties that do not/would not eliminate a school from post-season play, the following will be used: 1st – head to head record between tied teams; 2nd point system (same as

football). If this does not settle the tie, then the established play-off procedures below will be used.

- B. Ties for any other places, which cannot be determined by head to head play, will be resolved by the league draw numbers for spring sports.
- C. Ties for first or fourth place, which cannot be determined by head-to-head or points system will be played off on Tuesday following the end of the regular season.
- D. Ties involving more than two teams will follow the established league guidelines for resolving leagues ties. Playoff site will be decided by the team with the lowest draw number. If a bye is involved, it will go to the team with the lowest draw number.
- F. Neutral sites will be used for all tiebreaker games. The team with the lowest draw number will choose a neutral site.
- G. Host association officiating crews will be used for all tiebreaker games.

9. OTHER POINTS

- A. All games shall be scheduled for seven (7) innings.
- B. Highest seeded team will be the home team and get choice of dugout.
- C. Head to head advantage is defined as a better winning percentage against all tied teams.
- D. The schools involved in the play-off are responsible for all arrangements.
- E. COURTESY RUNNER - -For league games the use of the courtesy runner is optional. Each team will make the choice each time the courtesy runner situation occurs. The courtesy runner will only be used for the pitcher or catcher. For District Tournament play the use of the courtesy runner is also optional in any situation in which it applies.
- F. **WIAA adopted Pitch Count rules apply to all levels of HS baseball. It is recommended that Pitch Counts be reconciled every inning. Varsity games may use a digital scoreboard or flip-chart or the home statistician.**
- G. **It is recommended that all fields have equitable bullpens for each team.**

- 10. **ALL LEAGUE TEAM** - Immediately following the end of the league season, the baseball coaches will meet to determine the all-league team.