

GENERAL RULES

PENALTIES

All rules in this book and in the "Official Baseball Rules" will be enforced by the game officials, Commissioners and the Board of Directors. Some rules contain penalties and penalty limits, others do not. On those rules that do not contain a penalty, the Commissioners and /or the Board of Directors have full authority to impose whatever penalty they deem appropriate for the violation.

Rule changes made this year are marked by an → and are in bold type.

GR.1 - ADMITTANCE

Admittance to participate in B.B.I. as a manager, coach, assistant, umpire, or scorer, must be obtained through application and approval. All questions on the prescribed application must be answered before it is submitted to the B.B.I. office accompanied by the annual application fee, if any, set by the Board of Directors. All applications will be processed by the screening committee before being acted on by the Board of Directors. The Directors will specify the required orientation procedure. No one will be allowed to participate in any way, or even to be in the dugout or on the diamond, during any league or tournament game, unless he has been approved to do so. This approval may be obtained only by virtue of an application or a player contract, approved by the Board of Directors. Any violation is grounds for protest.

GR.2 - CODE OF ETHICS

GR.2A - It is the duty of the man in charge of a team to be in control of his players and their parents at all times in order to prevent any unsportsmanlike act toward the opponents, officials, or spectators.

GR.2B - All men connected with teams are expected to comply whole-heartily with the intent and spirit of the rules. The deliberate teaching of players to violate the rules is indefensible.

GR.2C - Coaches should teach their players to respect the dignity of the game, the officials, opponents, and the institutions they represent.

GR.2D - Coaches should confine their discussions with game officials to the interpretation of the rules and not to constantly challenge umpire decisions involving judgment.

GR.2E - Whereas friendly banter between players is not to be prohibited, cursing, obscene language, malicious or personal remarks to opponents, spectators, or officials should not be tolerated at any time. Rather the players should spend their energies toward encouraging their teammates to better efforts.

GR.2F - Coaches should emphasize the fact that their base coaches must confine their remarks to their own teammates and not "ride" the opposing pitcher or players.

GR.2G - All coaches should refrain from any personal action that might arouse players or spectators to unsportsmanlike behavior.

GR.2H - Coaches should expect from the umpires a courteous and dignified attitude toward players and themselves and should extend the same courtesy to the umpires.

GENERAL RULES

GR.2I - Managers are urged to give all boys equal practice time and to schedule enough games to allow all boys sufficient playing time.

GR.2J - Violation of the Code of Ethics could result in disciplinary action by the Commissioners or the Board of Directors.

GR.2K - Pending a hearing and action by the Commissioners, any member of the Board of Directors may suspend a manager, coach, player, or relative of an unruly fan, for actions deemed detrimental to B.B.I. that occur before, during, or after a game.

GR.2L - No one will be permitted to take part in any decision concerning himself, his son, his team, a member of his team, or a prospective member of his team.

GR.3 - CONDUCT

GR.3A - All managers and coaches shall conduct themselves as gentlemen and be morally fit to coach and lead boys.

GR.3B - Any manager, coach, or player found to be under the influence of alcoholic drink, using dangerous drugs, profane language, unfair tactics, or bribery shall be subject to suspension after a hearing by the Commissioners.

GR.3C - Smoking is not allowed on the field or in the dugouts during games.

GR.3D - Players found guilty of throwing bats or helmets in anger, using obscene or abusive language or gestures, or any other act deemed detrimental to baseball, shall be ejected from the game by the umpire.

GR.3E - The name of any individual, who is ejected from a game, must be given to the B.B.I. office by the official scorer immediately following the game. This must be followed by a written report, attached to the score-sheet, from the official making the ejection.

Failure to complete this report will cause the officials pay to be withheld.

GR.3F - Any individual who is ejected from a game will receive a 1 game suspension in the next game played following the ejection. An individual may appeal his 1 game suspension to a Commissioner if he thinks the ejection was completely unwarranted, but if he loses the appeal, his suspension will be for 2 games. An individual ejected the second time in a season will receive a 1 game suspension but also must confer with a Commissioner before he is eligible for further participation. An umpire who is involved in 3 appeals in a season and loses will receive disciplinary action from the Trustees.

GR.3G - The penalty for the use of a player who is ineligible for any reason, is forfeiture of the game in which he participated, whether or not there is a formal protest.

GR.4 - GENERAL

GR.4A - Managers and coaches may neither solicit nor cause to be solicited any player for the following year, until the player involved has completed league and tournament play.

GENERAL RULES

GR.4C - A team must have a manager at the time it is accepted and must have a head coach prior to the start of league play. The manager must be at least 21 years of age and the head coach must be at least 20 before May 1 of the playing year.

GR.4D - All managers or coaches obtaining moneys should do so by check payable to Boys Baseball , Inc. and deliver same to the Executive Secretary of the organization, who will deposit these moneys in the B.B.I. General Fund Account, and reimburse by check to said manager or coach the amount involved. This is strongly recommended for the following reasons:

- (1) Recording of same for future reference.
- (2) To assure the sponsor that his contribution is deductible for income tax purposes.
- (3) Protection of the manager, coach, sponsor and B.B.I.

GR.4E - Any manager having bills outstanding from the previous year's operation of a team in B.B.I. shall not be allowed to manage or coach a team. However, if the manager should show, to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors, that payment of said bills has been or will be made, he shall be allowed to participate.

GR.4F - No player may be on more than one team after league play begin without the knowledge and approval of his manager.

The penalty may be ineligibility and or suspension of the party or parties involved, at the discretion of the Commissioners.

A team is:

- (1) Any group of players playing as a team on more than one date, or
- (2) Any group of players entering a tournament as a team, or
- (3) Any group of players wearing the same uniform.

GR.4G - A team may play in more than one league provided the team roster remains exactly the same and permission is granted by the Trustees.

GR.4H - There will be no duplication of team "nick-names" within a division.

GR.5 - PLAYER CONTRACTS

GR.5A - Each manager of a team will be issued 20 contracts to turn in for registration of his players. These contracts will include the names of the manager and head coach, if any. These names may not be changed nor additional contracts issued without the approval of the Trustees. Contracts will be available as soon as \$250 of the league fee is paid.

GR.5B - Player contracts must be signed every year.

The name of the manager and the head coach must be shown at the top of the contract at the time the player and his parents sign it.

If a prospective player accepts a player contract from a team, he may not accept one from any other until or unless the first one is returned, still blank. Any violation will be handled and dealt with by the Trustees.

GENERAL RULES

GR.5C - All player contracts must be signed by the player and his parents or legal guardian and the team manager. These contracts will then be submitted to the league office no later than five days prior to participating in a league game. Contracts will be marked by the Executive Secretary to show the date received. A manager shall be notified immediately of the ineligibility of any player on his roster. A player contract will not be accepted for registration in the B.B.I. office unless all blanks are properly filled in and it is accompanied by a copy of the players bureau of vital statistics birth certificate, unless it is already on file with B.B.I.

GR.5D - No player may be added to a team roster after a date set each year by the Board of Directors.

GR.5E - Since loyalty is a part of the objective of B.B.I. the general policy is not to permit players to change teams or managers to change players. Therefore, players released will generally be required to "sit out" the remainder of the season except in cases such as, but not limited to health, change of address, physical or verbal abuse, etc. where neither the player nor his parents are at fault.

Replacement contracts will not be issued to a manager unless it is ascertained that the release request was not due to any unwarranted action by any of the coaches.

Release requests may be submitted by the player, his parents, or his manager.

GR.5F - In order to emphasize loyalty to a team and discourage giving up, which has no place in baseball, managers should report to the B.B.I. office, the name of any player who quits his team, the date on which it occurred, and the reason if known.

Any player who quits a team (except due to injury, illness, or a move) will not be eligible to play with any team in B.B.I. during the season of the calendar year following that shown on the last signed contract unless approved by the Trustees or Commissioners.

A player is not considered as having quit merely because a release is requested in his behalf if he remains an active participant with the team until the release is granted. "Quitting" is loosely defined as: (a) Unexcused or unexplained absence from practice and/or games, usually but not necessarily, more than one in succession, (b) Accepting a draft by a tournament team and failing to remain until the end of tournament play, unless prior arrangements were made with the manager.

GR.5I - A players eligibility is contingent upon conformance with the A.A.B.C. residence rule.

GR.5J - Players signing contracts shall be required to furnish proof of birth by a copy of the original certified birth certificate from the Bureau of Vital Statistics or other government agency. This certificate will remain in the B.B.I. office files.

GR.5L - The penalty for playing under an assumed name or an alias, or using a falsified birth certificate or some other person's birth certificate will be as follows:

(1) Any adult involved or who, in the opinion of the Commissioners, had knowledge of such an act but failed to report it, may be permanently banned from further participation in B.B.I.

(2) The player involved and any other player who, in the opinion of the Commissioners, had knowledge of the act but failed to report it, may be suspended for the remainder of the season plus two more years.

GENERAL RULES

GR.5P - No player may receive any remuneration directly or indirectly, either in the form of money or other valuable consideration, for services rendered to a team as an incentive to join a team.

"Valuable consideration" includes, but is not limited to, anything usable, saleable, or wearable; expense paid trips for any purpose other than playing a ball game; full or part-time employment for the player or a member of his family; etc. "Valuable consideration" also includes paying a players contract fee. Individual hardship cases must be presented to and approved by the Executive Committee. "Valuable consideration" does not include caps and undershirts at the end of the season. It does not include picnics, barbecues, or banquets for members of a specific team. It does not include anything paid for by the individual or his parents, or items paid for from funds earned by the team members during an authorized fund raising sale.

A player may not be employed, or compensated in any form, by anyone connected with his team, except when it is incidental to and not connected with his baseball activity. Such an exception must receive special permission from a majority of the Trustees.

All teams must conform to the University Interscholastic League Amateur rules.

A manager of a team shall not be compensated for coaching or instructing a team participating in any division of B.B.I. below the 4A Division. He may receive a token appreciation of his time not to exceed \$100 in value.

Coaches of teams may be compensated only with prior approval by the Trustees. Use of sponsor money to compensate coaches will not be allowed. A compensated coach will only be allowed to coach one team in only one division.

Managers and coaches may be paid a reasonable rate for instruction to an individual player where payment is made by a parent or guardian for instruction at a time and place other than that of a teams practice or game.

An accounting of all funds of any team, coach, manager, assistant, or player, must be given to the Executive Committee if requested.

The penalty for violation of this rule shall be forfeiture of all games by the team involved and suspension of the individual (s) paying or receiving the compensation.

The maximum penalty can be permanent suspension of all persons involved, including the player but under no condition would it be less than one year.

GR.5Q - In all divisions, a player's baseball age will be the age he has attained on April 30 of the playing year.

GR.5S - At the end of the season all players are required to return to the manager all parts of the teams uniform. Failure to return any part of the uniform within 30 days after the team's last game will cause the player to be ineligible until the team has been compensated for the missing items.

GR.6 - TIME LIMITS

GR.6A - Game times will be set by the Board of Directors each year and announced by March 1. The official scorer is in complete charge of time limits at the game. In the 16 & under division the umpire is in complete charge of time limits. The official game "time" will start when the umpire says "play ball".

GR.6B - When the time limit is reached, an inning then in progress will only be played to a point at which completion of the inning could not change the outcome of the game. (In the T , C, and B divisions the inning in progress will be played to completion.)

GENERAL RULES

GR.6C - An inning begins at the exact time the third out was made the preceding inning.

GR.6D - If a regulation game ends while the score is tied, it will count as half-game won and half-game lost for both teams.

GR.6E - Game times will be announced and printed in the schedule. If the preceding game ends early for any reason, the following game starting time will be one hour and a half after the preceding game was scheduled to start.

GR.6F - The official scorers/umpires have complete charge of league diamond use prior to games. They also have the authority and responsibility to enforce the following:

(1) From one hour prior to league games until thirty minutes prior to the game, B.B.I. will not use league diamonds.

→(2) **Infield is not allowed in any division below 16 & under.** From twenty five minutes prior to a game until fifteen minutes before game time, the diamond may be used by the home team in the 16 & under division.

(3) From fifteen minutes prior to a game until five minutes before game time, the diamond may be used by the visiting team in the 16 & under division.

(4) At five minutes before game time, both team managers will meet with the umpires at home plate.

The official scorer/umpire will set the time for the second game (if any) to start after the first game ends, and inform both teams of their time to warm-up on the diamond in the 16 & under division only. If the man in charge of a team fails to comply with these times the official scorer/umpire will eject him to the parking lot for the duration of the game.

If the man in charge of a team refuses to comply with the instructions of the official scorer/umpire, the game will be forfeited.

Teams are allowed 1 1/2 minutes to change sides. At that time, if the batting team is not ready the umpire will tell the pitcher to pitch and all pitches will be strikes. If the pitching team is not ready, he will call a ball every 10 seconds .

GR.6G - Game time is forfeit time unless otherwise announced in advance.

GR.6H - If a team forfeits a game for any reason, it also forfeits its right to any further participation in the league unless permission is obtained from the Commissioners.

Permission to continue may not be granted until the following penalties have been paid: The first forfeit is \$100.00, the second is \$150, the third forfeit will eliminate the team for the remainder of the year. The Commissioners may waive the penalty on the first forfeit by a team with at least twelve players on its roster, but do not have the authority to alter the penalties for a team with less than twelve players or for a second or third forfeit. Any player whose unexcused absence causes a team to forfeit a game will not be eligible to be drafted by any team for post season play.

GR.7 - LEAGUE FORMATION

The minimum number of teams required to form a league in any division is four.

→**Managers will decide at their mandatory meeting each year how they will play their divisional schedule.**

The Board of Directors has full authority to limit the number of teams in any division and to place those teams accepted in leagues as deemed best for B.B.I.

GR.8 - ENTRANCE FEES

GENERAL RULES

Team entrance fees are established each year by the Board of Directors. All entrance and league fees must be paid 15 days prior to the start of league play. A team will not be permitted to start league play unless the entrance and league fees have been paid in full or special arrangements have been made and permission granted by the Trustees.

GR.9 - TROPHIES AND CERTIFICATES

Such trophies and certificates will be awarded each year for various achievements as the Board may direct. It should be noted that there will be no award given that would endanger in anyway the amateur standing of a player.

GR.10 - FIRST AID KITS

Each team should have a first aid kit available at all times both during practice sessions and league games.

GR.11 - WEB Site

The organization's web site is *www.bbidallas.org*

GR.12 - BALLS AND STRIKES

This is an annual or year book published by the organization. It contains all the official statistics compiled on every player on every team.

These statistics are accumulated at the end of league play and then published in this book along with team and individual pictures, if available. However, it is the responsibility of each team manager to get the pictures to the office.

GR.13 - TOURNAMENTS

→The Board of Directors will include in the entrance fees of the teams, the amount needed to place at least the league winner in A.A.B.C. post season tournament play.

In order for a player to be eligible for A.A.B.C. competition he must have played in at least three league games.

The following method will be used in selecting teams to advance:

- (1) The league champion will represent B.B.I.
- (2) If there is more than one league in a division, with the leagues selected by strength, the winner of League I will get the first A.A.B.C. bid. If there is more than one A.A.B.C. bid, the next finishing teams in League I will get bids until there is one bid remaining. The teams left in League I along with the winners of the other leagues will participate in a play-off for the remaining spot.
- (3) The play-off format will be determined by the Board of Directors. Standings in the second half of league play will not include games played in the initial round robin. If there is a tie for a position in the play-off, the top team will be decided in the following manner:
 - (a) The team that won when they met "head to head" in the second half.
 - (b) If they are still tied, the team that won when they met in the initial round robin.
 - (c) If they are still tied, one game will be played to decide the top team.
 - (d) If there is a three team tie, and one team does not hold the tie breaker over both the other teams, and time does not permit a play-off, a coin flip will then decide the play-off team.

GENERAL RULES

In the event inclement weather makes it impossible to complete a division play-off as planned, the following procedures will be followed in the order as named:

- (1) Playing dates will be backed up as far as possible.
- (2) An effort will be made to locate usable diamonds within the metropolitan area.
- (3) All teams will be dropped from the play-off except the top two teams. They will play one game and the winner will represent B.B.I.
- (4) If time and weather do not permit even a single game, the top team will represent B.B.I.
- (5) In the event that the play-off has started and the top team has been eliminated when time and weather do not permit completion of the play-offs, the winner will be determined among the remaining teams as follows:
 - (a) The team that won when they met "head to head" in the second half.
 - (b) If they are still tied, the team that won when they met in the initial round robin.
 - (c) If they are still tied, the team with the overall winning percentage including play-off games.
 - (d) If they are still tied, there will be a coin toss.
- (6) A team that qualifies for the play-off must advance to the AABC Tournament, if they qualify. Penalty may be a one year suspension for the manager.