

# 2021 GREATER EASTERN AREA BASEBALL LEAGUE

## RULES AND BY-LAWS

### Majors Division (11 & 12 years)

#### **GAME RULES:**

##### **A. Starting Game Times**

Games running from the start of the season until May 2rd:

Games will begin at 5:30 PM on weekdays. The home team will have the field for warm-ups until 5:10 PM. The visiting team will have the field for warm-ups from 5:10 PM to 5:25 PM. Ground rules will begin promptly at 5:25.

Games running from May 3rd until the end of the season:

Games will begin at 5:45 PM on weekdays. The home team will have the field for warm-ups until 5:20 PM. The visiting team will have the field for warm-ups from 5:20 PM to 5:40 PM. Ground rules will begin promptly at 5:40.

Night games will start at 7:00PM. Weekend games are subject to field availability. The same 20-minute warm up sequence will be followed as long as the field is available.

##### **B. Innings / Official Games**

Games will be 7 innings. A game is considered official if the losing team has completed its turn at bat after the 5th inning. **If a game has been played for 1.5 hours or more, the game is also considered official (even if under 5 innings have been played).**

**Mercy Rule:** A game is also official if either team is leading by 10 runs or more after 5 completed innings, 15 or more after 4 completed innings, or by 20 runs or more after 3 completed innings. The game will be complete and official when either team takes a 10 run lead at any time after 5 completed innings (ex: if the away team goes up by 10 in the top of the 6<sup>th</sup>, the home team does not get to bat).

### C. Game Time Limits

There will be a 2 hour and 15 minute time limit. No inning may start after the 2 hour and 15 minute time (regardless if the field has lights or not). Any inning in progress when the game reaches the 2 hour and 15 minute time limit will be completed. If that inning can't be completed due to darkness (umpire's discretion at that time), the final score will revert back to the score at the end of the last completed inning. Games tied after 2 hours and 15 minutes will remain a tie. In the event the score is tied after 7 innings and the time limit has not passed yet, teams will continue to play another inning until the 2 hour and 15 minute time limit goes into effect.

### D. Unofficial Games / Completing Games

Tie games prior to becoming an official game, or any other game not considered an official game will be played from when the game ended. Games that can't be completed due to rain, darkness, etc., will be started at the point it was cancelled.

When the game is rescheduled, the original batting order must remain the same as when the previous game was played. Players may be added to a line-up at the bottom of the order. If kids are not present at the make-up date, they are automatic outs the first time they would come to bat. If multiple kids are missing, the maximum amount a team can be penalized is for 3 total outs in the rescheduled game. All pitch count rules still apply. (See FF – Umpire Pay for paying umpires)

### E. Postponed / Cancelling Games

**A postponed game for weather must be rescheduled within 2 days and made up within 2 weeks or the umpire assignor and president will do it for them.** Coaches should agree on a date and the home manager must then notify the umpire assignor and their commissioner. Once the season starts the only reason a game can be cancelled is weather related i.e. rain, rain soaked field, or if an unexpected school function comes up that the commissioners agree on may be rescheduled. ***School dances will not be considered!***

Once the season begins, if a coach needs to change a game due to a non-weather related reason, that coach (***not the organization***) must pay a \$20 fee to the league (GEABL) to get that game switched. ***We will not change a scheduled game due to dances (unless a coach pays the fee).*** If a team needs to at any time during the season, use call-ups from

the age level below (See Section Z). Any changes to a schedule must be made through your league representative.

## **F. Starting Line-ups / Playing Time Required**

Teams in all age groups must have at least 9 players to start a game. (if any injury occurs, a team may play with 8). There is ***NO*** grace period. Teams must wait 10 minutes to wait for the 9<sup>th</sup> player. If the player has not arrived at that time, the game will be considered a forfeit. A ***continuous batting order*** with all players in uniform listed will be used (Meaning all players at the game must bat before the top of the line-up hits again). All players are required to play 2 innings in the field and have one at-bat.

## **G. Late-arriving players**

If a player is late for the game he is to be added to the last batting position in the order that was established at the beginning of the game. If a player would arrive after the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning has already been completed, the coach has the discretion on whether he wants to play him or not. That player is not obligated to play 2 innings and get his 1 at-bat. If he does allow him to play, he would be added to the bottom of the line-up.

## **H. Batting Rule**

All innings must be played until 3 outs are made. There is no 10 batter rule at this level.

Bunting is allowed. A batter will not be allowed to square around to bunt, and pull back and hit the ball instead.

## **I. Pitching**

1. One pitch is considered an inning. A pitcher taken from the mound can't return to the mound later in the game. Pitchers will be limited to **8 innings per week with a maximum of 4 innings per game.** A week will begin on Sunday and end on the next Saturday. Should a pitcher hit 3 batters during a pitching appearance, the pitcher must be removed immediately after the third batter was hit. The required rest period is listed below. If a coach is not following the required days rest for their pitchers, a forfeit may be given to the coach in violation.

**GREATER EASTON AREA BASEBALL LEAGUE**

Division	Daily Max Pitches (Innings/Game)	Required Rest (Pitches)			
		1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
Majors	85 Pitches Max (Or 4 Innings)	0-35	36-50	51-65	66+

Rest days begin the **same day** the pitcher last threw an official pitch. (Ex: A pitcher pitches on Saturday and requires 3 days of rest, even though the innings reset Sunday, that pitcher is not eligible to pitch again until Tuesday.)

**Max 45 pitches per inning.** If a pitcher reaches 45 pitches in an inning during an at bat, he is allowed to finish the at bat before being removed.

If 45 pitches are reached during an at bat and it is the last batter of the inning, the pitcher **IS** allowed to stay in the game and pitch again the next inning. (Example: Third out of an inning or 10<sup>th</sup> batter in Minors Division).

Coaches are responsible for verifying the number of pitches for each pitcher after each inning along with game score.

Home team book is official for score and pitch count.

2. A pitcher may finish out the batter he is facing and not be penalized for throwing extra pitches over the maximum number if the coach informs the other coach and umpire that they are taking out the pitcher after that at-bat. (ex: A pitcher throws the 50<sup>th</sup> pitch to the batter and it requires 5 more pitches to get the batter out or on base. The pitch count reverts back to the 50<sup>th</sup> pitch as long as the coach had informed the other coach and umpire that they are coming out after that at-bat.) The pitch count in this example would be counted at 50, not 55, and require only 2 days of rest. The coach should also have a kid warming up during this time to speed up the timing of the game.

3. If a runner leaves early and a pitch is made, the play is considered a dead ball and that pitch is **not** counted towards the pitch count totals.
4. In the case of a rain-out (and only because of a rain-out) where a team is forced to play 4 games in one week, 2 additional innings will be added to the maximum innings per week. However, the pitch count rule and the rest days would still be the same for the given week. This will not apply if you are already playing 3 games in one week and a 4th game happens to be a make-up for reasons other than a rain-out. A week is defined above.
5. No curve or breaking balls are allowed. The umpire will determine if a curve or breaking ball is thrown. If the umpire determines a curve or breaking ball is thrown, then that pitch will be called a ball regardless if the batter swings and misses. If the batter swings and hits the ball he has the option of taking the result of the hit or returning to the batter's box to resume the at bat. The umpire will hold all curveball decisions until the result of the pitch is determined.
6. Knuckle balls are allowed.
7. Balks will be called. There will be one warning per pitcher.
8. We will be using the dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike rule at the majors level.
9. No intentional walks are allowed.
10. Managers are allowed to visit the mound once per inning. However, a second trip to the mound in the same inning for the same pitcher will result in that pitcher being automatically removed as a pitcher. A visit to the mound between innings is considered one visit for the new inning.
11. If a double-header is being played, the days rest will be based on the total pitches thrown in one day (not game). If a pitcher throws 40 pitches in game 1 and 30 pitches in game 2 of that day, his 70 pitches on the day requires him to have 4 days of rest.

## **J. Stealing**

Stealing and leading are permitted. Runners already on base may steal any base, including home, on any pitch. *A runner may steal a base as soon as the ball is released from the pitcher's hand (Not on first movement) unless a wind-up is being used (see Section "K").*

On ball 4, the batter is only entitled to first base. A runner already on base, except for the batter, may advance to any base at his own risk. If a play is made on one or more of the advancing runners, the batter who has been walked still can't advance beyond first base. (ex: runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> and the batter walks – catcher makes a throw to try to get runner at 3<sup>rd</sup> out and the ball goes into left field, the runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> may advance, but the batter who walked **MUST** remain at 1<sup>st</sup> base).

***Once a team is up by 10 runs or more, there is NO stealing allowed for any reason.*** If the team losing begins to comeback and gets the score within 10 runs, then that team is allowed to steal again.

## **K. Leading (Other Stealing Rules)**

If a runner is on base, it is ***HIGHLY RECOMMENDED*** that the pitcher throws from the stretch. If the pitcher is throwing from the stretch, the runner may get his primary lead, but must stop progressing forward once the pitcher is in the set position. Pitchers are NOT allowed to quick set to prevent the runner from leading. Umpires will call time and stop play. You can go back to the base in the set position, but you can't walk or creep with your lead. If a runner leaves early, there will be one warning per game until **May 2<sup>nd</sup>**. As of **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**, any runner leaving early will be automatically out – No warnings!

If the pitcher is **throwing from the stretch**, the runner on base can steal **ONLY** when the pitcher **RELEASES** the ball. If the pitcher decides to **throw from the wind-up**, then the runner can leave on **FIRST MOVEMENT**. If this occurs and the pitcher does not finish his delivery to the plate, it will be called a balk without giving the pitcher a warning.

If a pitcher is in the set position and the runner has not started to take his lead yet, he is allowed to take a **2 stride lead** at that point.

## **L. Sliding**

Sliding is not mandatory, but highly encouraged if there is a close play at a base to prevent a collision. No player may attempt to dislodge the ball from the fielder. Any runner colliding with a fielder will be automatically called out. If a violent collision occurs, the runner may be ejected from the game. This is the umpire's judgment. There is no head first slides unless the runner is returning to the bag. The first offense is a team warning. Anytime after the warning, that teams' runners will automatically be called out. All warnings must be noted in each team's scorebook. No fielder, including the catcher,

may block a runner's path to the base WITHOUT the ball. It is up to the umpire ONLY to determine if a play will be made.

### **M. Courtesy Runner**

A courtesy runner ***MUST*** be used for the catcher when there are 2 outs. The runner must be the runner that made the last out. The only other time a courtesy runner is allowed is in the case of injury.

### **N. Play Stoppage**

Play until all runners have stopped, a dead ball occurs, or time is called by the umpire.

### **O. Out of Play**

The runners and batter will always get 2 bases max. The majority of the time, the outcome will be the same regardless of it being an infielder or outfielder who started the throw.

**Infielder Throw:** If a play is started by an infielder and the ball goes out of play, the ruling is the batter and any runner(s) on base will get 2 bases from where they were at the TIME OF THE PITCH. (ex: if a steal to 2nd base is going on and a ball is hit softly down the line to the 3rd baseman who overthrows 1st, the batter would get 2nd and the runner only 3rd - even if he is past 2nd base at the time of the out of play.)

**Outfielder Throw:** If the outfielder initiates the throw and the ball goes out of play, the batter and base runner(s) would get 2 bases from where they were at the **time of the throw**. Majority of the time, the same amount of bases are awarded.

**Difference in Rules ex:** A runner is stealing on a pitched ball hit to shallow RF and RF tries to throw runner out at 1st. At the time the ball is being thrown, if the runner is not past 2nd, he would get 3rd and batter gets 2nd. If the runner is past 2nd by time of throw, the runner would score and the batter would still get 2nd.

### **P. Infield Fly Rule is in effect and will be used for the majors level games.**

### **Q. Substitutions**

Free substitution is in effect at all times. Only restriction: a pitcher taken out of a game can't go back in to pitch during that same game.

### **R. Injury**

If an injured player is removed from the game, that spot in the batting order will be considered an out their next at-bat, but only the first time around. This is the only time a team may play with 8 players in a game.

## **S. Fields**

Home teams are responsible for their fields. Fields should be fully lined. Bases will be at 70 feet for the majors level. The pitching rubber is 50 feet from home. Batter Boxes should be fully lined and enclosed. There should be no open batter boxes.

## **T. Equipment / Bat Requirements**

All players must wear a team hat and numbered shirt. No shorts will be allowed. Metal spikes are not allowed. Catchers must have full protective gear including helmet, throat protector, and protective cup (as should every player). All batters must wear helmets with over the ear protectors. If a runner deliberately removes their helmet while running the bases he may be called out by the umpire.

All bats are required to have the USA baseball stamp on it.

Any size bat can be used with any drop as long as it has the USA baseball stamp.

Any size one piece wood bat is allowed. No 2 piece composite wood or bamboo bats are allowed unless they have the USA bat stamp. One piece doesn't need the stamp.

Protective vests and facemasks, while required by some organizations, are optional. This will be left to the respective organizations to decide.

## **U. Scorebooks**

Home team scorebook is official. Teams must exchange lineups before each game, listing all of their player's last names and uniform numbers. Managers must notify the umpire and the opposing scorekeeper of any pitching change. Managers must verify the score at the end of each inning. Umpires must verify the score by signing the home scorebook at the end of the game. The home team must report all scores to their designated representative the day/night of the game. Scorekeeper must keep track of innings played by both their team and the opposing team.



## V. Results

It is the responsibility of **both teams to submit the result** of the game within 24 hours of completion. ***The submission should include the final score, the last name, uniform number, the number of innings pitched, the number of pitches thrown by each pitcher, and when that pitcher can throw again.*** Please be sure to use a first initial or full name of pitcher if there are brothers on the team.

This is what a reported pitcher should look like:

34 Smith 3 innings 48 pitches (can pitch Tuesday)

*if game pitched was on Sunday requiring 2 days rest*

50 Jones 4 innings 63 pitches (can pitch Wednesday)

*if game pitched was on Sunday requiring 3 days rest*

There will only be ONE courtesy email from your organization per team for the first week of the season if you forget to submit the needed information. After either the first email or the first week has passed by, any missed submission of stats after the 24 hour grace period will result in every player on your team being assessed 3 innings pitched and a forfeit. This penalty could result in a forfeit if your team would happen to play 3 games that week. Submit results to:

Scott Munkirs: [Geabl.majors@gmail.com](mailto:Geabl.majors@gmail.com)

## W. Ball Supply

Each team will provide 1 new Rawlings RLBB1 baseball per game.

## X. First Aid

While each team should have a First Aid kit, the HOME team is responsible to have a first aid kit at the game. A cell or nearby phone should be available should additional help be needed.

## Y. Age Requirements / Rosters

All rosters must be submitted by the league representative at the league meeting held 2 weeks before the start of the first game. Rosters must include date of birth.

All players can not turn 13 before April 30th to play at the majors level. If a player has turned 13 before April 30th, that player is too old to play in the majors division and must play at the Bushkill Valley level instead.

A player should be playing on a team sponsored by the township/city in which they reside i.e. Forks player should play for Forks, not for Easton. Only exceptions to this rule is if an organization does not have a team then residents can sign up for a neighboring organization. The organization that is not fielding a team must release the player and inform the geabl board. This is a current year release only.

In regards to St. Jane's CYO, a player from any township/city can play for St. Jane's as long as he is a member of the St. Jane's parish or St. Jane's school. In this case, no waiver will be needed.

Non-roster players can be used strictly for filling up to the 10th spot on a team. This non-roster player(s) must be a younger player from a younger team within the same organization. A coach using a non-roster player must notify his league representative and the opposing coach. In no circumstances should a non-roster player be used when a team has 10 roster players at the game.

## Z. "PLAYING UP"

1. If a coach is in need of a substitute player(s), that coach may request a player from one level down to play up. Player **should** be a second year player from the minors level. For example – to be called up to play with the majors level, it should be a player who will be moving up to the majors level the following year.
2. Player(s) being called up must bat last in the lineup and may play any position except pitcher. If more than one player is being called up by the team, then the rule still applies, and both must bat at the end of the line-up.
3. No player can be doubled-rostered in GEABL. If anytime during the season a player is playing both divisions then that player will be considered a CALL UP player anytime he plays for the older division. He must be treated as a CALL UP player and follow the guidelines listed above. If a coach does not follow the guidelines for a

CALL UP PLAYER the player will be considered ineligible and the game will be a FORFEIT.

4. If a player who plays down (younger division) gets called up to older division and becomes a permanent player on that team, then that player will be considered a member of the older team and MAY NOT play DOWN for rest of season. Once this occurs, that player can be used in anyway the coaches desires. He can bat anywhere in line-up and can pitch too.

5. A player being used as a permanent call-up for the remainder of the season must be made known to the league by **May 4<sup>th</sup>** at the latest. (A player can't finish their minors season and then be rostered on a majors team for the end of the season and then for the playoffs.)

## **AA. Playoffs**

The championship playoffs at the end of the season shall consist of the top 8 teams. The selection criteria for the playoffs will be as follows:

1. Most points scored (each win counts as 2 points, ties count as 1 point)
2. Overall Record
3. Head to Head Record
4. Head to Head winning percentage
5. Runs allowed (average runs allowed if teams have not played the same amount of games due to non-forfeits)

\*\*If 2 teams are tied in any criteria and one of those teams forfeited a game during the regular season, the team without a forfeit will be placed ahead of the other team in the final standings.\*\*

The top 8 teams will be selected to compete in the playoffs. The teams will be seeded to begin and bracket play will be used to determine the championship team.

***Winner of 1 vs. 8 will play winner of 4 vs. 5 in the semifinals***

***Winner of 2 vs. 7 will play winner of 3 vs. 6 in the semifinals***

***The winners of each semifinal game will play in the best of 3 championship series.***

All playoff games must be played to completion of full amount of innings. The only exception will be if a team is up by more than 10, 15, or 20 runs after a game becomes official.

**Quarterfinal and Semifinal Games** – Quarterfinal and semifinal playoff games will be held at the higher seeded team's field. Innings pitched will reset at the start of the playoffs. Pitchers will still have a total of 8 innings for the quarterfinal and semifinal games which will be treated as one week. The first two rounds will count as 1 week even if the games run into the next week (innings will not reset after a Sunday like during the regular season). Pitch count rules and rest days will still carry over from the end of the regular season games.

**Championship Series** – the championship will consist of a best of 3 series between the final 2 teams. Innings pitched will reset at the start of the championship series. Pitchers will still have a total of 8 innings for the 3 game series. The series will count as 1 week even if it runs into the next week (innings will not reset after a Sunday like during the regular season). Pitch count rules and rest days will still carry over from the previous rounds. The higher seeded team will host games 1 and 3 of the series. The lower seed will host game 2.

## **BB. Ejection**

Umpires will eject any player, manager, coach, or fan that conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner. An ejected player must stay in the bench area for the rest of the game. Any ejected Manager, Coach, or Fan must leave the field and the immediate area surrounding the field. Ejection of Manager, Coach, Fan, or Player will result in a one game suspension, to take effect on the next scheduled game.

ANY COACH WHO DETAINS AN UMPIRE FROM LEAVING THE FIELD AND/OR THE PARKING LOT AFTER A GAME WILL BE SUBJECT TO AN IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION BY THEIR COMMISSIONER.

## **CC. Appeals**

All appeals are verbal and must be made before the next pitch is thrown. Appeals can be made to either umpire. Umpires are allowed, but not required, to help each other. To appeal a missed based, the pitcher will step off from the rubber and throw to the base missed they are questioning. None of the other runners may advance on the bases

for an appeal being made. Umpires will make an automatic call if they observe this infraction.

## **DD. Protest**

A game may be protested only for a violation or interpretation of a playing rule or violation of player eligibility, participation, or pitching rules. A protest of an umpire's judgment will not be considered. When making a protest the umpire and both scorebooks must be noted and marked as to when the protest was made. The protest must be noted to your league representative immediately after the game, which in turn will notify their commissioners. There is a 24-hour limit for a protest to be filed with the commissioners.

A protest fee of \$25 must accompany each protest. The \$25 will be returned if the protest is upheld. For rules interpretation, if upheld, the game will resume at the point the protest was made. For player eligibility, the offending team will forfeit the game.

## **EE. Umpires**

GEABL teams will be using an umpire assignor (see below). As coaches, your role is to contact the umpire assignor if a game is cancelled due to weather. The umpire assignor will take care of the rest. As the home coach, it is also required that you notify the away team. The home plate umpire has the sole discretion on calling games for darkness, weather, etc. When an umpire calls a game for lightning, the game must stop immediately regardless of inning or score. Umpires are instructed to stop play once lightning occurs. Keep in mind the safety of the players, coaches, and fans.

Barry Perazzetti [badland43@yahoo.com](mailto:badland43@yahoo.com) (484) 695-7362

## **FF. Umpire Pay**

1. All umpires will be paid once the game has become **official (completed or lasting longer than 1.5 hours)**. *If only 1 ump shows, he would be paid \$75.*

**Home plate \$55, Bases \$45**

2. If the game is **not an official game (suspended - rain, darkness, etc.) and less than 1.5 hours** of the game has been completed, the umpires will receive the following pay: **Home plate \$25, Bases \$20**

3. The pay for a continued game will be the same as above in the event that the game lasts less than one hour of play. If the continued game lasts longer than 1 hour, then the umpires get paid the full amount (\$55 and \$45). In a continued game, the home team will pay the home plate umpire and the away team will pay the base umpire.
4. All umpires will receive full pay in the event of a forfeit.
5. Coaches must call the umpire assignor by 5:00 PM to call off a game.
6. If a game is cancelled after 5:00 and the umpire shows up, he must be paid \$20 for travel expenses.
7. If a game is protested and the league upholds the protest and the game is to be replayed at the point of the protest, the same two umpires must work the game at no further compensation. If the umpires were not at fault, then they shall receive regular compensation.
8. All umpires must honor all assignments. They must give the assigner 24 hours notice unless there is an emergency and then it must be discussed with the assigner.
- 9. Any time an umpire ejects a player or a coach, he must notify the assigner.**

## **GG. All-Star Game**

1. Weather permitting and if all games get completed as planned, an All-Star game will be played at the conclusion of the season.
2. Pitchers can pitch a maximum of 1 inning.
3. All kids should play  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the game and at different positions if possible.
4. The game will have a 10 batter rule or 3 outs per inning.
5. The coaches for the top 2 seeds will be the head coaches. The other head coaches (or an assistant) from each team should try to help out in the game.

