5th – 6th GRADE BASEBALL RULES 2024

Rules are the same as those listed in the 2024 Baseball Rulebook of the National Federation of State High School Associations, with the following exceptions:

Base lengths are 60 feet. Pitching distance is 44 feet (with a few fields having a distance of 43 feet).

For each game, the HOME team (listed last on the schedule) will provide the umpire with TWO new game balls; the visiting team (listed first on the schedule) will provide the umpire with ONE new game ball. Home team is also responsible for providing the bases and the pitching rubber (if it is not already preset at 44 feet). BOTH teams are responsible for field condition and general grounds keeping duties!

Scoring and Ten run rule: Coaches MUST have a continuous batting order. (i.e. team has 12 players – therefore a 12 player batting order). Limit the number of batters coming to the plate for your team to 10 in one inning. A limit of 5 runs can be scored per inning unless the losing team is down by more than 5 in that situation the team behind can score more than 5 runs until the score is tied. So the inning is complete when EITHER 10 batters have come to the plate OR 5 runs have been scored. If the visiting team is ahead by ten or more runs at the end of five or six FULL innings, or if home team is ahead by ten runs at ANY point after 4½ innings, the game is over.

2-Hour Time limit – no inning may start after two hours from the start of the game.

Pitching rule: For pitching purposes, each out constitutes one-third of an inning. With appropriate rest (three calendar days since he last pitched), a pitcher may throw up to a maximum of THREE full innings (9 outs) in a single day. Pitchers should have a maximum of 70 pitches per day.

A pitcher may be removed from the game as a pitcher ONCE and may (if he still has not used his allotted number of innings) come back in to pitch later in the game. However, he may ONLY reenter as pitcher if he has remained in the team's defensive lineup. If he is pulled from the game as pitcher a second time, he may NOT pitch any more that game (even if he still has innings left).

Substitutions: *Unlimited free substitution is allowed on defense*. ANY nine players may be in the field at the same time (even two players who have batted in the same position in the batting order). Each player listed on the roster must participate in a minimum of 2 innings on defense. *Unlimited reentry* is allowed on offense, but no player may switch spots in the batting order. Coaches MUST have a continuous batting order. (i.e. team has 12 players – therefore a 12 player batting order). Remember, a player may NOT switch spots in the batting order!

ANY bats (wooden or metallic) EXCEPT softball bats are legal. There are NO weight-to-length bat restrictions. Cracked or badly-dented bats or bats without knobs are NOT legal.

Metal cleats are NOT allowed.

Rained-out games will be made up as soon as possible. If a game is started, but is called, due to weather conditions or darkness, before 3 full innings (2½ innings if the home team is ahead) are completed, the contest shall be treated as a "suspended game." It will be rescheduled and picked up from the point it was terminated. Normal lineup and pitching rules will apply. If the game is called after the 3 full innings (2½ innings if the home team is ahead), the game is over. The score at the time of the called game is the official score.

-No leading off until ball leaves pitchers hand
-No Stealing (even on passed ball)
-No head first sliding and a player must slide on close plays.
-No fake tags (forcing a player to slide when otherwise is not needed) – will result in the player being able to advance one base. (i.e. if a fake tag occurs at 3rd base, the player would be awarded home)