

**Gahanna Junior League Sports
High School League Rules**

The following rules are supplementary to and supersede OHSAA rules and regulations. No rules can be changed without Board approval. Any changes must be completed before the season starts. No draft can be conducted unless all teams have at least one coach present and at least one Board member is present.

- A. There shall be no smoking, alcohol, drugs or profanity used by anyone on the field, in the dugouts, or within the limits of the field. No jewelry or bracelets of any type may be worn.
- B. Uniforms: Only league-issued shirts, socks, and hats with proper baseball pants are to be worn. No cutoff shirts or pants are permitted. Penalty: Player not permitted to play.
- C. The field has 90' bases and a pitching distance of 60' 6".
- D. Metal cleats are allowed.
- E. All games are 7 innings. Exceptions: mercy rule; weather or darkness (Umpire's decision). In the regular season, 5 innings constitutes an official game; or 4 1/2 innings if the home team is winning. In the playoff tournament, all games shall be completed in full unless ended early by the applicable mercy rule. Any playoff game not completed in full due to weather, darkness, etc., shall be declared suspended and completed at the earliest possible date as determined by the league Commissioner. (See GJLS Rule 5.04 for resumption of any suspended game.)
- F. All players will bat in a continuous batting order and must play at least 4 innings in a 7-inning game. Late arrivals will be placed at the bottom of the batting order. All players must be entered into the game by the third inning. All players may re-enter except at the pitching position.
- G. Bats must comply with current OHSAA standards, meaning qualified BBCOR or wood bat with length-to-weight drop factor of not more than 3. Penalty for use of an illegal bat is an automatic out.
- H. The home scorebook is the official score book with the umpire checking the score every inning.
- I. If there are less than 8 players there is a 15 minute grace period, then a forfeit. A team can play with eight players but the 9th batter is an out. If a team drops to 8 players after a game starts, the automatic out is taken in the spot in the batting order vacated by the last player to leave the game.
- J. Mercy run rules: 10 runs after 5 innings.
- K. Call up players: A player may be called up from the Pony league 3 times per regular season and twice during the tournaments. A call-up may not pitch, must bat last, and must play defense per league rules.
- L. Only one offensive time out is permitted per inning.
- M. Teams are limited to no more than 3 coaching trips to the mound per game without replacing the pitcher. A second visit to the same pitcher in the same inning requires that pitcher to be replaced. Replacing a pitcher is not considered a trip to the mound.

- N. At a coach's option, the next scheduled catcher may be afforded a courtesy runner with 2 outs. The last batter to make an out shall be the runner. Unless injured, the replaced runner must catch the next inning at least until a pitching change is made.
- O. **Batting.** Slug bunting is illegal; the offending player will be called out and ejected. Batters throwing the bat will receive one team warning per game; every occurrence after that will result in the offending player being called out, the ball being immediately declared dead, and all runners returned to the base occupied prior to the pitch.
- P. **Sliding.** Head first sliding is legal at all times. Sliding to avoid contact applies. Runners must slide or attempt to avoid contact with the fielder. If a runner violates this rule and contact results, he is to be called out. Obstruction rules apply, and a catcher may not block the plate without the ball. Runners initiating hard or dangerous contact are subject to ejection at the umpire's discretion.
- Q. **Pitching.** Pitchers may follow the 2017 OHSSA pitch count rule which can be found: www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/Baseball/Pitch-Count-Rule-Card.pdf. In addition, a pitcher removed from the game cannot return as a pitcher. Pitchers get 6 warm up pitches between innings which do not count toward pitch count. Use of an ineligible pitcher will result in a forfeit. Regular balk rules apply, and no warnings are to be given.
- R. Any coach ejected from a game will also be suspended for the next two (2) games. A second ejection in the same season will result in a one week suspension. Any ejection thereafter will result in an indefinite suspension, with reinstatement permitted only by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Any player, parent, relative, spectator, or other person ejected from any game shall be suspended for that game and the next game. Any ejected person must immediately leave the field and remain no closer than the parking lot. Depending on the severity of the conduct, additional suspensions or actions may be taken. The League Commissioner and the Board must promptly be made aware of any ejections. See Regulation 1.04.
- S. Home team is on the 1st base side; visitors on the 3rd base side.
- T. Only Head Coaches are permitted to talk to the umpires. Head Coaches are responsible for their assistants, players, parents and spectators. Umpires must turn in card upon conclusion of game and will be paid in accordance with league procedures.
- U. Field maintenance responsibilities:
- a. Visitors - Bases (put out before games and put away after games)
 - b. Home - Rake field after game
 - c. Both - Trash
- V. Pre-Game Warm-Up:
- a. Home - 5:30 to 5:45 (Fall 5:00 to 5:15)
 - b. Visitor - 5:45 to 6:00 (Fall 5:15 to 5:30)

Additional rules applicable to Fall season only:

- F1 Each team will be afforded 2 pinch runners that may be used at any time. The pinch runner can be anyone. The pinch run player must not be coming up to bat within at least 4 batters. However, if the pinch runner is scheduled to bat while on base, the player he ran for will be required to return to the base for himself without penalty. This rule does not offset the courtesy runner rule (Rule R) as stated above.
- F2 Speed-up rules are in effect: batters must leave one foot in the box or a strike may be called; pitchers get 3 warm-up pitches between innings.
- F3 All games will be played to completion without time limits. Extra innings (8th and beyond) will be played under Texas Shootout rules (see below). Lights must be used as necessary to complete games. Exception - weather delays (per umpire).

Texas Shootout Rules: Last out from previous inning goes to second base to start inning with no outs. The count for all batters starts at 2 balls and 2 strikes. All remaining rules apply including pitching and sit-out rules.

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