

**Firelands Interleague Baseball
2022 14u Playing Rules**

The Firelands Interleague 14u division will play NFHS rules with modifications as noted in the following rules.

1.0 Players, Field and Equipment

1.01 Team Insurance

- 1.01.1** It is the responsibility of each individual team or community to provide insurance for their teams/players.

1.02 Birthday Rule

- 1.02.1** A player cannot turn the next age prior to May 1st. If a community is not able to produce a birth certificate, that game will be played under league protest. A determination of forfeit will be made by the FIB board after review of circumstances and all games this player has played in will be forfeited. Individual circumstances will be considered before the beginning of the season.

1.03 Team Roster

- 1.03.1** All teams must submit an initial roster prior to their first league game. Final rosters are due by June 15th. After June 15th, no new players can be added to the roster. Once a player plays in a game for a team, they will not be allowed to play for any other FIB team during the season with the exception of players pulled from lower divisions. Violation of this will result in forfeit for the team in violation.
- 1.03.2** All rosters must be verified with birth certificates by community rep.
- 1.03.3** Tryouts are not allowed. Teams need to be divided evenly within each community.
- 1.03.4** Players must play for community where they reside or attend school unless a team is not available.

1.03.4.1 Replacement Players

- 1.03.4.1.1** Players can be added by pulling them up from the next lower division to obtain a team of 9.
- 1.03.4.1.2** Players pulled up from the lower division must bat last in the batting order and play in the outfield.

1.04 The Playing Field.

- 1.04.1** Bases will be 80' apart
- 1.04.2** Pitching mound will be 54' from the front of the pitching rubber to the back of home plate.
- 1.04.3** If field dimensions do not meet the requirements, the home team must delay or stop the game until the required dimensions are corrected. If the dimensions cannot be corrected, the game will result in a forfeit.

1.05 Game Balls

- 1.05.1** **The Home Team** shall furnish 2 league approved balls i.e. Macgregor 97, Riddell BBC, Rawlings RO/R100, Diamond DOL 1 and DOLA.

1.06 Umpires

- 1.06.1 The Home Team** shall furnish and pay for at least 1 qualified umpire from an approved umpiring association. If no qualified umpire shows up for the game, the game will be considered a forfeit. 2 umpires are recommended.

1.07 The Bat Rule

- 1.07.1** Non-wooden bats must be BBCOR certified, have the USSSA 1.15 BPF stamp or have the USA Baseball stamp.
- 1.07.2** Bats need to have a drop ratio of -5 or -3. (If the bat is 30" long it must be 25 oz. or heavier)
- 1.07.3 PENALTY FOR USING AN ILLEGAL BAT**
 - 1.07.3.1** The ball is immediately dead, the batter is out, and runners return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. The player will be ejected for a 2nd violation in the same game.

1.08 Uniforms

- 1.08.1 Jersey**
 - 1.08.1.1** Each team must wear full uniforms with numbers on the players' shirts.
- 1.08.2 Shoes**
 - 1.08.2.1** Metal spikes are allowed.
 - 1.08.2.2** Metal spikes are NOT allowed at Willard or Sports Force Park.

2.0 Game Preliminaries

2.01 Lineup

- 2.01.1** A team can play a game with a maximum of 9 players in the field.
 - 2.01.1.1** A maximum of 6 players can be in the infield.
- 2.01.2** Roster batting is optional.
 - 2.01.2.1** If roster batting is not used, every player must play at least 2 innings in the field and get at least 1 at bat.
 - 2.01.2.2** If roster batting is being used, free substitutions can be made in the field.
 - 2.01.2.3** If roster batting is not used, only starters can re-enter the game after they have been removed and they must be put in the same spot in the batting order. Starters can only re-enter the game 1 time.
- 2.01.3** A team may start the game with only 8 players, any less and it is declared a forfeit.
 - 2.01.3.1** If a team starts with 8 players and a 9th player arrives, he is inserted in the last spot in the batting order.
- 2.01.4** A team that starts with 9 players may end the game with 8 provided there are no eligible players left.
- 2.01.5** If a team starts with 8 players, NO OUT is recorded for the missing player.

- 2.01.6 If a player is ejected or leaves the game for any purpose other than injury or illness, an out will be recorded for every time that sport in the order is due to bat.
- 2.01.7 A spot vacated due to injury or illness that cannot be filled with an eligible player will be skipped without penalty.
- 2.01.8 Before game time or at the plate meeting, each team will exchange lineup cards.
- 2.01.9 Once the plate meeting has concluded; the lineup is official.

3.0 Starting and Ending a Game

3.01 Regulation Game

- 3.01.1 A game will consist of 7 innings.

3.02 Official Game

- 3.02.1 A game will be considered official after 4 ½ inning with the home team ahead or 5 innings with the visiting team ahead.
- 3.02.2 No new inning can start after 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- 3.02.3 There will be a 2-hour time limit for each game played at Sports Force Park. No new inning can start after 1:45.

3.03 The Batter

3.03.1 Dropped 3rd Strike

- 3.03.1.1 Batter can run on a dropped 3rd strike.

3.03.2 Infield Fly

- 3.03.2.1 The infield fly rule will be in effect.

3.04 The Runner

3.04.1 Lead-Offs

- 3.04.1.1 Runners are allowed to lead off

3.04.2 Stealing

- 3.04.2.1 Stealing of all bases is allowed.

3.04.3 Courtesy runners

- 3.04.3.1 Courtesy runners are allowed for the pitcher and catcher with 2 outs in the inning. The last batter who did not reach base safely during that inning shall be used as the courtesy runner.

3.04.4 Malicious Contact

- 3.04.4.1 Malicious contact is defined as contact between a runner and fielder where there is deliberate intention of the runner trying to injure the fielder to keep from being tagged out.

3.05 The Pitcher

3.05.1 Innings Pitched

3.05.1.1 No pitcher may pitch more than a total of 4 innings per game. Throwing 1 pitch counts as 1 inning.

3.05.2 Re-Entry

3.05.2.1 The starting pitcher may be removed and brought back in to pitch 1 time as long as they have not already pitched the maximum number of innings.

3.05.2.2 The starting pitcher is the only pitcher who may re-enter to pitch again.

3.05.2.3 If a pitcher is in violation of the number of innings pitched, the game will be considered a forfeit.

3.05.3 Breaking Balls

3.05.3.1 Breaking balls are allowed.

3.05.4 Balks

3.05.4.1 Balks will be called. Each pitcher will be warned on 1st balk and runners will need to return to previous base if they advanced.

3.06 Mercy Rule

3.06.1 15 Run Lead

3.06.1.1 A game will be considered official when there is a 15 run differential after 4 ½ innings with the home team ahead or 5 innings with the visiting team ahead.

3.06.2 8 Run Lead

3.06.2.1 A game will be considered official when there is an 8 run differential after 5 ½ innings with the home team ahead or 6 innings with the visiting team ahead.

3.06.3 Runs per inning

3.06.3.1 There will be a limit of 7 runs per inning per team. Once the 7th run scores, the half inning is over.

3.07 Weather or Darkness

3.07.1 It is up to the discretion of the umpire when weather or darkness come into play.

3.07.2 If available, lights can be used to continue play when conditions become too dark.

3.07.3 If the game is called due to weather or darkness, it will be considered a complete game if at least 5 full innings have been played or if the home team is ahead after 4 ½ innings.

3.07.4 Lightning Safety

3.07.4.1 In the case of lightning, all players should leave the playing field. From the time of thunder or the flash of lightning, play will be suspended for a minimum of 30 minutes from the last sound of thunder or flash of lightning.

3.07.5 Suspended Game

3.07.5.1 When a regular season game is interrupted or suspended for any reason and the game cannot be resumed that day, the game will be SUSPENDED if the team behind in the score has not completed its turn at bat in the 4th inning.

3.07.5.2 A suspended game will be picked up where it was left off when the delay took place.

3.07.5.3 The same players and lineup must be used when completing the suspended game.

3.08 Ejection

3.08.1 If a player or coach is ejected, they must leave the field immediately.

3.08.2 The ejected player or coach will server a 1 game suspension during their next game

3.08.3 A second ejection in the same season will result in a 2-game suspension.

3.08.4 A third ejection in the same season will result in suspension for the remainder of the season.

3.08.4.1 In this case, the FIB will review to see if further action should be taken.

3.08.5 All ejections should be reported to the FIB immediately.

3.09 Rainouts

3.09.1 Home team must inform opposing coaches and the FIB if a game has been rained out.

3.09.2 An attempt to reschedule the game must be made within 5 days of the postponed game.

3.09.3 If a mutual agreement cannot be made on the makeup date, the FIB has the right to schedule the game.

3.09.4 If the FIB schedules the game and it is not played, it could be counted as a double forfeit.

3.10 Scoring

3.10.1 The home team will be the official scorer.

3.10.2 Scores should be confirmed after each inning.

3.11 Reporting

3.11.1 Scores should be reported immediately after each game.

3.11.2 Both teams should report the score immediately after the game. If only 1 team reports the score within that time frame, that will be considered the final score and no changes will be made. If neither team submits a score, it will be considered a double forfeit. Rainouts and schedule changes also need to be submitted within 24 hours so the website can be updated.

3.11.1 Scores should be submitted to the person in your community who it the designated score reporter.

3.12 Minimum Number of Games

3.12.1 Each team will need to play a minimum number of games to be eligible for post-season.

3.12.2 The number of games will be determined once we have a set number of teams.

4.0 The Season

4.01 Start date Teams may start playing games May 16th.

4.02 End date The regular season will end July 12th.

4.03 Make-Ups All make-up games will need to be made up by July 12th.

4.04 Playoffs The top 8 teams will play in the playoffs

4.04.1 First Round Thursday, July 14th

4.04.2 Semifinals Monday, July 18th

4.04.3 Championship Wednesday, July 20th

5.0 Conflicts All conflicts should be attempted to be resolved by the community reps.