

# **NORTHERN LIGHTS BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**

**Local Rules**

**Version 1.0**

**2010**

# LOCAL RULES

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## **NORTHERN LIGHTS BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**

The Northern Lights (NLBA) is a cooperative program sponsored by several neighborhood communities of Chicago and the north suburbs. Our Association is designed primarily for player ages 15-17 in the Colt level and 18 and above in the Palomino level. Play is governed by the Official Major League Baseball as supplemented and/or modified by these Local Rules. The Association will arrange regular season and playoff schedules and umpires for championship games. Play is scheduled to begin June 4, 2010.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** The sponsoring communities for the 2010 season and their contact persons are the following:

<b><u>COMMUNITY</u></b>	<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND EMAIL</u></b>
Lincolnwood	Marcello Falcone	Phone:  Email:

## **Rain outs and Hotlines:**

Inclement weather can be unpredictable. You should always assume that you are going to play. Umpires and coaches are strongly encouraged to get games in if it can be done safely. Games will generally not be canceled prior to one hour before game time. Managers should inform players that if there is doubt about field conditions, they should not call the manager, but, instead, they should wait for the manager to call them and that if they don't hear from the manager, go to the ballpark on the assumption the game will be played. Some sponsoring Communities have a "hot line" telephone number from which official information about field conditions sometimes may be obtained. **Please share these hot line telephone numbers with your players and parents!**

### **Association**

Lincolnwood

### **Telephone Hotline**

# Local Rules 1

## Object of the Game; The Playing Field; Equipment; Interference

- 1A. *The Official Baseball Rules* (from [www.mlb.com](http://www.mlb.com)) governs play and is the main rule book for the NLBA. It is supplemented only by these Local Rules. Illinois High School Association (IHSA) rules DO NOT supersede these rules or control play or conduct. Umpires are prohibited from making, enforcing, interpreting, or in any manner varying the Official Baseball Rules and/or these Local Rules. Each Manager and coach must be thoroughly familiar with *The Official Baseball Rules* and these Local Rules, which supersede the official rules in every instance. Both sets of rules must be in the possession of the manager or coach in charge of the team at every game. Compliance with the rules is mandatory and any violation as formally reported by the opposing manager or detected by the NLBA Commissioner shall be grounds for forfeiture of the game(s) in which the violation occurred.
- 2A. No jewelry may be worn.
- 3A. The fields are open play and any ball batted to the outfield and which remains in the outfield is in play.
- 4A. Fielders must catch the ball on the field of play. Should the fielder's momentum carry the fielder through the enclosed park area, runners may advance at their own risk.
- 5A. Aluminum bats are allowed but the bat difference between length and weight shall not exceed a difference of (-3). Aluminum bats must be BESR certified. Wood bats are also allowed with no restriction on wood type or difference in length to weight.

## Local Rules 2

### Definition of Terms

**Director:** The person identified by a sponsoring community to represent the sponsoring community and who shall serve on the governing board of the NLBA and as that community's contact person.

**Disciplinary Committee:** The Disciplinary Committee is made up of the NLBA Commissioner(s) or their designee(s) and one Director from each of the communities sponsoring a team or teams in the NLBA. If the Director listed by the community is unable to participate in any proceeding, his/her designee may participate. Only one vote for each community sponsoring a team or teams shall be permitted in any proceeding.

**Enclosed Park Area:** The area defined by clearly identified walls and/or fences or by imaginary lines extending from the bench-protecting fences along the first and third base lines parallel to the outfield foul lines.

## **Local Rules 3**

### **Game Preliminaries; Pre-Game Conditions; Playing Up**

- 3A. The manager of the home team is responsible for setting up the field and returning all field equipment.
- 3B. The manager of the home team is responsible for furnishing three (3) new baseballs to the umpire before the game.
- 3C. Both teams will exchange batting orders and line-ups before the game.
- 3D. The game starting time is that which is shown on the published playing schedule.
- 3E. No game will start when the managers are informed by the NLBA Commissioner or by the Park District with jurisdiction over the field, that the field is unplayable. When the managers have no information from the Commissioner or the Park District, managers shall consider that all games will be played.
- 3F. Other than above, managers of both teams must mutually agree on the playable condition of the field. When no agreement can be reached, the umpire will decide. In making these decisions, managers and umpires must consider the safety of the players paramount in making the decision.
- 3G. When the managers agree that the field is playable, the game is turned over to the umpire. Only then does the umpire have authority to continue or cancel a game.
- 3H. If there is a forfeiture due to absent or insufficient players, the teams are encouraged to play a practice game, even if it involves borrowing a player(s) from the opposing team. If the teams decide to play a practice game, umpires are required to stay to receive compensation from the official game.
- 3I. If lightning is detected or thunder is heard, the umpire shall suspend play until the threat of lightning has passed and playing conditions are safe. However, after 15 minutes, the coaches shall consult with each other to determine whether the game shall be terminated, suspended or continued. If the suspension continues, it shall continue for another 15 minutes and then the umpire's judgment controls whether playing conditions are safe.
- 3J. Unless excused by the NLBA Commissioner for good cause, if a team forfeits more than 3 (three) games in regular season play, it forfeits its right to participate in post-season play.

## Local Rules 4

### Starting and Ending the Game; Postponements; Make-Ups

- 4A. An NLBA regulation game consists of seven (7) innings, unless extended because of a tie score, or shortened: (1) because the home team needs none of its half of the seventh inning or only a portion of it, or (2) the slaughter rule takes effect, or (3) the Umpire calls the game.
- 4B. If another game is schedule to be played on the same field, new inning can start 15 minutes prior to the start time of the second game. If the regulation game has not been completed, the game will be reduced to the innings played.
- 4C. No game can encroach on the following game by more than 5 minutes.
- 4D. If a full inning cannot be completed, the score will revert back to the last full inning
- 4E. Delay tactics will not be allowed. If it is felt one team is stalling or delaying as to not allow the game to finish due to the second game awaiting the field, the current batter will be awarded 2 bases. All base runners will be allowed to advance if forced. It is the umpire's discretion as to whether a team is deliberately stalling.
- 4F. If a game is called, it is a regulation game if 1) five (5) innings have been completed, or 2) the home team has scored more runs in four and one-half (4-1/2) innings than the visiting team has scored in its five (5) completed half innings. If a regulation game is called, the score shall be deemed that which it was at the end of the last completed inning. For purposes of this Local Rule, an inning is completed if the home team is ahead at the end of the visiting team's half inning or goes ahead in its bottom half of that half inning.
- 4G. If a game is called before it becomes a regulation game, it will be considered suspended and resumed at the point of suspension. Line-ups remain the same, if possible. If new or different players are attending the make game, they will be place at the bottom of the order.
- 4H. **SLAUGHTER RULE:** Any team that compiles a ten (10) run lead after five (5) complete innings shall be declared the winner. Should the home team be ahead or go ahead by ten (10) runs after four and one-half (4-1/2) innings, the game will be declared over.
- 4I. **EXTREME SLAUGHTER RULE:** Any team that compiles a fifteen (15) run lead after four (4) complete innings shall be declared the winner. Should the home team be ahead or go ahead by fifteen (15) runs after three and one-half (3-1/2) innings, the game will be declared over.
- 4J. **MAXIMUM RUNS PER INNING:** Any team that complies fifteen (15) runs in one inning prior to three (3) outs being recorded shall end their batting half of the inning. The next inning will lead off with the player that was next to bat prior to the fifteenth run being score. This rule will be suspended during the playoffs.

4Ja. Exception, if the batter has not completed his at bat while the fifteenth (15) run is scored, the player will lead off the next inning.

4K. A team will field no more than nine (9) players. However, a team may start the game with a minimum of eight (8) players. After the game starts, the minimum player limit to continue a game is seven (7).

4L. Objectionable equipment as determined by the umpire shall be removed from the game immediately (e.g., a white long sleeve shirt worn by the pitcher).

4M. It is in the best interest of everyone that all disputes be resolved at the time of the infraction.

4N. A grace period of fifteen (15) minutes shall be permitted before forfeiting a game for lack of sufficient players.

## **Local Rules 5**

### **Putting the Ball in Play; Dead Ball and Live Ball (In-Play); Interference**

- 5A. Umpire discretion will come into play if non-participates enter the playing field during the course of play.
- 5B. Field ground rules must be discussed and agreed upon by both managers

## **Local Rules 6**

### **The Batter**

- 6A. All rostered players attending a game will be placed in the initial batting order and will bat in continuous rotation during the game. Late arriving players will be placed at the bottom of the batting order

## Local Rules 7

### The Runner

- 7A. A runner is out if the runner does not a) slide or b) attempt to get around the fielder or c) otherwise attempt to avoid a collision with the fielder who has the ball or who is about to have the ball and is waiting to make a tag at a base. Incidental contact may be unavoidable and shall not result in an out. The intent of this rule is to make the runner responsible for *avoiding a collision* between players by the runner intentionally charging into a fielder to jar the ball loose and to avoid injury to one or both of the players. However, a fielder may not block a base path with the sole intent to cause a collision that will prevent the runner from reaching the base. For definition of obstruction by a fielder, see *The Official Baseball Rules*.
- 7B. A courteous runner maybe allowed for the pitcher and catcher with 2 outs. The runner will be the last batted out in the inning.

## **Local Rules 8**

### **The Pitcher**

- 8A. If a manager, coach or player not currently playing in the field makes two (2) trips to the mound in one (1) inning, that pitcher must be relieved from pitching. A trip to the mound between innings does not constitute a trip for the purpose of this Local Rule.
- 8B. If the manager or coach is also playing in the field, the coach or manager can make unlimited trips to the mound for the given inning they are playing in the field.
- 8C. Any time a manager or coach crosses the foul line into the playing field or calls time for a conference with a pitcher, the team will be charged with a trip to the mound. Exception is given when there is an injury on the field. A time limit will be imposed on all conferences at the discretion of the umpire.
- 8D. Pitchers may not wear batting gloves, sweatbands on their wrists or arms, or long-sleeve white or similar light colored shirts while pitching.
- 8E. Once a pitcher has been removed or relieved from pitching, he may not pitch again in that game.
- 8F. All players eligible for their given league will be eligible to pitch.

## Local Rules 9

### The Umpire

- 9A. The communities which sponsor the NLBA shall provide the best possible umpiring for all games. Umpires, managers, coaches, players and spectators must remember several important points. Everyone is entitled to the same courtesy and respect that you would want for yourself, your family, and your children. Managers and coaches are responsible for the behavior players display to umpires and are also expected to help control spectators' behavior in this regard. Our primary directive is to provide safe and enjoyable recreational activity for our children, Baseball is a game which should always be fun and never deteriorate into argument.
- 9B. Managers, coaches, players, and umpires should not argue with, demean, insult, or threaten each other. Any questions or problems that arise pertaining to an umpire's competence or conduct should be raised with the NLBA Commissioner as soon as possible, NOT with the umpire.
- 9C. Each community sponsoring a team or teams is responsible for providing and paying for qualified umpires for all games. All umpires must be at least 18 years old and shall be "patched" or, if not patched, must be drawn from a list of umpires or umpire services approved by the NLBA Commissioner.
- 9D. The home team and its sponsoring community will provide two qualified umpires for each regular season game. If it is impossible to provide two umpires, the home team will not forfeit the game, but all reasonable efforts shall be made to secure both umpires for that game. If the home team does not provide at least one umpire, it shall not forfeit the game on the first occurrence but shall be given a warning of the violation of these Local Rules. On a subsequent failure of a home team to provide at least one qualified umpire, the NLBA Commissioner, in consultation with the NLBA Directors, shall take such corrective or disciplinary actions as he/she deems necessary and appropriate including expulsion from the Association.
- 9E. A 15-minute grace period from the scheduled game starting time will be allowed before the home team forfeits the game for failure to provide an umpire.
- 9F. Intentional physical contact initiated by a manager, coach or player directed at the umpire, when substantiated, may result in an automatic two (2) consecutive game suspension for the manager, coach, or player.
- 9G. Umpires shall remain available and shall perform their umpire duties, if requested to do so by the managers of both the opposing teams, upon any forfeiture or application of the slaughter rules. The purpose of this rule is to encourage practice and instructional games even if they won't count in the standings.
- 9H. Each Director shall provide the umpires and/or umpire service employed by his/her community to umpire NLBA games a copy of these Local Rules; umpires are expected to read and apply these Local Rules, and the Rules of Major League Baseball, without regard to IHSA rules.

## **Local Rules 10**

### **Official Scorer; Reporting Scores; and Other Information**

- 10A. No later than 1:00 p.m. on the second day following a game which is completed, terminated for any reason, or suspended, the manager of the winning team, or in all other cases the manager of the home team, shall provide to the NLBA Commissioner or his designee, in or on a form or format established by the Commissioner, by hand delivery, email, fax, or other similar method, a written game report including the following information at a minimum: date of game, opponents, scores, and the date to which a suspended game is continued, if known. Failure to comply with these rules results in forfeiture of the game.
- 10B. Season standings and post-season seedings are calculated on the basis of 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, no points for a loss or forfeit.

## **Local Rules 11**

### **General Game Rules; Eligibility**

- 11A. Conduct that is detrimental to the NLBA subjects the offender to suspension from the NLBA.
- 11B. Ejection of a player, coach, or manager from any game by the umpire for a substantiated violation of the Rules will subject the ejected person to appropriate disciplinary action after review by the NLBA Commissioner.
- 11C. Any person who is ejected for a substantiated violation of the Rules two (2) times in a season will serve an automatic two (2) game suspension, including post-season play, pending review of the severity of the infraction. If the conduct is determined to be severe, a harsher penalty may be imposed by the Disciplinary Committee. Any person who is ejected for a substantiated violation of the Rules three (3) times in a season will be expelled for the remainder of the season.
- 11D. Free substitution is allowed
- 11E. An injured player can be replaced by any player except that a player who is not eligible to pitch for any reason shall not replace an injured pitcher. If the injured player is a runner at the time, the last batted replace the injured player on the bases.
- 11F. League age shall be determined as of the first day of June, unless a later date is required by the rules of the sponsoring team or community. For example, a player born on or before June 1, 1992, is league age 16 on May 1, 2008; a player born on or after June 2, 1992, is league age 15 on June 1, 2008.
- 11G. Age Requirements:
- 11H. Colt Level: no player shall be over the age of 17
- 11I. Palomino Level: no age limit
- 11J. No player may be rostered by more than one (1) NLBA team.

## **Administrative Rules**

- ARA. As a condition of participation, each community sponsoring a team(s) in the NLBA shall deliver to the NLBA Commissioner a certificate of insurance identifying the insurer, the insurance producer, and the sponsoring community or its youth baseball association as an insured, and the NLBA as an additional insured. Failure to provide proof of such insurance will result in a loss for all of the community's teams for each game until the required insurance certificate is provided.
- ARB. As a condition of participation, each community sponsoring a team(s) in NLBA shall deliver to the NLBA Commissioner a roster on a roster form supplied by the NLBA. Failure to provide these documents will result in a loss of each game thereafter until the roster is provided.
- ARC. Birth certificates are not required unless the age of a player from the Colt Level is questioned. If such question is asked, the team has 72 hours to produce a valid document showing the player's age. Valid documents can be drivers licenses, state identification cards or birth certificates. Other forms may be allowed at the digression of the NLBA Commissioner.
- ARD. As a condition of participating in this NLBA baseball program, each player and his/her parent and/or guardian (if the player is under legal age) shall agree in writing to hold harmless NLBA and its directors and to abide by these Local Rules and any Administrative Rules. Agreements and releases on forms provided by NLBA and signed by each player and each player's parent, guardian, or in loco parentis, shall be turned in by each team's manager to the NLBA Commissioner prior to the start of the season, and failure to do so will disqualify each player for whom the agreement and release is not turned in until full compliance with the Rules.
- ARE. Deadlines, procedures and eligibility imposed by these Local Rules may be reasonably modified, or exceptions granted, in the discretion of the NLBA Commissioner for the good of the program.
- ARF. Forms for use in complying with these Local Rules may be obtained from the NLBA website or from the team's community Director.
- ARG. NLBA Commissioner will be elected prior to the start of each season. Each community will have one (1) vote in the election of the NLBA Commissioner. The NLBA Commissioner does not have to be associated with any team or league as the Commissioner is a mediator to resolve issues between communities that cannot be resolved.