

# ONTURF BASEBALL LEAGUE

## (15u Division)

*The ONTURF BASEBALL LEAGUE (LEAGUE) – 15u Division – provides a general league structure for participating teams to compete with other member teams throughout the designated season. Each member team agrees to abide by the rules as set forth annually by the coaches/managers of the teams. The LEAGUE will meet requirements for membership with BASEBALL PLAYERS ASSOCIATION (BPA).*

### ONTURF BASEBALL LEAGUE RULES

1. See [www.onturfsports.com](http://www.onturfsports.com) for the latest entry fee breakdown and deadline for payment/entry.
2. LEAGUE President and/or Secretary is responsible for –
  - a. Collection of team entry fees and disbursement of funds to cover expenses.
  - b. Obtaining awards for top team in each division.
  - c. Development of Web Page to publicize LEAGUE Standings, Game Results – [www.onturfsports.com](http://www.onturfsports.com). Each head coach is responsible to insure that game results are forwarded to the LEAGUE President - [onturfsports@gmail.com](mailto:onturfsports@gmail.com). **ONLY LEAGUE SCORES POSTED TO THE WEBSITE WILL BE USED TO DETERMINE LEAGUE DIVISION CHAMPION.** Scores and LEAGUE standings are posted on [www.onturfsports.com](http://www.onturfsports.com).
  - d. Monitoring of the LEAGUE to insure problems are resolved / conflicts settled
3. General Information –
  - a. Teams must be registered with the BPA to participate in any BPA postseason tournament. Teams may register with other national organizations as “independent teams” thereby allowing them to compete in other tournaments throughout the season.
  - b. Base Paths - 90 ft Pitching Distance - 60 ft. - 6 in. is the official playing distances for LEAGUE play. Field dimensions shall follow BPA Rule 2, Section 3.
  - c. A regulation game consists of seven (7) innings, unless extended because of a tie score, or shortened due to any of the following circumstances: inclement weather, darkness, power outage, or mercy run rule. A game is considered “official” if five innings are completed (or the visiting team is trailing after 4 ½ innings). If a game is halted after becoming an “official” game, the game is considered complete. (If a tie results, teams shall either use the international tie breaking system or reschedule the remaining portion of the game and complete the innings required to determine a winner.) If a game is halted before becoming an “official game”, it will be considered “No Game” and a new seven inning game will be played on the rescheduled date.
  - d. Home Team is responsible for scheduling umpires. Teams should split the costs associated with each game and baseballs for game play. The home team must brief umpires on LEAGUE and ground rules prior to start of a game.
  - e. Roster size is limited to **18 players**. Rosters must be submitted to LEAGUE President before your team begins playing **any** games. Teams who do not have a designated “home field” may be required to pay a stipend for field usage by the site you use.
4. BPA Official baseball rules are to be followed. For convenience, certain rules are noted below:
  - a. Drop 3 (minus 3) IHSAA approved bat (ex. 33 inches 30 ounces)
  - b. 12 run rule after 3 innings, 10 run rule after 4 innings, and 8 run rule after 5 innings.
  - c. Any protest must be submitted to LEAGUE president (in writing) within 24 hours of the game being protested – team protesting the game is required to submit a check for \$100.00 for protest to be considered. If protest is upheld, check will be returned.
  - d. Metal cleats are authorized for LEAGUE play.
  - e. No LEAGUE pitching limitations apply. Please consider a players pitch count to determine an acceptable standard. Safety is of our highest concern.
  - f. Re-entry is allowed for starting players only. Players may re-enter one time, and only in the same batting order position they started the game in. Substitute players, once removed, are ineligible for re-entry.
  - g. Starting pitchers may re-enter as pitcher provided player has remained in the game (starting pitchers only – one time).
  - h. All games shall have a 2 hour time limit. No inning can start after 11:00 P.M. (Local ball parks may impose more stringent restrictions)
  - i. Use of profanity results in ejection of player or coach involved. Umpires may, at their discretion, eject a coach/manager for the conduct of the players.
  - j. Catchers must use a catcher’s mitt and all necessary protective gear, to include a protective cup.
  - k. Use of tobacco is prohibited on playing field and dugout areas. This rule applies to coaches, players, and helpers.
  - l. All players must wear NOCSAE approved protective headgear when at the plate, on deck, or on the base paths.



- m. All players must wear a hat and shirt corresponding to their respective teammates prior to entering a game.
  - n. Courtesy runners are allowed for pitchers and catchers at anytime during the inning. The runner must be a player not currently in the line-up unless all players are in the lineup then the player recording the last batted out will be the courtesy runner. Use of a courtesy runner does not affect player's eligibility to enter the game. (Same courtesy runner cannot be used for pitcher and catcher in the same inning).
5. Coaches are allowed one (1) free trip to the mound per pitcher per inning. Second trip in the same inning to the same pitcher results in automatic pitching change. Additionally, third trip to visit the same pitcher during a game results in automatic pitching change. Crossing the foul line constitutes an official trip to the mound, unless the coach is directed by an umpire to enter the playing field.
  6. Base Running: BPA Rule 8, Section 14.
  7. Teams will develop their own schedules directly with the other teams. The LEAGUE will host a date in February to discuss rules and allow scheduling to take place. Rescheduling of games does not require approval of LEAGUE President. (Coaches are responsible to coordinate game adjustments!)
  8. ***Umpires must have uniformity in their attire. Home plate umpire should be a certified/sanctioned umpire. Securing/paying for umpires is the responsibility of the home team.***
  9. Baseballs must be recognized as "suitable" for this age group. Babe Ruth, Senior League, or Sandy Koufax sanctioned baseballs are acceptable. NO LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALLS ALLOWED.
  10. Each team must have in their possession at all games, a copy of a Board of Health Certificate for each player. These should be available to resolve a question regarding a player's age eligibility.