



**South Florida Baseball Alliance (SFBA)
INTER-LEAGUE
OFFICIAL 12U
BASEBALL BY-LAWS & GAME RULES
Fall 2018**

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FORWARD

The South Florida Baseball Alliance Inter-League has incorporated the Official Rules of Baseball as published by Major League Baseball on MLB.com including the Comments sections directly into the Official Baseball National By-laws & Rules at the appropriate places. The Official Rules of Baseball as published by Major League Baseball on MLB.com shall govern any item not specifically covered herein. Any reference to a particular gender contained within these Official Baseball National By-laws & Rules such as he, his, himself, man, men, or boy shall be meant to also include she, hers, herself, woman, women, and girl and are to be interpreted as gender neutral.

1.0 TEAM & INDIVIDUAL PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Team and individual player eligibility shall be mandated by the South Florida Baseball Alliance Inter-League Organizational By-Laws and/or the SFBA Inter-League Board of Directors.

2.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE GAME

Baseball is a game between two teams, under direction of a manager, played on an enclosed field in accordance with these rules, under the jurisdiction of one (1) or more umpires.

The objective of each team is to win by scoring more runs than the opponent scores.

The winner of the game shall be that team which shall have scored, in accordance with these rules, the Greater number of runs at the conclusion of a regulation game.

3.0 PLAYING FIELD

The playing field shall be laid out according to the recommended dimensions contained within these rules.

AGE DIVISION	BASES	PITCHING	FOUL LINES	CENTERFIELD
12U	70'	50'	230'	275'

Pitcher Rubber: The pitcher's rubber (plate) shall be a rectangular slab of whitened rubber set in the ground. Dimensions shall vary for each age division.

Player's Bench: Player's benches shall be provided, one each for the home team and visiting team. They should be roofed and should be enclosed.

4.0 THE OFFICIAL BALL

Shall be a sphere formed by yarn wound around a small core of cork, rubber or similar material, covered with two stripes of white horsehide or cowhide, tightly stitched together;

It shall weigh not less than five (5) nor more than five and one fourth (5 1/4) ounces avoirdupois;

It shall measure not less than nine (9) nor more than nine and one fourth (9 1/4) inches in circumference.

It shall be licensed by the Association and permanently stamped with the USSSA logo.

Altered Balls - An Altered Ball is one which has had its physical structure changed in any way, including (but not limited to) balls that have been frozen, micro-waved, heated, melted, cooled, recovered, re-stitched, surface modified to be rougher or softer, etc. Altered Balls and the potential of a ball being altered and those suspected of altering, owning or using an altered ball (or determined to have altered, owned or used an Altered Ball) shall be viewed as falling under the same rules in place above for Altered bats, below.

5.0 THE OFFICIAL BAT

The Official Bat shall be round in cross section of the barrel and taper, straight in length and measure not more than 36 inches long, including tape or other grip additions to the bat, shall have a knob at the end of its handle, and not more than 2-1/4 inches in diameter for small barrel bats and not more than 2 and 3/4 inches for big barrel bats at its largest part. Its weight shall not exceed 31-ounces, including tape or grip addition to the bat. The bat shall have a grip of tape or some other material to facilitate holding the bat during the batter's swing. All key graphics, including USSSA, 1.15 BPF markings, must be permanent and cannot be applied as decals or by any other method that would allow the key graphics to be easily removed or added to the bat.

Material: THE BAT may be made of hard wood of one piece, or laminated from sections of hard wood bonded together with adhesive in such a way that the grain directions of all the pieces are essentially parallel to the length of the bat. THE BAT may also be made of aluminum or other metals, fiberglass, graphite or composite materials.

Construction: The bat may be made in pieces from different materials but must have a closed barrel end, a taper, a handle and a taper. The bat may be modular with interchangeable parts, subject to additional safety and tampering requirements as set forth in the standard USSSA Bat Licensing Agreement. The knob portion must be welded or mechanically attached to the bat. Only USSSA approved bats, USSSA approved weighted bats or USSSA approved weights, may be used on the on deck circle.

Big Barrel Bats (Diameter greater than 2 1/4" but not more than 2 3/4")

EFFECTIVE January 1, 2012 14U AND YOUNGER BIG BARREL BAT RULES. TO BE LEGAL IN 2012 FOR USSSA 14U AND BELOW, A BIG BARREL BAT (no more than 2 3/4 inches diameter and no more than 36 inches in length) MUST BE MANUFACTURED BY AN APPROVED USSSA BAT LICENSEE, AND –

i) HAVE THE NEW USSSA MARK ON ITS TAPER, OR ("USSSA marks and other graphics of the bat must be applied permanently and must be applied by the USSSA licensed manufacturer. No stickers or decals are allowed and no one may add graphics to a bat once manufactured. Use of a bat with graphics not applied by the manufacturer will be use of an altered bat and subject to suspension under the USSSA Altered Bat rules. In addition to being violation of the USSSA Altered Bat rules, any use, creation or application of a USSSA mark without written permission of USSSA is a violation of Federal Trademark law and may result in prosecution by USSSA. If you have any concern about the person selling or providing you a bat, do not accept the bat, because you will be held responsible for any bat you bring into or use in a USSSA facility.")

ii) BE A QUALIFIED BBCOR BAT, OR

iii) BE A WOOD BAT.

"Qualified BBCOR Bat" means a Big Barrel bat that is made by a USSSA approved bat licensee, has a BBCOR mark permanently attached to the bat that is recognized by NHSF as a legal bat for NHSF sanctioned play and has no more than a minus 3 ounces difference from the length of the bat which bat must be at least 29 inches long. Please note that only Qualified BBCOR bats have any weight v. length (drop) limitation.

Small Barrel Bats (Diameter no more than 2 1/4")

EFFECTIVE for the calendar years 2012 and 2013. Only those Small Barrel bats made by approved USSSA licensed manufacturers that are either:

- i) Wood, OR
- ii) Made with the old USSSA mark, OR
- iii) Have the New USSSA Mark will be allowed in USSSA play.

This includes Tee Ball bats that are longer than 23 inches. 23 inch and shorter. Small Barrel Tee Ball bats from approved USSSA licensed manufacturers will continue to be allowed in 2012 and 2013 without the Old or New USSSA Mark.

The Old mark is simply the words "USSSA 1.15 BPF", all together in one spot on the bat.

The new USSSA mark can be found in the Baseball Tab of the USSSA Website.

EFFECTIVE for the calendar years 2014, only those Small Barrel bats made by approved USSSA licensed manufacturers that are either:

- i) Wood, OR
- ii) Made with the New USSSA Mark will be allowed in USSSA play.

This includes all Tee Ball bats that are longer than 23 inches. 23 inch and shorter Small Barrel Tee Ball bats from approved USSSA licensed manufacturers will continue to be allowed in 2014 without the New USSSA Mark.

Altered Bat Director Inspection and Suspension: A SFBA Inter-League Director may at any time ask to inspect a bat that has been brought into the location of a SFBA sanctioned event or any other SFBA facility. The owner and/or user may either:

1. Withhold the bat from inspection and accept an immediate two year (automatic life for second time offenders under EI and/or E) suspension from SFBA sanctioned activities with no right to appeal; or,
2. Allow the Director to inspect the bat and reach a conclusion as to whether or not the bat might be altered.

Altered Bat Determination by Altered Bat Committee Chairman or Manufacturer: If, after making the inspection of a potential altered bat, the Director in his discretion decides that the bat might be an altered bat, the suspected offending owner and/or user and may either:

1. Withhold the bat from further examination by the SFBA Inter-League Altered Bat Committee Chairman or Manufacturer of the bat and accept an immediate two year (up to life for second time offenders under sections E and/or EI) suspension from SFBA sanctioned activities with no right to appeal; or
2. Allow the Director to send the bat to the SFBA Inter-League Altered Bat Committee Chairman and/or Manufacturer of the bat for a determination as to whether or not the bat is altered. If the Manufacturer or the SFBA Inter-League Altered Bat Committee Chairman determines that the bat has been altered, the Altered Bat Committee Chairman in consultation with the Director who inspected the bat at the SFBA facility may suspend a first time offender for up to five (5) years from SFBA Inter-League play. For a second time offender under E and/or EI, any such suspension will be for to life.

Ownership and/or Knowledge of Bat Being Altered: The responsibility for knowing whether a bat is altered is that of the users and the owner of the bat. If an individual uses an altered bat in SFBA Inter-League sanctioned play or is the owner of an altered bat that is brought into a SFBA facility, the suspensions under this Rule 2, Section 1 will be imposed without regard to what the individual actually knew about the altered bat. An individual must know that his

bat is not an altered bat, if he brings it into a SFBA facility or used it in a SFBA sanctioned activity. If not, the individual can be suspended from SFBA activities for using or owning an altered bat. The fact that the individual did not know that the bat was altered is not a factor in imposing the suspension. The only question is whether the bat is altered or whether the owner/user has refused to let the bat be examined to determine if it is altered. After the Director, Altered Bat Committee and Manufacturer examination of a bat to determine if it is altered have all been completed, or upon the decision of the owner/user to not allow further inspection of the bat under E or EI, above, the bat shall be returned to the owner. If no one claims to be the owner, SFBA shall retain the bat. Once the bat has been returned to the owner, no appeal can be made with respect to whether the bat is altered or not.

Investigation Cooperation: Any coach, manager, player or other person who fails to cooperate in the investigation by SFBA of a potential or actual altered bat shall be subject to an unsportsmanlike conduct suspension. A manager or coach of a team that has more than one of his team's bats determined to be altered (or not allowed to be inspected upon request for an altered bat inspection under E and/or EI, above) shall be subject to an unsportsmanlike conduct suspension.

Awards and Coach Suspensions: If an owner/user chooses to submit a suspected altered bat to the SFBA Inter-League Altered Bat Committee or the Manufacturer no awards will be given to the team until the bat is determined not to be altered. If the bat is found to be altered, no awards or berth will be given and the team will be placed last in the standings and the listed manager and coaches may be suspended for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Participation in, Profits from, or Encouraging the Altering of USSSA Marked Bats: Anyone who participates in, profits from, or encourages the altering of USSSA (1.15 BPF) marked bats shall be suspended indefinitely from all SFBA activities, until the offending party has satisfied all requests of the SFBA Inter-League Altered Bat Committee with respect to his altered bat activities including but not limited to publicly swearing under penalties of perjury to never again participate in, profit from, or encourage the altering of USSSA marked bats. Violation of such an oath shall result in permanent suspension from all SFBA activities.

Compression Testing: Failure of a SFBA approved compression testing device test shall result in the offending bat being removed from play for the duration of the tournament or league game, not longer without the permission of the owner/user—such as in the case of an allowed SFBA altered bat determination under section EI. Multiple failures of such SFBA compression testing may in the discretion of SFBA be viewed as unsportsmanlike conduct of the owner/user, coaches, manager and team.

Custom Bats: No approved manufacturer may make a custom SFBA bat for a player or a team. All USSSA marked bats made by a USSSA approved manufacturer must be available to the public for purchase. Individualized graphics (such as a team name, different color, player name or number only changes for a team or player), however, do not constitute custom bats for purposes of this section K.

Worn/Abused/Damaged/Foreign Substance Bats Not Allowed in SFBA Sanctioned Play.

1. No bat is legal for SFBA Inter-League sanctioned play, if it is damaged in any way. Damaged bats include those with damage to the knob or end cap, those which have loose knobs or end caps, and those with cracks or dents in the bat material. For example, if the end cap is in any way loose or appears damaged, the bat should be removed from play for being a damaged bat. If an end plug has come out or the knob has come off, the only way that such bat is legal in SFBA Inter-League play, is if the knob or end cap is replaced by the manufacturer. Replacement by anyone else results in an altered bat with potential suspension for the owner/user of the bat.
2. No bat is legal for SFBA Inter-League sanctioned play, if any of the graphics of the bat have worn off. For example, even if the only graphics that have worn off are not Key Graphic Information and are only items such as the patent no., a manufacturer logo, or the approval mark of another association, the bat should be removed from play for being too worn.
3. No bat is legal for SFBA Inter-League sanctioned play, if the paint has been worn through and the actual bat material is showing. For example, if at the end of the barrel next to the taper where there are no graphics the bat paint is worn off and the underlying bat material is exposed, that bat should be removed from play for being too worn.
4. No bat is legal for SFBA Inter-League sanctioned play, if there is a foreign substance on the barrel or taper of a bat. Foreign substances included among other substances, pine tar, stick-em type products and even dirt or mud, but only if the substance adds to the thickness of the barrel or covers Key Graphic Information such as the USSSA 1.15 BPF mark, the serial number of the bat, the model or manufacturer

name, official softball, etc.. Players are responsible for their equipment and must clean such substances off of their bats so that the substance does not add to the thickness of the bat or obscure any Key Graphics Information about the bat. For example, while bats will surely get dirt on them under normal use and may have pine tar added to the grip, if the dirt or pine tar obscures Key Graphic Information or adds to the thickness of the bat, such bats cannot be used in SFBA Inter-League play until the dirt or pine tar has been removed to the extent necessary to make all such Key Graphic Information readable and the bat not have increased thickness. If Key Graphic Information about a bat cannot be read, the bat should not be used in SFBA play.

5. If any removed bat under these section L rules is brought back into play at any SFBA sanctioned event at any time, the owner and user of such bat may be suspended for up to one year for unsportsmanlike conduct. And if the foreign substance or the wear/abuse/damage is apparent enough that the batter should have been aware of it, the batter may be so suspended for bringing such a bat into the batter's box without having been warned in advance. Players are responsible for their equipment and must not use equipment that is even potentially illegal for use in SFBA Inter-League sanctioned play.

6. In addition to the player being suspended for unsportsmanlike conduct, coaches of youth teams may also be so suspended when their players attempt to bat with such bats. Also, coaches of adult teams which have multiple offenses under this rule may also be so suspended for failing to have his team follow SFBA Inter-League equipment rules. Please be reminded that unsportsmanlike conduct can result in a game or tournament suspension in the discretion of the umpire or Inter-League director and up to a year suspension in the discretion of the state director.

Youth Player Altered Bats: The parents or legal guardians of a youth player suspended under section E and/or EI shall be suspended for life from all SFBA sanctioned activities. As such, the player even after his suspension has ended under E and/or EI. cannot participate in SFBA sanctioned activities until the player is 18 years old. In addition to any other penalties under this rule 2.1, any coach or manager of a youth team that has more than one suspension imposed on his players in connection with sections E and/or EI. will be suspended from all SFBA activities for life.

Altered Bat: An "Altered Bat" is a bat that has had its physical structure changed, including, but not limited to:

1. The bat has had the surface of the barrel or the taper changed in any way such as by addition of graphics, painting, repainting, removal of bat material or paint by any means including but not limited to sandpapering or applying a solvent to the surface such as fingernail polish remover or by any other means.
2. The bat has had the plug or the knob removed/replaced or changed in any way.
3. The bat has had anything removed or added or inserted to the inside or outside of the bat other than tape at the handle or knob. Other examples of altering a bat would be changing or replacing manufacturers' markings or replacing the handle of a bat with a new handle... Replacing the grip, adding tape or adding a build up to the handle is not considered altering a bat.
4. The bat has been subjected to pressure in a manner that exceeds that of striking the bat at game speed swing speed against a SFBA approved ball traveling at game speeds. Such pressure would include, but is not limited to, compressing the bat, rolling the bat, vicing the bat or hitting the bat against an object such as a tree or pole. The bat has in any other way had its on field performance improved by physically changing the bat (other than by hitting the bat at game condition swing speeds against a SFBA approved ball traveling at game condition speeds).

Penalty for using illegal bats:

First Offense - If the umpire discovers that the bat does not conform to SFBA Inter-League Rule 2.01.C until a time during or after which the bat has been used in play, it shall not be grounds for declaring the batter out and/or ejection from the game. If the umpire discovers that a bat has been used to put a ball in play and before the next legal pitch, the defensive team will have the choice of the result of play or the batter being called out and all runners returning to the base occupied before the pitch.

Second Offense – If a team is found in violation of this rule a second time, then the manager will be ejected in addition to the First Offense penalty.

Protective Gear: As a general rule, SFBA Inter-League continues its long standing policy of permitting players to determine the use of the protective equipment when they deem it appropriate. Game conditions (temperature, equipment, rain, wind, visibility, field conditions, humidity, etc.) vary greatly from game to game and from field to field. In addition, the relative and absolute experience and skill levels of teams and players will vary from player to player and from team to team. Thus, SFBA encourages players to utilize any protective equipment that they deem appropriate. Such protective gear will be allowed in SFBA sanctioned play, unless by rule or by director/umpire ruling that such protective gear is disallowed as unsafe or as providing an unfair competitive advantage.

6.0 UNIFORMS

Jersey - All players must have a team jersey that is coordinated with the other players on the team which has the player's assigned number. No two players shall wear the same number.

All jersey numbers shall be permanent
No jersey number shall be affixed by tape, marker or other non-permanent manner.

Shoes - In age division 12U, non-metal cleats must be worn.

Protests on uniforms shall not be allowed. It shall be the SFBA Inter-League Director's responsibility regarding uniform legality. Violation of the uniform rules shall result in the violator being allowed to immediately conform or be removed from the game. Managers and coaches may wear athletic type shorts.

The catcher shall wear all appropriate protective gear including a catcher's helmet with facemask and either a built in extended throat guard or a separately attached throat guard, chest protector, shin and / or leg guards, and protective cup. In age division 12U, the catcher's helmet shall fully cover both ears.

All offensive players shall use a double ear-flap batting helmet whenever at bat, on deck, on base or any other time outside of the dugout and the ball is live and in play. Bat/ball boys are not allowed

Rule Comment: If the umpire observes any violation of these rules, he shall direct the violation to be corrected. If the violation is not immediately corrected, in the umpire's judgment, the umpire shall eject the offender from the game.

7.0 GAME PRELIMINARIES

The home team will be listed on the official schedule for all SFBA Inter-League regular season games. For Inter-League playoff games, the highest seeded team will be the home team. The home team for the SFBA Inter-League Championship game shall be decided by a coin flip.

SFBA Inter-League game time limits for play is as follows:

12U age division, no new inning will start after 1 hour 50 minutes time limit has passed. Game length is 6 innings.

Extra Inning Rule: (International Tie Breaker Rule) Upon the completion of six (6) innings in 12U age division or regulation game time in a SFBA Inter-League **playoff game** where the score is tied the following will proceed:

1. To start each extra inning of a tied game, last recorded out is placed on second base, play each extra inning to 3 outs are recorded. Play until a winner is declared.

Rule Comment: The International Tie Breaker Rule does **NOT** apply in SFBA Inter-League Championship games. All Championship games, for all age divisions, will be completed in an extra inning format in accordance with MLB rules. Play will continue until a winner is declared.

Rule Additional Comment: Extra innings will **NOT** be played during SFBA Inter-League regular season games. A regular season game shall end in a tie if the game is tied upon the completion of 6 innings in 12U age division or in the event the play time limit has expired.

Approved Team Line-ups: Teams shall submit to the Plate Umpire a SFBA Game Card and/or exchange batting line-ups that will list the team's batting line-up for the game being played. This line up shall comprise of players previously reported and approved for play by the SFBA Inter-League Rosters.

The Game Card and/or exchanged line-up sheet shall:

1. In 12U, **MUST** report/list a ten (10) player line-up using an Extra Hitter (EH), if there are 10 players present. If only 9 players are present at start of game, teams may use a 9 player line-up. All teams may also elect to report/list a continuous line-up of all present, eligible, uniformed players. Such line-up must be declared before the start of the game and used the entire game.

Rule Comment: Teams **MUST** adhere to the "must play rule" according to their respective Optimist program's rules.

If a team uses a line-up that contains substitute players, all starting players may be removed and re-enter the game once, but must re-enter in their original position in the batting order. Non-starters are not allowed to re-enter. When a starter re-enters, the player in the starter's batting position in the batting order must be removed from the game and is ineligible for the remainder of the game.

If a team uses a line-up that contains ten (10) players, the player in the Extra Hitter position, while not actually playing a defensive position, will be treated as such for substitution purposes.

If a team uses a continuous line-up, all players other than the nine (9) defensive position players are Extra Hitters and may move freely in defensive positions with the exception of the pitching position.

Any player(s) arriving after the game has begun, shall be added to the bottom of the batting line-up.

When using the continuous lineup and a player has to leave the game due to an illness or injury that position in the batting line-up shall **NOT** be recorded as an out. The player removed due to an illness or injury, shall leave the field of play (dugout) for this rule to apply.

In 12U a team may start a game with eight (8) players although the ninth (9th) line up spot shall be deemed an automatic out throughout the game or until a roster player arrives that is properly uniformed. This ninth (9th) player and all subsequent players may be added to the bottom of the batting line-up as soon as they become available.

Once the entire line up has a plate appearance no new player shall be allowed to report on the game roster; other than as a substitute unless a team is playing with the eight (8) players Rule is in effect.

Team may continue a game with a minimum of eight (8) eligible players.

In 12U a player who is in the game defensively **MUST** be in the batting line-up.

8.0 FARM UP RULE:

Teams may farm up a player or players from the younger division of a team from their respective Optimist program for the sole purpose to prevent forfeiting a game. A 10U player to 12U. A farm up player does **NOT** consist of a player from another team in the same age division, a player from an older division, a neighbor, and/or a friend. The farm up player shall be in complete uniform (hat, pants and shirt with logo) from his/her respective Optimist program's age division. The farm up player **MUST** bat last in the batting line-up and assume an outfield position for the entire game. Farm up

players may **ONLY** be used to help a team meet the nine (9) player requirement and to assist teams from forfeiting a game and/or starting and playing an entire game with eight (8) players. Farm up players may be utilized for regular season games. Farm up players may also be used for playoff and Championship games, with prior approval from the SFBA Inter-League directors.

8.1 MERCY RULE

A regulation game consists of six (6) innings for age division 12U, unless the game is:

Extended because the score is tied after the completion of the regulation number of innings, in which case play shall continue under SFBA Inter-League Rule **2.02C** until the visiting team has scored more total runs than the home team at the end of a completed inning, or the home team scores the winning run in an uncompleted inning; or

Shortened because the home team needs none of its half of the last inning or only a fraction of it to win; or

Shortened because an imposed Time Limit expires; or

Shortened because any applicable part of SFBA Inter-League Rule has been met; or

An imposed Mercy (run) Rule shall be used to complete a regulation game when one team's margin of lead is greater than or equal to the listed run differential in the corresponding listed start inning. In enforcing this rule, the home team shall not bat if they are winning and the mercy requirement is met prior to the bottom half of the listed inning. Similarly, if the home team is batting and meets the mercy requirement in the bottom half of a listed inning the home team shall cease batting and the game shall end.

Length of Game	Runs	After
6 Innings	15	3 innings
6 Innings	8	4 innings

If a game is called due to rain, weather, light failure or other acts of God and cannot be resumed, it is a regulation game if:

For a scheduled six (6) inning game, if three (3) innings have been completed And the home or if the home team has scored more runs in two (2) innings or two and one half (2 1/2) innings than the visiting team has scored in three (3) complete innings or if the home team scores one (1) or more runs in its half (1/2) of the third (3rd) inning to tie the score.

If a regulation game is called with the score tied and one (1) or more innings has been completed beyond three (3) innings, the score shall revert back to last completed inning, or last completed half (1/2) inning if the home team leads but back no further than the third (3rd) inning. Games that cannot be declared a regulation game by SFBA Inter-League Rules 2.03.F.1 & 2.03.F.1(a) shall be a suspended game.

For a scheduled seven (7) inning game, if four (4) innings have been completed or if the home team has scored more runs in three (3) innings or three and one half (3 1/2) innings than the visiting team has scored in four (4) complete innings or if the home team scores one (1) or more runs in its half (1/2) of the fourth (4th) inning to tie the score.

If a regulation game is called with the score tied and one (1) or more innings has been completed beyond four (4) innings, the score shall revert back to last completed inning, or last completed half (1/2) inning if the home team leads but back no further than the fourth (4th) inning. Games that cannot be declared a regulation game by SFBA Inter-League Rules 2.03.F.2 & 2.03.F.2(a) shall be a suspended game.

All games that for any reason cannot be declared a regulation game pursuant to SFBA Inter-League Rule shall be a suspended game. A suspended game when resumed, will resume from the exact point of suspension.

Rule Comment: SFBA Inter-League Championship games for all age divisions must be completed entirely (6 innings for 12U). The mercy rule set forth herein shall be applied to championship games. If a

Championship game is suspended due to rain, weather, light failure or other acts of God, the game will resume from the exact point of suspension and played until a winner is declared.

8.2 BATTER & RUNNER

In the 12U Division an Intentional Walk may be issued upon announcement from either the pitcher or catcher. The four (4) pitches need not be thrown.

At any time, the offensive team may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher of record the previous inning on defense. The courtesy runner must be a player not presently in the line-up. If no players not presently in the line-up are available, the courtesy runner shall be the player making the last batted out. The re-entry status of the courtesy runner, pitcher, and catcher shall not be affected by this rule. If at any time, a courtesy runner is determined to be ineligible, a proper replacement pursuant to these rules (if available) will be used without penalty.

Whenever a tag play is evident, a runner must slide or seek to avoid contact with the fielder and / or catcher. Attempting to jump, leap, or dive over the fielder and / or catcher is not interpreted as seeking to avoid contact. Malicious contact shall supersede all obstruction penalties.

Rule Penalty: The runner shall be called out and may be ejected from the game at the umpire's discretion.

Rule Comment: When enforcing this rule, the umpire should judge the runner's intent. If the umpire feels that the contact was unintentional, then the runner should only be declared out. If the umpire feels that the contact was intentional and / or malicious, then the runner should be declared out and ejected.

8.3 THE PITCHER

All games shall adopt the following rules pertaining to the visit of the manager or a coach to the pitcher. This rule limits the number of visits a manager or a coach may make to any pitcher in any one (1) inning;

A second (2nd) visit to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause this pitcher's automatic removal from the pitching position;

The manager or a coach is prohibited from making a second (2nd) visit to the mound while the same batter is at bat, but: If a pinch-hitter is substituted for this batter, the manager or a coach may make a second (2nd) visit to the mound but must remove the pitcher.

A manager or a coach is considered to have concluded his visit to the mound when he leaves the eighteen (18) foot circle surrounding the pitcher's rubber.

A manager or a coach that crosses the foul lines and enters the field of play and communicates with the pitcher in between innings will have been considered to have completed a visit to the mound.

A player removed from the pitching position (starting pitcher or subsequent relief pitcher) may not return to the pitching position for the remainder of the game. The defensive team may correct this rules infraction at any time by substituting a legal pitcher without penalty. If an illegal pitcher is permitted to pitch, any pitch or play that results is legal. The rule violation should be caught by the umpire or the offensive team and immediately corrected. If the violating pitcher has legal pitches remaining, the violation is deemed an improper substitution and is corrected without penalty. If the violating pitcher has no legal pitches remaining, it's deemed a pitching limitations violation pursuant to League Rule.

The end of the day for the pitching limitation rules is the time of day or night when the ballpark is shut down and the teams go home for the night break. Games that for any reason extend past midnight (12:00 AM) or start late at night, past midnight (12:00 AM) and are completed before the teams take the night break, will count as being played on the scheduled day. A game not completed before the night break pursuant to League Rules shall be a suspended game. Suspended games, when resumed (the next day or another day), shall count as being played on two different days. The outs recorded during the portion of the game played prior to suspension shall count as being played on the regularly scheduled day and the outs recorded during the portion of the game played once resumed, shall count as being played on the resumed day.

Pitchers will be limited to 60 pitches per day and 120 pitches in any 7-day rolling period. A pitcher will be limited to a maximum 4 innings per game.

For purposes of pitching limitations rules, a pitcher is in violation of the rule if he records any pitch above the legal pitching limits pursuant to these rules.

Rule Exception: Exceeding the maximum pitches per day or during the 7-day period is allowed only to finish pitching to a batter started before the limits were reached, the pitcher then must be removed after the batter has completed his at bat.

Rule Penalty: It shall be the responsibility of each team manager to challenge pitching violations by notifying the Umpire-in-Chief. A protest may be filed at any point after the pitcher in violation records a pitch beyond his legal limit **AND** while the pitcher in violation is in the game and in the pitching position. If such violation is the last recorded out of the game, the protest **MUST** be filed prior to the umpires and the protesting team leaving the field of play.

8.4 PLAYER SUBSTITUTION DUE TO ILLNESS OR INJURY

In the event that a player in the lineup is injured or become ill and can no longer play the following shall apply:

If the player is leaving the game due to injury or illness reasons, the player whom recorded the previous out (last recorded out) assumes the runners position on base.

When a player who has left the game, due to illness or injury is scheduled to bat and no legal substitutes are available, an out shall be declared for each turn at bat. If the player left the field of play (dugout) for treatment of illness or injury, an out will **NOT** be recorded, as long as the team still has 9 or more players in the batting line-up. If a team falls **below** nine (9) players, regardless of circumstance, an out shall be recorded.

The manager shall immediately notify the umpire-in-chief of any substitution and shall state to the umpire-in-chief the substitute's place in the batting order.

The umpire-in-chief, after having been notified, shall immediately announce, or cause to be announced, each substitution.

If no announcement of a substitution is made, the substitute shall be considered as having entered the game when:

If a pitcher, he takes his place on the pitcher's plate;

If a batter, he takes his place in the batter's box;

If a fielder, he reaches the position usually occupied by the fielder he has replaced, and play commences;

If a runner, he takes the place of the runner he has replaced.

8.5 MAX RUNS

12U – No run max restrictions per inning.

8.6 SPECIAL PROVISIONS

A game shall be forfeited to the opposing team when a team:

Fails to appear upon the field, or being upon the field, refuses to start play within one (1) minute after the umpire has called "Play" at game time unless such delayed appearance is, in the umpire's judgment, unavoidable;

Employs tactics palpably designed to delay or shorten the game;

Refuses to continue play during a game unless the game has been suspended or terminated by the umpire;

Fails to resume play, after a suspension, within one (1) minute after the umpire has called "Play";

9.0 UMPIRES

All leagues and tournaments played under the jurisdiction and administration of SFBA Baseball shall utilize umpires who are registered with the Association.

One (1) or more umpires will be assigned to officiate each game.

The umpires shall be responsible for the conduct of the game in accordance with these Rules and for maintaining discipline and order on the playing field during the game.

Each umpire is the representative of SFBA and is authorized and required to enforce all of these Rules.

Each umpire has authority to order a player, coach, manager, sponsor or spectator to do or refrain from doing anything, which affects the administering of these Rules, and to enforce the prescribed penalties.

Each umpire has authority to disqualify any player, coach or manager for objecting to decisions or for unsportsmanlike conduct or language, and to eject such disqualified person from the playing field.

Each umpire has authority at his discretion to eject from the playing field any person whose duties permit his presence on the field and any spectator or other person not authorized to be on the field.

Any umpire's decision which involves judgment, such as, but not limited to, whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or a ball, or whether a runner is safe or out, is final. No player, coach or manager shall object to any such judgment decisions.

Rule Comment: Players leaving their position in the field or on base, or managers or coaches leaving the bench or coaches box, to argue on BALLS AND STRIKES will not be permitted. They should be warned if they start for the plate to protest the call. If they continue, they will be ejected from the game.

If there is reasonable doubt that any umpire's decision may be in conflict with the rules, the manager may appeal the decision and ask that a correct ruling be made. Such appeal shall be made only to the umpire who made the protested decision.

If a decision is appealed, the umpire making the decision may ask another umpire for information before making a final decision. No umpire shall criticize, seek to reverse or interfere with another umpire's decision unless asked to do so by the umpire making it.

Immediately following a game, the umpire shall report to the SFBA Inter-League Director and/or officials all violations of rules and other incidents worthy of comment, including the disqualification of any player, coach or manager and the reasons therefore.

10.0 SPORTSMANSHIP

All players, coaches and managers will be expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.

Any player, coach, manager, sponsor or spectator whose conduct is unbecoming or abusive will at a minimum be reprimanded with a warning. If warranted, the offending party may be removed from the playing field and stands area at the discretion of the Umpires and/or the SFBA Tournament Director.

Abusive language or cursing will not be tolerated under any circumstances and will be an automatic ejection.

Throwing of equipment will be an automatic ejection.

A team may be forced to forfeit and/or be removed from the tournament, if necessary.

Any player, coach, manager, sponsor or spectator leaving their position or base on the playing field or leaving the bench or dugout area or the stands to participate in a fight or brawl will be immediately ejected from the game and may be disbarred pursuant to Rule.

11.0 EJECTIONS

If a coach is ejected from a game, he must sit out the remainder of that game. Additional penalties may be assessed as deemed by the SFBA Tournament Director.

A player ejected must sit out the remainder of that game.

Anyone ejected may be asked to leave the park at the discretion of the SFBA Tournament Director.

As these rules indicate, the matter of disorderly conduct will be taken seriously. The leagues and tournaments your team will be participating in will include some of the finest baseball teams in the world. The level of competition will be high and at times fierce. Because of this, please remind your players, coaches, manager, sponsors and spectators to be extra aware of good sportsmanship.

12.0 PROTESTS

Umpires will work to settle all situations on the field. Protests will be allowed for age and pitching violations, roster issues or rule interpretations only. Protests must be declared to the Umpire-in-Chief and then to the SFBA Inter-League Director before the last out of the game is recorded. If a call to be protested is the last recorded out of a game or on a game ending play, the protest **MUST** be filed prior to the umpires and the protesting team leaving the field of play. No protest will be allowed following the game. SFBA Tournament Directors will rule on all protests and their decisions shall be final.

13.0 BUTCHER BOY AND HEAD FIRST SLIDE

Butcher Boy and head first slides at home plate, for all age divisions, are prohibited. Butcher Boy, the act of squaring to bunt and then pulling the bat back and swinging is not allowed. If any player slides head first at home or commits a Butcher Boy, the player will be called out.

14.0 RULE ITEMS NOT SPECIFICALLY COVERED

Items not specifically covered herein, including player eligibility, shall be referred to the SFBA Inter-League Board of Directors for guidance. All rule interpretations shall refer to SFBA Inter-League rules first and then to rules of MLB baseball for any items not specifically stated herein. MLB rules are defined as the Official Rules of Baseball as published by Major League Baseball on MLB.com shall govern any item not specifically covered herein.