**SOUTH WESTERN SENIOR BASEBALL LEAGUE**

**Draft By-Laws**

**I - Games**

**a)** Except as may be otherwise covered in the following pages, all games shall be played in accordance with the current American League Baseball Official Playing Rules.

**b)** All single games shall be nine (9) innings in duration. Both games of a doubleheader shall be seven (7) innings in duration.

**c)** A “mercy rule” shall prevail. Any team holding a ten (10) run lead over an opponent after seven (7) innings in a nine (9) inning game, or after five (5) innings in a seven (7) inning game, or at the end of any subsequent complete inning, shall be awarded a win and the game terminated.

**d)** Designated Hitters may be used in accordance with American League Rules of Baseball as in (a) above.

**e)** A Designated Runner **may** be used for the catcher at any point in the inning. The runner **must** be a player who is not presently or has not been in the game. If the offensive team no longer has any players who have **not** been in the game, and if the offensive team elects to use a designated runner, that runner **must be** the last out. The offensive team **must** **have** the designated runner prepared to go into the game when required. Whether the player is “prepared to go into the game” will be left up to the umpire’s discretion.

**f)** A ‘ghost runner’ will used. Which means, in extra innings you will start the inning with the final out from the previous inning or a pinch runner at second base. If you use a pinch runner, the final out from the previous inning will no longer be eligible to participate in the game.

**g)** Each team will be required to complete a line-up card prior to each game. One copy will be given to the home plate umpire and another copy will be given to the opposing team. Teams’ will be permitted to add players who arrive late for the game, however if the player is present at the time the line-up card is completed his name cannot be added later in the game.

**h)** In an attempt to eliminate forfeits, re-entry will be allowed. However, **re-entry will only be allowed to replace an injured player**. The player re-entering the game will not be allowed to pitch for the remainder of that game. The opposing coach will decide which player is to re-enter the game. The same scenario applies for multiple injuries. Any player who has been ejected from that game cannot under any circumstances re-enter the game.

**i)** Visiting teams shall be advised of postponements due to inclement weather at least two (2) hours prior to the scheduled game time, wherever possible. In case of doubt, visiting teams shall keep in touch via designated telephone numbers, which shall be specified and manned by the home team. Each home team will provide the phone numbers of two contact people, which may be reached in the event the game, is in question. If the visiting team arrives prepared to play and the game cannot be played, for any reason other than weather, this shall be classified as forfeiture by the home team (forfeitures are covered in section X).

**j)** The home club’s batting practice and pre-game warm-up must be completed fifteen minutes (15) minutes prior to the scheduled game time; while the visiting club’s fielding practice will be for the next ten (10) minutes. This will allow five (5) minutes for consultation between the umpires and representatives of both teams. The home club shall notify the teams of termination of their allotted time for various practices. It shall be the duty of the manager of the team at practice to order his team to vacate the diamond immediately. When a club is late for its allotted practice time, they shall forfeit their practice rights

**k)** Smoking restrictions and “the contact rule” will be enforced as per the “O.B.A. playing rules and regulations”.

**l)** Jewelry will be allowed. However, “floppy chains and earrings” will be deemed inappropriate. Whether the jewelry is appropriate or inappropriate will be left up to the umpire’s discretion.

**m)** In an attempt to avoid the spread of Covid, for the upcoming season, we will dispense with formality of shaking hands following each game.

**II - Finance**

Each team shall be required to pay to the league an annual operating fee of $50, each team will also be required to put up a $300 performance bond, and they will always be required to maintain this level. The league will hold $100 from each team, which will be treated as a long-term performance bond, and will be carried over from year to year. The operating fees and the performance bonds will be held in a specified account in a recognized financial institution and will be controlled by the treasurer. Both accounts will be joint and will require two signatures to retrieve money. Elected officers with signing privileges are the commissioner and treasurer; also, each team’s representative on the board of directors will have signing privileges.

# III - Contracts & Rosters

Any player, who has signed a roster card for a professional or inter-county team, will no longer be eligible to participate in our league during that season without a proper release from that team.

All teams must have their players and coaches sign cards as required by our league. No other contract will be acceptable. A roster approved by the local association for each team will be required by the league by no later than June30th. A $100 fine will be levied to the teams who do not submit a roster approved by their local association to the commissioner by June 30th. Once league rosters have been submitted, rosters are then to be considered frozen. A final, OBA approved roster must be submitted upon receipt from the OBA, if not received by June 30th.

All teams will be allowed to draw players from midget and junior teams within their **association**. In order to eliminate forfeits, all teams will be allowed to use a senior aged player who is not signed by another senior team.

**IV - Player Limits**

For league play only, each team will be entitled to add two players to their roster, for a total of twenty-seven players, plus three non-playing coaches. A team may dress and play minor-affiliated players at any time, provided he is one of the twenty-five (27) dressed players. Any team using an ineligible player will forfeit that game.

**V - Protests**

Protests shall be made in writing, accompanied by a protest fee of $50, which will be refunded only in the event of a ruling favorable to the protesting team. Protests must be postmarked, emailed, or in the hands of the league disciplinarian, within forty-eight (48) hours of the end of the game, or situation, under protest. Protests are to be ruled upon by the disciplinarian within (7) days of receipt of the protest. Decisions of the disciplinarian shall be **FINAL** and **BINDING** and **CANNOT** be appealed or reversed. If a game replay becomes necessary, the commissioner will rule on all relating to the replay.

# VI - Re-scheduling

All teams have two weeks following the annual scheduling meeting to re-schedule games. Following that date, **under no circumstances** shall there be any games re-scheduled. Any such act would be considered a forfeit. Any game postponed due to inclement weather, the home team must be able to provide documentation to show that he has made initial contact with the diamond assignor within (3) days of the postponed game and the game must be re-scheduled by the home team no later than two weeks following the originally scheduled game, and **MUST** be played by the end of the season. If the game has not been re-scheduled within two weeks of the postponed game, the home team **MUST** call the commissioner with two dates with which the game can be re-scheduled. If the commissioner does not receive the available dates within (14) days, the game will be considered a forfeit (forfeitures are covered in section IX). Providing the call is made within (14) days, the visiting team will then pick one of the two dates on which the game will be replayed. Either team, duly advised (at least (5) days’ notice), shall forfeit any re-scheduled game for which it does not appear. It is important that all teams play their entire schedule. Therefore, any games, which remain unscheduled at the end of the season, will result in a $100 fine to the home team. The commissioner may be required to come to a fair and logical resolution to potential re-scheduling problems.

**VII – Reporting Scores**

It is responsibility of the home team to either post the results of their game(s) on the league website or report the score of the game(s) to the league statistician within 24 hours of the scheduled game time. Failure to do so, would result in a $25 fine for the first incident, the fine will double for each incident after that. For example, the first incident is $25, second incident $50, third incident $100, etc...

**VIII – Umpires**

It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that umpires are present at each game. If the home team can provide written confirmation from the person responsible for assigning umpires that he is aware of the game, the game **will not** be treated as a forfeit and will have to be re-scheduled (see section VII for re-scheduling procedures). If the appropriate umpires, which are covered later in this section, are not present at game time, each team will have one half of an hour from the scheduled game time to find appropriate umpires. In the case of a double header, if the appropriate umpires are not available one half of an hour after the scheduled game time for the first game, the first game shall be considered forfeited to the visiting team (forfeitures are covered in section IX). The official game time of the second game of the double header would then be moved up to the time when the first game was declared a forfeit. The home team would then be allowed one half of one hour to find the appropriate umpires before the second game would be considered forfeited to the visiting team (forfeitures are covered in section IX).

All games shall be officiated by a minimum of two (2) umpires. All **scheduled** umpires shall possess a Level 2 or greater umpire’s card and must be assigned by the home team. If a Level 3 umpire and a Level 2 umpire are assigned for the same game, the Level 3 umpire will be the head official and umpire **home plate**. If for any reason one of the umpires fails to show up, an independent party will be allowed to umpire the **bases only**. **Under no circumstances** will the independent party be allowed to umpire behind home plate. However, if there is not a least one Level 2 or greater umpire available within the allowable time frame, it would be considered a forfeit (forfeitures are covered in section IX).

Unless mutually agreed upon by both teams, no team will be allowed to use an umpire who is in any way affiliated with that team, nor will they be allowed to use any umpire who is an immediate family member of a coach or player.

If a game were played with an ineligible umpire, the game would be forfeited to the visiting team (forfeitures are covered in section IX).

# IX - Ejection’s and Suspensions

**Fighting:**

If a player or coach is deemed by the umpire to ***participate in an altercation by using excessive force, as determined by the umpire and/or league disciplinarian***, will automatically receive a five-game suspension. If a player or coach is deemed by the umpire to instigate an altercation, this person will receive a suspension of no less than two games. A second fighting offense, at any time while playing in our league as of March 25th, 2013, will cause a review by the league who will determine if the player is eligible to continue to play in the league. This meeting is to be chaired by the league disciplinarian and must be attended by all team reps, including the teams involved in the altercation.

In the case of an altercation, upon receipt of the umpire’s game report the league disciplinarian will forward a copy to the representative of both teams involved in the incident. The league disciplinarian will make his ruling based on the umpire’s report and his/her findings from the team representatives. The league disciplinarian’s decision is **FINAL** and **BINDING**.

In situations where a suspension is warranted, all suspensions are to be served by the player or coach in the game or games immediately following notification by the disciplinarian. The disciplinarian will notify the commissioner of any suspensions. The commissioner will make all teams aware of all suspensions.

**All other ejections will be dealt with in the following manner:**

A first ejection will make the player/coach ineligible to participate in the remainder of the game in which the offence occurs.

The league disciplinarian may impose a further suspension after a game card (report) is received. Decisions made by the league disciplinarian are **FINAL** and **BINDING**. No appeals will be heard. The league disciplinarian will have (7) days to make his/her final decision.

After receiving an umpires report, the league disciplinarian has the authority to defer a suspension to save a forfeiture situation, depending on the circumstances surrounding the suspension.

A second ejection to same player in the same season will result in a minimum of a three (3) game suspension (not including the game from which he has been suspended). A third ejection in the same season will carry a mandatory suspension until a review of the player’s, or coach’s, conduct may be held by the disciplinarian. This review will be held within five (5) days of the incident and will be called and chaired by the disciplinarian and includes two other disinterested parties. This committee will determine the length of suspension, if any, and their decision is **FINAL** and **BINDING**.

It is the responsibility of both teams to notify the league disciplinarian of any ejections. The disciplinarian **MUST BE** notified by the violating team of any ejections no more than 24 hours following the scheduled game time from which the player/coach was ejected. If the phone call, or email is not received, a $25 fine will be levied for the first incident, the fine will double for each incident after that. For example, the first incident is $25, second incident $50, third incident $100, etc... If it is the player/coach’s second ejection and the violating team fails to notify the commissioner and chooses to use the player(s) in the team’s following game it will result in an additional three (3) game suspension for the player(s) and a three (3) game suspension for the coach. It will also result in an automatic forfeiture in each game that the player(s) play in until they serve their suspension.

In all cases, the disciplinarian must notify the team, or player, of the result of any review whether favorable or unfavorable to the team or player. Those ejected and/or suspended **MUST** not play until notified of the review or appeal results, unless given permission by the disciplinarian for extenuating circumstances. **All suspensions must be served in their entirety**. This may result in a player or coach missing either play-off games or if necessary, regular season games during the following baseball season.

**X - Forfeitures**

All forfeits will result in a fine, to be paid by the forfeiting team. All forfeiture fines **MUST** go through the league treasurer.

**Forfeiture of a Single Game-**

If the home team forfeits, the visiting team will receive the $200 forfeiture fee. If the visiting team forfeits, the home team will receive the $200 forfeiture fee. All forfeitures will result in a loss to the forfeiting team.

**Forfeiture of a Double Header-**

The fee for forfeiting a double header is $400. In the case of the home team forfeiting, the visiting team would receive $400 forfeiture fee. In the case of the visiting team forfeiting, the home team would receive $400 forfeiture fee. If a team can make one game of a scheduled double header and not the other, the penalty for a single game forfeiture will apply. Again, all monies **MUST** go through the league treasurer. In this case, the forfeiting team would receive two (2) losses for their forfeiture. As far as league discipline is concerned, double-header forfeiture would be classified as a single forfeiture.

**Discipline for Forfeits-**

The first and second forfeit for any team will carry no disciplinary action, aside from those previously discussed.

A third forfeit by the same team in the same season, as well as carrying the same discipline as above, will require a review by a disciplinary committee.This meeting, held within five (5) days of the incident, will be called and chaired by the commissioner, and includes the league disciplinarian, two other disinterested parties, as well as a representative(s) from the team in question.

A fourth forfeit by the same team in the same season will result in automatic suspension from the league. Also, a report of such conduct will be forwarded to the OBA office. By so doing, your teams’ OBA eligibility could be jeopardized.

Forfeitures fees apply not only to regular season games, but to playoff games as well.

**Forfeit Procedures-**

The team, which has had the game forfeited to them; must notify the commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours of the scheduled game time or they will forfeit any fees which they are due. In turn the commissioner will contact the league treasurer with notification of the incident. The forfeiting team has ten (10) days to mail a cheque for $200 or $400; whichever may be the case. If the treasurer has failed to receive the money within the allotted time limit, all games played by the forfeiting team from that point on will considered forfeits and will be treated as such. The treasurer will issue a cheque for the appropriate amount to the team who had the game forfeited to them. The cheque will be sent no more than five (5) days following the date of the forfeited game.

**XI – Suspended Games**

All suspended games will be played to their completion. If the teams play each other again the same season, the suspended game will be completed prior to the start of their next game. If required, re-entry will be permitted. Re-entry is covered in section I – Games (f) of these League By-Laws. Any player who was not available on the date of the suspended game and is available for the completion of the game may be added to the roster, providing they are eligible as per their team’s OBA approved roster. If the teams involved **do not** play each other again that season. They will play a complete 7 inning game, with no restriction on player’s availability, providing they are eligible as per their team’s OBA approved roster. There may be certain situations where the game is deemed as unnecessary to play. Only the commissioner can deem the game unnecessary to be played.