

Rule Changes & Key Points:

Varsity Boys Bat rule:

There shall be no restriction as to the weight of a bat. The bat shall be no longer than 36 inches and a non-wood bat shall have a diameter no wider than 2 and 5/8 inches. A bat in CYO play is not required to bear a BESR certification mark. All other 2009 Federation rules shall apply to bats (Fed. Rules 1.3.2-5). The umpire(s) shall have sole jurisdiction as to the safety of any bat and may, in their sole discretion, exclude any bat from play.

****In accordance with the above rule, teams will need to have with them at least 1 -3 bat with a BESR stamp.** This due to the above statement "The umpire(s) shall have sole jurisdiction as to the safety of any bat and may, in their sole discretion, exclude any bat from play." I have spoken to the umpire association and don't expect any problems. They have discussed this rule change with their umpires. However, you may have an umpire who could declare that something other than a BESR stamped bat is unsafe and can exclude its use.

The purpose of this rule is to aid the less skilled players and players who may have been moved up. (6th grader playing Varsity) The rule will apply to all. We will not determine who should or should not use a particular bat, but keep in mind that players who have the ability to swing the heavier -3 bats or are planning on playing HS baseball in the next year or 2 should be encouraged to use the -3 bats. They may also find more success with these bats.

Players :

- Games may begin with only eight (8) players. Any team with eight or more eligible players must start at the scheduled game time. If there is no player in the ninth batting position, the umpire shall declare an out when it is the ninth batter's proper turn at bat. Should an eligible player arrive after the start of the game, that player shall bat in the ninth position in the batting order without penalty. Upon informing the umpire of the ninth player's arrival, the umpire shall declare time and allow the ninth player to take his place on defense. No team that starts with eight players may add an extra (tenth) hitter once the game begins.

**** Many leagues will be playing on Friday nights & double headers. This is to assist in schedule conflicts and also to allow occasional "breaks" for the weekend. Please be aware of the pitching requirements for such situations. It is the responsibility of both teams, regardless if it is one or both teams playing their second game of a double header, to report the pitched innings of the previous game to the other team and the Umpire. This will avoid arguments as to a pitchers eligibility during the second game.**

SAFETY ISSUES:

The umpire are also reminding teams that they need to leave the field immediately if the umpire suspends the game for lighting. You can grab what you can, but are not allowed to stand around and pack up your gear. Just leave the gear and go to your cars. Remember people carrying metal bats with lighting around is not a good idea. The umpire will either declare a 15 minute delay or will call the game over. The CYO will determine if the game is complete, needs to be continued at the stoppage point, or will not be counted as official at all.

No team member including coaches are to stand outside the dug-out or dug-out area. Standing between the dug-out fence and backstop fence is of particular concern. The umpires will be making a concerted effort to keep this area clear for safety and interference with play (A lose ball that is still in play). The umpire will determine a designated area for on deck batters.

All teams need to have emergency contact information and a first aid kit at every game. Load up on ice packs! Reports of injuries need to be submitted to the CYO ASAP.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL!