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## 2026 Rule Changes/Clarification

None

## 2024 & 2025 Rule Changes/Clarifications

**\*2024 - Rule 1-6-2 in the NFHS Rulebook states:** One-way electronic communication devices are permitted from the dugout to the catcher while the team is on defense for the purpose of calling pitches. When using electronic communication device, the coach cannot be outside the dugout/bench area.

MYAS/Gopher State Baseball **will not** be utilizing rule 1-6-2 from the NFHS Rule Book, therefore one-way electronic communication devices **are not** permitted from the dugout to the catcher while the team is on defense for the purposes of calling pitches.

**\*2024 - Extra Innings** - If a game is tied and time allows, teams are **required** to play extra innings for any Gopher State Baseball League game.

**\*2025 - Head First Slides at Home Plate** - Players **are allowed** to slide headfirst at all bases, including home plate at all ages.

**\*2025 - Curveballs** - Curve balls **are allowed** at both the 12u and 13u age levels.



# 2026 Gopher State Baseball League

## RULES MANUAL

### 12U | 13U

The following rules and regulations will govern play in the Gopher State Baseball League (GSBL) for the 2026 regular season and the all-inclusive playoffs. The list of rules and regulations is **NOT** intended to cover all of the playing rules, but rather highlight areas that are referenced most often by the coaches and players. In general, the GSBL has adopted the National Federation of State High School Associations baseball rules, except where modified or clarified below.

#### PLAYER REGISTRATION/ELIGIBILITY

- A.** Players in their respective age groups must not reach the next age before May 1, 2026. It is permissible for a player to play up from their designated age division, but they may not play down. For example, a 12 year old may play in the 13 year old division, but a 14 year old may **NOT** play in the 13 year old division. (USA Baseball, the national governing body for baseball, has adopted this age determining date for all national programs.)
- B.** A player may **ONLY** be rostered on one traveling team for the Spring/Summer season. There is a roster limit of 18 players per team. Rosters must be complete online no later than **April 14th, 2026 (12U) and April 19th, 2026 (13U). The roster deadline will be strictly enforced!**
1. Any requests to add players after the roster deadline must be communicated to the GSBL by the association/community Travel Director and must be approved by the GSBL Board of Advisors.
  2. Temporary substitute player requests must be due to injury or absence only **AND** only if the injury or absence causes the team roster to drop below 10 players. Potential substitutes must be from a team of an equal or lower classification within your association, regardless of age. The roster modification must go through your association's Travel Director and/or President, who must communicate the change to the MYAS/GSBL baseball office. Once approved, the association must roster the player on the new team and remove them from their old team.

**NOTE:** For the GSBL Playoffs, along with adhering to all of the criteria above, the substitute player may only come from a team that is no longer active in the GSBL (i.e. has been eliminated from further play).

#### RESIDENCY

**The Gopher State Baseball League is a community-based program.** GSBL teams are comprised of players who are from the community in which their parent or legal guardian resides or in which they attend school. The GSBL will recognize a team if they are derived from a bona fide association (consisting of multiple teams of perpetual nature) or a school program within their boundaries according to their bylaws. Generally, association boundaries are based on a city's limits or a high school district attendance area. The GSBL will not knowingly allow renegade and/or all-star teams to participate in the league. These rules are established to maintain a community-based orientation. The GSBL Board of Advisors reserves the right to rule on any questionable situations. For more information on MYAS/Gopher State organization guidelines, please see documentation found in the 2026 Coaches' Corner under Gopher State Baseball on [www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org).

## **LEVELS OF PLAY FOR 2026**

Communities/Associations entering teams in the Gopher State Baseball League (GSBL) at the 9U-15U levels must enter at least one AAA team prior to entering any AA or A teams at a given age level. An association/community wishing to enter AA or A teams without at least one AAA team at a given age level is entitled to an appeal through the Gopher State Baseball League Board of Advisors. Please see additional regulations within the “Team Classification Policy”. It is the responsibility of each GSBL member association to uphold the integrity of each level of play offered within the league by properly classifying their teams. Any decision of the Board of Advisors is not eligible for further appeal if the intent of the policy is upheld. Each decision is in effect for the current season.

- AAA:** This is the highest competitive level in Minnesota. This level of play consists of teams that are comprised of the top players within a local traveling association.
- AA:** This is the intermediate level of play. The AA level is intended for teams from baseball associations that have already provided teams at the AAA level. AA may also (in some cases) be defined as a level for traveling teams that are not currently able to compete at the AAA level.
- A:** This is the developmental level of traveling baseball. The A level is often used to place teams trying to prepare for a higher level of play.

## **DIMENSIONS FOR PLAYING FIELDS**

**A. The following base lengths are recommended:**

12 year olds: 75 feet

13 year olds: 75-80 feet (GSBL recommends 80')

**B. The following pitching distance is recommended:**

12-13 year olds: 52 feet

**NOTE:** For a variety of reasons, the base and pitching rubber distances vary in length from one city to the next. Be prepared to be flexible, but **do not** compromise safety.

Portable or permanent mounds will be allowed for 9U-13U league play. All teams must check their field notes on [www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org) to make sure they are up-to-date. This is so opposing teams will know what type of mounds they will be playing on before the game.

## **EQUIPMENT**

- A. Shoes:** Players in the GSBL 12 year old leagues may only wear molded cleats or tennis shoes. Players in the GSBL 13 year old leagues will be allowed to wear metal spikes.
- B. Catcher Chest Protectors:** The new NOCSAE standard for chest protectors in catcher’s gear is not required however it is HIGHLY recommended.
- C. Baseballs:** Each team must supply one new baseball for the start of each game (additional baseballs to be supplied alternately as needed). The official baseball for the MYAS/GSBL is Diamond and they are available for sale at [www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org).

The logo for Diamond baseballs, featuring the word "Diamond" in a stylized, red, cursive font with a registered trademark symbol.

- D. The Official Bat:** Please see pages 3 & 4 for the Gopher State Baseball League Bat Standards and Penalties.

## EQUIPMENT (continued) - LEGAL BATS

The MYAS/Gopher State baseball programs have adopted the USSSA baseball bat performance standards. The standards that were implemented prior to the 2012 season encompass the regulation of big barrel (larger than 2¼” in diameter) and small barrel (2¼” or less) bats. These standards must be used in all MYAS/Gopher State baseball programs. As part of the USSSA baseball bat standards, USA Baseball marked bats will be allowed in competition under USSSA standards. All bats must be manufactured by an approved USSSA or USA bat licensee and have the corresponding mark on its taper, or be a qualified BBCOR bat or a wood bat.

The USSSA finger print of 1.15 BPF is based on fundamental laws of physics that measure the relative performance of bats to be used in USSSA play. A qualified BBCOR bat stands for “Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution” and it focuses on how much of a trampoline effect the barrel of a bat has on a ball. Bat manufacturers will have to in effect “deaden” the trampoline bounce that pitched balls experience when a batter makes contact. Basically, aluminum bats will theoretically be the same as wooden bats.

The following describes the legality of bats for all MYAS/Gopher State programs:

### **12-13 year old teams:**

**Big Barrel Bats** (larger than 2¼ inches in diameter) - only the following big barrel bats made by approved USSSA or USA licensed manufacturers will be allowed:


- 1) Bats made with the USSSA or USA mark (see image at right)
- 2) Qualified BBCOR bats
- 3) Wooden bats

**Small Barrel Bats** (2¼ inches in diameter or less) - only the following small barrel bats made by approved USSSA or USA licensed manufacturers will be allowed:

- 1) Bats made with the USSSA or USA mark (see image above right)
- 2) Wooden bats



Listed below are bat specifications for 12-13 year old teams participating in any MYAS/Gopher State baseball programs in 2026. These specifications are in addition to the USSSA Bat Performance Standards for 2026. All legal bats must follow the above description and also ***MUST*** follow the size and/or weight differential listed in the chart below.

<b>Age</b>	<b>Maximum diameter @ thickest part</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Weight Differential</b>	<b>Example</b>
<b>12's-13's</b> 	<b>2¼”</b> <b>2½”</b> <b>2⅝”</b> <b>2¾”</b>	<b>Unlimited</b> <b>36” or less</b> <b>36” or less</b> <b>36” or less</b>	<b>Unlimited</b> <b>-10</b> <b>-10</b> <b>-10</b>	<b>Unlimited</b> <b>31-inch bat cannot weigh less than 21 ounces</b>

## **EQUIPMENT (continued) - LEGAL BATS**

The official bat for league play shall be round in cross section, straight in length and measure not more than 36 inches long, including tape or other grip additions to the bat, shall have a knob at the end of its handle, and not be more than 2¼ inches in diameter for small barrel bats and not more than 2¾ inches for big barrel bats at its largest part. Its weight shall not exceed 31 ounces, including tape or grip addition to the bat. The bat shall have a grip of tape or some other material to facilitate holding the bat during the batter's swing. The grip shall be not less than 10 inches long, nor extend to touch the taper or barrel of the bat.

All required graphics, including USSSA and BPF or USA markings, must be permanent and cannot be applied as decals or by any other method that would allow the key graphics to be easily removed or added to the bat (Rule 7.01C found on page 7 of the January 1, 2015 edition of the USSSA National By-Laws and Rules).

Examples of the USSSA 1.15 BPF fingerprint and USA stamp:



### **VERIFYING BATS**

A team representative must present all bats that will be used by their team in front of their respective dugout prior to the pre-game conference. It is up to the opposing coach to verify that each bat has all required graphics, including USSSA and BPF or USA markings.

### **PENALTY FOR USING ILLEGAL BAT**

#### **First Offense:**

If the umpire discovers that the bat does not conform to USSSA Rule 7.01C until a time during or after which the bat has been used in play, it shall not be grounds for declaring the batter out and/or ejection from the game. If the umpire discovers that a bat has been used to put the ball in play and before the next legal pitch, the defensive team will have the choice of the result of play or the batter being called out and all runners returning to the base occupied before the pitch.

#### **Second Offense:**

If a team is found to be in violation of this rule a second time, then the manager will be ejected in addition to the First Offense penalty.

## **GENERAL RULES**

- A. There is a 10-minute mandatory warm-up for infield practice.
- B. The home team will take the infield at 30 minutes before game time.
  - The visiting team will take the infield at 20 minutes before game time.
  - The last 10 minutes is for pitchers to get ready and for coaches and umpires to have a pre-game.
  - The outfield will be used for batting practice with whiffle balls or fly balls for outfielders.

The home team will keep the official GSBL scorebook.

- C. All field preparations, which include line markings and bases, are the responsibility of the home team.
- D. **The home team is expected to have the field prepared at least one hour prior to the start of the game.**
- E. "Uniforms of all team members should be of the same color and style" (NFHS Rules Book 1-4-1).

## GENERAL RULES (Continued)

- E.** A courtesy runner (the last runner to be put out) will be allowed only for the catcher and ***only*** when there are two outs. **Projected substitutions are not allowed.**  
**Exception:** Courtesy runners for an injured player will be the player making the most recent out (NFHS Suggested Speed-Up Rules).
- F. Bench Personnel:** The number of coaches on the bench are limited to a ***Head Coach, Two Assistants*** and a ***designated Scorekeeper***. These coaches must be listed on your “hard copy” official roster throughout the season.

### CONTINUOUS BATTING & FREE SUBSTITUTION

- A.** Continuous batting and free substitution (except pitchers) will be used in all GSBL 12-13 year old leagues. This rule applies to the AAA, AA and A leagues.
- B.** Any pitcher may re-enter the pitching position **ONCE** during the game.
- C.** Each team’s lineup must list a minimum of nine players to start a game. A game will be forfeited to the offended team when a team is unable to provide nine players to start the game or cannot provide eight players to finish the game (NFHS Rule 4-4-1f).
1. A “rostered” player may be placed at the end of your lineup if he/she is not present at the start of the game (this applies to teams that start a game with nine players).
  2. An injured batter or runner that cannot continue to participate will be replaced by the last player to be put out. This will end the injured player’s participation for the remainder of the game.
  3. An out will be called at that spot in the batting order **ONLY** if a team drops below NINE players.

### PITCHING RESTRICTIONS

*(Please refer to Rule 6 of the NFHS Rule Book except where modified below)*

- A.** 12U leagues: A pitcher may pitch a maximum of **85 pitches per day or THREE innings (9 outs) per game**, which ever comes first.  
13U leagues: A pitcher may pitch a maximum of **95 pitches per day or FOUR innings (12 outs) per game**, which ever comes first.
- \*Note: One pitch NO LONGER constitutes one inning pitched, innings pitched are tracked by outs recorded, i.e. One inning = Three outs.**
- \*\*Note: In the event a pitcher exceeds the number of outs due to multiple outs being recorded on a single play, it is not considered a pitching violation.**

The number of calendar days of rest until the pitcher is allowed to pitch again is dependent upon the number of pitches thrown in their previous outing.

Pitch Count	Calendar Days of Rest Required After Pitching
1-25	0
26-40	1
41-55	2
56-70	3
71 or more	4

*Example: If a player throws 50 pitches on Monday, the earliest they may pitch again is on Thursday.*

If a player reaches their maximum number (85 or 95 pitches) of allowed pitches during an at-bat, they may finish pitching to that batter but then must immediately be removed from the pitching position.

## PITCHING RESTRICTIONS (Cont.)

**\*NOTE: Stresses on a pitcher's arm are caused from overuse, lack of conditioning, improper mechanics of pitching and lack of understanding of proper recovery time.**

### **Penalties for Violation of Pitch Count Rule:**

**1st Offense:** If the violation is caught during a game, the head coach is suspended for the remainder of that game and the team's next GSBL regular season or playoff game. If the violation is caught after the completion of the game, the suspension will be in effect for the team's next GSBL regular season or playoff game.

**2nd Offense in the Same Season:** The game in which the violation occurred is forfeited. The head coach is suspended immediately after the violation is caught and for the remainder of the GSBL regular season and playoffs, pending an appeal of the team's association board.

- B.** Submit "pitch count" of **\*OPPOSING TEAM\***. Coaches must submit/input the jersey number and number of pitches for each player of the OPPOSING TEAM who pitches during a regular season league game. **Simply input the pitch count of the OPPOSING TEAM when recording scores online within 24 hours after each game is completed.** This information will become public information and will be available immediately in the league schedule and standings for review by opposing teams.
- C. Pitch Types:** All pitch types, including curveballs **are allowed** in the 12 and 13 year old leagues.

### **Recommendations for preventing injuries in youth baseball pitchers:**

1. Watch and respond to signs of fatigue (such as decreased ball velocity, decreased accuracy, upright trunk during pitching, dropped elbow during pitching, or increased time between pitches). If a youth pitcher complains of fatigue or looks fatigued, let him rest from pitching and other throwing.
2. No overhead throwing of any kind for at least 2-3 months per year (4 months is preferred). No competitive baseball pitching for at least 4 months per year.
3. Do not pitch more than 100 innings in games in any calendar year.
4. Follow limits for pitch counts and days rest.
5. Avoid pitching on multiple teams with overlapping seasons.
6. Learn good throwing mechanics as soon as possible. The first steps should be to learn, in order: 1) basic throwing, 2) fastball pitching, 3) change-up pitching.
7. Avoid using radar guns.
8. A pitcher should not also be a catcher for his team. The pitcher-catcher combination results in many throws and may increase the risk of injury.
9. If a pitcher complains of pain in his elbow or shoulder, discontinue pitching until evaluated by a sports medicine physician. Inspire youth pitchers to have fun playing baseball and other sports. Participation and enjoyment of various physical activities will increase the youth's athleticism and interest in sports.

#### References:

American Sports Medicine Institute & USA Baseball Medical & Safety Advisory Committee;  
<http://www.asmi.org/research.php?page=research&section=positionStatement>

## **BASE RUNNING**

- A.** A runner may lead off and/or steal at any time (NFHS rules apply).
- B.** Interference (NFHS Rule 2-21):
- Offensive interference is an act (physical or verbal) by the team at bat:
1. which interferes with, obstructs, impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder attempting to make a play; or
  2. which happens when a runner creates malicious contact with any fielder, with or without the ball, in or out of the baseline; or
  3. which happens when a coach physically assists a runner during playing action.
- C.** Obstruction (NFHS Rule 2-22):
1. Obstruction is the act (intentional or unintentional, as well as physical or verbal) by a fielder, any member of the defensive team or its team personnel that hinders a runner or changes the pattern of play.
  2. A fake tag is considered obstruction.
- D.** **Runners are never required to slide** but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal. Jumping, hurdling, and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder as long as the fielder is lying on the ground. Diving over a fielder is illegal (NFHS rule 8-4-2-b-2).

## **UMPIRES**

**NOTE:** When assigning umpires for 12-13U league games, the GSBL requires that each association/community assign individuals who:

1. are a minimum of four (4) years older than players on the teams they are umpiring.
2. have completed a background check and the state mandated concussion training prior to being assigned a game.

These requirements are the responsibility of the Association President and/or Travel Director. **Every home coach needs to verify coverage of their home games with their designated assignor, prior to the start of the season.**

**MYAS/Gopher State Baseball** does provide options for umpire training. In the event your Association is interested in working with MYAS relative to training umpires, please reach out to Tony Schrepfer—Tony@myas.org for more information.

## PROTESTS

- A. Protests must be made verbally with the umpire by the offended team at the time of the play and before the next pitch. A fee of **\$100.00** cash (refunded if upheld) must accompany the protest. All decisions of the GSBL/MYAS and GSBL Board of Advisors are final.
- B. No protests will be allowed in matters involving solely the official's judgment. Only decisions involving the misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule may be protested.

## BENCH AND FIELD CONDUCT

- A. Upon enrollment of teams and rostering of players & coaches, any and all participating in GSBL agree to abide by the **MYAS Code of Conduct** prior to the start of the season. All participants in the GSBL will be held responsible for their actions during league play.
- B. All players, coaches and spectators are to behave in a manner that reflects the positive fun associated with the game of baseball. **Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated, and includes but is not limited to (modified from the NFHS Baseball Rules Book, Rule 3-3):**

\* Verbal abuse

\* Physical aggression

\* Tantrum-like acts

\* Arguing umpire judgment calls

\* Profanity

- C. Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game will immediately be removed from the game and must exit the vicinity of the ballpark. Failure to comply with the ejection in a timely manner will result in the game being forfeited. **Note: If a player, coach or spectator is ejected from a game the head coach of that team will be ejected as well. Any coach, player, bench personnel or spectator ejected from a game will be immediately suspended for the remainder of the 2026 season, pending an appeal to the Conduct Review Committee, an independent group for review and recommendations. The committee will be activated following any violation of the MYAS/Gopher State Baseball Conduct Policy.**

1. A Head Coach ejected due to a player, assistant coach or spectator's conduct will be considered an "Indirect Ejection." Indirect Ejections do not automatically trigger a season long suspension and will be reviewed on a case by case basis initially by their local association Board of Directors.

2. The umpire involved and individual (s) ejected from the game **MUST** notify Lance Klinkhammer, League Commissioner, at [lance@myas.org](mailto:lance@myas.org) AND report the incident online to our Conduct Review Committee ([link](#)) within 24 hours of the incident.

**NOTE: If any unsportsmanlike conduct is displayed during a league game by a coach, player or spectator, please notify your association's Travel Director. This must be done before contacting the GSBL.**

## **GAME LENGTH**

*(Please refer to Rule 4 of the NFHS Rule Book for proper procedure)*

- A. Extra Innings** - If a game is tied and time allows, teams are **required** to play extra innings for any Gopher State Baseball League game.
- B.** All 12U & 13U games will be played under a 2 hour and 15 minute time limit. The time limit **IS NOT** a “drop-dead” time limit. If the time limit expires in the middle of an inning, teams are to complete the inning **UNLESS** the Home Team is at bat and ahead, at which time the game will end and the score will be final.
- C.** Completed games are **FINAL:**  
**12 year old leagues** – after SIX innings or the time limit expires  
**13 year old leagues** – after SEVEN innings or the time limit expires  
In the event of a tie, extra innings are allowed based as long as the time limit has not expired.
- D.** Ties will stand after the time-limit expires or due to darkness. Try to make every effort to complete the game but do not risk injury due to darkness. To ensure the playing of the full six or seven innings, hustle between half innings and retrieve all foul balls in a timely manner. It is ultimately the judgment of the umpire to determine if the game should be completed or allowed to continue.
- E.** The 10-run rule will take effect after:  
**12 year old leagues:** 3½ innings if the home team is ahead, or after four innings if the visiting team is ahead.  
**13 year old leagues:** 4½ innings if the home team is ahead, or after five innings if the visiting team is ahead.
- F.** If weather or darkness interferes with play resulting in the game being called by the umpire, it is a regulation game (NFHS Rule Book 4-2-3 and under Lightning Disturbances on page 78):
- 1. 12 year old leagues:** after 3½ innings if the home team is ahead, or after four innings if the visiting team is ahead.  
**13 year old leagues:** after 4½ innings if the home team is ahead, or after five innings if the visiting team is ahead.
  - if more than four innings (12U) or five innings (13U) have been completed.
- G.** If a game is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat, the score will revert to the score at the end of the last completed inning unless the home team, in its half of the incomplete inning, scores a run(s) and equals or exceeds the opponent’s score. In that case, the final score will be recorded as the score when the game is called (NFHS Rule 4-2-3).
- H.** If weather or darkness results in the game being called by the umpire but does not reach a regulation game, then it is considered an incomplete game to be completed at a later date— unless both coaches agree to accept the result. Any suspended game must be **rescheduled** within 24 hours but does not need to be resumed within 24 hours.
- I.** Any forfeited game must be reported to the league office within 24 hours of the forfeit. The game in question will be recorded as a 6-0 for 12u and 7-0 for 13u on the schedule.

## **GAME LENGTH (cont'd)**

- J. If weather or darkness results in the game being called by the umpire but does not reach a regulation game, then it is considered an incomplete game to be completed at a later date— unless both coaches agree to accept the result. Any suspended game must be **rescheduled** within 24 hours but does not need to be resumed within 24 hours.
- K. Any forfeited game must be reported to the league office within 24 hours of the forfeit. The game in question will be recorded as a 6-0 score on the schedule.

## **GAME CHANGES/CANCELLATION SYSTEM & PROCEDURE**

**Please see Online Coaches' Corner for more information**

Any game changes or cancellations reported to the GSBL via e-mail at [baseball@myas.org](mailto:baseball@myas.org) on weekdays by 3:15pm will be updated on [www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org). It is the responsibility of the home team's coach to notify the visiting team of the cancellation. If the league office is not notified of a cancellation of a game, it will be assumed that the game is still on as scheduled.

Failure of the home team coach to notify the visiting team coach, your umpire assignor and/or the GSBL office of a weather related cancelled game will result in a \$50.00 league fine assessed to the home team and must be paid before that game can be rescheduled.

## **STANDINGS**

- A. The Gopher State Baseball League will maintain current standings, schedules and all pertinent league information online. League information will accessible on the GSBL portion of the website as well as on your individual team's profile/site on Register Play.
- B. Both coaches must submit/input their completed game scores online via Register Play. **Simply input scores and opposing team pitch counts within 24 hours after each game is completed.** The system helps ensure an accurate score for each completed game.
- C. **Teams will be contacted if scores are not reported and will be assessed a \$50.00 fine if non-reporting occurs more than once. It is imperative that both coaches report their scores within 24 hours of the completion of each game.**

## **REGULAR SEASON POINT SYSTEM AND TIE-BREAKERS**

**Ties in the standings following the completion of the regular season will be broken by the following procedure:**

1. **Head to head competition**
2. **Best winning percentage (games won divided by games played)**
3. **Least runs allowed**
4. **Most runs scored**
5. **If still tied, a one-game playoff will determine the winner (time permitting)**
6. **Coin flip**

## **ALL-INCLUSIVE PLAYOFFS**

### **A. Playoff Format:**

1. GSBL will form Tiers of no more than 8 teams in each playoff bracket for 2026 based on regular season performance.
2. Tiers will be divided into multiple Sections based on geographic area, if necessary. GSBL will use the same format that the MSHSL uses for playoff sections to eliminate travel. Division Champs will be the highest seeds regardless of record.
3. GSBL will allow for flexibility when determining where to place teams.

Seeding for the GSBL playoffs will be determined based on the league standings and points accumulated as of June 30th, 2026 at 11:59pm. Any games played or reported after this date will not count toward the playoff seeding.

**NOTE:** If a team's season is not completed by the final play date, each un-played game will be counted as a loss and only one point will be awarded toward the season point total. This ensures that all teams will be seeded into the playoffs accurately by having the same number of games played. **Forfeits will only be awarded when both teams agree upon the forfeit.**

Seeding and playoff matchups will be available on our website by 4:00pm on July 3rd. If you feel there is a problem with the playoff matchups and/or seeding, please contact the league office. **If you are a higher seeded team in the playoffs, please be ready to receive an email** from the GSBL/MYAS headquarters on July 1st, or your playoff game will not be scheduled.

**Playoff games that have been officially scheduled and communicated will be posted in the League Schedule no later than 4:00pm on July 3rd.**

### **B. Playoff Dates: July 6th - Playoffs Begin for all 12U & 13U Divisions**

Teams will be placed into Playoff Tiers based on record and any tie-breaker scenarios. All Playoff brackets will be single elimination. **Age levels with 30 or more teams will first be split into "Sections" based on geographics and then into Tiers based on their records. Section Champions will be crowned in these situations.**

### **C. Playoff Game Times:** All playoff games will begin at 6:00pm unless lights are available. Games need to be finished on the night of the game.

### **D. Playoff Locations:** Games will be played at the site of the highest seed pending field availability. Because of time constraints, if the higher seeded team cannot provide a home field for the days assigned for play, the opposing team will be given the opportunity to host that particular game if they can supply a field.

Please see the full **Playoff Timeline** for dates and times under "Important Dates" under Gopher State Baseball on [www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org)

## 2026 GSBL 12-13 & Under Baseball Rules Highlights

- Rule:** Portable or Permanent Mound - Home coach must make sure [www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org) is updated with their correct field information.
- Rule:** ***The Official Bat:*** Please see pages 3 & 4 for the Gopher State Baseball League/USSSA Bat Standards and Penalties.
- Rule:** A 10-minute infield warm-up is mandatory for both teams beginning 30 minutes prior to the start of the game.
- Rule:** A courtesy runner (the last runner to be put out) will be allowed only for the catcher and ***only*** when there are two outs. **Projected substitutions are not allowed.**
- Rule:** Continuous batting and free substitution will be used in all GSBL 12-13 year old leagues.
- Rule:** Each team's lineup must list a minimum of nine players to start a game.
- Rule:** Pitch count will be used to determine how long a player can pitch per day and how long of rest period before they can return to the pitching position.
- Rule:** The league features an additional website tool for coaches to track OPPOSING PITCHERS' pitch count.
- Rule:** All pitch types, including curveballs, are **legal** at both the 12u and 13u level.
- Rule:** A runner may lead off and/or steal at any time (NFHS rules apply).
- Rule:** Protests must be made verbally with the umpire by the offended team at the time of the play and before the next pitch. A fee of **\$100.00** cash (refunded if upheld) must accompany the protest.
- Rule:** **All players and coaches must sign a Code of Conduct prior to Opening Day.**
- Rule:** **Any coach, player, bench personnel or spectator ejected from a game will be immediately suspended for the remainder of the 2026 season, pending an appeal to the Conduct Review Committee, an independent group for review and recommendations. The committee will be activated following any violation of the MYAS/Gopher State Baseball Conduct Policy.**
- Rule:** Completed games are **FINAL** after six innings—12u leagues  
Completed games are **FINAL** after seven innings—13u leagues
- Rule:** The 10-run rule will take effect after:  
12u leagues: 3½ innings if the home team is ahead, or after four innings if the visiting team is ahead  
13u leagues: 4½ innings if the home team is ahead, or after five innings if the visiting team is ahead
- Rule:** Any game changes or cancellations need to be reported to the League office via e-mail at [baseball@myas.org](mailto:baseball@myas.org) on weekdays by 3:15pm or it is assumed that the game is on as scheduled.
- Rule:** Both coaches must report their game scores online within 24 hours after each game is completed.
- Rule:** Playoff Format - Sections, Division Champs - higher seed, tiered playoff structure **Note:** If a team's season is not completed by the final play date, each remaining game will be counted as a loss.