

## **2020 DETROIT PAL BASEBALL LEAGUE (DPBL) RULES & REGULATIONS**

### **I. GENERAL:**

- A.** The National Federation High School Rule Book will serve as the playing rules for the Detroit PAL Baseball League (DPBL) except as amended by the Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) Official Handbook, or herein by DPBL's 2020 Rules & Regulations. If a rule is not covered in any of the aforementioned publications, then the Official Baseball Rules will apply.
- B.** If any DPBL team is duly organized to play as an All-Star team of another league or tournament or DPBL league-approved house league team, such rules of that league or tournament shall take precedence over the rules of DPBL.
- C.** The "Manager's Code of Ethics" (Appendix I) will serve as a guide for the expectations for all managers and coaches having a team and/or organization in DPBL.
- D.** DPBL plays its games in the Tri-Cities area of Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck. Players and/or teams from other cities are welcome to participate in DPBL provided they agree to play all games in the aforementioned cities. *EXCEPTION:* Teams outside of Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck may play their home game at their site of choice **only** if the opposing team agrees to travel to their baseball field.
- E.** The DPBL will field two divisions of play for baseball in 2020 – each with multiple age groups. 15U and 18U.

### **II. FIELD DECORUM:**

- A.** The actions of all players, coaches, managers, umpires, parents, relatives, and volunteers must be consistent with the mission and values of the DPBL. **ANY PERSON, IN THE OPINION OF THE UMPIRE, BASEBALL COMMISSIONER, OR ANY DIRECTOR OF THE DPBL, NOT ACTING IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE LEAGUE, WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE PLAYING AREA.** Further, the umpire may eject the player of a parent or relative described above, from the game. Failure to comply with the umpire's ruling may result in forfeiture of the game by the team involved. The umpire and both managers shall make a full written report of any such incident available to the Commissioner of Baseball within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game. Further disciplinary actions may be taken by DPBL administrative staff, including, but not limited to, permanent dismissal of the team, coach, or player in question.

- B.** Any umpire not acting in the best interests of DPBL may, after review by the Commissioner of Baseball and the Umpire-in-Chief, be suspended from officiating for a period of time up to and including permanent suspension.
- C.** The umpire shall report any player, coach, or manager ejected from a game to the Commissioner of Baseball. Any such ejection will automatically result in a suspension in the next regularly scheduled game.
- D.** Only registered players, certified managers/coaches, and umpires are permitted within the confines of the playing field just prior to, and during the game. Except for the batter, the on-deck batter, base runners and base coaches, all other players must be on the bench and/or in the dugout while their team is at bat.
- E.** Only managers, coaches, and players listed on their roster are allowed to coach the bases. EXCEPTION: In the absence of enough coaches to properly coach the bases in any given game, the manager or coach may appoint a substitute CERTIFIED coach for that game. The name of the substitute coach must be reported to the umpire prior to the game.
- F.** A manager or coach may not leave the vicinity of the dugout except to confer with the umpire or one of his/her players, to serve as a base coach, or to assist with an injured player.
- G.** Any player, coach, manager, or parent ejected from a game must leave the premises immediately. They may not remain in the bleachers, behind the backstop, and may not coach the bases. It is the umpire's discretion if the ejected party is far enough away from the field of play. The umpire has the right to call the game if the ejected party refuses to remove him/herself from the premises.
- H.** Smoking and/or the use of tobacco products; alcoholic beverages; or illegal substances are prohibited at all games and practices. When playing at The Corner Ballpark, there is be no food on the field or in the dugout...this includes seeds of any kind. There is also no spitting on The Corner Ballpark Field.
- I.** Gambling of any kind is prohibited.
- J.** No swearing, taunting or ethnic slurs will be tolerated.
- K.** No gang signs, slogans or paraphernalia will be tolerated.
- L.** No jewelry is to be worn during games, with the exception of medical I.D. bracelets. This includes rubber bands and "starter" earrings. If a player is wearing jewelry during the game **AND** the umpire has gone over this during ground rules, the player will be ejected from the game. If the umpire did **NOT** go

over this during ground rules, the player must remove the jewelry at that point and any subsequent offense from **ANY** player will result in ejection.

- M.** Players **deliberately** throwing helmets or bats will be ejected from the game. It is the sole discretion of the umpire if he/she believes the action was deliberate.
- N.** On-deck batters must remain on their side of the dugout.
- O.** Substantial emphasis will be placed on good sportsmanship. Teams cannot make any derogatory remarks or gestures to any official or member of the opposing team or attempt to distract them while making a defensive play, or while batting, by either talk or action. Umpires will have the right to eject anyone from the game not complying with these rules.
- P.** No manager or coach shall abuse, verbally or physically, any player, spectator, opposing manager/coach, or umpire at any time. Violation may result in suspension or other disciplinary action.
- Q.** Due to COVID-19, instead of shaking hands, all coaches and players will stand at their base line (1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>) and tip their cap to the opposing team upon the completion of each and every game. A coach or player that does adhere to end-of-game sportsmanship is subject to a one-game suspension. The second infraction will lead to a 3-game suspension. Any further infraction will result in dismissal from the DPBL.
- R.** In the event that there are fewer umpires than games at a particular site on any given day, the umpire(s) present will call the game **that they were scheduled to officiate** unless authorized by the DPBL Commissioner to officiate an alternative game. In addition, if two umpires are scheduled to call a single game and there is no umpire at another field, then one of the two umpires will go to the official-less diamond and call the game.

### **III. UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT:**

- A.** All players **must** be in matching jersey and pants; otherwise they cannot play. Players should also have on matching hats and socks but can play without them.
- B.** Players may not wear doo-rags during games. Players may not wear sweatbands around their neck.
- C.** Metal cleats can be worn if a game is scheduled outside of The Corner Ballpark. Metal cleats are NOT allowed on the Corner Ballpark Field!
- D.** Catchers are required to wear all protective equipment while catching (i.e. mask, helmet, throat guard, shin guards, chest protector, and protective cups). This

rule also applies to all players designated to warm up the pitcher on or off the field.

- E.** All batters, base runners, on-deck batters, and players who act as base coaches must wear batting helmets in accordance with National Federation High School Rules.
- F.** The umpire shall not allow a player to enter the batter's box without a batting helmet.
- G.** All players will have their jerseys tucked in at all times during the game.
- H.** All male players are required to wear protective cups during games:
- I.** The 2013 High School Rule covering the weight and length of bats will be enforced in DPBL (BBCOR) for 15U and 18U. Wood bats are allowed in DPBL.

#### **IV. PITCHING:**

- A.** For all divisions, see Divisional Rules beginning on page 10.
- B.** Number of pitches thrown in a game declared no contest will be charged against the pitcher for the week.
- C.** Violations of Rules IV – A and B will result in a forfeiture of the game in which the infraction took place.
- D.** Starting and relief pitchers out for their first appearance will be allowed a maximum of 8 (eight) practice pitches. At the beginning of each subsequent inning, a pitcher will be allowed a maximum of 5 (five) practice pitches.
- E.** The balk rule shall be in effect in all divisions.
- F.** The umpire has the right to remove a pitcher from the game (without ejection) if multiple batters are hit by a pitch.

#### **V. RUNNERS**

##### **A. Courtesy Rule**

1. When there are two outs, there will be a mandatory courtesy rule in effect for the catcher as soon as he/she reaches base.
2. Any player who is not currently participating in the game, whether he/she has previously participated in the game or not, is eligible to serve as a courtesy runner for the catcher. EXCEPTION: If all players are currently

participating in the game, the player who made the last out will act as the courtesy runner.

3. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the catcher and then be used as a runner or batter for another player in that inning.
4. A coach may use a VOLUNTARY courtesy runner for the catcher with zero or one out.

**B.** Any time a defensive player has the ball in their possession; the runner must slide or give themselves up. A base runner deliberately running into a defensive player, including the catcher will be ejected from the game. It is the umpire's discretion whether he/she felt the collision is malicious.

## **VI. PLAYING MINIMUMS:**

**A.** Player participation is at the sole discretion of the head coach.

## **VII. STANDINGS, SCHEDULES, AND POST-SEASON PLAY:**

**A.** Team standings will be determined by total points. During the regular season, 2 (two) points will be awarded for each win and 1 (one) point for each tie. The team with the highest total points will be the first place team; the team with the second highest total points will be the second place team, etc. in the event of a tie between any positions, the tie will be decided in the following manner:

1. Record against each other.
2. Total wins.
3. Runs scored – head to head.
4. Coin flip

**B.** Every effort will be made to grant all requests regarding days off needed by teams, so long as the request is put in at least one week before the schedule is completed. The schedule is typically completed and posted online on SSUP one week before the regular season begins.

**C.** Once the master schedule is finalized, teams are required to play at the designated day and time as scheduled. A game can only be rescheduled if:

1. Both coaches agree to reschedule the game **AND**
2. The Baseball Commissioner is notified a minimum of 48 hours before the scheduled time.

If the criteria are not met, the game must be played at the scheduled day and time on the master schedule. One or both teams will forfeit if they do not show to the game.

- D.** All DPBL playoff games are single elimination.
- E.** The Baseball Commissioner reserves the right to drop any player, coach, or team from the league if:
  - 1. Any team forfeits 2 (two) or more games.
  - 2. Any head or assistant coach does not show ethical and moral conduct on and off the field (please see Appendix I and Section II of DPBL Rules & Regulations).
  - 3. Any team is found to have used ineligible players whether knowingly or not.

#### **VIII. PROTESTS:**

- A.** The proper manner for a making a protest shall be: The manager or coach will inform the umpire that the game is being played under protest. **THIS MUST BE DONE AT THE POINT THE ALLEGED VIOLATION OCCURS** and the game situation must be logged in the protesting team's score book and signed by the umpire (example: 3<sup>rd</sup> inning, 1 out, runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base, 2-1 count on 3<sup>rd</sup> hitter John Smith). After one pitch is thrown, the protest cannot be accepted. A written summary of the protest must be submitted to the Baseball Commissioner within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game.
- B.** A \$100 deposit must accompany the written protest. The deposit will be returned only if the protest is upheld. If a protest is awarded, the game will be resumed from the point of protest.
- C.** No protest shall be considered on a decision involving an umpire's judgment.
- D.** In order to be a valid protest, the play under protest must have a direct effect on the outcome of the game.
- E.** Protests made due to the use of an ineligible player may be considered only if made to the umpire before he/she leaves the field at the end of the game.

#### **IX. FORFEITURES:**

- A.** There will be a 15-minute grace period from the scheduled start time before a forfeit is called.

- B.** Each team must have a minimum of 8 (eight) players to start and finish a game. EXCEPTION: At the start of the game, the visiting team may take its first at-bat with less than 8 (eight) players. If 8 (eight) players are not present by the time all visiting team players have batted or by the time the visiting team must take the field, the game will be forfeited.
- C.** If any game is started with 8 (eight) players, outs are awarded in the normal manner (with an out recorded in the ninth spot). If a ninth batter should subsequently report to the team, that player must be inserted into the lineup in the ninth position. In addition, if a game has begun and subsequently the roster of any team is reduced to 8 (eight) for any reason, an out will be called each time the removed player was to bat.
- D.** No coach shall use a player who is ineligible. It is the coaches' responsibility to know the correct age of his/her players. If it is found that a team has been using an overage player, regardless of fault, the player will be expelled, and the team will forfeit all games in which the overage player previously played (See VII Section E).
- X. ROSTERS:**
- A.** Each team must pay registration fees set by DPBL for a minimum of 12 players and a maximum of 20 players. However, no more than 15 players can appear for any single game. A player must play in 2 games to be eligible for the playoffs. (NEW FOR 2020)
- B.** No player may be added to the roster under any circumstances after July 20.
- C.** A manager or coach has the right to recommend to the Baseball Commissioner that any player on his/her team be removed or suspended by presenting evidence of just cause.
- D.** Every player from all teams must be registered on Sports Sign Up Play (SSUP) before they play in their first regular season game. The online registration must be filled out completely and shall include the player's name, address, phone number, birth date, age, and a parental agreement and waiver stating the child is physically able to play baseball. There is a COVID-19 clause this season. The registration form MUST be signed (online) by at least one parent (or by the player if he/she is 18 years of age). Also, a picture and a copy of the player's birth certificate must be uploaded onto SSUP for each player on a roster. If a player's eligibility comes into question, the original document, with official seal, may be requested and must be furnished. Finally, all registration fees must have been paid to DPBL prior to Opening Day. Scheduled games will be forfeited unless and until these rules are complied with.

- E. A player may elect to play in an upper division (e.g. a 15 year old may choose to play in the 18U division).
- F. No player can play in 2 (two) different divisions of DPBL or be on the same roster of 2 (two) teams in the same division. EXCEPTION: A player will be allowed to play on an All-Star team if age appropriate regardless what division he/she plays on during the regular season.

**XI. MISCELLANEOUS:**

- A. A decision will be made regarding rainouts no later than 2 (two) hours before a scheduled game by the Baseball Commissioner and/or the Umpire-in-Chief. E.g. if a 6:00 p.m. game is to be canceled due to weather conditions, a text or email will be left by 4:00 p.m. on SSUP. If there is no text or email sent by 4:00 p.m., then all players and coaches should report to their respective field. Every effort will be made to send an email out to all coaches 2 (two) hours before game time regarding weather conditions but a call should be made to Detroit PAL if an email cannot be sent out. Once at the field, only the umpire can make a decision whether or not to postpone a game due to weather conditions.
- B. The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook. However, scorekeepers from both teams should confer after each inning to make sure the score is correct. **Both teams are responsible for alerting the Baseball Commissioner of the score no later than 24 hours from the end of the game.** The score should be e-mailed to [richardrezniktdp@gmail.com](mailto:richardrezniktdp@gmail.com). You may also enter the score yourself on SSUP. If a coach does not have access to email, the score should be called in to 313-833-1600 x224. Failure to notify the Baseball Commissioner of the score within 24 hours may result in a loss for both teams.
- C. The home team is responsible for laying down the bases and making sure the field is in playable condition at fields other than The Corner Ballpark. Teams that have their own home field should lay down bases, chalk the field and cut the grass whether they are listed as the home or away team.
- D. Seven (7) innings shall constitute a game in both divisions.
- E. No inning shall start after 2 hours from the **scheduled** game time.
- F. If both teams are present but the umpire arrives late, the official game time begins when the **first pitch is thrown** (and then rule XI-E applies). If the umpire is there on time, but one or both teams arrive late (but before forfeit time), the official time begins at the **scheduled** start time (and then rule XI-E applies).



- G.** An abbreviated game shall be counted as official if 5 (five) innings have been played. A game with less than 5 (five) innings will continue from the point of suspension if called for any reason (rain, darkness, lightning, etc.). No game shall be started over from the beginning. However, a game will be counted as official if 4 ½ innings are played and the home team is ahead.
- H.** There shall be a mercy rule in effect if a team is ahead by 15 runs after 3 (three) innings or 10 runs after 5 (five) innings for **all** divisions.

### **15U:**

1. Players born on or after May 1, 2004 are eligible to play in 15U.
2. The distance between the bases shall be 90 feet. The distance between the pitching rubber and the front of home plate shall be 60 feet 6 inches.
3. The ball should be a Wilson 1010, Wilson 1060, Wilson 1074, Riddell 42213, Diamond D1-MVP or equivalent.
4. Seven (7) innings shall constitute a game.
5. Stealing - Base stealing shall be permitted in accordance with High School rules.
6. Pitching – For the safety and well being of the players, no player may pitch more than a total of ten (10) innings within a period of two (2) consecutive days, **UNLESS:** he is pitching at a time when the game goes into extra innings; in which case he may continue to pitch until the conclusion of the game or until relieved. When a pitcher “appears” on two (2) consecutive days as a pitcher, he may not pitch on the third consecutive day. ***Please note that the throwing of one pitch constitutes an appearance.***
7. Re-Entry – Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered one time, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter. The DH or EH is allowed.

### **18U:**

1. Players born on or after May 1, 2001 are eligible to play in the Connie Mack Baseball division.
2. The distance between the bases shall be 90 feet. The distance between the pitching rubber and the front of home plate shall be 60 feet 6 inches.
3. The ball should be a Wilson 1010, Wilson 1060, Wilson 1074, Riddell 42213, Diamond D1-MVP or equivalent.
4. Seven (7) innings shall constitute a game.
5. Stealing - Base stealing shall be permitted in accordance with High School rules.

6. Pitching – For the safety and well being of the players, no player may pitch more than a total of ten (10) innings within a period of two (2) consecutive days, **UNLESS:** he is pitching at a time when the game goes into extra innings; in which case he may continue to pitch until the conclusion of the game or until relieved. When a pitcher “appears” on two (2) consecutive days as a pitcher, he may not pitch on the third consecutive day. ***Please note that the throwing of one pitch constitutes an appearance.***
7. Re-Entry – Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered one time, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter.
8. The DH or EH is allowed.

**2020 DETROIT PAL BASEBALL LEAGUE (DPBL) RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE, MODIFY, ADD, OR DELETE ANY RULES AND REGULATIONS AT ANY TIME.**

## **APPENDIX I**

### **2020 DETROIT PAL BASEBALL LEAGUE (DPBL) COACHES CODE OF ETHICS**

DPBL expects adherence to the following code of ethics from all its coaches and managers. Since we play an important part in building a young person's character, it is imperative that we lead by example and follow a standard of ethics that is beyond reproach.

- Ethical and moral conduct on and off the field is expected from you and your entire coaching staff.
- Players already on a team should never be approached about changing teams during the season. After the season, the player's current coach should be notified that he/she is going to be asked to play on another team.
- Specific promises regarding such things as playing time, particular playing positions, travel tournaments, etc., should not be made unless they will be kept.
- A player's current coach should be asked before a player is invited to join another team for a tournament. During the season, if permission is not given, the player should not be approached.

## **APPENDIX II**

### **2020 DETROIT PAL BASEBALL LEAGUE (DPBL) COVID-19 PROTOCOL**

DPBL is looking for safe to play strategies to allow players to get back to playing baseball. We do not agree with changing the rules of the game, but small tweaks in behavior could get baseball going again safely. No matter if you agree or disagree with the seriousness of the virus or what your political affiliation is, the majority of baseball parents agree there is a way to get back to playing baseball safely. We believe with baseball being an outdoor non-contact sport, there is a very low chance of passing the virus...a lower chance than going to the store, restaurant, barber shop or other sectors of the economy that have re-opened.

We strongly encourage the following protocol:

- Having temperature checks at the gate with a head thermometer. Any player, coach, official or fan with a temperature of 100 or higher, will be turned away, no exceptions. Anyone experiencing symptoms (self-evaluation) should stay home.
- No seeds (mandatory at The Corner Ballpark), no gum (mandatory at The Corner Ballpark), no spitting (mandatory at The Corner Ballpark), sharing of equipment or community water bottles/jugs.
- Equipment should be kept 6 feet apart at all times.
- Players in the dugout should wear masks if they cannot maintain 6 feet of distance away from other players/coaches
- Parents must sit only with their families or people living in the same household. Other than that, there should be a minimum of 6 feet between fans.
- Coaches should emphasize to their players to not touch their face, not putting their hands on the fence, only elbow bumps (no handshakes or fist bumps), no putting hands "in the middle," or huddles, frequent hand washing and/or sanitizing, and proper hygiene.
- Coaches are permitted to sit on buckets outside the dugout to free up space.
- Players must bring their own water.
- Post-game handshakes are prohibited. For sportsmanship, after the game, teams should go out to their base line and tip their cap to the opposing team.
- Upon completion of the game, teams should clean the dugout thoroughly, throwing out any water bottles or other trash.

- When a coach visits a pitcher at the mound, the infielders should remain at their position.
- After a strikeout, the catcher should throw the ball back to the pitcher. No “throwing the ball around the horn.”
- Each team should use their own baseballs when on defense.
- When the game is over, people should leave individually or with members of their household, not in groups.
- Understand that decreasing potential exposure to respiratory droplets is the guiding principle behind social distancing and the use of face coverings.