



2018

GGBL Rule Changes & GGBL Points of Emphasis

Chris Bullock – GGBL President
Tim Gaines – GGBL Secretary
Don Benken – GGBL Commissioner





2018 GGBL Rule Changes



- **Roster Changes – All GGBL teams are required to have between 10 and 13 Registered Players and no more than 4 Registered Coaches.**
 - The requirement to have a minimum of 11 registered players has been changed.
- **Roster changes:**
 - March 1 – All rosters must be certified by League Director
 - March 1 until May 1: League Director Approval for changes to the roster – Certified Rec Player only
 - After May 1: GGBL Board Approval for changes to the roster
 - Certified Rec Player Only
 - No Changes during tournament



2018 GGBL Rule Changes



- **9U Effective 2018 Season:**

- 65 feet and open bases – leadoffs/stealing
- Balks are called and enforced. Umpires use good judgement for 9U.
- Managers may request an explanation for balk call.
 - Visit is not charged if the coach does not coach on other matters
- No dropped third strike.
 - Batter is out if catcher drops the third strike.
- No Head First slides



2018 GGBL Rule Changes



- **New Line-up Options Apply beginning Spring 2018**
 - **EXTRA HITTER – 9 defensive players with EH**
 - 10 total players in the line-up
 - EH not required to play defense
 - Any player not in line-up (Substitute) must play minimum requirements
 - Not enforced if game is shortened by Mercy Rule
 - **DESIGNATED HITTER - 9 defensive players with DH for Pitcher**
 - 10 total players in the line-up
 - DH not required to play defense
 - Any player not in line-up (Substitute) must play minimum requirements
 - Not enforced if game is shortened by Mercy Rule

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2018 GGBL Rule Changes



- **New Line-up Options Apply beginning Spring 2018**
 - **NINE PLAYER LINEUP – 9 defensive players – No DH or EH**
 - 9 players in line-up
 - Any player not in line-up (Substitute) must play minimum requirements
 - Not enforced if game is shortened by Mercy Rule
 - **CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER - Bat all players present**
 - 10+ total players in the line-up
 - Free Defensive Substitutions
- **Must designate line-up Option during Plate Pre-Game Meeting with Coaches and Umpires**



2018 GGBL Rule Changes



- **ALL BATS FOR USE BY 8U-13U MUST BE SANCTIONED FOR PLAY BY AN TOURNAMENT ORGANIZING BODY REQUIRING A DISPLAYED “THUMBPRINT” AND BE CERTIFIED 1.15 BPF**
 - 8U-9U can be up to -13 drop
 - 10U-13U can be up to -10 drop
- **ALL BATS FOR 14U MUST BE CERTIFIED BBCOR .50 BPF**
 - 14U can be up to -3 drop



2018 GGBL Rules Points of Emphasis



- Each year the GGBL has specific points of emphasis (POEs) on existing rules to:
 - Improve game play
 - Clarify issues/questions from the previous year about current rules and/or rulings
 - Encourage coaches and players to teach and learn skills/rules/areas of the game that are being emphasized by NFHS and area high school baseball coaches.
 - GGBL asks umpire associations to pay special attention to these POEs.



2018 GGBL Rules

Points of Emphasis



- **Time Limits**
 - 8U: 1:30 Minutes
 - 9U-12U: 1:40 Minutes
 - 13U-14U: 1:50 Minutes
- **Only 3 coaches permitted on the field to coach**
 - 4 coaches on the field coaching (Penalties)
 - First offense – Head Coach gets a warning
 - Second offense – Head Coach is restricted to dugout
 - Third offense – Head Coach is ejected from the game
 - And Head Coach will serve a mandatory one game suspension
- **Lineup Cards**
 - Exchanged lineup cards during plate meeting must indicate
 - Batting Order and line-up type (DH, EH, Nine w/Subs, or Continuous)
 - Players names and assigned jersey numbers
 - Starting pitcher of record



2018 GGBL Rules Points of Emphasis



- **Player Minimum Participation**
 - EH and DH not required to play defense
 - Pitcher with DH is not required to be a batter
 - If DH enters field on defense, replaced player's spot in order must be filled by pitcher
 - Substitutes must play minimums
 - Bat once
 - At least one inning defense in a three inning game
 - At least two innings defense in a four or more inning game
 - Player minimum participation is waived if Mercy Rule shortens game
- **Game Absence**
 - Any player missing four of his teams officially scheduled games is not eligible to play in the GGBL Post Season Tournament.
- **Winning Coach Responsible to Submit Game Report**
 - Sent to League Director who maintains the database
 - Include date, location, score, pitchers and absent players (with jersey number)



2018 GGBL Rules Points of Emphasis



- **GGBL Pitching Rules:**

- **No pitcher re-entry in the same game**

- Pitcher in “rest period” may play any other position
- NFHS Rules allow re-entry, GGBL prohibits re-entry

- **Mandatory rest rule**

- 36 hours for any pitcher pitching more than one inning in a day
- Double header on same day – pitcher can pitch in second game under the following restrictions
 - No more than 2 innings in 24 hours (8U)
 - No more than 3 innings in 24 hours (9U-12U)
 - No more than 4 innings in 24 hours (13U-14U)

- **Post Season Tournament**

- **Mandatory Rest Rule Waived**
- **Tournament Total Inning Pitching Limits Enforced.**



2018 GGBL Rules Points of Emphasis



- **GGBL Schedule Minimums:**
 - **8U through 13U: 14 Games**
 - **14U: 12 games**
 - **League Age Levels may schedule a number of games above the minimums if it is**
 - **Agreed upon by at least 70% of coaches and**
 - **Convenient for the purposes of league play**



2018 GGBL Rules Points of Emphasis



- **Head First Slides – Clarification**
 - **8U-10U: No head First Sliding**
 - **Penalty: Runner is out**
 - **Can go head first into a retreating base**
 - **11U-14U: NFHS Rules**
 - **Helmet cannot have a facemask or flap unless medically required**
 - **Players with a facemask or flap cannot slide head first**
- **Buckets**
 - **Not Permitted on Field of Play – Enforcing NFHS rule.**
 - **Penalty: Unsportsmanlike Conduct**
 - **Considered a liability**
 - **Coaches can sit on a bucket in the dugout**



2018 GGBL Rules Points of Emphasis



- **Unintentionally Throwing Bat**
 - **Warning to offending team**
 - **Second offense by any player on that team is an out**
 - **If second team has a player unintentionally throwing bat**
 - **First offense results in a team warning**
 - **Second offense by any player on that team is an out**



2018 GGBL Rules Points of Emphasis



- **Courtesy Runners**
 - Are Permitted and Encouraged
 - Can be inserted anytime – consistent with NFHS rule
 - Must be the last batter who “batted” out.
 - Courtesy runner can be substitute.



2018 GGBL Rules Points of Emphasis



- **Speeding up the game**
 - **NFHS rules require only 60 seconds between half innings**
 - **At 8U and 10U – 60-90 seconds is reasonable**
 - **IF your team is not hustling, umpires are directed to give pitcher less warm up pitches**
 - **New pitchers get 8 pitches**
 - **Coaches – warm them up between innings**
 - **Coaches off the field by the 8th pitch**



2018 GGBL Rules Points of Emphasis



- **Balks**

- **All Balks result in a dead ball**

- **If the pitcher is called for a balk while delivering the ball to the plate and hitter hits a home run, the offense does not keep the home run. It is a no pitch and runner(s) advance on the balk.**

- **The third to first pickoff move is legal**

- **First and Third must both be occupied**
- **Pitcher must be disengaged from the rubber when throwing to first base**



2018 GGBL Rules

Points of Emphasis



- **Balks**

- Throwing to an unoccupied base may or may not be a balk – umpire's judgment.
 - Scenario 1 – Runner on second breaks for third too early (no runner on third), pitcher sees runner and throws to third baseman. Obvious play going to take place at third – no balk.
 - Scenario 2 – Runner on first, pitcher in set position starts delivery, and runner breaks for second. In obvious effort to deceive runner, pitcher uses a non-spin move to throw to second (unoccupied base). **Balk.**



2018 GGBL Rules Points of Emphasis



• **Charged Defensive Visits 9U-14U**

- A coach can have three defensive visits without making a mandatory pitching change
- On the forth and any subsequent defensive visit, the pitcher must be changed
- If you change pitchers, it is not counted against your three allowed visits
- Any coach requesting a stoppage of play for defensive reasons – even if you don't visit the pitcher is a charged defensive visit
- If you are base coach crossing the infield as your pitcher takes the mound and you talk to him, it is not a charged defensive visit unless you delay the warm up period.
- Extra Innings = 1 defensive visit per inning



2018 GGBL Rules Points of Emphasis



- **Sportsmanship**

- Enjoy your victories, home runs, etc.
- Celebrate among yourselves
- DO NOT direct comments to opposing players, fans, or coaches
 - Unsportsmanlike conduct
 - Warnings and ejections are both warranted
 - Umpire Judgment
- **Social Media**
 - Player threats observed through any social media source – Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.
 - Immediate suspension
 - Please inform your players and parents of this GGBL Policy



2018 GGBL Rules Points of Emphasis



• **Umpire Reporting**

- The umpire shall be required to maintain a copy of the lineup to verify any discrepancies claimed by an opposing team of the substitution rule when DH, EH and substitutes are included in the line-up.
- Coaches - Protests regarding line-up and minimum play requirements must be made immediately after the game to the chief umpire.
- Coaches - Failure to request an immediate protest prior to the umpires leaving the field results in an unenforceable protest.
 - Line-up cards are not retained unless a protest is filed



2018 GGBL Rules Points of Emphasis



- **Umpire Jurisdiction**

- **NFHS Gives Umpires Full Jurisdiction after the game until they leave the field**
 - **Anyone acting in an unsportsmanlike manner after the game is still subject to umpire jurisdiction and can be ejected.**
- **GGBL Jurisdiction extends to the parking lot**
 - **Any coach acting in an unsportsmanlike manner toward an umpire in a parking lot is subject to suspension or expulsion.**