

STOW YOUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL LEAGUE INC.
GENERAL RULES FOR FALL LEAGUE

Revised for the fall season of 2008
Rules apply to games from 8/1/08 to 10/31/08

Section 1 – General Rules

1. It is the primary objective of this organization to provide the boys and girls of the Stow-Munroe Falls School District and other communities with an organized adult supervised program that stresses sportsmanship, complete cooperation, and a chance to learn baseball/softball according to the Ohio Hot Stove Baseball League Rules and the National Softball Association Rules, except as modified by the Stow Youth Baseball/Softball League Incorporated.
 - 1A. Players and Umpires shall conduct themselves at all times so as to be a credit to the league. Any member of the Board, Manager, Coach, Player or Umpire accused of using profane or foul language, being abusive or acting in such a manner as to be detrimental to the League, may be dismissed from their position if found guilty by the Executive Board.
2. All members of the Board, Managers, Coaches, must be members of Stow Youth Baseball and Softball.
3. A receipt shall be required in the transfer of all money.
4. Umpires will be supplied by Stow Youth Baseball/Softball, Summit Umpires, ASA Umpires, or NSA Umpires.
5. All managers shall carefully check birth dates of all players assigned to their teams. If the player is in the wrong age bracket, his name shall be turned into the League, who in turn will assign the player to a team according to his age. PENALTY: Forfeiture of all games in which the player has participated.
6. Any player who voluntarily withdraws from the Stow Youth Baseball and Softball League will forfeit the registration fee, unless an exception is cited by the Board. This request for refund must be submitted in writing to the Board.
7. No player may be registered at the fields by managers or coaches. If a player missed the annual registration, he may request late registration and will be registered only if openings exist. All registered players must have their birth certificates verified with the League. A late fee may be assessed for late registrations.
8. Managers must submit their completed rosters to the League Treasurer at the scheduled managers' meeting. PENALTY: Forfeit of all scheduled games until the roster is turned in.

9. *No infield or batting practice is allowed on the lined fields before game times -- Use the outfield or infield-foul areas on 1st and 3rd baseline.*

10. Once a game begins (the first pitch is thrown), no outfield practice will be allowed between innings by either team. A pitcher gets 5 (five) warm pitches each inning.

11. There will be round-robin batting in all leagues.

12. There will be free substitutions, except for pitchers as noted in specific league rules.

13. **STOW YOUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL DESIGNATED LEAGUES:**

Boys

Age is determined on May 1st of playing year.

H League 9 & 10 years old (11 if birthday falls on or after May 1st)

G League 11 & 12 years old (13 if birthday falls on or after May 1st)

F League 13 & 14 years old (15 if birthday falls on or after May 1st)

Girls

Age is determined on January 1st of playing year.

A League 10 Years old and younger (11 if birthday falls after Jan 1st)

B League 12 Years old and younger (13 if birthday falls after Jan. 1st)

C League 14 Years old and younger (15 if birthday falls after Jan. 1st)

Section II – General League Rules

1. For baseball leagues, the Ohio Hot Stove Baseball League Rules shall govern all play except when superseded by the Stow Youth Baseball League rules or field ground rules.
2. For softball leagues, the National Softball Association rules shall govern all play except when superseded by the Stow Youth Baseball League rules or field ground rules.
3. Once a game has started, the home plate umpire is in complete charge of the game. No player, spectator, manager, or coach shall yell or heckle an umpire. Managers will stress this point to their players and parents. Any abusive language by a player, spectator, managers, or coaches directed at the umpire or opposing players shall be called to the attention of the managers. The managers shall ask the spectators to refrain from the use of abusive language. If this is not followed, the umpire may eject the managers and secondly call a forfeit. **No one is allowed to stand/sit behind the backstop.**
4. No protest on an umpire's judgment call will be considered.

5. A coach may not change coaching boxes in any one inning. Excessive or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. The umpire shall give one warning, and if it persists, the umpire shall eject the individual or call a forfeit.
6. No coach, spectator, manager, or player will be permitted to yell at or distract a player on the opposing team. The umpire shall give one warning, and if it persists, the umpire may call a forfeit.
 - a. Team cheering shall be permitted as long as it is in a sportsman like manner and not directed at the opposing team. Discipline – warning, ejection, forfeit, if ejected the manager must umpire one game or be suspended for a game.
7. All players must wear full protective headgear while batting, running bases and catching. If during a live ball situation, the headgear is intentionally removed while running bases or after scoring but before leaving the field of play, the runner is out. Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a mask.
8. There is a 15-minute grace period from the scheduled game start time (see your respective league's schedule). Each team should be allowed equal warm-up time, up to 15 minutes, with home team going first, to insure the game starts at scheduled time. No team warm-ups after scheduled game time. **For baseball, there is a 2-hour game time limit – no new inning shall start after 2 hours of play. Play ends after the third out is recorded at the end of an inning. If there is a tie, the Stow Shoot-Out rules will apply (see rule #9 for explanation). For softball, there is a 2-hour game time limit – no new inning shall start after 2 hours of play. If there is a tie, the International Tie Breaker rule will apply (see next #10 for explanation).**
9. **Stow Shoot-Out tiebreaker rule (baseball):** At the beginning of each ½ inning, a runner will start on 2nd base; the runner will be the person who made the last out of the previous inning. Each batter will begin with a count of 3 balls and 2 strikes. If the visiting team scores in the top half of the inning, the home team does bat in the bottom half of the inning. The game will continue each inning until a winner is declared. If the game is called because of darkness and the score is still tied, a tie will be called – the game will not continue at a later date.
10. **International tiebreaker rule (softball):** At the beginning of each ½ inning, a runner will start on 2nd base, there will be two outs and a 3 balls 2 strikes count on the batter, the runner will be the person who made the last out of the previous inning. Each inning will continue until a winner is declared. If the visiting team scores in the top half of the inning, the home team does bat in the bottom half of the inning. If the game is called because of darkness and the score is still tied, a tie will be called – the game will not continue at a later date.

11. In the event of thunder, rain, darkness, or any other situation that would affect the continuance of a game safely or field conditions, the home plate umpire has the final authority to stop the game. If possible, the players should be removed to a safe place until weather improves. **After a 20-minute interval**, the umpire should decide whether to continue or officially stop the game. In the event of conditions that would stop a game (such as rain, darkness, light failure, etc.) a game will constitute the interpretation of the Ohio Hot Stove Baseball League or the American Softball Association rules. If lightening is visible at any time during a game by the umpire, play stops immediately and the above rules apply as any other weather condition. Speed up rules must be enforced.
12. The Executive Board shall have the final authority to rule in all matters.
13. A team shall become the responsibility of the manager fifteen (15) minutes before the game and shall remain his responsibility for fifteen (15) minutes after the game completion, for its conduct on and off the field. He shall be relieved of this responsibility when the parents take the youth from the field. A manager shall not leave until all players are picked up.
14. All rainout games will be played the following Sunday for boys' leagues and the following Saturday for girls' leagues during the 1st 4 weeks of the season. During the last 2 weeks of the season, there will be additional weekends needed to make the rainout games up, but no makeup games will be played after October 18th.
15. Managers and Coaches shall be properly attired at all games. No cut-offs or sleeveless shirts allowed. Any one in violation will be ejected from the game until properly attired.
16. Any person ejected from the game must remain out of sight and earshot of the umpire and the playing ball field, including managers and coaches and players.
 - In the event of a manager/coach ejection during a game, the manager/coach will sit out the next scheduled league game. This means that the manager/coach must not be present at the basic playing field as a coach or SPECTATOR. If the manager/coach is on the playing field during his one-game suspension, the umpire will stop play until you leave or you will forfeit the game.
 - If a player is ejected, then that spot in the batting order becomes an automatic out every time the ejected player is scheduled to bat for the remainder of that game.
17. In the boys' leagues, it is MANDATORY that all players wear athletic supporters.
18. All catchers must wear protective headgear, cup (baseball only), throat guards, and proper catching equipment. PENALTY: Cannot play in the game as a catcher.

19. The winning or tie manager must call or email the game score within 24 hours after the game (see your league schedule for the name, phone number, and email address of the person to contact). If this is not done, a double forfeit will be called and each team will show a loss for the game.
20. In the event of a league tie for the first place there will be a one game play-off with the winner receiving first (1st) place trophies and the loser 2nd place trophies. The site and play-off date to be determined by the Executive Vice-President of Stow Youth Baseball/Softball.
21. In the event for a tie in the 2nd place, there will be a one game play-off and the winner will be given 2nd place trophies.
22. All protests must be completed on the SYB protest form provided that can be attended from the SYB website and must be submitted to the League in writing along with a protest fee of \$25.00 no later than 24 hours from the time of the protest. Protest fees shall be retained unless the protest committee upholds the protest. **The umpire must be made aware of the protest at the time of the incident, before the next pitch and it must be noted in the home team's scorebook.**
23. Player must slide or give up if there is a play at any base (at the umpires discretion), except first.
24. A team must have eight players to start and finish a game. If unable to field eight players a forfeit will be called.
25. Field setup for all games shall be the responsibility of both managers and teams in the event that the field has not been set up prior to the game.
26. In the event of any game that cannot be completed within the 2-hour time limit allotted due to weather, the game will be picked up where it left off and also the time limit will continue from that point until it is reached. The umpire must note in the home team's scorebook the time the game is stopped, the amount of time remaining to be played to reach the allotted time limit, the inning, what team was up to bat and what player.

BOYS PROTEST COMMITTEE

1. Umpire in Chief
2. League President
3. Boys Executive VP

GIRLS PROTEST COMMITTEE

1. Umpire In Chief
2. League President
3. Girls Executive VP

Section III - SPEED UP RULE:

Catcher: When the catcher is on base or reaches a base with 2 outs, it is requested the catcher be replaced by the player who made the last out. The catcher speed up rule will not be in affect during the last inning. The catcher speed up rule will be enforced if the game requires extra innings.

Pitcher: A pitcher will be allowed a maximum of 5 warm up pitches; it will be the manager's responsibility to have his pitcher warm up in between innings in a safe and out of play area. A pitcher replacing a pitcher that has been removed from the mound during an inning shall be given (at umpire's discretion) adequate time to warm up. When the pitcher is on base or reaches base with 2 outs, a manager has the option of replacing the pitcher with the person whom made the last out.

IT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MANAGER TO HAVE THE REPLACEMENT RUNNER READY.

Section IV - H League

1. The Ohio Hot Stove Baseball League rules apply to all H League games, with the exception of any rules that conflict with Stow Youth Baseball rules; then the Stow Youth Baseball rules will apply.
2. No metal baseball spikes are allowed at any fields during H league games.
3. Baseball bat restrictions shall be (to conform with Ohio Hot Stove Rules): use metal baseball bats that are $2\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch maximum diameter and difference between weight (in ounces) and length (in inches) cannot be greater than eight and one half ($8\frac{1}{2}$). (E.g. 31" bat must weigh at least $22\frac{1}{2}$ ounces).
4. Pitching distance: 46 feet. Base distance: 60 feet. Home to second base: 84' 10" feet.
5. A pitcher may pitch only 8 innings in any 60-hour period, including all practice games or rainouts. The 60-hour period will be from game time to the next scheduled game time.
6. In all H league games, a pitcher shall not pitch more than four (4) innings in one calendar day.
7. If one team is leading by 10 runs or more at the end of the 5th inning, ($4\frac{1}{2}$ innings if home team is ahead) that game shall be ended and the full inning must be completed unless the home team is ahead.
8. Seven innings shall constitute a regulation game.
9. Intentional walks are prohibited (manager cannot tell the umpire he wants a batter intentionally walked.)
10. The hidden ball trick is not allowed. PENALTY: Balk – no warning will be given.
11. A dropped third strike is an OUT. Runners may advance at their own risk.
12. There will be no lead-offs.
13. There will be no stealing until the baseball crosses home plate.
14. The manager may take one trip to the pitching mound per inning for each pitcher used, provided that it is not done for the purpose of delaying the game. A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause the pitcher's automatic removal as a pitcher for the remainder of the game and shall not, under any circumstances return to the mound as a pitcher. A third trip to the same pitcher in the same game will cause the pitcher's automatic removal.

15. A defensive player shall not fake a tag on a runner without the ball or when no play is eminent. PENALTY: Ejection.
16. A runner cannot deliberately crash into a defensive player who has clear possession of the ball to make a tag. The runner cannot use a forearm block, or block of any type. Runner can slide hard. PENALTY: Runner is out and ejected from game at the umpires' discretion.
17. A runner does not have to slide if no play is eminent.
18. A pitcher will be removed if he hits 3 batters in one inning, or hits a total of 4 during a game.
19. A maximum of nine (9) players will be allowed on the field (defense) at any one time. There are no restrictions as to the playing positions.
20. **For baseball, there is a 2-hour game time limit – no new inning shall start after 2 hours of play. If there is a tie, the Stow Shoot-Out rules will apply.**
21. In the event of any game that cannot be completed within the 2-hour time limit allotted (for example, due to weather), the game will be picked up where it left off and also the time limit will continue from that point until it is reached. The umpire must note in the home team's scorebook the time the game is stopped, the amount of time remaining to be played to reach the allotted time limit, the inning, what team was up to bat and what player.

Section V - G LEAGUE

1. The Ohio Hot Stove Baseball League rules apply to all G League games, with the exception of any rules that conflict with Stow Youth Baseball rules; then the Stow Youth Baseball rules will apply.
2. Pitching distance: 50 feet, base distance: 70 feet, home to second base: 99feet.
3. No metal baseball spikes are allowed at any fields during G league games.
4. Baseball bat restrictions shall be (to conform to Ohio Hot Stove Baseball Rules): use metal baseball bats that are $2\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch maximum diameter and difference between weight (in ounces) and length (in inches) cannot be greater than eight and one half ($8\frac{1}{2}$). (E.g. 31" bat must weigh at least $22\frac{1}{2}$ ounces).
5. A pitcher may pitch 8 innings in any 60-hour period. There are no exceptions.

6. In all G league games, a pitcher shall not pitch more than four (4) innings in one calendar day.
7. Innings shall be determined by the number of put outs per inning (3 per inning). One pitch equals one out.
8. The 60-hour pitching rules shall be from scheduled game time to next scheduled game time. This includes all pitchers that have participated in that game.
9. Violations of any of the above rulings shall be subject to forfeiture of game.
10. Seven innings shall constitute regular game.
11. A manager or coach may take one trip to the pitching mound per inning for each pitcher used, provided that it is not done for the purpose of delaying the game, a second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause this pitcher's automatic removal as a pitcher for the remainder of the game and shall not, under any circumstances return to the mound as a pitcher. A third trip to the same pitcher in the same game will cause the pitcher's automatic removal.
12. The hidden ball trick is not allowed. PENALTY: Balk – no warning will be given.
13. If one team is leading by 10 runs or more at the end of the 5th inning (4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead), that game shall be ended and the team leading shall be declared the winner. Any time after 6th inning, a full inning must be completed unless the home team is ahead.
14. A defensive player shall not fake a tag on a runner without the ball or when no play is eminent. PENALTY: Ejection.
15. A runner cannot deliberately crash into a defensive player who has clear possession of the ball to make a tag. The runner cannot use a forearm block, or block of any type. Runner can slide hard. PENALTY: Runner out and ejected from game, at umpire's discretion.
16. One balk warning will be issued per pitcher after which runners will advance.
17. A maximum of nine (9) players will be allowed on the field (defense) at any one time. There are no restrictions as to the playing positions.
18. **For baseball, there is a 2-hour game time limit – no new inning shall start after 2 hours of play. If there is a tie, the Stow Shoot-Out rules will apply.**
19. In the event of any game that cannot be completed within the 2-hour time limit allotted (for example, due to weather), the game will be picked up where it left off

and also the time limit will continue from that point until it is reached. The umpire must note in the home team's scorebook the time the game is stopped, the amount of time remaining to be played to reach the allotted time limit, the inning, what team was up to bat and what player.

Section VI - F LEAGUE

1. The Ohio Hot Stove Baseball League rules apply to all F League games, with the exception of any rules that conflict with Stow Youth Baseball rules; then the Stow Youth Baseball rules will apply.
2. Pitching distance: 55 feet, base distance: 80 feet, home to second base: 113 feet 2 inches.
3. Metal baseball spikes are allowed at fields during F league games only.
4. A pitcher may pitch 10 innings in any 60-hour period. There are no exceptions.
5. Innings shall be determined by the number of put outs per inning (3 per inning). One pitch constitutes 1/3 inning appearance.
6. The 60-hour pitching rule shall be from scheduled game time to next scheduled game time. This includes all pitchers that have participated in the game.
7. Violations of any of the above ruling shall be subject to forfeiture of game.
8. The hidden ball trick is not allowed. PENALTY: Balk – no warning will be given.
9. In the event of disciplinary action by an umpire resulting in a player being dismissed from a game, no forfeit can occur. Another player may be put into the game, however, must have 8 players on the field or a forfeit will occur.
10. Seven innings shall constitute a regular game.
11. If one team is leading by 10 runs or more by the 5th inning, (4 ½ if the home team is ahead) that game shall be ended and the team leading shall be declared the winner. Any time after 6 innings, a full inning must be completed unless the home team is ahead.
12. The manager may take one trip to the pitching mound per inning used, provided that it is not done for the purpose of delaying the game. A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause this pitcher's automatic removal as a pitcher for the remainder of the game and shall not, under any circumstances return to the mound as

a pitcher. Third trip in the game, to the same pitcher, is automatic removal of the pitcher as a pitcher. Trips by the coach also count as if he were the manager.

13. A defensive player shall not fake a tag on a runner without the ball or when no play is eminent. PENALTY: Ejection.
14. A runner cannot deliberately crash into a defensive player who has clear possession of the ball to make a tag. The runner cannot use a forearm block, or block of any type. Runner can slide hard. PENALTY: Runner out and ejected from game, at umpire's discretion.
15. A maximum of nine (9) players will be allowed on the field (defense) at any one time. There are no restrictions as to the playing positions.
16. **For baseball, there is a 2-hour game time limit – no new inning shall start after 2 hours of play. If there is a tie, the Stow Shoot-Out rules will apply.**
17. In the event of any game that cannot be completed within the 2-hour time limit allotted (for example, due to weather), the game will be picked up where it left off and also the time limit will continue from that point until it is reached. The umpire must note in the home team's scorebook the time the game is stopped, the amount of time remaining to be played to reach the allotted time limit, the inning, what team was up to bat and what player.

B League (12 and Under) Fast-pitch Softball

1. The 12 and Under Girls Fast-pitch Softball League is limited to girls with playing ages of 12 or less on January 1st per National Softball Association (NSA) rules and Stow Youth Baseball/Softball (SYBS) General Fall League rules.
2. Pitching distance is 40 feet; base path distance is 60 feet. The distance from home plate to second base is 84' 10". Official ball will be the 12" softball.
3. Every girl must play at least three (3) innings in the field. All substitutes must be in the game by the fourth inning. The game shall consist of seven (7) innings.
4. A pitcher may pitch at most four (4) innings (12 outs) during the first seven innings of a game. There are no restrictions for any inning after the seventh inning. The outs **do not** have to be consecutive. Outs are considered recorded outs.
5. Five warm-up pitches will be permitted for new pitchers and only three warm-up pitches will be permitted at half innings for returning pitchers.
6. If the score differential is ten (10) or more at the end of any inning after five (5) or more innings have been played, the umpire shall declare the game over.
7. All games will start at 1:00pm regardless of whether an umpire is present or not. It is considered a legal game if a game is played without the scheduled umpire – try to get a parent or coach to umpire the game that both team managers can agree on.
8. The umpire is the official time keeper (by his/her watch) and will have the exact start time and will log the start time onto the home team's scorebook. It is up to the teams to ask the umpire the start time of the game.
9. For softball, there is a 2-hour game time limit – no new inning shall start after 2 hours of play. If there is a tie, the International tiebreaker rule will apply.
10. Chinstraps must be worn or the batter/runner is automatically out.
11. All players must wear batting helmets that have a protective face guard/mask on them. It will be worn while batting and while running the bases. If a face guard/mask is not on the batting helmet, the batter/runner is automatically out.
12. A maximum of ten (10) players will be allowed on the field at any one time. Four (4) of the players must be positioned behind the baselines in the standard outfield positions (right, right-center, left-center, and left fields).
13. If a manager, coach, players, or parents attempt to stall a game in any way, the umpire can allow the game to continue without regard to a time limit or if darkness is an

issue, the game can be rescheduled by the Umpire-in-chief and League VP to be completed.

14. Violations of any of the SYBS or NSA rulings shall be subject to discipline up to and including forfeiture of the game.
15. There will be a 7-run rule per half-inning or 3 outs, whichever comes first. There will be no limit of runs during the last inning of the game. If 1 hour and 40 minutes has elapsed since the start of the game, the next inning to be started will be considered the last inning. Since it is the last inning, the inning will not be subject to a run limit, and if the score is tied after the unlimited runs inning, the International Tie-breaker Rule will take effect. (Example: if a game starts at 1:00pm and at the time of the third out of the previous inning determines whether inning is the last inning. If the third out of the third inning is recorded at 2:39pm (and the game starts promptly at 1:00pm), then the fourth inning must be played and the fifth inning becomes the unlimited runs inning. If, on the other hand, the third out of the third inning is recorded at 2:40pm (and the game starts promptly at 1:00) then the fourth inning becomes the unlimited runs inning. It is the managers' responsibility to review this rule with the umpire during the ground rules discussion prior to the game.
16. Stealing is permitted upon release of the ball from the pitcher.
17. Players must slide into 2nd, 3rd and home at all close plays as determined by the umpire. A close play can be defined as when the ball arrives in advance of or at the same time the runner approaches the base or home plate and where there is a reasonable judgment that the play will be close, thus sliding is required. If a player does not slide when it is ruled by the umpire that sliding was necessary, the team will receive one warning. Upon the second such violation within the same game the runner will be called out by the umpire. Both teams will receive one warning. If the fielder or catcher is obstructing the base path and does not have ball-in-hand, the runner may run around the fielder or catcher without fear of being called out so as to avoid at all costs a collision. In this case the umpire will rule the runner as safe due to infielder or catcher obstruction. Collisions must be avoided at all times.
18. All games that are rained out or cancelled may only be rescheduled by the Stow Youth Softball League VP. The League VP will reschedule the game with both managers and confirm rescheduled date via email.