

## **F. BASEBALL**

### **Playing Time**

1. Games are 7 innings in length with no new inning starting after 1 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  hours.
2. Extra innings may be played unless the time limit has been reached.
3. A mercy rule will apply if a team is ahead by 10 or more runs after 5 innings.
4. A minimum of 10 batters must be in the batting order.
5. Extra players, not in the batting order, may replace a specific starter after the starter has batted at least once.
6. Original starters may replace substitutes that replaced them.
7. Free substitution defensively.
8. Each player must play at least one inning in the field.

### **Pitching**

1. Pitchers may pitch 4 innings in a game.
2. One pitch in an inning constitutes an inning of pitching.
3. Pitchers may appear only once per game. (No free substitution regarding pitching)

### **Leading Off**

1. A base runner may **NOT** lead off first base
2. Runners may leave first base when the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. A runner leading off before that time is out and the ball is dead.
3. The first base lead off rule is waived if the pitcher does not pitch from the stretch.

### **Pitching Conferences**

1. 3 per game – Each conference thereafter results in a new pitcher.
2. One conference per inning on offense.

### **Speed-up Rules**

1. A courtesy runner for the catcher is mandatory if there are two outs.
2. A designated warm-up catcher should be used if the catcher makes the last out.
3. No throwing the ball around the infield after a strike out.
4. After the third out, give the ball to the nearest umpire or drop it on the pitcher's mound.
5. A coach may concede the game before the mercy rule takes effect.
6. After conceding the game or after the mercy rule is enforced, the coaches may agree to continue playing as a scrimmage until the allotted time has expired.

### **Other Regulations & Reminders**

1. Diamond dimensions: 75 foot bases, 54 feet pitching distance, flat mound.
2. No metal cleats
3. No white or gray shirt for the pitcher
4. No bat of 32" or less may have a length to weight difference of more than -9. For bats longer than 32", follow the high school rule of a maximum difference of -3.
5. The home team will have a first aid kit on the bench.
6. The home team will provide 2 game balls.
7. Hitters, base runners and student base coaches must wear helmets.
8. Weather reminder: If thunder or lightning occurs before or during a game, teams will seek cover and wait 30 minutes before continuing.