



2023 NBLL AA Division Rules (Revised March 2023)

Game Rules

- Games are restricted to 2 hours. A new inning may not begin after one hour and 30 minutes.
- Play continues until the time limit is reached, 6 innings have been played, or the game is suspended due to weather/darkness.
- There is a 5-run rule per half inning, though a game score is not kept in AA.
- No player shall sit out more than two innings in any regulation game except for cases of illness, injury, or disciplinary action by the manager or umpire.
- During each game, each player should have playing time in both the infield and the outfield. No player should play the same position for more than two innings per game.

Batting Rules

- A continuous batting order is used. Every player on the roster bats, even if not currently playing defense. Substitutions do not affect the batting order.
- An on-deck batter is not permitted at any time.
- There is no bunting in AA.

Running Rules

- Head first sliding is not permitted when advancing to a base, and the runner will be called out. Head first sliding is permissible when returning to a bag.
- Stealing is not permitted in AA.
- Leading off is not permitted. A runner must remain in contact with a base until the pitch has reached the batter.
- Runners may continue to advance until the coach or pitcher is in possession of the ball near the pitching rubber (in practice, runners should generally stop once the ball is in the infield).
- If the batter puts the ball into play from the tee, runners may only advance 2 bases regardless of overthrows, defensive errors, or other circumstances.

Defense/Pitching Rules

- A team may place up to 10 players on defense. When using 10 fielders, four must be located in the outfield (on the grass or a reasonable distance behind infielders on larger fields).
- A pitching machine will be used to deliver pitches at the beginning of the season.

- A coach from the hitting team will deliver pitches. No child will operate the pitching machine.
- There will be no walks off the pitching machine, but a batter is out after 3 strikes.
- The catcher will return a “pitched” ball to the coach operating the machine.
- A batted or thrown ball that hits or is in the vicinity of the machine will be played as a dead ball and the player will advance 1 base. If the coach at the machine is concerned about safety, “time” can be called.
- The VP of AA will monitor the progress of the pitchers in AA and determine whether teams are ready to transition from the pitching machine to kids pitching, likely in May.
- If applicable, the pitching rules are below.
 - A pitcher will be given 5-6 warm-up pitches not to exceed 2-3 minutes.
 - A pitcher should have a foot in contact with the rubber.
 - Once a pitcher is removed, they may not pitch again in the same game.
 - A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the catcher position for the remainder of that day.
 - A pitcher in AA may not pitch more than 50 pitches in a game.
 - If the pitcher reaches the limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until a) that batter reaches base, b) that batter is put out, or c) the third out is made to complete the half inning.
 - A pitcher must be removed if they hit 2 batters in one inning or 3 batters in a single game.
 - Managers and coaches may warm up a pitcher on the mound (new in 2023). Players must wear a mask when catching behind the plate.
- After a pitcher delivers 4 balls to a batter, the batter shall use a tee.
 - The batter will be given two swings to put the ball into play.
 - A foul ball counts as a swing.
 - A foul ball will be called if the batter primarily hits the tee (counts as a swing).
 - If the batter puts the ball into play from the tee, runners may only advance 2 bases regardless of overthrows, defensive errors, or other circumstances.