

2011 BASEBALL GUIDE

RULES CHANGE 2010-2011

2010-2011 Rule Changes (See NFHS Baseball Rulebook for all changes)

1-1-2 Substitutes must now be listed on the lineup cards handed to the umpire.

1-3-2 to 5 Bat definitions and restrictions. Composite bats are illegal unless specifically approved and on this list <http://www.nfhs.org/content.aspx?id=4155>

1-5-8 Hard guards, casts, braces, splints, etc must be padded. Knee and ankle braces which are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design do NOT require additional padding.

3-1-5 A sign of a concussion, noticed by the umpire or coach, will result in non-debatable removal of the player who shall not be allowed to participate in the sport until a VPA authorized medical personnel provides written approval.

VPA Points of Emphasis:

* **If a team receives three or more ejections of a player or coach they will be required to meet with the Activities Standards Committee before entering or continuing in the Tournament.**

* **There will be no scheduled 5-inning doubleheaders. Games that are less than 7 innings will not count toward the tournament unless the game is shortened due to a rule book application (weather, 10 runs etc.).**

***As of the Spring 2006, the number of pitchers/catchers who may begin one week prior to the season is unlimited.**

VERMONT EXCEPTIONS

***10 run rule:** The trailing coach anytime after 4 1/2 innings may choose to end the game. The trailing coach will inform the umpire of this decision. **A 15 run mandatory rule after 4 1/2 innings is in effect for 2010-2011, during the regular season through tournament semi-finals.**

* **Baseball Committee Recommendation:** All sub varsity games are limited to 2 1/2 hours (unless the game is tied). No inning should start after 2 1/2 hours, from the time of the first pitch. Any inning started should be completed.

* **All coaches are required to be in a full baseball uniform (Varsity & JV).**

* **Dug-Out Rule:** An open-faced dugout may be extended in front up to 8 feet, but no closer than 40 feet from the nearest baseline. The extension must be marked with a white line. Any area inside the marked dugout extension must be considered dead-ball area. Players, coaches, and equipment, other than on-deck equipment, must be inside the dugout's marked area, except for the batter, on-deck batter, base coaches and defensive players. For enclosed dugouts schools may mark one area extending the dugout up to 3 feet on the outside of either end of the dugout for equipment such as bats and helmets. This marked area will be a dead-ball area and is not meant to contain players.

* **All baseball coaches must complete the NFHS Concussion Education Course prior to the spring 2011 season.**

REGULAR SEASON:

1. The spring season shall open March 21st (with the exception of pitchers and catchers who start March 14th and conclude the second Thursday/Friday/Saturday in June (June 9/10/11). Should state tournaments or authorized regional tournaments fall after the school is officially closed, a school who is otherwise eligible may participate.
2. No school shall schedule more than sixteen games exclusive of playoffs or tournaments sanctioned by the VPA. Pre-season scrimmages are limited to four. Post-season

scrimmages are left up to the school. A team must have played a minimum schedule of ten (10) games to qualify for the tournament. Any request for a waiver of this requirement must be submitted by Monday, May 9, 2011 to the VPA Director of Student Activities. ONLY THE FIRST THREE GAMES WITH ANY ONE OPPONENT WILL COUNT IN FIGURING THE INDEX.

3. National Federation Baseball Rules will be used with the following adoptions:

a. In 2011, all regular season games are completed or suspended according to the Rule Book , pages 30-37:

***any interrupted game which is NOT REGULATION will be treated as a suspended game i.e. the game will be picked up at the point of interruption. [4-2,note]**

***A game shall become a suspended game if it is called prior to the completion of a full inning after the FIFTH INNING and if the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or take the lead, and the home team has not retaken the lead(4-2, note).**

b. VPA Pitching Limitation Rule (6-1-6) regular season and tournament) is based on the number of pitches thrown in a game. The pitch count is based on pitches thrown for strikes; balls; foul balls; and outs. Not warm up pitches allowed before each inning or those warm ups allowed by the umpire in case of injury or game delay.

The number of pitches is based on the level of pitching. Specific rest periods are in place when a pitcher reaches a high threshold of pitches delivered in a **day**.

LEVEL	PITCHES ALLOWED PER DAY
Varsity	120
JV	110
Freshmen	110
Middle Level	85

The rest periods required during the 2011 regular and tournament season are listed below:

VARSAITY:

- If a pitcher throws 76 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a pitcher throws 51-75 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a pitcher throws 26-50 pitches in a day one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
- If a pitcher throws 1-25 pitches in a day no calendar day of rest is required before pitching again.

A calendar day means that if a pitcher throws 76 pitches on Tuesday that player may not pitch again until Saturday. If they throw 76 pitches on Saturday that player may not pitch again until Wednesday. The starting time of the game NO longer matters in the calculation of when a pitcher is eligible to pitch again.

JV/FRESHMEN:

- If a pitcher throws 66 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days or rest must be observed.
- If a pitcher throws 41-65 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a pitcher throws 26-40 pitches in a day one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
- If a pitcher throws 1-25 pitches in a day no calendar day of rest is required before pitching again.

MIDDLE LEVEL:

- If a pitcher throws 56 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days or rest must be observed.
- If a pitcher throws 36-55 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a pitcher throws 20-35 pitches in a day one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
- If a pitcher throws 1-19 pitches in a day no calendar day of rest is required before pitching again.

A pitcher at any level who reaches the pitch count limit in the middle of an at bat will be allowed to finish that hitter. This only applies to maximum limitations. i.e. varsity 120, JV/Freshman 110, middle level 85.

c. VPA Pitching Limitation Procedure (6-1-6) applies to **varsity, jayvee and freshman games:**

1) The pitch count chart is to be presented to the opposing coach BEFORE the game. During the game pitch counts will be confirmed at the end of every half inning. Any discrepancy will be reported to the umpire.

2) At game's conclusion, the VPA pitching form will be signed by the coaches or designated representative.

3) Schools (Coaches/A.D.) have the responsibility to maintain this pitching chart form. **A hard copy must be available upon VPA request.**

d. Pitchers and Catchers may begin one week prior to the regular season (March 14TH) with the following limitations:

- Practice can be no longer than 90 minutes per school. You may not have a 90- minute session per team.
- 2) The only activity will be pitching and catching. No offensive or defensive drill work is permitted.
- 3) Practice must be held in the normal practice facility.
- 4) Prior to March 14th practice the coach must submit to the athletic director the roster of varsity/ JV pitchers, and varsity/ JV catchers. No changes or substitutions may be made to this original roster.

4.. A regulation game, where a winner cannot be determined will count as 1/2 game won and 1/2 game lost (4-2-2, + 4- 3).

5. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT WRITTEN GROUND RULES FOR TEAMS AND UMPIRES BE

PRESENTED AT ALL GAMES.

6. It is recommended that card-backed line up cards be used.
7. Schools are reminded to check the specifications of their field - i.e., mound size, holes, baseline markings. Hazardous conditions must be corrected.
8. Umpires who work a suspended game shall be paid an entire game fee; the umpires who work the completed suspended game shall also be paid an entire game fee.
9. When the umpires travel to a game site, and said game is rained out prior to its starting time, each umpire will receive 1/2 a game fee with no mileage.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

1. To qualify for the tournament, a team must submit an application.
In seeding teams, a point index will be used as one of the factors. The index points will be found as follows:

WIN OVER	WIN AT		TIE AT	
	Home	Away	Home	Away
Higher Division	5	6	3	4
Same Division or lower	4	5	2	3
Two Lower Divisions	3	4	1	2

The points will be totaled and the total divided by the number of games played to find the point index.

2. Only the first three games with common opponent will count. The tournament application must be complete with all games listed and the line showing total wins, losses, ties and index points filled in. This application must be filed electronically no later May 29, 2011, 10 AM.

3. Official dates for tournament play are as follows:

Last date for regular season games: May 28th

Baseball pairings May 29TH, 10:00 a.m.

Play downs May 31ST, 4:30 start time

Quarter-Finals - JUNE 3, 4:30 start time

Semi-finals - June 7--4:30

Finals – Thursday June 9, Friday June 10, and Saturday, June 11, 2011

NO TOURNAMENT GAMES MAY BE PLAYED PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED DATES.

4. The umpires for the tournament will be assigned through the V.P.A. office by the Executive Director, chairman of the Baseball Committee, and State Rules Interpreter or their designee.
5. The higher seeded team will furnish new **Spalding TF500** balls for state-level play through the semi-finals. The host team is to furnish a ball to the opposing pitcher at warm up time. The VPA will furnish the balls for the championship games (official balls are the **Spalding TF500**.) The pre-game schedule for all games throughout the state tournament is as follows:
 - a) 1 hour before the start of the game - Visitor's batting practice
 - b) 25 minutes before the start of the game - visitor's infield/outfield practice
 - c) 15 minutes before the start of the game - home teams infield/outfield practice5 minutes before the game - both teams meet with umpire crew at home plate.

6. TIMES ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE.

The home team may have their batting practice at any time prior to this pre--game schedule.

- 6a. At the baseball tournament games, from the play downs through the state semi-finals, the home team will include the chief scorer as one of the officials. It is required that an adult be included to supervise the scoring and pitch count.
- b. All quarter-finals and semi-finals games will have a 3 person umpiring crew. Each umpire will receive a full game fee.

7. IF THE FIELD OF THE HIGHER SEEDED TEAM IS NOT SUITABLE FOR STATE TOURNAMENT PLAY, THE LOWER SEEDED TEAM'S FIELD SHALL BE USED.

8. The higher seeded team will be the home team as it relates to the batting order.
9. All tournament games (play downs through finals) will be a complete 7-inning game with the following modifications:
- A. Any interrupted game will be treated as a suspended game will be picked up at the point of interruption.
 - B. The regular season 10 run rule is in effect for all tournament games
 - C. If there is a 10-run discrepancy in an interrupted regulation game, the principal of the losing school may take the opportunity to cease playing further.
 - D. The 15 run Mandatory rule is in effect for the tournament and up to the Championship.**
10. Protests will be ruled upon by the four umpires plus the VPA representative working that championship game. All other tournament game protests will be ruled on by the Executive Director of the VPA, the Baseball Committee Chair, and the Rules Interpreter of the Umpires' Association.
11. A list of current unsuitable fields for tournament play follows. Any questions must be addressed to the VPA office by APRIL 27, 2011.

***NOTE: Beginning with the 2012 baseball season bats with the BESR certification will be ILLEGAL. Bats showing the BBCOR certification are legal now and legal from the 2012 baseball season forward.

For bats that meet NFHS high school playing rules until December 31, 2011, go to http://m-5.eng.uml.edu/umlbrc/ncaa_certified_bats.asp. then go to the "League Approval" drop-down list (located at the bottom of the page) and select "NCAA 2010 Season", which will provide a list of approved bats for the 2011 high school season. Composite bats not listed, are not legal.

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