



2017 Gopher State Baseball League RULES MANUAL

14AAA, 14AA, 15AAA, 15AA and 14/15A

The following rules and regulations will govern play in the Gopher State Baseball League (GSBL) for the 2017 regular season and the all-inclusive playoffs. The list of rules and regulations is **NOT** intended to cover all of the playing rules, but rather highlight areas that are referenced most often by the coaches and players. In general, the GSBL has adopted the National Federation of State High School Associations baseball rules and USSSA National By-Laws and Rules, except where modified or clarified below.

I. PLAYER REGISTRATION/ELIGIBILITY

- A. Players in their respective age groups must not reach the next age before May 1, 2017. It is permissible for a player to play up from their designated age division, but they may not play down. For example, a 14 year old may play in the 15 year old division, but a 15 year old may **NOT** play in the 14 year old division. (USA Baseball, the national governing body for baseball, has adopted this age determining date for all national programs.)
- B. A player may **ONLY** be rostered on one traveling team for the Spring/Summer season. There is a roster limit of 18 players per team. Rosters must be submitted online at www.myas.org via the MYAS Portal no later than **April 24, 2017 for 14AAA and 14AA teams and May 8, 2017 for 15AAA, 15AA and 14/15A teams. The roster deadlines will be strictly enforced!**
 - 1. Any requests to add players after the roster deadline must be communicated to the GSBL by the association/community Travel Director and must be approved by the GSBL Board of Advisors.
 - 2. Temporary substitute player requests must be due to injury or absence only **AND** only if the injury or absence causes the team roster to drop below 10 players. Potential substitutes must be from a team of an equal or lower classification within your association, regardless of age. The roster modification must go through your association's Travel Director and/or President, who must communicate the change to the MYAS/GSBL baseball office. Once approved, the association must roster the player on the new team and remove them from their old team. NOTE: For the GSBL Playoffs, along with adhering to all of the criteria above, the substitute player may only come from a team that is no longer active in the GSBL (i.e. has been eliminated from further play).

II. RESIDENCY

The Gopher State Baseball League is a community-based program. GSBL teams are comprised of players who are from the community in which their parent or legal guardian resides or in which they attend school. The GSBL will recognize a team if they are derived from a bona fide association (consisting of multiple teams of perpetual nature) or a school program within their boundaries according to their bylaws. Generally, association boundaries are based on a city's limits or a high school district attendance area. The GSBL will not knowingly allow renegade and/or all-star teams to participate in the league. These rules are established to maintain a community-based orientation. The GSBL Board of Advisors reserves the right to rule on any questionable situations. For more information on MYAS/Gopher State Organization Guidelines, please see documentation found in the 2017 Coaches Handbook or in the baseball section of www.myas.org.

III. LEVELS OF PLAY FOR 2017

Communities/Associations entering teams in the Gopher State Baseball League (GSBL) at the 14U-15U levels must enter at least one AAA team prior to entering any AA or A teams at a given age level. An association/community wishing to enter AA or A teams without at least one AAA team at a given age level is entitled to an appeal through the Gopher State Baseball League Board of Advisors. Please see additional regulations within the "Team Classification Policy." It is the responsibility of each GSBL member association to uphold the integrity of each level of play offered within the league by properly classifying their teams. Any decision made by the Board of Advisors is not eligible for further appeal if the intent of the policy is upheld. Each decision is in effect for the current season.

AAA: This is the highest competitive level in Minnesota. This level of play consists of teams that are comprised of the top players within a local traveling association.

AA: This is the intermediate level of play. The AA level is intended for teams from baseball associations that have already provided teams at the AAA level. AA may also (in some cases) be defined as a level for traveling teams that are not currently able to compete at the AAA level.

A This is the developmental level of traveling baseball. The A level is often used to place teams trying to prepare for a higher level of play. See additional information for other examples of teams eligible for the "A" level of play in the "Baseball" portion of www.myas.org.

IV. FIELD DIMENSIONS FOR COMMUNITIES

- A. The following base length is mandatory:**
14-15 year olds: 90 feet
- B. The following pitching distance is mandatory:**
14-15 year olds: 60 feet, 6 inches

V. EQUIPMENT

- A. Shoes:** Players in the GSBL 14-15 year old leagues are allowed to wear metal spikes.
- B. Baseballs:** Each team must supply one new baseball for the start of each game (additional baseballs to be supplied alternately as needed). The official baseball for the MYAS/GSBL is Diamond and they are available for sale at www.myas.org.



- C. The Official Bat:** Please see pages 3 & 4 for the Gopher State Baseball League/USSSA Bat Standards and Penalties.

14 year olds

In diameter at the thickest part: 2³/₄" or less

In length: 36" or less

In weight: A bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than **five ounces** less than the length of the bat (for example, a 32 inch long bat may not weigh less than 27 ounces).

15 year olds

In diameter at the thickest part: 2⁵/₈" or less

In length: 36" or less

In weight: A bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than **three ounces** less than the length of the bat (for example, a 33 inch long bat may not weigh less than 30 ounces).

V. EQUIPMENT (continued) - LEGAL BATS

Over the past few years USSSA, the national governing body for the majority of MYAS/Gopher State baseball programs, has developed baseball bat performance standards. The standards that were implemented prior to the 2012 season encompass the regulation of big barrel (larger than 2¼” in diameter) and small barrel (2¼” or less) bats. These standards must be used in all MYAS/Gopher State baseball programs. All bats must be manufactured by an approved USSSA bat licensee and have the new USSSA mark on its taper, be a qualified BBCOR bat or a wood bat.

The USSSA fingerprint of 1.15 BPF is based on fundamental laws of physics that measure the relative performance of bats to be used in USSSA play. A qualified BBCOR bat stands for “Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution” and it focuses on how much of a trampoline effect the barrel of a bat has on a ball. Bat manufacturers will have to in effect “deaden” the trampoline bounce that pitched balls experience when a batter makes contact. Basically, aluminum bats will theoretically be the same as wooden bats.

The following describes the legality of bats for all MYAS/Gopher State/MN USSSA programs in 2017:

14 year old teams:

Big Barrel Bats (larger than 2¼ inches in diameter) - only the following big barrel bats made by approved USSSA licensed manufacturers will be allowed:

- 1) Bats made with the USSSA mark (see image at right)
- 2) Qualified BBCOR bats (see image at right)
- 3) Wooden bats



15-19 year old teams:

All 15u-17-19u programs will follow the bat standards adopted by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

MYAS/Gopher State/MN USSSA will continue its policy for 15-19 year olds in following the bat standards adopted by the NFHS. Therefore, if a bat is legal under the NFHS rules (1-3), it is legal in all MYAS/Gopher State/MN USSSA programs. If not legal for NFHS play, it is not legal for MYAS/Gopher State/MN USSSA play.

NFHS BASEBALL RULES

Rule 1-3-2: The bat which may be a wood or non-wood product shall be a smooth implement, from the top of the cap to the top of the knob. All non-wood bats shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be labeled with a silk screen or other permanent certification mark.

Listed below are bat specifications for 14-15 year old teams participating in any MYAS/Gopher State baseball programs. This specification is in addition to the USSSA Bat Performance Standards. All bats must include the USSSA Mark **OR** is a qualified BBCOR bat and also **MUST** follow the size and/or weight differential listed in the chart below.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Maximum diameter @ thickest part</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Weight Differential</i>	<i>Example</i>
14's	2¾”	36” or less	-5	32-inch bat cannot weigh less than 27 ounces
15's 16U & 17-19U	2⅝”	36” or less	-3	32-inch bat cannot weigh less than 29 ounces

14/15A Leagues will have the option to use a **-5** drop Big Barrel Bat (USSSA 1.15 BPF) or a **-3** drop BBCOR Certified Bat.

V. EQUIPMENT (continued) - LEGAL BATS

The official bat for league play at 14u shall be round in cross section, straight in length and measure not more than 36 inches long, including tape or other grip additions to the bat, shall have a knob at the end of its handle, and not more than 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter for BBCOR bats and not more than 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches for big barrel bats at its largest part.

All required graphics, including USSSA and BPF or BBCOR markings, must be permanent and cannot be applied as decals or by any other method that would allow the key graphics to be easily removed or added to the bat.

The official bat for league play at 15u must conform to the NFHS bat limitations including a length to weight ratio no greater than negative three (-3) ounces (Rule 7.01.C.C found on page 7 of the January 1, 2015 edition of the USSSA National By-Laws and Rules).

14/15A Leagues will have the option to use a **-5** drop Big Barrel Bat (USSSA 1.15 BPF) or a **-3** drop BBCOR Certified Bat.

Example of bats with a USSSA 1.15 BPF fingerprint and a BBCOR stamp:



VERIFYING BATS

A team representative must present all bats that will be used by their team in front of their respective dug-out prior to the pre-game conference. It is up to the opposing coach to verify that each bat has all required graphics, including USSSA and BPF markings.

PENALTY FOR USING ILLEGAL BAT

First Offense:

If the umpire discovers that the bat does not conform to USSSA Rule 7.01C until a time during or after which the bat has been used in play, it shall not be grounds for declaring the batter out and/or ejection from the game. If the umpire discovers that a bat has been used to put the ball in play and before the next legal pitch, the defensive team will have the choice of the result of play or the batter being called out and all runners returning to the base occupied before the pitch.

Second Offense:

If a team is found in violation of this rule a second time, then the manager will be ejected in addition to the First Offense penalty (**Rule 7.01C of USSSA By-Laws and Rules**).

VI. GENERAL RULES

- A. There is a 10-minute mandatory warm-up for infield practice
 1. Home team will take the infield at 30 minutes before game time.
 2. Visiting team will take the infield at 20 minutes before game time.
 3. The last 10 minutes is for pitchers to get ready and for coaches and umpires to have a pregame.
 4. The outfield will be used for batting practice with whiffle balls or fly balls for outfielders.

VI. GENERAL RULES (Continued)

- B. The home team will keep the official GSBL scorebook.
- C. All field preparations, which include line markings and bases, are the responsibility of the home team. **The home team is expected to have the field prepared at least one hour prior to the start of the game.**
- D. "Uniforms of all team members should be of the same color and style" (NFHS Rule 1-4-1).
- E. Each team's lineup will list a minimum of nine players to start a game. A game will be forfeited to the offended team when a team is unable to provide nine players to start the game or cannot provide eight players to finish the game (NFHS Rule 4-4-1f).
- F. **Bench Personnel:** The number of coaches on the bench are limited to a **Head Coach, Two Assistants** and a **designated Scorekeeper**. These coaches must be listed on your "hard copy" official roster throughout the season.

VII. SUBSTITUTION RULES

- A. **Pitcher:** If a starting pitcher is withdrawn from the game, they may re-enter the game once.
- B. **Starting Players:** Any of the starting players may withdraw and re-enter once, including a player who was the designated hitter, provided said player occupies the same batting position whenever they are in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter.

Exception: Replacement of injured players and/or courtesy runners. If an active player sustains an injury that requires them to leave the game and their team has used all of its available substitute players, the coach may substitute for the injured player with the first player on the bench who had previously lost their eligibility via the re-entry rule. Teams will not be penalized should a player be removed due to illness or injury. **(Please refer to Rule 3-1 in the NFHS rule book.)**

NEW: 14/15A will have the option to use free substitution and continuous batting. This must be declared to the umpire and the opposing head coach prior to the start of the game and will continue for the remainder of that game.

Each team's lineup must list a minimum of nine players to start a game. A game will be forfeited to the offended team when a team is unable to provide nine players to start the game or cannot provide eight players to finish the game (NFHS Rule 4-4-1f).

1. A "rostered" player may be placed at the end of your lineup if he/she is not present at the start of the game (this applies to teams that start a game with nine players).
2. An injured batter or runner that cannot continue to participate will be replaced by the last player to be put out. This will end the injured player's participation for the remainder of the game.
3. An out will be called at that spot in the batting order ONLY if a team drops below nine players.

- C. **Courtesy Runners:** The team at bat may, at any time, use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. **Projected substitutions are not allowed.** Players who have already participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners until all players have participated. **Exception:** Should an injury, illness or ejection affect the courtesy runner, another courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher may run. **(Please refer to the NFHS rule book for suggested speed-up rules.)**

VIII. EXTRA HITTER (EH) AND/OR DESIGNATED HITTER (DH)

- A. 15AAA, 15AA & 14/15A will ONLY have the option of using the Designated Hitter (NFHS Rule 3-1-4) (*Does not apply if 14/15A opts to use free substitution and continuous batting*).
- B. 14AAA & 14AA will have the option of using an Extra Hitter (EH) or a Designated Hitter (DH). This will give a team a 10-player line-up which **MUST BE DECLARED BEFORE THE START OF THE GAME and used for the remainder of the game.** The player in the EH position, while not actually playing a defensive position, will be treated as such for substitution. The NFHS re-entry rule applies to the EH position (**Rule 7.02.D.1 of USSSA National By-Laws & Rules**).

Options for play are as follows:

1. Use neither the DH nor the EH, giving nine players in the batting order and the same nine players on defense.
2. Use only the DH, not the EH, giving nine players in the batting order, one of which is replaced by another line-up player on defense.
3. Use only the EH, not the DH, giving 10 players in the batting order, of which nine play on defense.
4. Use both the DH and EH, giving 10 players in the batting order, but one of the nine defensive players is replaced by the DH in the batting order. However, the DH can be removed during the game according to NFHS rules.

Approved Ruling: Players can move freely in defensive positions with the exception of the pitching position; the EH is considered a defensive position.

IX. PITCHING RESTRICTIONS

(Please refer to Rule 6 of the NFHS Rule Book)

- A. In the GSBL 14-15 year old leagues, a pitcher may pitch a maximum of **95 pitches per game.** The number of days of required rest until the pitcher is allowed to pitch again is dependent upon the number of pitches thrown in their previous outing.

Pitch Count	Days of Rest Required After Pitching
1-20	0
21-40	1
41-60	2
61-66	3
66-more	4

If a player reaches their maximum number of allowed pitches during an at-bat, they may finish pitching to that batter but then must immediately be removed from the pitching position.

NOTE: This restriction applies for all GSBL regular and post-season games.

PENALTY: Violation of the above rule will be subject to review by the GSBL Board of Advisors resulting in a potential forfeiture of the game in question or a coach's ejection.

- B. Submit pitch count of ***OPPOSING TEAM***. Coaches must submit/input the jersey number and number of pitches for each player of the OPPOSING TEAM who pitches during a regular season league game. **Simply input the pitch count of the OPPOSING TEAM in the MYAS Portal within 24 hours after each game is completed.** This information will become public information and will be available immediately in the league schedule and standings.

NOTE: Stresses on a pitcher's arm are caused from overuse, lack of conditioning, improper mechanics of pitching and lack of understanding of proper recovery time.



Recommendations for preventing injuries in youth baseball pitchers:

1. Watch and respond to signs of fatigue (such as decreased ball velocity, decreased accuracy, upright trunk during pitching, dropped elbow during pitching, or increased time between pitches). If a youth pitcher complains of fatigue or looks fatigued, let him rest from pitching and other throwing.
2. No overhead throwing of any kind for at least 2-3 months per year (4 months is preferred). No competitive baseball pitching for at least 4 months per year.
3. Do not pitch more than 100 innings in games in any calendar year.
4. Follow limits for pitch counts and days rest.
5. Avoid pitching on multiple teams with overlapping seasons.
6. Learn good throwing mechanics as soon as possible. The first steps should be to learn, in order: 1) basic throwing, 2) fastball pitching, 3) change-up pitching.
7. Avoid using radar guns.
8. A pitcher should not also be a catcher for his team. The pitcher-catcher combination results in many throws and may increase the risk of injury.
9. If a pitcher complains of pain in his elbow or shoulder, discontinue pitching until evaluated by a sports medicine physician. Inspire youth pitchers to have fun playing baseball and other sports. Participation and enjoyment of various physical activities will increase the youth's athleticism and interest in sports.

References:

American Sports Medicine Institute & USA Baseball Medical & Safety Advisory Committee;

<http://www.asmi.org/research.php?page=research§ion=positionStatement>

Dun S, Loftice J, Fleisig GS, Kingsley D, Andrews JR. A biomechanical comparison of youth baseball pitches: is the curveball potentially harmful? *Am J Sports Med.* 2008; 36(4):686-692.
 Fleisig GS, Andrews JR, Cutter GR, Weber A, Loftice J, McMichael C, Hassell N, Lyman S. Risk of serious injury for young baseball pitchers: a 10-year prospective study. *Am J Sports Med.* 2011; 39(2):253-257.
 Fleisig GS, Andrews JR, Dillman CJ, Escamilla RF. Kinetics of baseball pitching with implications about injury mechanisms. *Am J Sports Med.* 1995; 23:233-239.
 Fleisig GS, Weber A, Hassell N, Andrews JR. Prevention of elbow injuries in youth baseball pitchers. *Curr Sports Med Rep* 2009; 8(5):250-254.
 Lyman S, Fleisig GS, Andrews JR, Osinski ED. Effect of pitch type, pitch count, and pitching mechanics on risk of elbow and shoulder pain in youth baseball pitchers. *Am J Sports Med.* 2002; 30(4):463-468.
 Matsuo T, Fleisig GS, Zheng N, Andrews JR. Influence of shoulder abduction and lateral trunk tilt on peak elbow varus torque for college baseball pitchers during simulated pitching. *J Appl Biomech.* 2006; 22(2): 93-102.
 Nissen CW, Westwell M, Öunpuu S, Patel M, Solomito M, Tate J. A biomechanical comparison of the fastball and curveball in adolescent baseball pitchers. *Am J Sports Med.* 2009 37(8):1492-1498.
 Olsen SJ, Fleisig GS, Dun S, Loftice J, Andrews JR. Risk factors for shoulder and elbow injuries in adolescent baseball pitchers. *Am J Sports Med.* 2006; 34(6):905-912.
 Petty DH, Andrews JR, Fleisig GS, et al. Ulnar collateral ligament reconstruction in high school baseball players: clinical results and injury risk factors. *Am J Sports Med* 2004; 32:1158-1164.

X. UMPIRES

A top level MYAS trained umpire is scheduled and supplied by the GSBL, unless your community has chosen to supply their own umpires or is outside the GSBL assigning range.

NOTE: When assigning umpires for 14-15U league games, the GSBL requires that each association/community assign individuals who:

1. are a minimum of four years older than players on the teams they are umpiring.
2. have completed a background check and the state mandated concussion training prior to being assigned a game.

These requirements are the responsibility of the Association President and/or Travel Director.

Every home coach needs to verify with their assignor at the start of the season that they are covered.

Umpire training is available for all Gopher State area umpires. Please check out the MYAS website under the Officials Corner.

XI. PROTESTS

- A. Protests must be made verbally with the umpire by the offended team at the time of the play and before the next pitch. A fee of **\$100.00** cash (refunded if upheld) must accompany the protest. All decisions of the GSBL/MYAS and the GSBL Board of Advisors are final.
- B. No protests will be allowed in matters involving solely the official's judgment. Only decisions involving the misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule may be protested.

XII. BENCH AND FIELD CONDUCT

- A. All players and coaches must sign a Code of Conduct prior to the start of the season. All participants in the GSBL will be held responsible for their actions during league play. The Code of Conduct must be by **April 24 for 14AAA and 14AA teams or May 8 for 15AAA, 15AA and 14/15A teams. THE DEADLINES WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED!**
- B. All players, coaches and spectators are to behave in a manner that reflects the positive fun associated with the game of baseball. **Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated, and includes but is not limited to (modified from the NFHS Baseball Rules Book, Rule 3-3):**

- * Verbal abuse
- * Physical aggression
- * Tantrum-like acts
- * Arguing umpire judgment calls
- * Profanity

- C. Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct as listed above will immediately be removed from the vicinity of the ballpark immediately. Failure to comply with the ejection in a timely manner will result in the game being forfeited. **Note:** If a player is ejected from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct, the head coach will be ejected as well.

Anyone ejected during a league game will be immediately suspended for the remainder of the 2017 season, pending an appeal to your home association's Board of Directors.

The umpire and the individual(s) ejected from the game must notify Patrick Reese, league commissioner, at patrick@myas.org within 12 hours of the incident. A hearing may be scheduled with the home association/ community to determine the future of the player, coach or spectator that was ejected. The decision of reinstatement into the league by the home association/ community will be upheld by the GSBL Board of Advisors.

- D. A second game disqualification does not warrant an appeal and will result in suspension from the remainder of the team's regular season and playoff games. Please keep in mind that you are participating in youth baseball. Therefore, unsportsmanlike conduct will **NOT** be tolerated.

NOTE: If any unsportsmanlike conduct is displayed during a league game by a coach, player or spectator, please notify your association's Travel Director. This must be done before contacting the GSBL. Contact information for Travel Directors is available in Tab 1 of the official Coaches' Handbook.

XIII. GAME LENGTH

(Please refer to Rule 4 of the NFHS Rule Book for proper procedure)

- A.** Completed games are **FINAL** after seven innings. In the event of a tie, extra innings will be allowed based on weather conditions, field conditions and daylight (NFHS Rule 4-2).
- B.** Ties will stand after curfew or darkness. Try to make every effort to complete the game but do not risk injury due to darkness. To insure the playing of the full seven innings, hustle between half innings and retrieve all foul balls in a timely manner. It is ultimately the judgment of the umpire to determine if the game should be completed or allowed to continue.
- C.** The 10-run rule will take effect after 4½ innings if the home team is ahead, or after five innings if the visiting team is ahead.
- D.** If weather or darkness interferes with play so the game is called by the umpire, it is a regulation game (NFHS Rule Book 4-2-3 and also under Lightning Disturbances on page 78):
 - 1. after 4½ innings if the home team is ahead, or after five innings if the visiting team is ahead.
 - 2. if more than five innings have been completed.
- E.** If a game is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed terms at bat, the score will revert to the score at the end of the last completed inning unless the home team, in its half of the incomplete inning, scores a run(s) and equals or exceeds the opponent's score. In that case, the final score will be recorded as the score when the game is called (NFHS Rule 4-2-3).
- F.** If weather or darkness interferes with play so the game is called by the umpire but does not reach a regulation game, then it is considered an incomplete game and it will be completed at a later date. The game must be **rescheduled** 24 hours after it was suspended. Please remember that the umpire's final decision on weather or darkness cannot be questioned and is a judgment made by them alone with no persuasion from a coach (NFHS Rule 4-2).

XIV. GAME CHANGES/CANCELLATION SYSTEM & PROCEDURE

Please see Tab 5 of the official Coaches' Handbook

Any game changes or cancellations reported to the GSBL via e-mail at patrick@myas.org, tony@myas.org, eric@myas.org, or bobby@myas.org on weekdays by 3:15pm will be posted on our website under "Today's Cancelled Games" at www.myas.org and added to the **Rainout** Line by 4:00pm the same day. It is the responsibility of the home team coach to notify the visiting team of the cancellation. If the league office is not notified of a cancellation of a game, it will be assumed that the game is still on as scheduled.

Failure of the home team coach to notify the visiting team coach, your umpire assignor and/or the GSBL office of a weather related cancelled game will result in a \$50.00 league fine assessed to the home team and must be paid before that game can be rescheduled.



XV. STANDINGS

- A.** The Gopher State Baseball League will maintain current standings, schedules and all pertinent league information at www.myas.org. League information will be located in the GSBL portion of the website as well as your individual team website.
- B.** Both coaches must submit/input their completed game scores to the MYAS Portal. **Simply input scores in the MYAS Portal within 24 hours after each game is completed.** The system helps ensure an accurate score for each completed game.
- C.** **Teams will be contacted if scores are not reported and will be assessed a \$50.00 penalty if non-reporting occurs more than once. It is imperative that both coaches report their scores within 24 hours of the completion of each game.**

XVII. REGULAR SEASON POINT SYSTEM AND TIE-BREAKERS

Ties in the standings following the completion of the regular season will be broken by the following procedure:

- 1) Head to head competition
- 2) Best winning percentage (games won divided by games played)
- 3) Least runs allowed
- 4) Most runs scored
- 5) If still tied, a one-game playoff will determine the winner (time permitting)
- 6) Coin flip



XVI. USSSA WORLD SERIES & GSTC Qualify through league play on June 19, 2017



- A.** The **TOP** team from each age/level/division (i.e. 14AAA West) in the Gopher State Baseball League will automatically earn a berth to the **Gopher State Tournament of Champions (GSTC)** on July 14-16, July 21-23 or July 28-30 (depending on the team's age and level of play). **This berth is only applicable if space is available in your specific age/level GSTC as of June 19.**
- B.** The top **TWO** teams in each division will also be offered a berth to their designated **USSSA World Series or National Tournament** in July. If the top **TWO** teams in a division that are USSSA World Series/National Tournament eligible have already earned a berth through the Gopher State Midsummer Classic, the berths will then be passed down as far as the fourth place team within a division. A team placing fifth in a GSBL division is not eligible to receive a berth to the USSSA World Series or National Tournament.
- C.** The league standings based on each team's winning percentage in their division (games won divided by games played) as of 12:01am on June 19, 2017 will be used to determine berths as explained above.
- D.** The qualifying teams will receive a congratulatory e-mail and official entry forms for the GSTC and/or USSSA World Series/National Tournament. If a team chooses to participate in the GSTC, they **must** communicate their intentions by submitting the entry form and fee to the Gopher State Baseball headquarters no later than June 20, 2017 at 12:00pm. This deadline must be met to ensure your spot into the Tournament of Champions. If you would like to accept your berth to a USSSA World Series/National Tournament, please contact Tony Groff at tony@myas.org.

XVII. ALL-INCLUSIVE PLAYOFFS

A. Playoff Format:

1. Tiers will be divided into multiple Sections based on geographic area. The GSBL will use the same format that the MSHSL uses for playoff sections to eliminate travel.
2. Division Champs will be the highest seeds regardless of record.
3. The GSBL will allow for flexibility when determining where to place teams (Tier I or Tier II) with a .500 or above winning percentage.

Seeding for the GSBL playoffs will be determined based on the league standings and points accumulated as of **July 10, 2017 at 12:01am** for all 14AAA, 14AA, 15AAA, 15AA and 14/15A teams. Any games played or reported after the appropriate date will not count toward the playoff standings.

NOTE: If a team's season is not completed by the final play date, each unplayed game will be counted as a loss and only one point will be awarded toward the season point total. This ensures that all teams will be seeded into the playoffs accurately by having the same number of games played.

Seeding and playoff matchups will be available on our website by 4:00pm on July 10 for 14AAA, 14AA, 15AAA, 15AA and 14/15A teams. If you feel there is a problem with the playoff matchups and/or seeding, please contact the league office. **If you are a higher seeded team in the playoffs, please be ready to receive an email** from the GSBL/MYAS headquarters on July 10, or your playoff game will not be scheduled.

Playoff games that have been officially scheduled and communicated will be posted on www.myas.org no later than 4:00pm on July 11.

B. Playoff Dates:

Playoffs will begin on July 12.

The top half of the teams in each division (i.e. West, East, Central, etc.), based on record and any tie-breaker scenarios, will be placed into a single elimination playoff for the Tier I Championships. The remaining teams in each division will be placed into a single elimination playoff for the Tier II Championships. Age levels with 30 or more teams will first be split into "Sections" based on geographics and then into Tier I and Tier II based on their records. Section Champions will be crowned in these cases.

C. Playoff Game Times: All playoff games will begin at 6:00pm unless lights are available. Games need to be finished the night of the game.

D. Playoff Locations: Games will be played at the site of the highest seed pending field availability. Because of time constraints, if the higher seeded team cannot provide a home field for the assigned days for play, the opposing team will be given the opportunity to host that particular game if they can supply a field.

Please see the full **Playoff Timeline** for dates, times and locations at www.myas.org.

Play Ball! Minnesota Championship: The GSBL 14AAA and 15AAA Tier I League Champions will face the Metro Baseball League Champions

2017 GSBL 14-15 & Under Baseball Rules Highlights



GSBL Rule

- 5-C Bats:**
14 & Under will use a -5 length to weight ratio, with a max diameter of 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ ".
Big Barrel Bats made by approved USSSA licensed manufacturers will be allowed only if it is made with the USSSA fingerprint, is a qualified BBCOR bat or is a wood bat.
15 & Under will use a -3 length to weight ratio, with a max diameter of 2 $\frac{3}{8}$ ".
All 15u-17-19u programs will follow the bat standards adopted by the National Federation of State High School Associations.
- 6-A** A 10-minute infield warm-up is mandatory for both teams beginning 30 minutes prior to the start of the game.
- 6-E** Each team's lineup must list a minimum of nine players to start a game. A game will be forfeited to the offended team when the offending team is unable to provide nine players to start the game or cannot provide eight players to finish the game.
- 7-B** Starting Players (player/EH/DH/pitcher) may re-enter the game once, provided said player occupies the same batting position whenever they are in the lineup.
NEW: 14/15A will have the option of continuous batting and free substitution.
- 7-C** A courtesy runner may be used at any time for the pitcher and/or the catcher. **Projected substitutions are not allowed.**
- 8-A** 15U leagues will only have the option to use the Designated Hitter (DH).
- 8-B** 14U leagues will have the option of using the Extra Hitter (EH) or the DH.
- 9** **NEW:** 14-15 year old leagues, a pitcher may pitch a maximum of **95 pitches per game** and required days of rest will be determined by the number of pitches thrown in an outing.
- 11** Protests must be made verbally with the umpire by the offended team at the time of the play and before the next pitch. No protests will be allowed in matters involving solely the official's judgment. A fee of **\$100.00** cash (refunded if upheld) must accompany the protest.
- 12-A** **All players and coaches must sign a Code of Conduct prior to Opening Day.**
- 12-C** ***Anyone ejected during a league game will be immediately suspended for the remainder of the 2017 season, pending an appeal to your home association's Board of Directors.***
- 143C** The 10-run rule will take effect after 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ innings if the home team is ahead, or after five innings if the visiting team is ahead.
- 14** Any game changes or cancellations need to be reported to the League office via e-mail at patrick@myas.org, tony@myas.org, eric@myas.org or bobby@myas.org on weekdays by 3:15pm.
Failure of the home team coach to notify the visiting team coach, your umpire assignor and/or the GSBL office of a weather related cancelled game will result in a \$50.00 league fine assessed to the home team and must be paid before that game can be rescheduled.
- 15-B** Both coaches must call and report their game scores to the MYAS Portal within 24 hours after each game is completed.
- 17-A** Playoff Format - Sections, Division Champs - higher seed, .500 or better winning percentage
The Gopher State Baseball League standings are computed by a point system. **Note:** If a team's season is not completed by the final play date, each remaining game will be counted as a loss and one point toward the season point total.