

ATWATER BOMBERS
GROUND RULES –MAJOR/MINOR DIVISION



1. There will be ten (10) defensive players. A team may start a game with eight (8) players.
2. Each player on the team roster will participate in a minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs. Batting lineup will consist of a continuous batting order. Players must have at least one (1) at bat.
3. Players may enter and re-enter defensively in the game anytime, provided they meet the requirements of mandatory play.
4. **Stealing** is allowed at all bases.
5. **Sliding** is allowed except at first base, if a batter/runner slides at first base he/she will be out. *Exception: Head-first sliding/diving is allowed only when returning to a base (including first base).* There is **NO "leading off"** the base, and the pitch must cross home plate before a runner leaves the base.
6. A **relief pitcher** is allowed to warm up on the inside of the fence only, in a safe area for the pitcher and catcher so that no one gets hit by a foul ball; it must also be a safe area for bystanders and fans. Managers or coaches are permitted to warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bullpen or elsewhere at any time including in-game warm-up, pre-game warm-up, and in other instances. They may also stand by to observe a pitcher during warm-up in the bullpen.
7. There is a **maximum play time limit of one (1) hour 45 minutes**; and no new inning may start if there are only 5 minutes left in the game. Open Innings are at the discretion of the umpire,

Suspended Rescheduled Games – The suspended and rescheduled game will resume play from the exact point that the game was suspended. The suspended/ rescheduled game will **ONLY** be replayed using eligible players from the original game date.

The rescheduled game will follow all pitch count and days of rest rules; therefore, the pitcher of record may not be eligible to pitch during the rescheduled game if their recent pitch totals from regular scheduled games prohibit them from pitching.

Playoff or Championship Games – the one (1) hour 45-minute time limit rule does not apply to any playoff or championship games. Playoff and championship games may not end with a tie score.

8. Home teams will always be on the third (3rd) base side.

9. The **courtesy runner** is in effect for the catcher. The offensive coach may elect to utilize a courtesy runner for the catcher whenever there are two (2) outs, the runner who comes into the game must be the player who made the last out.
10. **Mercy Rule** - will apply as follows:
 - 8 runs after 5 innings (4 ½) if the home team is ahead.
 - 10 runs after 4 innings (3 ½) if the home team is ahead.
 - 15 runs after 3 innings (2 ½) if the home team is ahead.
11. **Stealing or relaying of signs** to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or locations is unsportsmanlike behavior, and if in the judgement of the umpire the behavior is occurring the following penalties will apply:
 - 1st offense: Offending person or player and Head Coach will receive a warning.*
 - 2nd offense: Offending person or player and Head Coach will be immediately ejected, and subject to additional sanctions deemed necessary by the Atwater Bombers Board of Directors.*
12. **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.
13. **BUNTING** is allowed.
14. **THERE IS NO DROPPED THIRD STRIKE RULE.**
15. **BATS:** Only USA/USSA bats with a 10/8 drop, and a bat barrel diameter that does NOT exceed 2 5/8 inches may be used for Major/Minor Division games.
16. **5 Run Rule:** Teams can score no more than five (5) runs each inning.
17. **PITCHING: 8 yr olds maximum 2 innings in a single game and 1 days rest.**

9-11 yr olds	1 inning	0 days rest
	2 innings	1 days rest
	3 innings	2 days rest

There is a maximum of 3-innings pitched in a single game.

NOTE: In addition to and outside of these Ground Rules CIF/NFHS* rules may apply.
 CIF-California Interscholastic Federation/Baseball
 NFHS-National Federation of High Schools/Sports/Baseball