

# WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## 2025-26 NFHS Baseball Rules Book

(PLEASE KEEP WITH YOUR RULES BOOK)

### NATIONAL FEDERATION ALLOWED ADAPTATIONS

- a. Ten Run Rule (4-2-2) shall be used in all regular season and WIAA tournament series competition.  
The game shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 or more runs after 4 1/2 innings, or after the fifth inning if either team is 10 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat.
- b. A game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined, will be treated as a suspended game (Rule 4-3). If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension and a suspended game will be completed unless both schools agree not to do so.
- c. If a regular season game is called prior to the completion of any full inning, NFHS Rule 4-2-3 will be applied. If a WIAA tournament game is called prior to the completion of any full inning, after the fifth inning, the game becomes a suspended game if the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or take the lead and the home team has not retaken the lead (Rule 4-2-3).
- d. Two seven-inning games shall constitute a doubleheader (NFHS rule 4-2-2b). By mutual agreement of school administration, nonvarsity five-inning doubleheaders may be scheduled.
- e. Courtesy Runners
  - (1) The team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and catcher at any time. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
  - (2) Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
  - (3) A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher and then be used as a runner or batter for another player in that half inning.  
Penalty: For illegal substitution, such substitute shall be ejected.
- f. A time limit may be placed on nonvarsity games. Innings in progress must be completed and no new inning may be started once the time limit has elapsed, regardless of the number of innings played, unless tied in tournament play (Rule 4-2-4). This is a conference or host school decision not umpire's prerogative.

**PITCHING RULE** - It is not the responsibility of the game official to enforce the pitching rule. Schools must report violations to the WIAA following competition. Violations are considered in the same manner as a school using an ineligible student. The minimum penalty is forfeiture of the game.

- a. The pitch count is based on the number of pitches thrown to batters during an at-bat. Warm-up pitches allowed before the game, in between innings or allowed by the umpire in case of injury or game delay do not count.
- b. Pitches are counted, and when the number of pitches reaches a certain level, the pitcher must take off the required days of rest. The maximum number of pitches is 100. Refer to the pitching grid and complete rule on Page 3 of the Baseball Season Regulations.

### STATE ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS

- a. Nonvarsity teams shall be allowed to wear old varsity uniforms, which are now unapproved, provided participant safety is not jeopardized.
- b. Coaches must report to their school administration within 48 hours following a contest any player or coach ejection. School administrators must then report the ejection to the WIAA via written communication within three (3) school days following the contest. This written communication must also include a plan of action to prevent future ejections. Officials will continue to provide electronic reports to the WIAA.
- c. Required number of officials - 2 officials are required at all levels.
- d. Official's Uniform -  
Shirt - Powder blue, navy blue, or black. Slacks - Gray or heather gray.  
Undershirt (if visible under shirt) - Navy or black.  
Hat - Navy blue (plate and base hat).  
Jacket/sweater - Navy blue.  
Shoes/belt - Black.
- e. Official's Equipment - Plate and base shoes, shin guards, chest protector, protective cup, mask, ball bag, indicator, pencil, line-up card.
- f. Scrimmages - If either school counts a scrimmage as a game, it must be counted as a game for both programs, schools or teams.

### STATE ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. It is strongly recommended that schools which schedule games on facilities without dugouts, separate the dugout area from the spectator area with fencing, rope or similar protective measure.
- b. It is recommended all eligible substitutes be listed on the back of the line-up card given to the umpire before the game.

### JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE LEVEL REGULATIONS

The same rule book with the various modifications are applicable for Grade 9 teams or teams with any combination of Grade 8-9 students. Officials should contact the WIAA if they have questions.