



2017 Gopher State Senior Baseball League RULES MANUAL 16U and 17-19U

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 15 year old may play in the 16 year old division, but a 17 year old may **NOT** play in the 16 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 team in the GSBL. There is a roster limit of 20 players per team. Rosters must be submitted online at www.myas.org via the MYAS Portal no later than **May 31, 2017. 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Playoffs, along with adhering to all of the criteria above, the substitute player may only come from a team that is no longer active in the GSBL (i.e. has been eliminated from further play).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.** PLEASE NOTE: Isolated cases do arise at 16U-19U, where a group of players from one community or school need to merge with a group of players from another community or school in order to form a team. These rules are established to maintain a community-based orientation. The GSBL Board of Advisors reserves the right to rule on any questionable situations.

III. LEVELS OF PLAY FOR 2017

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.

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.

IV. FIELD DIMENSIONS FOR COMMUNITIES

- A. **The following base length is required:** 90 feet
- B. **The following pitching distance is required:** 60 feet, 6 inches

V. EQUIPMENT

- A. **Shoes:** Players 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.

16-19 year olds

In diameter at the thickest part: 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ " 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

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

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 16-19 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>
16U & 17-19U	2 ⁵ / ₈ "	36" or less	-3	32-inch bat cannot weigh less than 29 ounces

The official bat for league 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 USSSA National By-Laws and Rules).

Example of a bat with a BBCOR stamp:



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.
- 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. For games that are being played with free substitution and continuous batting, ANY pitcher may re-enter the pitching position 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 the NFHS rule book in Rule 3:1.)**

NOTE: The 16u and 17-19AA leagues 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 a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or the catcher. 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. PITCHING RESTRICTIONS
(Please refer to Rule 6 of the NFHS Rule Book)

- A. NEW:** 16U leagues: A pitcher may pitch a maximum of **95 pitches per game** .
17-19U leagues: A pitcher may pitch a maximum of **105 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 (Ages 7-16)	Pitch Count (Ages 17-18)	Days of Rest Recommended After Pitching
1-20	1-25	0
21-40	26-50	1
41-60	51-75	2
61-66	76-more	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.

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.

DEFINITIONS: A week consists of Sunday through Saturday. One pitch in an inning constitutes an inning pitched.

- 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 number of pitches 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.

IX. 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.

IX. GAME LENGTH (continued)

- 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).

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 16-19U 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 each game with the game's umpire assignor.

Only the head coach will contact the assignor to verify each home game.

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



XI. STANDINGS

- A.** The Gopher State Senior 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 ensures 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.**

XII. 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

XIII. ALL-INCLUSIVE PLAYOFFS

A. Playoff Format:

1. Division Champs will be the highest seeds regardless of record.
2. 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 accumulated as of **July 17, 2017 at 12:01am** for all teams. Any games played or reported after this 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 17, 2017. 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 available for a phone call or receive an email** from the GSBL/MYAS headquarters on July 17 or your playoff game will not be scheduled.

B. Playoff Dates:

Playoffs will begin on July 20 **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

The top half of the teams in each division (i.e. West, East, 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.

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.

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



XIV. USSSA WORLD SERIES

Qualify through league play on June 19, 2017

- A.** The top **THREE** 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/or phone call and official entry forms for the USSSA World Series/National Tournament. If you would like to accept your berth to a USSSA World Series/National Tournament, please contact Patrick Reese at patrick@myas.org.

XV. 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 **May 31, 2017 for 16U-19U 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



XV. BENCH AND FIELD CONDUCT (continued)

- 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 3 of the official Coaches' Handbook.

XVI. 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.

XIX. 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 bobby@myas.org, patrick@myas.org, tony@myas.org, or eric@myas.org or 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.



2017 GSBL 16-19 & Under Baseball Rules Summary

GSBL Rule

- 5-C** 16u and 17-19u teams will use a -3 length to weight ratio, with a max diameter of 2⅝".
- All 15u-17-19u programs will follow the bat standards adopted by the National Federation of State High School Associations. (Rule 1-3).**
- 6-A** A 10-minute infield warm-up is mandatory for both teams starting at 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/DH/pitcher) may re-enter the game once, provided said player occupies the same batting position whenever they are in the lineup.
- 7-B** **NOTE: 16u and 17-19AA Leagues will have the option to use free substitution and continuous batting.**
- 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** **NEW:** Pitch count will be used to determine how long a player can pitch per game and how long of rest period before they can return to the pitching position.
- 9-C** The 10-run rule will take effect after 4-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead, or after five innings if the visiting team is ahead.
- 11-B** Both coaches must report their completed game scores to the MYAS Portal within 24 hours after each game is completed.
- 15-A** All players and coaches must sign a Code of Conduct prior to the start of the season. Penalties will be assessed for forms not received by May 31, 2017.
- 15-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.***
- 16** 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.
- 17** Any game changes or cancellations need to be reported to the League office via e-mail at bobby_myas@myas.org, patrick_myas@myas.org, tony_myas@myas.org, or eric_myas@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.