

## PALM BEACH COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

Playing under rules of the FHSAA for BASEBALL with the following modifications:

REGULATION GAME consists of six innings (6) with the following exceptions.

In the event of rain, darkness or time limitations – four (4) innings shall constitute a *complete game* (3 ½ if the home team is leading). **EXCEPTION:** If time expires, the game is complete no matter the number of innings played; i.e. only 3 innings completed in 1:45 = complete game.

If a game is called before time expires and is not a complete game it MUST be started over from the beginning ( even if the score is tied); i.e. a game called after only 2 innings of play due to lightning, etc. – game **will not** be suspended but replayed at a later date.

If the game is called before time expires (determining final score for a complete game).

Example: Bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> with one out, game is called due to lightning, etc. The score when called: Home 3 Visitors 4. To determine final score revert back to last completed inning, the 4<sup>th</sup> – Home 3 Visitors 2. Home Team wins 3 – 2. (If the home team in its half scores a run to exceed the opponent's score, the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.)

BALK WARNINGS. One per pitcher for the first two weeks of play...which may or may not be full weeks. There will be 1:45 minute time limit after which no new inning shall begin. If the home team is ahead and batting as the time expires, the game is IMMEDIATELY over – do not finish the inning.

**Tie breaking procedures will be in effect.** After the 6<sup>th</sup> inning or if TIME has expired, no matter the inning, and the score is tied, the Kansas City Tie-Breaker will be used. **The last official completed batter from the previous inning will be placed on 2nd base at the beginning of the tie-breaking inning with no outs.** The tie breaking procedure continues until there is a winner after a completed inning. IF THE SCORE IS TIED AND THE GAME CALLED DUE TO DARKNESS, RAIN, ETC., IT WILL BE A SUSPENDED GAME.

Field Dimensions: Bases 80 feet with pitching rubber at 54 feet. During regular season if a team's home field is not 80', it is acceptable to play on that field BUT... ALL playoff games MUST be on an 80' field.

Bat restrictions. BBCOR bats only. Exception: See Illegal BBCOR List on back of Pitching Limits page.

Up to two Coaches may be out of the dugout when on defense if it a safe distance from Home Plate and coaches do not 'roam'. Coaches must WEAR A HELMET. NO BUCKETS outside dugouts. Umpires have complete authority on allowance of this rule; with safety of the utmost importance. Violators (roaming or not wearing a helmet) will be subject to remaining in the dugout.

Mercy Rule. The game shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 or more runs after 3 ½ innings or after 4 innings if home team is behind by 10 or more runs.

Teams have option to let on-deck hitter go "behind" the batter.

If game goes to the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, each team is allowed one defensive and one offensive conference starting in the 7<sup>th</sup>. Unused conferences in first 6 innings cannot be carried over into extra innings.

EH (extra hitter) allowed and is OPTIONAL. If used, must be declared at the plate meeting with the umpires before the start of the game. EH may freely substitute defensively. EH is treated like a starter and has re-entry. A substitute for the EH becomes the new EH.

May start with 8 players. It is an out when the 9<sup>th</sup> slot comes up. May add a 9<sup>th</sup> player during the game.

NEW 2016- 5 RUN LIMIT – If coaches AGREE at the plate meeting, the game may be played allowing no more than 5 runs per team, per inning.

### **Some key FHSA rules used for Middle School:**

#### **NEW Rule for 2017 regarding the Force Play Slide Rule:**

A runner may slide directly into home plate and if his momentum carried him through the plate in a straight line, it is a legal slide. At any other base it is still illegal to slide through a bag.

The NFHS Authenticating Mark is required on all baseballs. Play game if don't have and notify Yetta Greene.

Designated Hitter may bat for any player and is treated as a starter; i.e. may re-enter.

P – DH Rule. Pitcher may hit for himself. See PBBUA web site\* under Training Material-Pitching for PowerPoint explaining this rule.

Speed up Rule. May use a courtesy runner (CR) for pitcher or catcher at any time. Must use someone who has NOT yet been in the game. MAY NOT use the same runner for both positions. CR may not pinch run or pinch hit for another player in the same inning as he was used as a CR. (Exception: If an injury, illness, or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.)

Prior to the start of the game, the umpire-in-chief shall receive verification from each head coach that his participants are properly equipped AND verify that his participants are using only legal equipment, including bats and helmets. BATS MUST BE BBCOR CERTIFIED (see #5 for bats that are NOT legal although they ae BBCOR.) HELMETS MUST BE FREE OF CRACKS AND DAMAGE. Helmets must have the proper padding, meet NOCSAE standard (NOCSAE symbol must be visible on all helmets) and Batting Helmets must have warning label outside that is visible. For the first violation of illegal bat usage, head coach is restricted to dugout; for the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense he is ejected.

**Pay Rate – Plate \$65    BASE - \$65    ALONE - \$97**

Contact for rule questions or other concerns:

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