



Ohio Hot Stove Baseball League

Ohio Hot Stove Class D Wooden Bat League

The Ohio Hot Stove Class D Wooden Bat League was created by and for men age 19 and over. The rules given below are used as guidelines. The OHSB Executive Committee reserves the right to suspend or expel any player, manager, or coach who fails to abide by these rules. By Laws have been established for the league and govern organizational rules. Any circumstance not covered in these rules will revert back to the 2018 Ohio Hot Stove Baseball Rule Book.

Section 1: Uniforms & Equipment

1. All teams must wear full baseball uniforms, which must include a jersey (with an individual number for each player), pants, a hat, and socks or stirrups. No non-uniformed player may play without the consent of the opposing manager. Jerseys do not have to match but players must have unique numbers on the back. In the event of duplicates, teams may ask opposing manager to allow duplicates to be used.
2. All batters and base runners must wear approved single or double earflap helmets. All catchers must wear a helmet under their mask, or a "hockey goalie" style mask. Masks must have extended throat protection, or an attached throat flap. Only NOCSAE approved baseball helmets are permitted for use in official regular season and playoff games
3. Each team must supply at least two new baseballs, with, a third ball on hand for use if necessary, for each game. Acceptable baseballs include Rawlings RO, Wilson A1010, Diamond D-I Pro, A.D. Starr 600, etc. In 2019, all teams must use Hot Stove logo baseballs.
4. Only wood, or wood composite bats are permitted.
5. Baseball metal or any plastic or rubber spikes are permitted.
6. A pitcher may not wear white or gray sleeves extending below the sleeves of his jersey, batting gloves or wristbands on either hand or arm. Also, he may not wear any jewelry such as watches, bracelets, necklaces, or reflective sunglasses.

Section 2: Alcohol and Tobacco

7. **There will be no drinking at any of the fields during the days of league play. This includes the field complex and parking lot.** This includes before, during and after games. Violators are subject to immediate expulsion from the game by the umpires and faces suspension. If an incident causes the league to lose the field for the season or subsequent years, the team could face expulsion from the league. Smoking is not permitted on the playing field, dugouts or areas surrounding the field. This would include the use of cigars, cigarettes, pipes and vapor/ eCigs.

Section 3: Player Eligibility & Rosters

8. A roster consists of a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 24 players.
9. All players must be at least 19 years old by May 1st of the current season. Any team found with an underage player will be eliminated from the league. Graduated seniors who are 18 years old may also participate.
10. A team must field at least nine players of their own for an official game.

Section 4: Special Playing Rules

11. All playing rules in the OHSBL Rule book apply, in addition to our special rules.
12. **Game will start on time.** This means that lineup cards are to be presented to the opponent prior to the start time so that the home team is taking the field at the scheduled time. Teams have 1 1/2 minutes between innings. So players have to hustle off and on to the field. Failure to do so can result in the pitcher not being allowed warmups up to a ball being called if there is a delay beyond 1 1/2 minutes.



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There is NO GRACE PERIOD for teams waiting for players. All teams must have at least 8 players to start at the scheduled time or it will result in a forfeit.

Managers must submit a batting order and lineup card to the opposing manager at home plate before the start of every game. **All players must be listed on the lineup card to be eligible to play in the game.** Late arriving players may be added during the game (as long as they are on the original lineup card submitted prior to the start of the game) with an announcement to the home plate umpire and the opposing manager prior to the player's appearance in the game.

13. The starting batting order of each team may contain as many players as desired, with a minimum of nine, as long as at least nine players are present at game time. While in the batting order, a player's batting position is fixed. Any player batting out of order is an automatic out.

14. If a player leaves a game because of injury or prior commitment, a reserve player not currently in the batting order, must bat in that player's spot in the order. If no reserve player is available, as long as at least nine batters remain in the batting order, then that spot is skipped, without an out being taken.

15. Defensively, free and unlimited substitutions are permitted at any time without reporting, except that a pitcher, once removed from that position, may not pitch again in that game, unless he has remained in the game defensively at another position. All changes involving a pitcher must be reported to the opposing manager and the home plate umpire.

16. Offensively, any player who has been removed from the lineup, either as a batter or a base runner, may re-enter his spot in the batting order without limitations. All offensive substitutions, whether for a batter or a base runner, must be reported to the opposing manager and the home plate umpire. More than two players may "share" the same spot in the batting order. If both players leave or become injured, and there are at least nine players remaining in the batting order, then that spot is skipped. If both players are ejected, that spot in the batting order becomes an automatic out. Game cannot end on an automatic out.

17. A designated runner may be used at any time for any player on base. The designated runner must be either a player currently not in the game or a player that made the last out in the scorebook.

18. Base runners must avoid intentional collisions with fielders. An intentional collision will result in an automatic out and in the umpire's judgment of flagrant deliberate contact, ejection of the base runner from the game.

Plays at Home Plate and the bases are now in line with all other leagues. It is NOT "slide or give up". A catcher or fielder cannot block the plate without the ball at any time or "obstruction" is called and the runner is safe. If a runner engages in "malicious contact" with a catcher, it results in an "interference" call and that runner is out, even if the ball is dislodged. If a play is judged to be malicious, the offender is called "out" and is also ejected.

19. All single games are seven innings. Doubleheaders games, are also 7 innings each. Official games require completion of at least 5 innings (4 ¹/₂ innings if the home team is winning). Umpires have the right to call games because of bad weather, dangerous field conditions, or darkness. In case of lightning, umpires must wait at least 30 minutes before calling the game.

20. If there is a ten run margin at the end of five innings (4 ¹/₂ if home team is leading) and at least 2 hours have been played, the game is over. **A team may concede at any time.** No inning may start after two hours, fifteen minutes from the time the umpire declares "Play Ball."

21. It is the responsibility of the home team to score the game, if necessary, with the help of the visiting team, a spectator, or other source.

No children or non-players are allowed in the dugout during the game.

22. **Ejection:** Any ejection will carry a 2-game suspension (game of suspension plus following game).



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An extra suspended game will be added for over-the-top behavior directed towards officials or the throwing of equipment following ejection. Any player ejected three times in one season is suspended for the rest of that season and all of the following season.

- a) Field conduct: Ejected players are required to gather their belongings and vacate the dugout within a reasonable amount of time. Players may stay on the field site, but may have no further contact whatsoever with umpires and game participants. Further contact by the ejected player will make that player subject to additional sanctions, including, but not limited to, removal from the field site.
- b) Carry over: Sanctions will carry over from season to season.

23. Rained out games will be made up as weather, time, and field availability permits. Managers shall make every reasonable effort to reschedule and play rainouts or postponements.

Suspended games – All games stopped after two or more full innings will be picked up from that point when the game is replayed. Less than two complete innings completed when a stoppage of play occurs will result in the game being started from the beginning.

Section 5: Standings

24. The league requires reporting of scores each week to <http://loraincountyhotstove.com> by Monday of each week so that weekly standings can be updated. Home team or manager of team where game is being played must report the scores. Managers must report any game postponements or suspensions to the website as well.

Section 6: Rain-out Procedure

25. In the event of a rain-out, the following procedure MUST be completed, in order:

1. Call the manager of the opposing team.
2. Report game as POSTPONED via process for Schedule Changes

Section 7: Special Notes

26. Each team will pay one umpire \$50 cash at ground rules, each game. Home team is responsible for getting 2 certified umpires. Teams are responsible for ensuring that umpires use the playing rules for this league.

27. There will be a mandatory manager meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 2:00 PM at Rustic Hills Country Club, 5399 River Styx Rd, Medina, OH 44256.

28. Tournament draw will be on Sunday, June 24, 2018 at 12:00 PM at Rustic Hills Country Club, 5399 River Styx Rd, Medina, OH 44256. All games played must be recorded on the website no later than 8:00 PM on Friday, June 22, 2018. Tournament seeding will follow the same process used for Class EE and Class E Hot Stove.

29. The team fee of \$500 is due with rosters. The OHSBL Roster Program must be used for official rosters. This can be downloaded [HERE](#). Initial rosters are due at the May 20th meeting, along with payment in full.

30. State Tournament play will be double elimination. The tournament will be played on weekends at Hot Stove Tournament sites. Tournament will run on the weekends of 7/7-7/8, 7/14-7/15 with State Championships the weekend of 7/21-7/22.

31. Background checks will not be required for coaches or players.

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