

**ATWATER BOMBERS FALL BASEBALL  
INTERMEDIATE GROUND RULES**

1. **NUMBER OF PLAYERS:** Teams may start and finish a game with a minimum of eight (8) players. If a team is unable to field at least 8 players by the game's scheduled start time, then the game will be rescheduled by both managers' agreement. If the game cannot be rescheduled, the game will be canceled.
2. **TIME LIMIT:** There is a 2-hour time limit. No new inning will begin after 1-hour 50 minutes. No new inning will begin after 10:00 pm.
3. **LENGTH OF GAMES:** All games shall consist of seven (7) innings (6 ½ if the home team is ahead) unless the game is shortened by the umpire due to time, weather, etc. or lengthened due to a tie. All shortened games must consist of at least 5 innings (4 ½ if the home team is ahead) to be considered a complete game unless the time limit has expired, and the inning has been completed. Games tied after seven (7) innings will be considered complete and recorded as a tie.
4. **RUN RULE:** There will be a Five Run rule per inning. **EXCEPTION:** The Mercy Rule applies: 15 runs after four (4) innings, 10 runs after five (5) innings, and eight (8) runs after six (6) innings.
5. **OPEN INNING RULE:** The last inning of the game may be called an Open Inning as time permits at the discretion of umpire.
6. **LENGTH BETWEEN INNINGS:** Teams shall change positions as rapidly as possible at the end of each inning. Play should resume within 2 minutes after the last out of the previous half-inning. The Pitcher may take up to 8 warm-up pitches in between each inning, if within two (2) minutes.
7. **RAIN-OUTS:** Rain-out games shall be rescheduled by the President or Vice President. In the event a team cannot field enough players on the initial makeup date and notifies the League President or Division VP and the Opposing Head Coach 24 hours prior to the scheduled game time, a second date will be set. If said team cannot make the 2nd makeup date, that team shall forfeit – the game score will be recorded as 7-0.
8. **COACHES:** Each team is allowed, 1 head coach and 2 assistant coaches. Base coaches will consist of 2 adults or 1 adult and 1 player (the player must wear a helmet and may only coach 1<sup>st</sup> base).
9. No defensive coaches are allowed on the field and are to remain inside their dugout during play of the game unless receiving a "time out" from the head umpire.
10. **METAL CLEATS:** Metal cleats are not allowed.
11. **BATTING ORDER:** There is a continuous batting order (CBO) with unrestricted substitutions. The mandatory play rule applies, see rule #11.

12. **PLAYERS:** The Intermediate Division is for league ages 12 to 14-year-old players.

13. **MANDATORY PLAY:** Each player on the team's roster and present at the start of the game shall play a minimum of six (6) defensive outs AND may not sit more than (2) innings in a row. The penalty for violating the mandatory play rule will be assessed to the Head Coach as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> violation – Head Coach suspended from the next scheduled game,
- 2<sup>nd</sup> violation – Head Coach suspended from the following two games,
- 3<sup>rd</sup> violation – Head Coach will be removed from the league as a coach.
  - a. [EXCEPTION: for weather, shortened games, illness, injury]

14. **DUGOUT ASSIGNMENTS:** The Home team will occupy the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout while the Visiting team will occupy the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout.

15. **PITCHERS & CATCHERS:** Pitchers removed from the game as a pitcher may NOT return to the mound as a pitcher later in the game. (Pitcher may play in different defensive position).

Pitchers who have thrown the maximum number of innings for a single game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of the day. Catchers that catch 3 full innings cannot play the position of pitcher for the remainder of the game; and catchers that catch less than 3 innings and then pitch, cannot return as a catcher for the remainder of the game.

<u>1. Minors, Majors and Intermediate Divisions</u>	
2. Pitch 1 inning	0 days rest
3. Pitch 2 innings	1 days rest
4. Pitch 3 innings	2 days rest
5. Pitch 4 innings	3 days rest

- No player may pitch more than 8 innings in a 7-day period.
- No player may pitch more than 3 innings in a single game in the Minor and Major Divisions.
- No player may pitch more than 4 innings in a single game in the Intermediate Division.

16. **BALKS:** Each new pitcher shall be provided one (1) warning (all action shall be ruled “dead” when the warning is given) by the umpire. After the initial warning, all subsequent balks for that same pitcher shall be called in occurrence to the rules.

17. **PROTESTS:** Only rule infraction protests will be allowed. All disputes must be settled within 5 minutes, by the Lead Umpire. The Head Coach may, with the rules in hand and permission from the Lead Umpire, question a call regarding a ruling. The Umpires' decision at the end of 5 minutes is final. **JUDGEMENT CALLS CANNOT BE PROTESTED.**

18. **ON-DECK BATTER:** The next batter in the line-up is allowed to be outside the dugout in the designated “on-deck” area. The designated “on-deck” for both teams shall be an area adjacent to the team’s dugout.
19. **SCOREKEEPER, PITCH COUNTER, & FIELD MAINTENANCE:**
20. The home field League shall be responsible for making sure the field is prepared before each game. (putting out bases, marking the field, lightly watering, etc.) The home team shall provide the official scorekeeper. At the conclusion of the game, the umpire will record the final score, have both coaches sign the card and turn the card into the Vice President or other Board member present. Both teams are responsible for picking up the trash in their respective dugouts.
21. **END OF SEASON PLAYOFFS:** Playoff schedule will be determined by the League President.
22. **THROWN BAT RULE:** Batter who throws the bat will receive a one-time warning about the danger of throwing the bat. If the same batter throws the bat a second time, the batter will be called out.
23. **BUNTING** is allowed.
24. **DROPPED THIRD STRIKE RULE:** If the catcher fails to catch the ball on a third strike, AND first base is open OR there are two (2) outs, then the batter becomes a runner, and the ball is live.
25. **BATS:** Only USA/USSA and BB Core bats with a 5/3 drop, and a bat barrel diameter that does NOT exceed 2 5/8 inches may be used for Minor Division all games.

**NOTE: In addition to and outside of the Ground Rules, CIF/NFHS\* rules may apply.**

*CIF-California Interscholastic Federation/Baseball*

*NFHS-National Federation of High Schools/Sports/Baseball*

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