

Busline League Baseball & Softball Rules

Extra Hitter Rule

1. The DH is **not** used in softball. The DH is used in baseball only. In softball only the EH will be recognized and the DP/Flex (if your coach is familiar with this rule).

Administration of the EH in the Busline League for softball will be as follows (These apply if you are using the EH. If a team does not use the EH then regular 9 player fast pitch federation rules apply)

1. A team will list 10 batters on their line-up card to bat (one of those batters to be the EH). 9 of those players will be assigned a field position.
2. If a coach utilizes the EH and lists 10 batters on their line-up card they must bat 10 positions for the game. The EH cannot be eliminated once the game has begun.
3. If a team is unable to maintain 10 batters (due to injury or other circumstances) the vacant batting position will result in an out.
4. Coaches should determine prior to submitting their line-up card if they will be able to maintain 10 batters.
5. Once a batting order is established on the line-up card it will remain the same. Players who substitute must bat in the order of the player who they substituted for.

Baseball Only

1. Use the DH and EH in the same game. Substitutions for players in these positions must follow the rule book with the following exception:
 - If the player in the EH spot is forced to leave the game, and no other player on that team is available as a substitute, the team will not forfeit the game by dipping below the 10 or 9 player mark. When that spot comes up in the batting order, and automatic out will be declared. We want the teams to finish the games. Enforcing this rule to the letter would penalize both teams with reductions in playing time. We trust that coaches with limited rosters will hold a player or two in reserve when the game begins to allow for such an occurrence.
2. A team can use the EH only in a given game.
3. A team can use the DH only in a given game.
4. A team can choose to NOT use a DH or an EH in a given game.

Baseball

- Games shall be 7 innings. A twelve (12) run mercy rule shall be in effect after 5 innings (4 1/2 for the home team) and no inning will start after 5:45, if it causes a conflict for field

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use. If the decision is to abolish the time rule, the umpire and visiting team will be notified prior to the start of the game by the home team coach. • MPA pitching rules will apply to the BLL, they are as follows:

a. Throwing one pitch constitutes an inning pitched. b. A day of rest shall be a calendar day (not a part-day 24 hours later). c. A player who pitches in four or more innings *per day* may not pitch again until three calendar days have elapsed. (Example - a player pitches four or more innings on May 1st may not pitch again until May 5th). d. A player may pitch a maximum of ten (10) innings in one game and, having pitched four (4) or more innings in that game, may not pitch in another game until three (3) calendar days have elapsed. e. A player who pitches in more than one inning and less than four innings may not pitch again until one calendar day has elapsed. f. A pitcher who pitches in both games of a double header with the same team shall not pitch more than three innings per game. g. Two games in one day with different opponents -- If a pitcher pitches one inning or less in the first game they may pitch up to three innings in the second game. If a pitcher pitches over one inning they may not pitch in the second game. h. A player may pitch in one inning on any number of consecutive days. i. The pitching rule applies to the entire season; pre-season, exhibition, tournament, and all other games. Violation in non-counting games may result in the teams' ineligibility for tournament play. (9/91)

85 pitch per game maximum for pitchers. If the pitcher reaches the pitch count limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to throw until the batter reaches base, thrown out, or the third out is made to complete the half inning.

NOTES:

If a game is terminated before becoming an official game, the pitching rule is in effect and will remain until the last full inning. Example: A game is called for rain after one and a half innings of play. The pitching rule is in effect and will revert to the last full inning.

A five-inning game (4 1/2 if home team is ahead) shall be an official game in all post-season play.

It is mandatory that each home baseball team have an "L" shaped screen for both teams to use. Throughout the season, helmets must be worn during warm-up (batting practice) prior to all contests. (This is a major liability issue)

Catchers' masks that are not hockey style must have an attached throat protector. Coaches must wear a helmet to be on the field. A hard baseball helmet is required; no-flap, single flap, and double flap helmets are permitted, while "skullies" and cap

inserts are not permitted. If at all possible the helmet should be NOCSAE approved.

- Restrictions on bat size or weight will be the same as those determined by the MPA, currently a 3 oz. drop.
- The season will begin for pitchers and catchers, 4 weeks prior to the first game and for other players 2 weeks prior to the first game. Tryouts may be held for two days prior to the pitcher/catcher practice.
- Winning percentage based on the regular season record shall determine the seedings for the playoffs. All teams make the playoffs.
- EH Rule: An Extra Hitter May be used - Bat ten players, the EH can go into the field for any of the other nine players in the game and that player will then become the EH. The batting order does not change.

Softball

- Games shall be 7 innings, a 12 run mercy rule shall be in effect after 5 innings (4 1/2 for the home team) and no inning will start after 5:45, if it causes a conflict for field use. If the decision is to abolish the time rule the umpire and visiting team will be notified prior to the start of the game.
- Pitching distance shall be 43 feet
- A double first base shall be used in all league games.
- Winning percentage based on the regular season record shall determine the seedings for the playoffs. All teams make the playoffs.
- Restrictions on bat size or weight will be the same as those determined by the MPA. • EH Rule: An Extra Hitter May be Used - Bat ten players, the EH can go into the field for any of the other nine players in the game and that player will then become the EH. The batting order does not change.