

**CITISPORTS Baseball League**

**2024 Rules (Revised 1/5/24)**
***All divisions shall follow the latest NFHS Baseball rules with the exceptions to those rules listed below or in the division specific referenced rules provided***

 **1. PLAYERS & SUBSTITUTIONS**

1. All team members must hustle on and off the field.
2. Uniforms of all team members should be of the same color and style. Pants must be worn. Absolutely no gang paraphernalia. All shirttails must be tucked in and hats on straight. For individual players, uniform sleeves may vary in length but shall not be ragged, frayed, or slit.
3. Playoff Eligibility - For a player to be eligible to participate in playoff games or championship games, he/she must have played in at least one half plus one of the regular season game by his/her team. (ex: a team plays 10 games, a player must have played in 6 games.) Players missing games for injury or high school playoff games will receive playoff eligibility credit for those games missed. This should be noted on the Games Played Checklist form provided by the league.
	* An updated Games Played Checklist should be kept in the team’s official score book provided by Citisports to be turned in at the end of the season or prior to upon request.
	* Games missed for injury should be marked “I” and games missed for High School team marked (HS), both cases should be reported to the commissioner
4. Rosters –
	1. Players are NOT allowed to be rostered on more than one Citisports team in the same age division
	2. Players CAN be rostered across multiple age groups within the same organization or a different organization if the age group is not offered at that organization.
	3. Each team roster can contain up to a maximum of 3 non-eligible players. A non-eligible player is defined as a player that resides outside of the borders of the City of Pittsburgh or any designated RBI School District
	4. A legal roster must contain a minimum of 10 players and a max of 18
	5. Teams must have copies of all rostered players birth certificates on file

Note: Eligibility is based on where a player lives, not necessarily where they go to school. A player may attend a private school within the City of Pittsburgh, but live in Wilkinsburg. That player’s school district is Wilkinsburg.

1. Roster Deadline and Changes:
	1. A completed roster must be turned into the CITISPORTS commissioner not later than the annually mandatory schedule meeting. A team will not receive their schedule and will not be permitted to play until a completed roster is turned in.
	2. Teams may add or delete players from their rosters as needed up until the legal number of games remaining equal or exceed games needed to be eligible for the playoffs. (Ex: 12 game season, no adds after 5 games have been played. 7 games remaining would give a newly added player the chance to participate in the half plus one games standard)
	3. Roster Lock: once a player plays 1 pitch for a team they are locked into that roster and may not transfer to a different organization or team.

The goal of CITISPORTS is to promote fair and competitive sports opportunities for children. The entry of community all-star teams into age group leagues offered by CITISPORTS is not permitted.

1. Age Restrictions:
	1. 10U "Players shall not turn 11 years of age before April 30, 2024”
	2. Little League and Bronco "Players shall not turn 13 years of age before April 30, 2024"
	3. Pony "Players shall not turn 15 years of age before April 30, 2024"
	4. Colt "Players shall not turn 17 years of age before April 30, 2024"
	5. Super Colt "Players shall not turn 19 years of age before April 30, 2024"
2. There will be a maximum and a minimum age of players that will be allowed for each established league. This rule applies to both rostered and call-up players. They are as follows:
	1. 10U Max 10-years old, Minimum 7-years old
	2. Little League/Bronco - Max 12-years old, Minimum 9-years old
	3. PONY – maximum 14-years old, minimum 11-years old
	4. COLT – maximum 16-years old, minimum 13-years old
	5. SUPERCOLT – maximum 19-years old, minimum 15-years old

**2. LINE UPS: All Players eligible to play must be reported and recorded in both books prior to the start of the game. Any players arriving late will be reported and recorded at that time.**

1. Line up options will be 9 batters, 10 batters(EH), or Continuous Batting Order
	1. Mandatory Playing Time Pony and Colt
		1. 9 Batters or 10 Batters(EH) = 2 consecutive innings in the field and 1 at bat
			1. Re- entry: When a starter is re-entering, they must return to the same spot in the batting order, but can play anywhere on the field, except the pitcher if he already has pitched. The starter may re-enter one time only. Home team must get all substitutes in by the top of the 6th inning. The visiting team must get all substitutes in by the bottom of the 5th inning. Substitutes must be inserted in a position within the batting order that will assure they receive at least one at bat. This rule applies even if the home team does not bat in the bottom of the 7th inning.
			2. An EH (extra hitter) can be used, but is not mandatory. The EH is the only starting player that does not have to play on the field.
				1. The EH cannot be substituted for.
				2. The EH may be used as a defensive sub at the coach’s discretion.
				3. The EH does not have to play two consecutive defensive innings. However, the EH cannot be entered into the game as a defensive substitution until after the second inning is completed.
				4. The EH may also be used as a pitcher.
				5. If removed from a game, regardless of the reason, and cannot continue, when the EH position comes around in the batting order, it will result in an out the first time only. After that, it will be bypassed.
		2. Continuous Batting Order = 1 inning in the field (free substitution) and in the batting order for entire game
			1. Re-entry: Free substitution will apply while using a continuous batting order. Players can be replaced on and off the field as often as wanted and will remain in the same batting slot for the duration of the game.
	2. No mandatory playing time in Super Colt but players must enter the game to accrue playoff eligibility
	3. 10U and LIttle League will use a mandatory Continuous Batting Order
	4. In the event of a completed game every player must meet the minimum playing time requirements listed above. Any team not meeting this requirement will forfeit the game, even if it is discovered after the conclusion of the game. (If a game is shortened due to weather, darkness, or 10-run rule and does not reach a maximum 6.5-7 innings, this rule will not apply.)
2. **Starting line-up**: must consist of players that are present at game time. Once that line-up has been submitted to the umpire and the opposing team and the game begins, any late arrivals must be entered as substitutes and follow the CITISPORTS rules.
	1. **Late arrivals** – A rostered player arriving after the start of the game and prior to the start of the second inning must be entered into the game (as per CITISPORTS rules). After the start of the second inning, it is not required to enter that player. If you choose to play a late arrival (after the second inning), you must abide by the substitution rule, with the exception of the SUPER COLT division. Any rostered player is eligible to play. Any late arrivals must be reported to the umpire and opposing team.
	2. **Players under League or team suspension**: A team that is not using a player present at the game due to disciplinary reasons must notify the opposing team’s scorekeeper and home plate umpire prior to the start of the game for approval.
	3. **Starting with 8 players:** All teams must make every attempt to start a game with 9 players. You can end a game with 8 players. Exception: In a case of unforeseen circumstances a team may start with 8 players. That team will receive an out in the #5 spot in the batting order for the remainder of the game or until a 9th player arrives and is inserted into the #5 spot.
		1. In the event a team has 8 players at the designated start time they will be given the 15 minute grace period, **15min clock starts at time of scheduled game**, to produce a 9th player before being forced to take the field.
		2. This should be reported to the league to ensure that this rule is not being miss used.
		3. Game will be forfeit if a team drops below 8 players. Ex: Start with 8, player sick, injured, or ejected, game is forfeit
	4. **In game injuries:** If a team has a position player removed from the line-up due to injury, ejection, etc. and does not have an unused substitute available, the last player removed from the line-up will be reinserted into their original spot in the batting order and their substitute will be moved to the now open batting order spot. If no one is available, the team will continue with an open spot in their batting order and when that position comes up at bat, it will be an automatic out for the remainder of the game. This does not apply to the extra hitter (EH). Please see Rule J-5.

NOTE: Though the home team is the official scorekeeper, both teams are responsible to insure this provision is adhered to.

**3. CALL-UPS**

1. Teams are permitted to draw a player or players from a lower age group only. CITISPORTS reserves the right to requests any and all verifying paperwork. Call ups will be from current Citisports Baseball team rosters from the same organization. All Call Ups must be within 3 years of the age limit for the division. (reference rule 1.I)
	1. All Call Ups will be reported to the commissioner, via email,
	2. All Call Ups will come from the age division directly below the team in need. (NO Pony A Call ups to Pony AA (2024 Change)
	3. No player may be called up for more than 2 games be it regular season or playoffs
	4. Any player who plays in 3 or more games for a team will be placed on that roster and subject to the 6 game minimum participation standard for playoff eligibility
	5. Play off call ups must have played the minimum 6 game participation standard for their rostered team in a lower division
	6. A team calling up a player for the above purpose is required to allow that player to participate in the game, with the exception of SUPER COLT division teams.
	7. Any player used in this manner must play the required minimum number of innings (as per CITISPORTS rules). This applies even if the legal numbers of rostered players are present at game time.
	8. Once a call-up is used by a team, they are not permitted to be used as a call-up by any other team.
	9. Call-ups can be used as pitchers. (See rule 4. Pitchers, subsection E)

**4. PITCHERS**

1. PONY league pitchers can pitch a maximum of 9 innings per week. COLT and SUPER COLT league pitchers can pitch a maximum of 10 innings per week. A full week is designated as 12:00 am Monday morning to 11:59 pm Sunday night.
	1. If a player pitches 3 or less innings in a game, they must receive a mandatory 24-hour rest period between appearances. If a player pitches 4 or more innings in a game, they must receive a mandatory 40 hour rest period between appearances. Rest period is determined as of the start of the game.

Exception: In the case of multiple games in a single day, a player may pitch a maximum of 7 innings per day before the required rest period will be applied. The rest period will be determined by the start of the game time of the last game they pitched in. One pitch thrown constitutes a full inning. This applies to any player used as a pitcher, including the EH.

1. Balk Warning:
	1. PONY division: umpires will give **1 warning** per pitcher on a balk and will penalize on the second.
	2. Bronco Division: umpires will give **2 warnings** per pitcher on a balk and will penalize on the 3rd.
	3. There will be no balk warnings in the COLT and SUPER COLT divisions.
2. Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a protective face mask.
3. Any pitcher caught defacing the ball shall be ejected.
4. Any pitcher wearing long sleeves, shirt must not be white or gray.
5. Call ups can be used as a pitcher and will be held to the rest standard associated with the division they are rostered on. (See Rule 4.G regarding Dual Rostered Player)
6. Hit by pitch:
	1. PONY-SuperColt – CITISPORTS will refer to the high school rule book concerning this matter. There is no limit to the number of batters hit by pitch. The only exception is found in the High School rule book “6-2 article #3, Intentionally Thrown Close to a Batter”. The pitcher may be ejected if the act is judged to be intentional. Any actions taken will be up to the discretion of the umpires.
	2. 10U, LL, and Bronco: Upon hitting a 3rd hitter in the same game, a pitcher must be replaced.
7. If a player is dual rostered at two different age groups, and that player is used as a pitcher, their total number of allowable innings per week will be based on the limits set for their age appropriate league. All innings pitched, by that pitcher, for either team, will count towards those limits regardless of which level they pitched in.

If a player used as described above exceeds their maximum allowable innings for that week, the game they pitched in that caused them to exceed those limits will be recorded as a forfeit and the opposing team will receive a win in the standings. The forfeit will still be applied even if the offending team wins or loses the game.

**5. BATTERS**

1. Must wear a NOCSAE approved double ear helmet.
2. Must keep one foot in the batter’s box at all times. This will result in an automatic strike with the following exceptions.
	1. The batter is forced out of the box by a pitch.
	2. The batter attempts a drag bunt.
	3. The batter swings at a pitch and his/her momentum carries them out of the box.
	4. The pitcher attempts a play at a base.
	5. The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the mound.
	6. Time is granted.
	7. The catcher leaves the catcher’s box.
	8. The catcher does not catch the ball.
	9. On a foul or tip ball the player will not be penalized for stepping out of the batter’s box unless he does not make an attempt to get back in a timely manner.
3. Legal Bats:
	1. Super Colt and Colt = Stamped BBCOR.50 or wooden bat
	2. Pony = certified USA Bat Stamp (There is no drop weight limit) or any Colt or Super Colt legal bat
4. Illegal Bat Rule: Player will be called out if he steps into the batter’s box or area designated as such with an illegal bat.
	1. Umpires will not check a bat unless a request is made from a coach or a catcher
	2. Any play resulting from the use of an illegal bat will be reversed back to the previous position and batter will be called out.
	3. Violations will be reported to Citisports and recorded for the season. Multiple violations will result in discipline for player, coach and organization the following way:
		1. 1st Violation: written warning to organization, player and coach
		2. 2nd Violation: 1 game suspension for Player and Head Coach
		3. 3rd Violation: 3 game suspension for Player and Coach, review with possibility of league expulsion.

**6. FIELD & EQUIPMENT**

1. **Master Calendar**: Each organization must keep a Master Schedule for their permitted fields available for Citisports to view. Contact information for whomever will be keeping this information will be submitted to Citisports before the start of the season.
	* Citisports reserves the right to use any field, permitted through the city free of charge, to play neutral site games when needed.
2. Home team is responsible for insuring field is playable.
	1. Home team must inform Citisports staff 2hrs prior to scheduled game time if field will not be playable or risk forfeit
	2. If the scheduled field is deemed unplayable due to field conditions and the visitor’s field is both available and playable, then the game will be moved to the visitor’s field for the same day and time as long as umpires are still available.
	3. Citisports will make every effort to evaluate any questionable fields the morning of weekday games to determine playability.
3. Home team is responsible for field setup. (i.e. bases, pitching rubber, home plate, etc.) Home teams are required to place foul lines on the field. Although batter’s boxes will not be required, it is highly recommended that the home team also include them in their field set up.
4. PONY field measurements: mound at 54’ and bases at 80’
5. COLT and SUPER COLT field measurements: mound at 60’6” and bases at 90’
6. Catchers in all divisions must wear a hard cup in addition to the standard catcher’s gear (i.e. 1 piece hockey style mask, chest protector, and leg guards).

**7. GAME RULES**

1. All games will be 7 innings for PONY-SUPER and 6 innings for 10U, LL, and Bronco. There will be a 15-minute grace period. If any unforeseen circumstances cause a team to be unable to start the game with the minimum number of players by game time or expiration of grace period, CITISPORTS reserves the right to extend the grace period as needed. Any team arriving past the grace period or is a no show for the game without prior knowledge to a league official will be assessed the current forfeit fee.
2. **Cancelations:** Games will only be canceled/rescheduled for weather or field conditions. Teams are expected to do some field maintence in an attempt to keep games on schedule. Please inform CitiSports ASAP if fields are unplayable or need work done.
3. **Reschedules:** Any game cancelled due to inclement weather must be rescheduled with the new date, time and location reported to Citisports within 48 hours. If teams cannot agree on a new date at the time of cancelation, the game will be rescheduled within 10 days of the original scheduled date.
	1. Home Team will select 1 date with in the 10 day period that they DO NOT wish to play, followed by the same from the visiting team, back and forth until 1 day remains where the game will be scheduled, in order of availability, at the Home Team’s field, the Visiting Team’s field, or a neutral field selected by the commissioner.
	2. If the either team fails to play on the designated date it will result in a forfeit including all penalties and fines associated if applicable.
4. TIME LIMITS: **2 hour game time limit for all games**
	1. an inning in progress before the time limit expires will be finished in its entirety.
	2. No new innings will be started after 2 hours.
		1. Umpire controls the clock in conjunction with the home team.
		2. INJURY TIME: If an injury occurs, the umpire may stop the clock as long as need to attend to the injured player. This injury time should not be counted against the time limit.
		3. Time limit is starts after the 1st pitch is thrown and should be announced for both teams and the Umpire to record.
5. **Run Rules**: a team leading by X runs at the end of an inning **(7.D.)**
	1. 12 runs after 4 innings
	2. 10 runs after 5 innings
	3. 8 runs after 6 innings
6. **Darkness/Weather**:
	1. If a game is called due to darkness or inclement weather prior to a legal game (4.5-5 innings), the game will be replayed in its entirety.
	2. If a game has reached its legal limit and is tied at the end of a complete inning, the game will be recorded as a tie.
	3. If a legal game (5 complete innings) is suspended in the middle of an inning, we revert back to the last complete legal inning and the score at that time will be recorded as the final score.
7. **Offensive Conferences:** Teams are given 1 offensive conferences per inning not to exceed 1 minute.
8. **Defensive/Pitcher Conferences**: Mound visits: Pitcher will be removed after 2nd visit in same inning or 3rd visit for the game. Conferences may include all defensive players
9. **Courtesy Runners** – At any time a team at bat may use a courtesy runner for the catcher or pitcher on record from the previous inning. The player used as the courtesy runner must be the player that made the last out. Courtesy runners will be allowed for an injured base runner the first time only.
10. Sliding:Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal. For CITISPORTS purpose, a legal slide is considered as being feet first for PONY league and feet or hands first for COLT and SUPER COLT league. LL, Bronco, 10U and PONY leagues Sliding: Head first back to the base only. An illegal head first slide will result in an out. No warning will be given.
11. For further instances of legal and illegal sliding, see rules 2-23-1-2 and 8-4-2, a, b, c, d, e in the NFHS rule book. A runner will be called out and will be ejected, if in the opinion of the umpire, they initiate malicious or intentional contact with the fielder in the act of making a play on them. If during a fielder’s attempt to place a tag on, a runner causes contact to occur, this may constitute illegal contact by the runner. It will be up to the decision of the umpire.
12. Ground rules, dead ball areas, and awarding of bases – Existing home field ground rules will only determine dead ball territories. A no “free home” rule is applicable in the following situation only. CITISPORTS rules dictate that a pitched ball that gets lodged in the back stop area or goes through the fence in the backstop area will result in a “dead ball” with no runners advancing HOME. For awarding of bases in other “dead ball” situations, refer to the NFHS rule book, rule 8, base running.
13. Playoff games –
	1. The time limit rule will be waived for all playoff games.
	2. Home team is to be determined by playoff seeding.
	3. Location to be determined by CITISPORTS based on availability, staffing, and time constraints.
	4. Any game suspended for weather/darkness will be played the next day that field conditions on that field allow or on an alternative field agreed upon by both sides within 3 days

All pitchers will start playoff week with a full complement of allowable innings (9 or 10). All mandatory rest periods will be waived during the playoffs.

1. All championship games not played at PNC Park will have the standard 10-run rule in effect.
2. All championship games played at PNC Park will use a modified 10-run rule
	1. 10 run rule will be in effect
	2. Additional subsequent games will begin ASAP to allow for close games to be played in their entirety.
	3. Teams should report to PNC Park 1 hour prior to their scheduled game time ready to take the field ASAP after the prior game.
	* If circumstances dictate, CITISPORTS reserves the right to reschedule championship games to a time and location of the league’s choice. Additionally, all pitchers will be eligible for up to 7 full innings for the championship game.
	* All PONY AA Championship games at PNC Park or other official venue will be played at 90’ bases and 60’ pitching mound distances.

**8. PROTESTS**

1. Protests must be formally stated at the time of the occurrence and communicated to both the umpire and the opposing team’s head coach or coach present at the time. This will be officially marked in the book and teams will continue to play under protest
2. Within 24hrs of the occurrence, the protest shall be reflected in writing to the League Commissioner and accompanied by a $25.00 protest fee via check or money order and payable to the Treasurer City of Pgh. Fee will be returned if protest is upheld.
3. All properly filed protests will be reviewed and decided upon within 24hrs of receipt of the written protest.
4. Protest will not be accepted if above procedure are not followed.

**9. CONDUCT**

1. All participants in a CITISPORTS game are expected to act in a respectful manner towards fellow players, coaches, fans and umpires.
2. CITISPORTS will not tolerate any physical violence, foul language, or verbal abuse of players, coaches, fans and umpires.
3. Absolutely no guns or weapons of any kind. Use of profanity by coaches or players is not permitted. No smoking or use of any tobacco products in or around the dugout areas.
4. Game Day Ejection Protocol: player/coach must leave the premises before game will continue. Failure to do so in a timely manner will result in the game ending in forfeit.
5. Anyone ejected from a game will receive a minimum one game suspension. The length of the suspension is then subject to further review based on the severity of the actions of the offending party prior to and following the ejection. Managers and assistant coaches will have 24 hours from the time of the incident to submit a written appeal to the CITISPORTS baseball League Commissioner. The League Commissioner will then review the appeal and make a final ruling on the suspension within a reasonable time frame.
6. Player or coach ejections will continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine if a longer suspension is warranted.
7. Failure to abide by any of the above guidelines or any other action deemed to be unsportsmanlike in nature may result in additional disciplinary action.

**10. STANDINGS & POINT SYSTEM**

Win = 3 points

Loss = 0.5 points

Tie = 2 point – If neither team is ahead in the score at the end of a game that is deemed complete, a
tie will be recorded.

Forfeit = -2 points (2 points to be deducted from the final total of any team that forfeits a game). The
tiebreaker rules will be used as necessary to break any ties in the standings.

Forfeits: Any team that forfeits 3 games during the regular season is disqualified from participating in the league for the remainder of the current season and will be subject to review for future participation.

Any team canceling a scheduled game for a non-weather related reason will automatically receive a forfeit. The game will not be rescheduled. Any team forfeiting a game will incur a forfeit fee for the cost of that game to reimburse umpire fees.

* 1. A standard notification email acknowledging said forfeit and the fees associated will be delivered to the head coach and organization president immediately following the decision or ruling of a forfeit
	2. Forfeit fees will be collected before the charged team can participate in any future games.
	3. Additional games will be deemed forfeited at 24hr prior to the scheduled game time until fees are paid

**11. CLEARANCES**

All coaches and other team personnel must be certified by their organization as having all required PA state criminal background, child abuse clearances, and either an FBI fingerprint clearance or have submitted the required FBI waiver form in accordance with PA state law and City of Pittsburgh requirements. Organizations must complete and submit to the CITISPORTS commissioner a notarized certification sheet. Anyone not listed on that form will not be permitted to participate in any CITISPORTS game. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Random checks: will be made at games without notice!

1. Only accredited adults submitted to Citisports and rostered players are allowed on the team bench or designated area
2. Please register and submit as many adults as you like with Citisports.
3. If at any time a team is found to be in violation of the clearance rule, the game will be stopped and the offending team will receive a forfeit.
4. A second violation will result in removal of that team from the Citisport’s league for the remainder of the season.