



MINNESOTA AMERICAN AMATEUR BASEBALL CONGRESS

(MNAABC)

STATE TOURNAMENT RULES

Pee Wee Reese, Sandy Koufax “AA”

The following basic rules and regulations will govern play in the Minnesota American Amateur Baseball Congress State Tournaments. The list of rules and regulations are NOT intended to cover all the playing rules, but rather highlight those areas that referenced most often by the managers, coaches and players. In general, the Minnesota American Amateur Baseball Congress has adopted the Official Baseball Rules along with the American Amateur Baseball Congress rules.

1. **Proof of age.** All coaches at the credentials meeting shall show proof of age for all players entering the AABC State Tournaments. They **must** have an original or photo static copy of their birth certificate. No player will be eligible to compete in any level of tournament play without the proof of age. All players will be examined on this issue prior to the first game.
2. **NO PETS.** No pets allowed at any AABC State Tournament. With the exception of animals for the physical challenge purposes.
3. **NO COOLERS.** Coaches, players and spectators will not be allowed to bring in coolers, individual beverages or food.
4. **No new inning can start after 1 hour and 45 minutes of game time.**
5. **Continues batting order.** There will be free substitution of players; however, each player must play a minimum of two innings in the field for every seven innings played. All players on each team at game time must be listed in the batting order. Each player must bat in that order throughout the game. The batting order will be continuous, regardless of on field play. Any player who does not bat in his/her position shall be considered an out.
6. **Trips to the mound.** Any time a coach or manager makes two trips to the mound in the same inning to the same pitcher in any AABC tournament, that pitcher may not pitch for the remainder of that game. The player may play in the game in another position, but may not return to the mound for any reason. Any pitcher reentering the game by the reentry rule must play in another position if affected by this rule.
7. **Tournament Bracket.** All AABC State Tournaments will use the True Double-Elimination bracket. All teams left alive will continue to play. Regardless if one team is left undefeated **all teams will play.** Unless another format has the approval of the State Board.

8. **Drawing for Byes (5 or more teams).** Where there is a bye in the schedule, all teams – undefeated and defeated – shall share in drawing for the bye. No team may receive a second bye until every other team alive shall have had a first bye. This will be adhered to even if it means two (2) teams must meet for a second time when there is a team alive they have not played. The bye has top priority over anything else and must be the first consideration. It is vital and essential that the bye be determined **first**.
9. **Drawing for Byes (3 teams).** When there are but three teams left in the tournament and each has received an equal number of byes or no team has received a bye and **1)** one team has played the other two teams and the other two teams have not met, then the teams who have not met must play, and the other team will receive the bye in that round; or **2)** one team has not met either of the other two teams, and the other two teams have met, then the team who has not played either of the other two teams will draw its opponent, and the other team will receive a bye in that round.
10. **Uniforms.** Players and coaches (first and/or third) must be in uniform. The tournament manager may make deviations. Coaches may wear shorts if they are similar to the team uniform.
11. **Date, time and/or sites.** Tournament games are subject to change at the discretion of the designated tournament committee and/or sponsor.
12. **Forfeit.** A forfeit at any time in tournament play shall be treated as a win and not a bye.
13. **Mercy Rule.** The Mercy Rule shall be in effect in all games except where the champion could be decided. Mercy Rule shall be 8 runs after 4 innings in a 6-inning game and 5 innings in a 7-inning game.
14. **Pitching Limitations. A pitcher may pitch four (4) innings per game. And a maximum of twenty (20) innings per Tournament. One (1) appearance constitutes an inning.**
15. **Balks will be called.** For AABC State Tournament balks in all age divisions will be called.
16. **Lack of Players before game.** A team will be allowed a 15 minute grace period from the scheduled starting time of a game to field nine able bodied players before a forfeit may be declared. Teams arriving late give up all rights to infield and warm-ups other the usual 8 pitches from the starting pitchers.
17. **Not enough players after the start of a game.** If at any point in a game a team cannot field nine players the game will be forfeited to the opposing team.
18. **Insurance.** Prior to participating in an AABC State Tournament; a team must purchase and have proof of insurance of General Liability coverage. Coverage could either be a program recommended by the AABC or a program similar in nature.
19. **Protests.** The governing Tournament Committee shall decide protests resulting from competition. An appeal may be filed with the designated Tournament Committee but only if the appeal is made at the time of the original ruling and is based upon a matter of eligibility. Such appeal must be accompanied by a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). Fee will be returned only if appeal is upheld. **YOU CANNOT PROTEST JUDGEMENT CALLS.**
20. **Procedure for between innings.** Each team is allowed no more than eight pitches for their pitcher and shall not consume more than one minute of normal throwing the ball among infielders and outfielders between innings. Teams are not allowed to use the bat for infield practice between innings.
21. **Dugout Personnel.** The use of alcohol and/or tobacco and/or substance abuse is strictly prohibited. There is a limit of four non-playing personnel permitted in the dugout. Only the manager and coaches are permitted on the field except in an emergency. If the bat boy, scorekeeper and/or trainer come out of the dugout to dispute calls or talk to the umpire for any reason except when called by the umpires, they will be removed from the playing field and dugout for the rest of the tournament.

22. **Offensive Conferences.** Teams will not be permitted to continually stop the game for offensive conferences such as talking to batters, base runners, on deck batters or other offensive team personnel. If a team makes many requests for time outs, umpires may put a limit of two conferences per half inning.
23. **Respect for park property.** All teams are expected to respect all State Tournament sites park property. This is to include no hitting baseball in to fences, no shaking of fences.
24. **Sportsmanship.** NO manager, player, substitute, coach, trainer or batboy shall at any time, whether from the bench, the coach's box or on the playing field, or elsewhere –
- (1) Incite, or try to incite, by word or sign a demonstration by spectators.
 - (2) Use languages that will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, an umpire, or any spectator.
 - (3) Call "Time," or employ any other word or phrase or commit any act while the ball is alive and in play for the obvious purpose of trying to make the pitcher commit a balk.
 - (4) Make intentional contact with the umpire in any manner.
- No fielder shall take a position in the batter's line of vision, and with deliberate unsportsmanlike intent, act in a manner to distract the batter.
- PENALTY:** The offender shall be removed from the game and shall leave the playing field, and, if a balk is made, it shall be nullified.
25. **Rules not covered.** The tournament committee and/or State Board will decide all rules not covered in this handout. Any questions not understood which includes rules and/or regulations should be referred to the State Board for an appropriate answer.