

# 2008 LBA Recreational League Amended Rules

The most current version of the Official High School Baseball Rule Book will be the official playing rules of the LBA recreational leagues and tournaments with the following exceptions:

**Note:** The 15-17 year-old teams will participate within the Ft. Collins Baseball Club (FCBC) recreational league. All games will be played by FCBC Rules. The following amendments do not apply to 15-17 year-old LBA teams.

## Article A - Uniforms and Equipment

1. Uniforms shall be only those issued by the LBA and shall consist of a cap, shirt and pants. Players are responsible for purchasing their own pants which can be, with LBA Board approval, either white or gray or with pinstripes. Every member of the team will have the same color of pants. Players should be consistent in style and color of socks and/or stirrups.
2. Players not in uniform at game time shall not play.
3. Metal cleats are ONLY allowed in the 13 year-old and older leagues.
4. There are NO bat restrictions for any age group.
5. All catchers are required to wear a protective cup and matching supporter. It is recommended that all players wear such protection.
6. Catchers must have a helmet which includes ear protection. The mask must have a separate attached throat protector.
7. Wood bats must have a safety grip of cork, tape or composite material that does not extend more than 18 inches from the bottom knob. Slippery tape is prohibited.

## Article B - Participation Rules

1. A team's batting lineup shall consist of every eligible player on the team who is present at game time.
2. All players in uniform who are not injured or being disciplined at game time shall play a minimum of three defensive innings of the game, unless the game is called by the Slaughter rule, weather or time limit.
3. Late arriving players may play only if their team has not batted through its original lineup. They will bat at the bottom of the batting order.
4. There must be a minimum of eight eligible players from a team's roster present at game time for the game to begin.
5. A team can finish a game with no less than seven players.
6. Courtesy runners are only allowed if there is an injury to a base runner. The player who made the last out, regardless of which inning, must replace the injured player.

7. If an injury prevents a player from continuing play, the injured player will be scratched from the lineup and that batting position will not be an out, even if it drops the team to below nine players.
8. There are no designated hitters.
9. If a player is ejected, that player is out for the remainder of the game in which the ejection took place, plus the next game. There will be no other penalty against the team unless this action drops the team to less than nine players. If there are less than nine players remaining after an ejection, the ejected player's batting position will become an out each time the position is due at bat.
10. The maximum innings a pitcher is allowed to pitch per game is as follows:
  - a. 8 yr-old league 3 innings
  - b. 9-10 yr-old league 3 innings
  - c. 11-12 yr-old league 4 innings
  - d. 13-14 yr-old league 4 innings
11. Once a pitcher throws one pitch in a given inning, he is considered to have pitched one inning.
12. A pitcher may return to the mound once in a game IF AND ONLY IF that player has pitched less than the maximum innings allowed per game.
13. Only two conferences at the mound are allowed per pitcher and are considered defensive conferences. The second defensive conference within a given inning requires removal of the pitcher for the remainder of the game as pitcher. Conferences are limited to one minute.
14. A charged conference is one that involves a coach (or his/her non-playing representative) and a player.

### **Article C - Special Rules for 8 and 9-10 Leagues**

1. There is no stealing of bases or leading off of bases. Base runners can only advance from base to base on a hit ball, a walk or a penalty. Leading off bases will be considered an out and may not be appealed.
2. A dropped third strike is an automatic out. The batter may not run to first.
3. There is no balk rule.
4. The catcher's chest protector must have a tail that protects the groin area.

### **Article D - Game Length**

1. All games will be a maximum of 6 innings in length. The home team is the official scorekeeper.
2. Official game time starts after the pre-game conference. The umpire notifies the home team scorekeeper of the Start Time.
3. No new inning shall start after the completion of 2 hours of play. A new inning starts immediately following the final out of the previous inning.

4. A game will be considered official after 3 1/2 innings of play if the home team is ahead or after 4 innings of play if the visiting team is ahead.
5. Only inclement weather can postpone a game. If a game is stopped due to weather before it is official, the game will be re-scheduled and will be played as a new game. The umpires, in conjunction with the Field Director, will determine game stoppage.
6. **Slaughter rules:** 15 runs after 4 innings of play and 10 runs after 5 innings of play
7. If a game ends in a tie, then each team will be awarded 1/2 game won toward league play.
8. If an injury results in a delay of over 5 minutes, the umpire MAY choose to extend the game time equal to the delay period.

### **Article E - Tournament Rules**

1. All tournament games will be played using a time limit and the California Tie-Breaker Rule.
2. Tournament games cannot end in a tie except to be postponed by the LBA lights-out policy of 11:00PM.
3. Pitching restrictions will be in effect for all age groups and will be posted prior to the tournament.
4. Slaughter rules are in effect for all tournament games except for the championship game.

### **Article F - The Playing Field**

1. For the 8 year-old league, the diamond shall be a 65' square with the front of the pitching rubber set at 40'-0" from the back point of home plate.
2. For the 9-10 league, the diamond shall be a 65' square with the front of the pitching rubber set at 46'-0" from the back point of home plate.
3. For the 11-12 league, the diamond shall be a 70' square with the front of the pitching rubber set at 50'-6" from the back point of home plate.
4. For the 13-14 league, the diamond shall be a 80' square with the front of the pitching rubber set at 56'-6" from the back point of home plate.

### **Article G - Other**

1. Coaches and players are responsible for cleaning their dugout after each game and for getting off the field and out of the dugout in a timely manner so the following game can begin.
2. "Bat Boys" or "Bat Girls" are prohibited.
3. Only three coaches/scorekeepers from each team are allowed inside the field and dugout during a game.

4. Any team using a player or players who are not registered with the LBA will forfeit all games won with such player(s) and that team's coach will face a disciplinary meeting with the LBA Board of Directors.
5. Rules shall be amended only by the LBA Board of Directors and cannot be amended by any other agreement.

## **Article H - Conduct**

1. All Parents, Step-Parents and Legal Guardians are required to read and sign the LBA Parent Code of Conduct Form. This form outlines our expected standards of behavior for those required to sign as well as all spectators at LBA games.
2. Any player ejected from a game by an umpire will have the ejection reviewed by the LBA Board of Directors to determine whether the player's actions warrant any additional penalty. The umpire will complete a written report for the Board to review. At a minimum, a player who is ejected will miss the remainder of the game from which he/she was ejected plus the team's next game.
3. Any coach ejected from a game by an umpire will have the ejection reviewed by the LBA Board of Directors to determine whether the coach's actions warrant any additional penalty or other disciplinary action. The umpire will complete a written report for the Board to review. At a minimum, a coach who is ejected will miss the remainder of the game from which he/she was ejected plus the team's next game.
4. There will be no use of any tobacco product inside the playing field by coaches, players, scorekeepers or umpires. Violation of this rule will result in immediate ejection from the game.