



## **IBL Rules and Regulations**

This code of rules is written to govern the playing of baseball games by amateur teams of the Indiana Baseball League.

The purpose of the Indiana Baseball League is to provide quality competitive baseball in an atmosphere of good sportsmanship within the established organized structure of a national sanctioning body for individuals over eighteen (18) years of age.

The stability and future of the IBL is dependent upon its members (players, managers, coaches, umpires and administrative officers) respecting the discipline of this code. All members should insist on strict observance of all rules governing the playing of the game.

Except for the following special rules, IBL games will be played under the rules of Major League Baseball.

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## **1. Conduct and Sportsmanship**

### **1.01**

Good sportsmanship is mandatory. The IBL Executive Board has the right to suspend, fine or expel any team member who abuses league rules or exhibits a disregard of sportsmanship or behaves without concern for the safety of any other league member or bystander. Any member who is fined will not be eligible to play until the fine is paid in full to the IBL Secretary/Treasurer. Members under suspension may not attend IBL games in any capacity.

### **1.02**

Physical violence or the threat of physical violence will not be tolerated. Fighting or aggressive physical behavior with a league member is prohibited and shall be cause for immediate ejection. (Note: if the umpire feels that one person is the obvious aggressor, he may elect to eject only that person),

### **1.03**

The consumption of alcoholic beverages and use of illegal drugs are strictly prohibited at all IBL games. League members are also prohibited to be at an IBL game in possession of or under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs. This specifically refers to the use and possession of alcohol and drugs while on the premises and ancillary areas of any facility rented by the IABL.

**PENALTY:** First Offense, suspension for one game and a fine of \$50.00. Second Offense, suspension for the season, and a \$200.00 fine. The member's team will also forfeit their escrow fund and be declared ineligible for their league playoffs. The team manager will also serve a suspension for more than one violation by members of the same team. In the event of a violation during league playoffs any championship awards may be withheld. These are guidelines for minimum punishment. The IABL may levy a more severe punishment depending upon the severity of the violation.

### **1.04**

Most of our facilities have posted policies regarding the use of tobacco. FOLLOW THESE POLICIES STRICTLY. Smoking is strictly prohibited at all IBL games. This includes all league members, family members thereof, and spectators.

NOTE: Teams will be expected to exercise as much influence as possible to prevent family members and spectators from violating the IABL alcohol, drug and tobacco policy.

### **1.05**

Umpires may first give one (1) warning for minor infractions of rules or sportsmanship before ejecting a player from a game. Minor infractions may include but are not limited to incidental tossing of a bat or helmet, use of mild profanity, or arguing. Automatic ejections from the game include but are not limited to bumping or striking an umpire, fighting, excessive profane or abusive language, throwing equipment in a hazardous manner, and threats of physical violence.

### **1.06**

Umpires shall report to the IBL President within 24 hours after the end of a game all violations of rules and other significant incidents, including all ejections and the reasons, therefore.

### **1.07**

The Executive Board will review all ejections. If ejected from a game, you will be suspended for a minimum of one additional game or a period of seven (7) days, whichever is greater. If you're ejected

from a second game in the same season, you will be suspended for the remainder of the season and could be expelled from the league depending on the severity of the incident.

**Example:** If a player only plays on Monday evening and gets ejected from the game, he will only miss the next Monday's game.

If the same player were playing on multiple IBL teams, on multiple nights, he would be suspended from play for a period of seven (7) days, making him ineligible to play in all leagues, up to and including the following Monday's game.

## **2. Uniforms and Equipment**

### **2.01**

All teams must have full matching uniforms, including long baseball pants, jersey, socks and hat. Only white or gray baseball pants are allowed. Colored piping is allowed. Traditional pinstripe pants and jerseys are allowed. Pinstripes are defined as THIN stripes. Multicolored pants or pants with wide stripes are not allowed. Pants that would be considered "softball" pants are not allowed. This rule is in effect for all IABL scheduled games, including tournament and All-Star games.

Each player's uniform must be of a similar design and color. Teams with sponsors will be allowed to display the name of the sponsor in an appropriate place on their uniform. The IBL reserves the right to approve sponsors and artwork for display. Team mottos or slogans may be displayed on uniforms, subject to IBL approval.

**2.02** No player out of uniform will be allowed to play without the opposing manager's consent.

### **2.03**

All teams must have their uniforms by the first game. A grace period may be extended for new teams and for newly acquired players to complete their uniforms. Although not mandatory, each IBL team is highly encouraged to choose a former or current major league team and uniform style.

### **2.04**

Batters and runners must wear protective baseball style helmets. Helmets must have at least one flap. Catchers must wear a helmet under their mask. All helmets must be in good repair and meet NOCSAE standards.

### **2.05**

While warming up a pitcher, the catcher must wear a protective mask and helmet.

### **2.06**

Only baseballs supplied by the IBL will be permitted. Each team must provide a minimum of 3 balls for each game

### **2.07**

All IBL games are scheduled as wood bat games. Only wood, bamboo or wood composite baseball bats are allowed. Wood composite bats must not contain any metal. Colored or laminated bats are allowed. Softball bats are not allowed. Anything other than wood, bamboo or wood composite will be considered an illegal bat.

Any bat that, in the umpire's judgment, has been altered or tampered with in such a way to improve the distance factor or cause an unusual reaction on the baseball will be considered an illegal bat. This

includes bats that are filled, flat- surfaced, nailed, hollowed, grooved or covered with a substance such as paraffin, wax, etc. No advancement on the bases will be allowed and any out or outs made during a play shall stand. In addition to being called out, the player shall be ejected from the game and shall be suspended for the next game, be it regular season or playoff game. A batter shall be deemed to have used or attempted to use an illegal bat if he brings such a bat into the batter's box.

The bat handle, for not more than 18 inches from its end, may be covered or treated with any material or substance to improve the grip. Any such material or substance that extends past the 18-inch limitation shall cause the bat to be removed from the game. If the umpire discovers that the bat does not conform to the 18-inch limitation until a time during or after which the bat has been used in play, it shall not be grounds for declaring the batter out or ejected from the game.

## **2.08**

Only baseball shoes are allowed. Metal spikes are permitted on natural surfaces only. Metal spikes are NOT allowed on artificial turf. Molded cleats and turf shoes are permitted on any surface.

## **3. Teams and Players**

### **3.01**

Final rosters must be submitted to the League President no later than 15 days before the opening game of the season. To participate, a player must be on the team roster and have completed all league waiver forms.

### **3.02**

It is recommended that each roster have a minimum of fifteen (15) players. (This will help ensure a lesser chance of forfeits due to not having enough players.) Rosters must include jersey number assignments for all players.

### **3.03**

Teams may add players to their roster by completing the roster addition form and submitting it to the league. Roster additions must be submitted and approved no later than 24 hours preceding a team's next game. There will be a \$30 charge for roster additions. A team using a non-rostered player will forfeit the game and \$100 from their forfeit deposit.

### **3.04**

All IBL players must reach the age that corresponds with their age division during the current calendar year. IBL age divisions are 18+, 25+, 35+, 45+, +55, & HTA +28 (short season).

#### **Exception for 35+**

The 35+ division is allowed to have four (4) players that are younger than 35yrs old but no less than 32yrs old in that calendar year. Any player less than 35yrs old in that calendar year is strictly prohibited from pitching.

#### **Exception for 45+**

The 45+ division is allowed to have three (3) players that are younger than 45yrs old but no less than 42yrs old in that calendar year. Any player less than 45yrs old in that calendar year is strictly prohibited from pitching.

### 3.05

In the event the eligibility of a player is in question, the Umpire shall require that player to provide a valid picture ID. If the player in question does not have identification readily available, they will be given one hour from the final out of the game to retrieve identification or the game shall be forfeited.

### 3.06

Players are allowed to play in different age divisions simultaneously provided they meet age requirements.

### 3.07

Free Agency, Trading Players, Recruiting

**(a)** Recruiting players within an age division is strictly prohibited. Managers and assistants may not make first contact regarding free agency with a player from another team. Any team violating this rule will automatically forfeit a game to the team they were attempting to recruit from. Any subsequent violation will make a team ineligible for their league play-offs. There are no restrictions on recruiting outside an age division

**(b)** A player shall become a free agent after the conclusion of the current season and play-offs and may change teams by sending a letter stating his intention to his manager and the IBL President, which must be received on or before January 1st, which is the last day of open free agency. The IABL will provide a feature on the website for the purpose of filing for free agency. If a player wishes to change teams after that date, he must either get written approval from his Manager or opt to enter the player pool. These rules do not apply for a player that wishes to move to a new age division.

**(c)** A team will be able to add **one** player to their roster who has played for a different team in their age division in the previous season. A team may add more than one player from another team with Executive Board Approval.

**(d)** Any player on a roster for the previous season will be considered a free agent and may join any team without restriction under the following circumstances.

\*Any player on a team that has disbanded.

\*Any player on a team that has merged with another prior to the current season.

\*Any player who has been released.

\*Any player who was on a roster but did not play.

**(e)** If a player wishes to change teams during the regular season, excluding playoffs, he may do so with written permission of his current manager. He must also send notification in writing (with a copy of his manager's letter) to the IBL President. All his games played will carry over to the new team for play-off eligibility. The IBL President shall have the ability to veto a player move during the regular season if it appears that the player movement will cause a material change in the competitive balance of the league for that season.

### 3.08

Position players from any level of professional baseball will be eligible to participate in the IBL. Players released by their teams shall be immediately eligible. Players who have played a complete season with a professional team will not be eligible until the following year.

### 3.09

Former professional pitchers can play as a position player in our league without any restriction. However, pitchers at the following levels of play cannot pitch in our league for the listed specified periods.

(a) "Paid to play" pitchers at any level cannot pitch for a minimum of 2 years.

- (b) Double A players cannot pitch for a minimum of 3 years.
- (c) Triple A and any level above, this would include pro level baseball in any country, cannot pitch for a minimum of 4 years.

### **3.10**

The Player Allocation Committee will be responsible for the even distribution of new players into the League. Each team will be given the opportunity to express their needs for new players by reporting the number of players needed to the Committee. After all requests are filled, the remaining pool of new players will be grouped to form new teams.

Whenever feasible, a tryout and draft of prospective players will be held prior to the new season. Each age division will be responsible for scheduling their own draft. Provisions for the draft shall be the responsibility of the respective League Director, with approval by the IBL President.

### **Allocation Addendum for 45+**

In addition to the draft, each team may independently sign a maximum of five additional players per season. In the event a team loses 5 or more players due to normal attrition they will be allowed additional recruits to compensate for those losses. Any player who has not played in the 45+ League in the previous season will be eligible.

### **3.11 45+ Rule**

Managers must be approved by IBL President and 45+ Division Director. Any manager may be replaced by majority vote of team members after the sixth game of the season.

### **3.12 45+ Rule**

After recruiting and player draft, teams with roster vacancies may submit a written request to the IBL President and 45+ Division Director to acquire additional players from the waiting list. Players will be allocated based on position and according to team needs. A player on the waiting list who refuses assignment is dismissed from the list and shall not be placed on any team for that season. Mid-season acquisitions will pay a pro-rated league fee based on the number of remaining games.

### **3.13 45+ Rule**

Any player that was not on a 45+ roster in the previous season will be declared a free agent under Rule 3.07 and may sign with any 45+ team that has an available recruiting slot in accordance with Rule 3.10. The player will also have the option to enter the draft.

### **3.14 45+ Rule**

To become a new team in the 45+ Division, six (6) new players may be brought into the league as a group. Remaining roster slots will be filled through the draft and player pool. A new team will assume a position in the draft immediately following all teams with losing records.

### **3.15**

For post-season IBL playoff or tournament play, a player must have appeared in a minimum of five (5) regulation regular season games or 30% of the scheduled games for that season, whichever number is fewer.

NOTE: A regulation game is a played game as defined by Major League Baseball rules.

## **Exception**

A manager may make application to the League to have a player made eligible who has been unable to participate in the minimum number of games due to legitimate injury.

## **Exception for HTA**

For HTA post season playoff or tournament play, a player must have appeared in a minimum of three (3) regulation regular season games or 30% of the scheduled games for that season, whichever number is fewer. All other provisions of this rule apply.

### **3.16**

A player simultaneously on rosters in the 18+ and/or the 25+ and/or the HTA divisions must declare a primary team before the start of the current season. Playoff eligibility for primary and secondary teams will be five (5) games each for IBL divisions and three (3) games for the HTA division. A player will be playoff eligible for either team but must participate with the primary team in the event of a scheduling conflict. The manager of the primary team has the discretion to release a player from playoff obligation with written notification to the IBL President, 18+, 25+, and/or HTA Directors.

### **3.17**

For post-season IBL playoff or tournament play each team must have a playoff roster listing those players eligible under Rule 3.15. The online IBL statistics system will keep the official number of games for each player and thus determine playoff eligibility. Copies of Playoff Rosters will be made available online on the IBL website. Only those players listed on the roster will be allowed to participate in the playoffs. Each manager must be able to verify the eligibility of every player on the Playoff Roster. Use of an ineligible player will result in forfeit of any game in which said player appeared and forfeit of any subsequent games.

### **3.18**

A team that has been a “no show” forfeit for 2 or more regular season games will NOT be eligible to participate in the playoffs.

### **3.19**

League members **only** are allowed in the dugout and on the field.

Scorekeepers are allowed in the dugout but must be designated on the roster as a coach and must always wear a protective helmet. Scorekeepers must always remain completely behind protective fencing when the ball is in play.

Coaches must be at least 18 years of age.

Anyone not listed on the roster as a coach except for a batboy/girl will not be allowed in the dugout or on the field. Batboys/girls are not allowed to participate in pre-game warm-ups.

Batboys/girls **MUST** always wear a protective helmet with facemask.

Batboys/girls must always remain completely behind protective fencing when the ball is in play. Scorekeepers and batboys/girls will not be allowed in a dugout that is not equipped with protective fencing.



Batboys/girls must be at least 8 years of age. Children under the age of 8 are not allowed in the dugout or on the field at any time.

### **3.20**

A team deposit of no more than 50% of the projected league fees as determined by the IBL President shall be due no later than February 15. To reserve a spot on the schedule, a team must have 80% of league fees paid no later than March 15. A team that has made a deposit in February that cannot meet the 80% level in March will be eligible for a refund. After March 15, the fees are nonrefundable. All fees must be paid in full no later than 14 days prior to opening day. A team that has reached the 80% level but is not paid in full will remain on the schedule but will not be allowed to play and will forfeit all games until the league fees are paid in full.

League fees are team fees. It is the responsibility of each manager to ensure that fees are paid on time. Financial arrangements with individual players are at the discretion of the managers and are of no concern to the league and will have no effect on deadlines.

### **3.21 League Fees for 45+ Division**

League fees will be assessed as individual player fees and will be due in full no later than March 15 or any earlier date established by the IABL President and 45+ Division Director.

## **4. The Game**

### **4.01**

Games are nine (9) innings with the following exceptions: Darkness: Seven (7) innings complete (at umpires' discretion). Rain: Five (5) innings complete.

Scheduled doubleheaders will be two seven inning games.

**Time Limit:** for 9 inning games will be 2 hours and 45 minutes. Time limit for 7 inning games will be 2 hours. No new inning may begin after the time limit is reached once the game is official.

### **Exception for HTA**

HTA game times are limited to 3hrs for a 9 inning game and 2hrs for a 7 inning game. No new inning may start after time has expired and the game is ruled official.

### **4.02**

The league time limit will begin at the scheduled game time. Pre-game warm-ups on the field will cease by scheduled start time. In the event that a preceding game on the same field exceeds the time limit, the teams for the subsequent game shall be allowed 8 minutes each for fielding practice prior to the start of their game. One of the two teams will begin its practice at the end (last out) of the preceding game. Either team may waive the practice time if so desired. In the event a game cannot start on time because of a weather delay or other lack of access to the field, or if no umpire is present, the game clock will begin when at least one umpire assumes his position on the field and starts the game.

### **4.03**

When play is suspended, any delay including but not limited to weather or injury shall be counted as time played when referring to the time limit. However, once play is resumed after a delay the game must still become official before the time limit can be invoked to end a game.

#### **4.04**

All IBL playoff and tournament games must be played to completion regardless of time limit. All playoff games will be scheduled nine (9) innings.

#### **4.05**

For a scheduled 9-inning game, if there is a 10-run discrepancy at the end of seven (7) innings, the game will be ruled final at that point. For a scheduled 7-inning game, if there is a 10-run discrepancy at the end of five (5) innings, the game will be ruled final at that point. The 10-run rule will be in effect for all playoff games with the exception of the League Championship.

#### **4.06**

If the maximum time limit has been exceeded and the game is tied at the end of a complete inning and five (5) innings have been completed, the following tiebreaker method will be used:

The last official batter from the previous inning placed on second base. Play will continue until a third out is made. After the third out, the home team will do likewise. If after one (1) extra complete inning has been played and a winner has not been determined the game will be declared a tie.

If the score is tied after the scheduled number of innings has been played, and time is left on the game clock, normal play will continue.

#### **4.07**

Each team will be required to post a \$200.00 Forfeit Deposit as part of their league fees to be held by the League Treasurer. The Forfeit Deposit is refundable at the end of the current season or may be carried over to the next season. In the event of a forfeit by any team for any reason where a game is not started during the regular season or playoffs, the forfeiting team will surrender \$100.00 from its Forfeit Deposit. In the event a game is forfeited after the start, there will be no financial penalty.

Once a team has been in the league with the same manager for 5 years and has not forfeited a game in that period, the Forfeit Deposit will no longer be required and will be refunded. If the team subsequently forfeits a game the \$200 deposit will be reinstated and must be posted prior to the next scheduled game.

#### **4.08**

Two (2) forfeits by any team during the season could mean immediate expulsion from the league with no money refunded to the team, subject to Executive Board decision.

#### **4.09**

In the event of a forfeit and there are enough total players present to field two teams, the teams may elect to play, and the umpires will call the game. The game will be as scheduled, and the start time will remain the scheduled start time.

In the event of a forfeit, if the offended team has not been notified of the forfeit in advance and there hasn't been sufficient time to inform the players of the cancelation, they will be allowed to post their lineup online and all players in attendance will be credited with a played game.

#### **4.10**

Canceling, postponing, or rescheduling games for any reason other than inclement weather or field playability is only permitted under extreme circumstances. A written request must be submitted to the IBL President or Vice President. Penalty for canceling, postponing or rescheduling a game without written

approval of the IBL President or Vice President shall be a forfeit loss for both teams involved. Teams will also be responsible for umpire's fees and other costs incurred due to cancellation.

#### **4.11**

The field contact shall be the sole judge as to whether or not a game shall be started because of unsuitable weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field.

Once the field contact has determined that the field is playable, the home plate umpire shall be the sole judge as to whether and when play shall be suspended during a game because of unsuitable weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field; as to whether and when the play shall be resumed after such suspension; and as to whether and when a game shall be terminated after such suspension. The home plate umpire shall continue the suspension if there is any chance to resume play. The game shall not be called until at least 30 minutes after play has been suspended unless the playing field is determined to be unfit. The home plate umpire shall always try to complete a game and shall terminate a game only when there appears to be no possibility of completing it.

In the event of lightning, play will cease and both teams shall be removed from the field. Play will resume after 20 minutes without any further recurrence of lightning.

In the event the 20-minute lightning delay will run over the time limit and provided the game is official, it will be declared a regulation game or suspended game depending on the situation.

Once play is resumed after a delay the game must become an official game before the time limit can be invoked to end the game.

The home plate umpire of the first game shall be the sole judge as to whether the second game of a doubleheader shall not be started because of unsuitable weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field.

#### **4.12**

All canceled or suspended games must be played on or before the date of the final regular season game. Managers must contact each other within 48 hours of the cancellation to discuss rescheduling. If the Managers involved cannot agree on a date within 1 week, the IBL President, Vice President, or Operations Director shall schedule the game.

The IBL President, Vice President, or Operations Director shall have the discretion to declare a forfeit if one or both Managers involved are unwilling to schedule a makeup.

The scheduling committee will have the sole responsibility to schedule playoff games that have been canceled or suspended.

#### **4.13**

A game shall become a suspended game that must be completed at a future date if the game is terminated for either of the following reasons:

- 1.** Light failure or malfunction of a mechanical field device that makes it impossible to continue the game.

2. Weather; if a regulation game is called while an inning is in progress and before the inning is completed, and the visiting team has scored one or more runs to take the lead, and the home team has not retaken the lead; or it is a regulation game that is called with the score tied.

#### **4.14**

Upon arrival at any field, the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side dugout is the designated home dugout. The 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout is awarded to the home team scheduled for that game, no exceptions. If a doubleheader is scheduled, the home team of the first game will remain in the home dugout for the second scheduled game as well.

### **5. The Line Up**

#### **5.01**

A team will not be allowed to start a game with less than 8 players who are on the current roster. There will be a 20-minute time limit for a team to reach the minimum of 8 players. 20 minutes after the start time the game will be immediately ruled a forfeit and will not be played. The amount of time elapsed waiting for an 8th player will be deducted from the game clock. With 8 players, the 9th place in the batting order will be vacant with NO penalty. There is no “automatic out” for a vacant place in the batting order.

Teams must have eight (8) of their own players for an official game and may borrow a ninth (9th) player from the opposing team or may borrow a player from another team for the entire game with the opposing manager's consent. However, if the team's 9th player arrives after the start, the borrowed player reverts back to his original team. The loaned player will play in the field and must bat.

A game in progress will become a forfeit if at any time a team is unable to field the minimum of 8 players. All players present will be credited with a played game. If the game is official, the score and all statistics will be recorded.

#### **Exceptions for 45+ / 55+**

A game may start if at least sixteen (16) total players from both teams are present. The umpires cannot forfeit a game if teams borrow players from the opposing team until their regular roster players arrive, at which time the borrowed players revert back to their original team.

#### **5.02**

All players may be substituted for defensively, at any time, except for the pitcher, without affecting the player's offensive status in the batting lineup. A player may play a defensive position without appearing in the batting order. If the pitcher is removed, he may return as a pitcher one time only. The removed pitcher may play any other position after being removed or no position at all.

#### **5.03**

A team manager may bat as many players as desired in the initial lineup, with a minimum of nine (9) batters in the 18+ and ten (10) batters in all other divisions.

#### **5.04**

A 25+, 35+, and 45+ team with ten players present will have the option to bat nine (9). If additional players arrive after the start of the game, then they must bat a minimum of ten (10). In this instance the opposing team would have the option to bat nine (9) regardless of the number of their players present.

### **Exception for HTA**

HTA must bat every player present for the game, unless injured and/or 70+yrs old. A team may opt to use the A/B system for the eighth and greater positions in the batting.

#### **5.05**

A player forced to leave a game for whatever reason (injury, prior commitment, ejection, etc.) must be replaced in the batting order by a player not previously entered into the game as a hitter. If no reserve is present, that spot is skipped and all batters move up accordingly, with no penalty to the affected team. There is no “automatic out” for a vacant place in the batting order.

#### **5.06**

Once removed from the batting order, a player may not reenter the game as a hitter but may stay in the game defensively. Batters need not appear in the field, and not all fielders are required to bat.

### **Exception for HTA**

All players must bat unless injured and/or 70+yrs old.

#### **5.07**

A team may use an A/B system for the eighth and greater positions in the batting order. The A and B batter will alternate turns at bat each time the ninth or greater position in the batting order is reached. Once declared, a team must continue the A/B system for the entire game. A player not previously entered into the game as a hitter must replace an A/B batter forced to leave a game. If, during the course of the game, a team is reduced to nine available batters the A batter will assume the vacant position in the batting order and the B batter the number 9 position.

#### **5.08**

Additional hitters may be added at the bottom of the batting order at any time.

## **6. Runners**

#### **6.01**

No collision rule. A runner will be automatically out if he collides with a fielder who is fielding the ball or in possession of the ball. If ruled flagrant the runner will be ejected from the game. This is not a “must slide” rule; however, the runner must make an attempt to avoid upright contact with a fielder in possession of the ball. The umpire shall declare a dead ball and play will cease.

Base runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the infraction unless in the umpire’s judgment the runner would have reached that base regardless of the infraction.

#### **6.02**

If an infielder decoys a catch for the purpose of inducing a runner to slide unnecessarily all runners will be safe and entitled to advance one base after play has stopped. If the same fielder decoys twice in a game, he will be expelled from the game. A decoy is a false catch or throw where a fielder pretends that a close play is imminent. (Note: This does not apply in a steal, a rundown, or an overthrow situation).

#### **6.03**

Each team will be allowed a maximum of two (2) courtesy runners per game, plus the current catcher when there are two (2) outs. If the players requiring courtesy runner(s) are not the pitcher and/or catcher,

they must be specified to the opposing Manager and the Umpire prior to the start of the game. These players will be referred to as non-runners. If not specified prior to the start of the game, then only the pitcher and/or catcher **currently** in the defensive lineup may be a non-runner.

If one courtesy runner is specified, the remaining courtesy runner will be available for either the position of pitcher or the catcher (currently in the defensive lineup) but not both. Use of a courtesy runner is not mandatory.

If both courtesy runners have been designated (either before the game or as the pitcher and catcher) and a player subsequently gets injured, a pinch runner must be used and inserted into the game for the injured player(s) provided a substitute player is available. If a substitute is not available, a third courtesy runner will be allowed for the injured player.

The courtesy runner will be last batter who made an out. If the last batted out is a non-runner, the courtesy runner will be the previous last batted out. The "Last Batted Out" refers to the last player who was at bat and failed to reach base safely by a hit, error, fielder's choice, walk, hit by pitch, or interference.

A batter designated, as a non-runner must use the courtesy runner immediately after reaching base and before play resumes or loses the use of the courtesy runner for the remainder of the game. (Except the catcher with two (2) outs.)

If a batter designated as a non-runner reaches base in the first inning and no out has been made, the last batter in the lineup will act as the courtesy runner. If the inning continues and no out is made the courtesy runner will be the batter in the furthest batting position from the non-runner.

It is strongly advised that when a non-runner is at bat, that the manager notify the player who is the courtesy runner so that he may be inserted in the game in a timely manner.

## **7. Pitching Rules**

### **7.01**

A Pitcher that hits four (4) batters in any one game must be removed from the mound on the fourth hit batsman, and he may not re-enter as a Pitcher for the remainder of the game.

### **7.02**

Intentional walks are allowed. Pitches do not need to be thrown.

### **7.03**

Pitchers will be allowed to wear a dark batting glove under their fielding glove.

### **7.04**

Visits to the mound by a player/manager shall be in accordance with MLB Rule 8.06. A Manager may visit a pitcher two (2) times in one inning but the second visit, the pitcher must be replaced. A Manager may visit the same pitcher three (3) times in a game but the third visit, the pitcher must be replaced. Normal game contact between a player/manager playing a position on the field and a pitcher will not constitute a visit. If a player/manager calls time and leaves his position to go to the mound it will be considered an official visit.

**Exception:** A player/manager that is catching will be allowed to visit the mound without penalty provided that in the judgment of the umpires it is normal game contact between pitcher and catcher (such as changing signs).

## **8. Scoring and Statistics**

### **8.01**

Both teams are responsible for keeping a scorebook. In the event of a dispute, the home team's book will prevail. Any discrepancy should be settled at the time it is discovered.

### **8.02**

Per game team and player statistics are mandatory. Teams will be required to report their statistics by online entry no later than two days following a completed game. The system will keep the official number of games for each player and thus determine playoff eligibility.

### **8.03**

In the event of a tie in the standings for division winner or playoff positions, the following methods will be used to break the tie:

- a) Head-to-head results.
- b) Head-to-head run differential.
- c) Total runs allowed for the season.
- d) Total run differential for the season.
- e) Coin Toss

## **9.00 Protest**

**9.01** All protests must be submitted in writing to the IBL President within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the game and must be accompanied by a \$ 50.00 check made payable to the IBL. The protest must include the names of all Umpires. The protest must detail the game situation and the incident and must cite the rule number that was allegedly violated. The IABL Executive Board shall decide all protests. Umpire judgment calls are not subject to protest. The Umpires and opposing Manager must be notified at the **exact time of the infraction and before play continues that the game is being played under protest**. If the protest is upheld, the \$50 protest bond will be refunded, and the game will be replayed from the point of the protest. However, no replay will be ordered if the protested action did not affect the outcome of the game.

**(Exception:** Player eligibility)

## **10.00 Field Maintenance**

**10.01** Both teams of a scheduled first game will be responsible for the field before the game. It is recommended that you bring your own rakes. Both teams of the last game played will be responsible for the field after the game, in accordance with the maintenance guidelines provided by the facility. It is very important to maintain our privilege to play at all our facilities. Both teams of all games are responsible for policing their dugout areas for trash. Any team that damages field equipment or fixtures through abuse or irresponsibility shall be required to pay for replacement or repair of that equipment. Any team that has habitually or flagrantly ignored its responsibility to field maintenance or damaged a field shall be required to post a \$100 security deposit from which maintenance costs incurred may be deducted. If the IBL Treasurer does not receive the security deposit by that teams next game, that game will be forfeited and any subsequent games forfeited until paid.

## **11.00 By Laws**

**11.01** Each member must be aware that the Indiana Baseball League operates under a charter of By-Laws. Unlike the Rules, which are amended annually, the By-Laws Are constant and are amended only by virtue of Governing Board majority. These By-Laws dictate the League policy regarding: League Name; Purpose of the League, Membership Eligibility; League Representatives; League Meetings; Endorsed Philosophy; Financial Matters; Meeting Minutes; Conduct and Sportsmanship; Disciplinary Authority; Grievance Procedures; and Parliamentary Law.

It is highly recommended that each member be aware that the By-Laws exercise influence over the IBL. Members should become fully familiar with their content.