

Soderville/Blaine Athletic Association

2016 Rules for 8U Baseball

(Adopted April, 2016)

High School rules apply except as follows:

Parent Umpires/Time/Arrival/Forfeits

Games will start at exactly 6:30 PM (coaches synchronize your watches with each other and the umpire before the game begins).

The Home team will supply the parent volunteer umpire. The parent volunteer umpire will keep the official time.

Each team shall keep score in the SBAA supplied scorebook. Please exchange line-ups prior to the 6:30 start time. Each scorer shall keep score for both teams and are encouraged to check with each other throughout the game to confirm the score and minimize any scoring disputes. The umpire does not keep any score and will not resolve any disputes involving game scores.

Each team will have an opportunity to warm up on the infield, with the first team to vacate the infield 20 minutes before the start time. (Example: With a 6:30 scheduled start, team 1 will vacate the infield at 6:10 team 2 will then have 10 minutes until 6:20 to warm up, if so chosen)

Please be respectful of anyone who is preparing the infield (i.e. raking, setting bases, chalking) by vacating the infield or re-raking as needed. Infield maintenance will not be used as a delay to the start of the game or for any reason related to infield practice time. Any final infield preparation that may be needed should be concluded by 6:25. Lack of infield maintenance will not be used as an excuse to change or interpret a rule differently than listed or accepted. If maintenance cannot be completed before the 6:30 start, it will then have to be worked on between innings, if needed.

Both coaches and the umpire may agree to begin a game before 6:30 PM.

Umpire will keep the official running time - **No Exceptions**. Coaches cannot keep time.

Coin toss will determine Home and Visitor. Each team must have at least 8 uniformed players before play can begin.

Any player arriving after the start of the game will be required to bat at the bottom of the order if the team is currently at bat. Any player arriving while their team is in the field (on defense) will be allowed to enter the game in the open position only. No moving or substituting of players already in a fielding position.

Coaches please inform score keepers as to the name of the player who is arriving late and to how this will affect the batting order.

Forfeits, due to lack of players, will be called at 6:45 PM (based on the Umpires official time). If players arrive after the forfeit has been called the two teams are encouraged to scrimmage with or without an umpire. Coaches have your extra players play on the short-handed team. There is no minimum time or inning limit for a forfeited game. The forfeited game will be scored as 1 - 0 and be reported by both teams.

No inning will begin after 8:15 during the regular season (umpire holds official time).

Timeouts

Coaches may not enter the field during an active inning except when a "timeout" is verbally called by the coach to the umpire, at which time one (1) coach may visit the field.

Players may call time out for equipment issues or to confer with teammates. If a player does call time out one (1) coach may visit the player(s) as needed.

Coaches may visit the field at anytime to attend to an injured player.

Calling a timeout does not stop the official game time, so make them as quickly as possible.

Pitching

Coaches will pitch to their own team.

Up to six (6) pitches are allowed to each player. Overhand pitches are encouraged but not required. Underhand pitches will be accepted if the coach determines it is needed based on a batters level of play. Be respectful of the batter's abilities and the coach's judgment.

If a player commits three (3) swinging strikes within the six (6) pitches allowed, the player will be ruled out by strikeout. If the third (3rd) strike is a foul, the player will continue to receive pitches until: (1) they hit the ball into fair territory; (2) commit a swinging strike (non-foul) whereby the player is out; or (3) reach the six (6) pitch limit - whichever situation occurs first. If the batter fouls off the 6th pitch, they will receive an additional pitch. If the batter continues to foul off the last pitch, they will continue to receive additional pitches until they either hit the ball in fair territory, swing and miss, or fail to swing. There are no walks or hit batters awarded 1st base.

Either the Head Coach or Assistant Coach may pitch. If an additional parent is needed to pitch, please notify the other head coach and/or umpire of this information.

During the regular season and pool play, more that one coach may pitch in a game.

Equipment

No metal cleats are allowed.

Catchers must wear a helmet, facemask, shin guards, and chest protector to play. If needed, borrow from the other team. Safety is the goal.

Athletic protection, not required, but highly recommended.

Any purchased bat is legal to use with a rubber style handgrip.

NOTE: Starting in 2017, it will be required that all bats have the USSSA 1.15 stamp on them. No big barrel bats will be allowed (larger than 2 ¼ inch)

Helmets are to be worn by all batters, base runners, and on-deck players.

All other players are to remain on/in the bench area or behind the fence with parent. Coaches and Umpires shall monitor and remind players as needed. Safety is the goal here.

Game

Each inning is limited to 5 runs or 3 outs, including the 6th inning. Games are 6 innings or when the time limit is up (reference 8:15 time rule).

Four players are allowed in the outfield. Outfielders must start each play (before the batter hits) in the grass outfield.

Only the current batter and the player next in the line-up are allowed to practice swinging during the game. Both players must be on the playing field and the on-deck batter must be standing in the on-deck circle. No other player is allowed to swing a bat during the game, including players outside of the playing field.

Only one person allowed as first base coach and one person as a third base coach for the team batting. If there is anyone under the age of 18 coaching a base they must wear a batting helmet.

A game is considered complete after four (4) innings if the trailing team is unable to score enough runs to tie or win. If the score eliminates one team at the end of four (4) innings, the game will be considered complete and the score reported accordingly. If both coaches agree, they may continue playing for the remaining amount of time or innings.

Bunting is not allowed.

Coaches are encouraged, but not required, to use a courtesy runner for a player that will be used as a catcher in the next inning. The courtesy runner will be the player that made the last out in the previous inning. This is intended to speed up the down time between innings and keep the game moving as quickly as possible.

No head first running slides at any base. This will be an automatic out. Safety is the goal.

No deliberate contact will be allowed. Any deliberate contact will result in an out along with suspension of the player for the remainder of the game and the player's spot in the batting order will be considered an out for the remainder of that game. Umpire will have the final call on this along with reporting the infraction to Director of the Umpires. Accidental contact will happen, so be flexible.

Players are highly encouraged, but not required, to slide at second and third base on close plays. This is a safety issue and coaching point.

Infield fly rule will not be called. Foul tip on 1st & 2nd strike must be above shoulders of the batter to be out, if caught.

All outfielders must start each play at least at the edge of the grass. As soon as the ball is hit, the outfielder can move forward to field the ball.

The player playing the pitcher position must start each at bat within 3 feet of the pitching rubber which will be placed at 46 feet.

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If the coach pitching is struck by a batted ball, it will be considered a dead ball. The player will resume his/her at bat, and that pitch will be counted as a non-pitch. (ex. Coach was struck on 5th pitch, player has 2 more pitches left instead of 1).

No foul language by player, spectators, or coaches, will be allowed. The umpire will warn as needed. Second offense will result in an out. Third offense will result in suspension of player for the remainder of the game. Spectators or coaches will be required to leave area with a report made to the Director of Umpires.

The "orange" base at first base may only be used by the runner. Any defensive player attempting to make an out at first base must use the normal white base.

Ball will remain live (runners can advance) until the ball reaches the infield. If an outfielder drops the ball the ball will remain live and the play will continue.

Balls hit to the outfield will be considered "dead" under the following conditions:

1. The outfielder throws the ball towards the infield and the ball reaches the dirt.
2. The outfielder has possession of the ball inside of the diamond (not just on the dirt)

All runners must stop running at the base they are attempting to take when the ball is deemed a dead ball. An infielder does not need to have control of the ball before the runner must stop advancing.

(revised for 2015)

Balls hit to the infield will remain live until the ball is fielded and a throw is made in an attempt to record an out or the ball is in control of an infielder.

Runners can not advance on an overthrow.

Rainouts

Regular season and pool play games will be considered complete after four (4) complete innings (3-1/2 innings if the home team is leading).

Incomplete games called because of weather or darkness will be rescheduled by the coaches based on field availability or at the prescheduled make up dates. Contact Director of Umpires to schedule an umpire or if both coaches agree, a parent umpire is acceptable.

Games that are suspended will continue where they left off exactly in the same point (i.e. runners on base, batting order, number of outs, etc). This includes tournaments.

The umpire will call games that are in progress.

Games will be suspended immediately when lightning, hail, or emergency sirens are heard or spotted with everyone to leave the field area and head to a safe area.

Coaches cancel games because of weather before the 6:30 start time by speaking with each other and then notifying the team players and umpires as needed. If in doubt go the field.

Miscellaneous

In each game, all players are **required to sit once** before any player can sit twice. No players may play the same position more than two (2) innings in a single game. Coaches are encouraged to also split field time of players between infield and outfield as much as practical.

Bases are **60 feet** apart.

Two coaches will be allowed on the bench during the game. Additional "helpers/coaches" will be allowed to help prepare catchers between innings, if needed.

Two coaches are allowed in the outfield throughout the entire game and season. Any person under the age of 18 that is coaching a base is required to wear a helmet.

The winning team is required to report the final score of the game on the Soderville/Blaine website. Any scores not reported at the end of the season will be recorded as a 1-1 tie.

Ties

If during a regular season or pool play game, the game is tied at the end of the regulation time limit (no new inning to start after 8:15) or six (6) complete innings, the game will be considered a tie and reported as such. If time is available, and both the umpire and head coaches agree, one (1) more additional inning can be played in an attempt to determine a winner. After that one (1) inning and the score remains tied, the game will be considered a tie. Coaches and Umpire should consider the speed that the game has been played and the light conditions at the time a decision is made (i.e. dusk, the last couple innings taking 20 minutes etc).

All rules apply throughout the completion of the game

If during Pool Play, the game is called because of weather/darkness and the game is unable to be completed before the start of the tournament, the game will be considered a tie.

No new rules apply because the game is extra innings.

Tournaments

SBAA In-house Tournament - teams will be ranked based on the following criteria (listed in order):

1. Win/Loss record
2. Face to face results
3. Runs Against

Day games will be played until a winner is determined.

If game is played at night and no lights are available, an extra inning can begin if before 8:45 in an attempt to determine a winner. Coaches and Umpire should consider the speed that the game has been played and the light conditions at the time a decision is made (i.e. dusk, last couple innings taking 20 minutes, etc). If it is determined that there is not enough good light remaining, the game will be continued as soon as can be scheduled and agreed upon by the coaches and umpire (example - early next morning if Saturday or late afternoon if Monday). Please be flexible here.

If during a tournament, a game is called by the umpire because of weather/darkness, the game will be considered complete after four (4) complete innings if the score has eliminated the trailing team. This also includes the 5th (fifth) inning.

If a game is called because of weather/darkness and either team has a chance to win, the game will be suspended and continue at the earliest possible time (see above).

All rules throughout the completion of the game. No new rules apply because the game is in extra innings.