

# PLAYING RULES

Last Updated 6/15/2021

## Governing All Play In ENYTB Hosted Tournament Play

### Ages 13U through 18U

- It is strongly recommended that all teams entered to a June Madness or Last Man Standing Tournament have a copy of these rules with them during all tournament games.
- It is further recommended that **Rules 5, 12, 14, 23, 24 and 25** below be reviewed with the chief umpire prior to the start of each game.
- If you believe your opponent has violated any MLB or tournament playing rule as defined herein, it is your responsibility to bring the alleged violation to the immediate attention of the chief umpire.
- If you feel the umpires incorrectly interpret or apply any MLB or ENYTB rule, your only recourse for remedy is to IMMEDIATELY inform the chief umpire (before the next pitch or play, whichever happens first) that you wish to protest the game. Have the umpire sign the scorebook at the point of the alleged infraction and provide his phone number. All protests must be submitted to the League within 24 hours per Section 9.12 of the ENYTB Constitution and By-Laws.

**IMPORTANT:** *The official playing rules for the June Madness and Last Man Standing Tournaments shall conform to the official rules of Major League Baseball applicable to the National League with the exceptions and modifications denoted herein.*

**NOTE:** The rules below differ significantly in many instances from the playing rules governing sanctioned tournament play and in some cases, ENYTB regular season play. Rules applicable to the former are determined by the respective national sanctioning bodies e.g., AABC, NABF, PONY or ECTB.

### Section 1 – FIELD SIZE & EQUIPMENT

1. **Field Dimensions** - All regular season games shall be played on 90' diamonds with a pitching distance of 60' 6".
2. **Baseballs** – A high quality baseball shall be used in all ENYTB hosted tournament games.
3. **Provision Of Game Balls** – ENYTB shall provide all game balls used in all ENYTB sponsored/hosted tournaments.
4. **Metal Spikes** - Allowed.
5. **Bat Restrictions (Updated 2018)**

Same as ENYTB Regular Season Play:

For Ages 9U-12U:

1. **USABat standard only i.e., bat must be stamped USABat;**

For ages 13U and 14U:

**ENYTB bat rules for these two age divisions shall remain unchanged with the exception that bats with the USABAT stamp shall also be legal at these two ages.**

1. 13U

BPF Certified 1.15 or less with max weight/length differential = -6 and bat diameter is less than or equal to 2 5/8" (BBCOR Certified also acceptable).

2. 14U

BBCOR Certified/MAX -3/MAX 2 5/8"

For ages 15U and older:

**ENYTB shall remain a "wood bat only" league at 15U and older.**

Wood bat only. Wood composites and bamboo are OK.

NOTE: When teams of different ages play each other, each team is required to follow the bat rules for its own age division. This would occur in the 13U/14U Division when a 13u team plays a 14u team.

NOTE: 13+ teams follow bat rules for 13U teams. 14+ teams follow bat rules for 14U teams.

## **Section 2 - UMPIRES**

6. **Scheduling Of Umpires** - Each field host shall order two umpires for all tournament games scheduled on their fields.
7. **Payment Of Umpires**. The home and away teams shall split all umpire fees equally at every game regardless of who is home and away. Payment may be required before the game, depending on the policy of the umpire organization to which the umpires belong.
8. **FAILURE OF UMPIRE(S) TO APPEAR** - Games may start with one ump.

## **Section 3 - OFFICIAL GAMES**

9. **Length of Games** - All games shall be played as 7 inning games.
10. **Time Limits** - No new inning can begin after 2 hours and 15 minutes have elapsed. Exception: Tied Games. They may continue w/o time limit until a winner is declared except as noted below.
11. **Completed Games** - Any game not completed because of weather, darkness, curfew or any other reason except as provided below, shall be considered complete if the game is of official length. Official length in this case is defined as the losing team having had at least 3 complete innings at bat.

If a game of regulation is called when teams have not had an equal number of completed at bats, the score shall revert to the score of the last completed inning.

NOTE: Tie Games – In pool play only, any regulation game called by the umpire with the score tied shall be officially recorded as a complete game and a “tie” game. The game must be of official length when play is terminated.

12. **Mercy Rule** – There shall be a 10 run “mercy” rule except as provided below.
- NOTE: The trailing team must have 5 complete at bats before the mercy rule is applicable.
13. **Suspended Games** - Any game not of official length (losing team has not had at least 3 complete innings at bat) and discontinued for any reason other than bad weather e.g., darkness, curfew, etc. shall be treated as a suspended game. The official rules of MLB for a suspended game shall govern resumption of play.
14. **Rain-Out** - Any game not of official length (losing team has not had at least 3 complete innings at bat) and discontinued because of bad weather shall be continued at the point where play is terminated. NOTE: This is different from ENYTB’s rule on rain-outs during the regular season.
15. **9 Players Needed To Start Game** - No game shall officially start without a minimum of 9 league eligible players being present in uniform for both sides. Any team with less than 9 such players shall be provided 20 minutes after the scheduled start time to field a team of 9 such players. At that point the game shall be recorded a 7-0 loss for the team unable to field a complete team and the offending team shall be required to pay any ump fees due.
16. **Minimum of 8 Players Needed For Game To Continue** - When a team is unable to continue to field 9 eligible players because of injury or other extenuating circumstance, **but not ejection**, the game shall be allowed to continue with 8 players. The opposing manager shall choose an ineligible player from the bench, if one is available, and make him eligible to play in the field only. If no such player is available the game shall be allowed to continue with 8 players on defense. In either case, an automatic out shall be recorded each time through the lineup, in the spot in the batting order previously occupied by the injured or otherwise lost player. When a team is unable to field 8 eligible players regardless of cause or extenuating circumstance, the game is over immediately and the offending team shall lose by a final score of 7 to 0.
17. **If 9<sup>th</sup> and Last Eligible Player Is Ejected From Game** - If a player is ejected from the game and the team has no legal substitute player available, the game is over immediately and the offending team shall lose by a final score of 7 to 0.

#### **Section 4 - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

18. **Line-up Cards** – Prior to the start of the game, both teams shall exchange line-up cards. Each team’s lineup card must list ALL players eligible for participation in that game in addition to the starting lineup. The last name and number of each eligible player must be listed. Where there are two players with the same last name, the full first name or initial (as long as they are different) must be on the card so as to be distinguishable.
19. **Use of Ineligible Players** - The use of a player that is ineligible because of his age, any roster restriction or league rule governing player protection as defined in Articles XVI and XVII of the League’s Constitution and By-Laws shall result in the forfeiture of all games that the ineligible player appeared in. This rule extends to all players not listed on a team’s ENYTB roster.
20. **Re-entry Rule** - Re-entry is permitted pursuant to the high school re-entry rule. Any starter, replaced by a legal substitute, may re-enter the game once, at any time, provided the re-entered player occupies his original position in the batting order.

The penalty for violation of this rule upon discovery (Rule 3 Article 1 NFHS rulebook) shall be:

- (1) Ejection of the offending player.
- (2) An illegal player on offense, whether as a batter or runner, shall be called out immediately and ejected. The penalty for illegal substitution shall supersede the penalty for batting out of order. If the player should score a run, advance or cause a play to be made that advances another runner, discovery must be made BEFORE the first pitch to the next batter of either team. This would invalidate the action of the illegal offensive player. Any out(s) made on the play would stand and all other runners return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
- (3) An illegal player on defense shall be replaced immediately upon discovery. If the illegal player is involved in a play and the infraction is discovered prior to the first pitch to the next batter of either team, the team on offense has the option to let the play stand or to allow the batter to bat again.

**Note: Players in the starting lineup may not pitch after re-entering the game IF they made an official pitching appearance prior to being substituted for.**

## **Section 5 - MISCELLANEOUS**

21. **DH Rule** - A designated hitter rule is adopted as defined herein. ANY position player may be DH'd for and that same position player can enter the line-up later in the game at any place in the batting order in the same manner as any ordinary substitution. Once the DH takes the field or any player DH'd for enters the lineup, the DH is lost for the rest of the game. To have a DH, you must start the game with one.
22. **Unlimited EH Rule** - An extra hitter rule is adopted as defined herein. The EH rule allows a team to have a batting order of 10 or more players. Any player in the batting order is eligible to assume any fielding position at any time during the game. For example, in a 10 inning game, 10 different players in a 10 man batting order could serve as the EH for one inning each by removing a different player from the field each inning.

Beginning 2011, teams shall be allowed the option of playing with multiple EHs where the number is limited only by a team's roster size. Players shall occupy the same spot in the batting order at all times but may be used interchangeably in the field. To have one or more EHs, the team must start the game with that number. Once started, all EHs must be continued throughout the entire game. If a team avails itself of the EH option and is without an eligible player in the batting order any time after the start of the game, regardless of reason, that EH position shall be recorded as an out each time through the lineup.

**Similar to rule #20, any player who has pitched in a game and then serves as an EH, shall NOT be eligible to pitch again in the same game.**

NOTE: No player, including the EH, can bat in more than one place in the batting order during a game. Penalty for batting out of order shall apply unless superseded by illegal player penalty in rule 19 above.

23. **COURTESY RUNNER** - To speed up the game, a courtesy runner shall be allowed for the catcher only, after the 2nd out of an inning has been recorded. The "pinch runner" in this case shall be the last previous batter to make a "batted" out in the game (failed to reach 1B safely).

24. **CATCHER CONTACT** - In the vicinity of home plate, when the catcher is in the process of fielding the ball or has the ball and is waiting to make the tag, any runner in an upright position must make an attempt to avoid contact with the catcher. In this circumstance, any runner failing to make an attempt to avoid contact with the catcher shall be declared out. The ball becomes dead. In the same circumstance, if the contact is further judged to be malicious, the offending player shall be ejected.

25. **NCAA Force-Play-Slide Rule** - Shall be adopted for all play at all age divisions beginning 2008 season.

The intent of the force-play-slide rule is to ensure the safety of all players. This is a safety as well as an interference rule. Whether the defense could have completed the double play has no bearing on the applicability of this rule. This rule pertains to a force-play situation at any base, regardless of the number of outs.

a. On any force play, the runner must slide on the ground before the base and in a direct line between the two bases. It is permissible for the slider's momentum to carry him through the base in the baseline extended.

Exception: A runner need not slide directly into a base as long as the runner slides or runs in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. Interference shall not be called.

i. "On the ground" means either a head-first slide or a slide with one leg and buttock on the ground before the base.

ii. "Directly into a base" means the runner's entire body (feet, legs, trunk and arms) must stay in a straight line between the bases.

b. Contact with a fielder is legal and interference shall not be called if the runner makes a legal slide directly to the base and in the baseline extended.

NOTE: If contact occurs on top of the base as a result of a "pop-up" slide, this contact is legal.

c. Actions by a runner are illegal and interference shall be called if:

i. The runner slides or runs out of the base line in the direction of the fielder and alters the play of a fielder (with or without contact);

ii. The runner uses a rolling or cross-body slide and either makes contact with or alters the play of a fielder;

iii. The runner's raised leg makes contact higher than the fielder's knee when in a standing position;

iv. The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg; or,

v. The runner illegally slides toward or contacts the fielder even if the fielder makes no attempt to throw to complete a play.

**PENALTY:**

With less than two outs, the batter-runner, as well as the interfering runner, shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.

With two outs, the interfering runner shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.

If the runner's slide or collision is flagrant, the runner shall be ejected from the contest.

NOTE: If the bases are loaded with no outs, a double-play attempt is made, and interference is called, all other runners must return to their original bases.

## 26. **Penalty for Ejections**

### A. Reporting System

The League President shall be notified by both team managers whenever a player, coach, manager team representative is ejected from a game. Failure to report an ejection within 48 hours of the infraction shall result in an automatic \$50 fine.

### B. Penalties For Ejections

- i. An individual ejected for verbal abuse or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be suspended.

If a player, coach, manager or team representative is ejected from a contest because of verbal abuse only, the following shall be enforced:

- a. For the first offense by an individual, ejection plus suspension from the team's next contest.
  - b. For a second offense by an individual in the same season, ejection plus suspension from the team's next two contests.
  - c. For a third offense by an individual in the same season, ejection and suspension for the remainder of the season, including postseason competition.
- ii. An individual ejected for fighting, defined as any physical abuse of a player, including attempting to strike with the arms, hands, legs, feet or equipment in a combative manner, or intentionally spitting at an opponent, or physical abuse of game officials, umpires or coaches defined as any threat of physical intimidation or harm to include pushing, shoving, bumping, kicking, intentionally spitting, throwing at or attempting to make physical contact, shall be suspended:
    - a. For the first offense by an individual, ejection plus suspension from the team's next three contests.

Exception—For a violent attack (punching or kicking) of a player, umpire, game official or any opposing coach, the offending individual shall be suspended for the team's next five contests, even if it is the individual's first offense. A second violent attack, regardless of time period, shall result in the individual's indefinite suspension from league participation.

- b. For a second offense by an individual, regardless of time period, ejection plus suspension from the team's next five contests.
- c. For a third offense by an individual, regardless of time period, ejection and suspension for the remainder of the season, including postseason competition.

NOTE: A player involved in a fight while remaining at his position on the field and judged to have been acting in self-defense and not contributing to the fight shall not be ejected or suspended.

NOTE: If a confrontation or fight develops, the head coach and assistant coaches are expected to leave their positions to bring their players under control. If a player or coach makes physical contact with another player in an obvious attempt to prevent a fight or confrontation, that individual shall not be ejected or suspended. Coaches should not involve themselves in physically restraining personnel from an opposing team.

- iii. Intentional Throwing at a Batter By A Pitcher—If a pitcher is ejected for intentionally throwing at a batter, the following penalties shall be enforced:
  - a For the first offense by the individual, ejection plus suspension from the team's next four regularly scheduled contests.
  - b For a second offense by the individual, regardless of time period, ejection plus suspension from the team's next eight regularly scheduled contests.
  - c For a third offense by the individual, regardless of the time period, indefinite suspension from all league participation.
  - d If the coach has been warned during or before the contest, the coach also shall be ejected and suspended according to the provisions of B(ii) above.

NOTE: The suspended pitcher shall not be allowed to participate in any manner during the suspension.

C. Procedures for enforcing ejection and suspension penalties are as follows:

- i. Immediately following an ejection, the offending individual must leave the field and dugout area immediately; remove himself from sight and sound of the contest; and, not communicate with team members or the umpires.
- ii. If a person is ejected in the first game of a doubleheader, that person shall serve any suspension beginning in the second game.
- iii. Suspended persons shall be restricted to the designated spectator areas and they:
  - a. Shall NOT be dressed in team uniform, allowed in any team area or perform any team duty;
  - b. Shall NOT take part in any pre-game activities at the site of competition nor be on the field once pre-game activities have started; and,
  - c. Shall be prohibited from any communication or contact, direct or indirect, with the team, coaches and/or bench personnel from the start of the contest to its completion — including all extra innings.
- iv. When applying the suspension rule, penalties shall be served for the team's next previously scheduled and completed contest(s). If a previously scheduled game has been postponed or halted, that make-up game against the originally scheduled opponent shall count as a regularly scheduled contest. Games may not be added after the incident in order to fulfill the requirements of this rule.

- a. If serving multiple suspensions from a fight would cause a team difficulty in fielding a team for its next game or games, the club may request that the suspensions be staggered by the League office.
- b. All suspension penalties shall carry over from one season to the next, and from regular-season to post-season competition.