

NABA rules you should know

A note to umpires

*Federation umpires are always expected to perform their duties professionally and with integrity. Each umpire must **arrive on the field 30 minutes** before scheduled game time with their full uniform (black or powder blue shirts, gray umpires pants, well polished shoes, and their Federation cap). The plate umpire has the responsibility to contact his partner at least 24 hours before game time (if not sooner). If your partner does not arrive to the field at least 30 minutes before game time you should call your partner and determine his ETA. If you do not make contact with your partner you should call Steve Ojeda and Gil Zamora immediately, to advise them of the situation.*

*For inclement weather, the league has at least three hours to officially cancel their game. Umpires will be contacted immediately, via Arbiter Sports notifications, when their games have been canceled, postponed, or delayed—it is your responsibility to accept the changes. **You should always contact your partner to confirm changes to your schedule.** It is your responsibility to check your Arbiter Sports schedule before your game time. Our assignor will make every effort to contact you via cell, text, and email. You must confirm receipt of contact.*

Federation umpires are expected to know the rules and apply them accordingly. Federation umpires are expected to be an integral part of the positive baseball experience for the league. ***Federation umpires should not tolerate any unsportsmanlike behavior*** from the manager, team, or spectators. Any issues should be addressed immediately with the head coach and your partner. ***Every effort should be made to resolve the issue with professional conversations and a strategy to keep the game moving forward.***

*Federation umpires are required to submit an ejection report when an ejection occurs in their game—**both umpires must submit a report within 12 hours of the game.** All ejection reports are reviewed by the board and training issues will be addressed with the umpires as required.*

The following rules are from the San Jose NABA website. For complete rules go to their website for more information and clarification. If you have a question about how the Federation will interpret a rule contact board members Gil Zamora or Rick Moore.

Equipment

2.a) For regular season games, all players must have, at a bare minimum, baseball pants, a baseball cap, and a baseball jersey. For all-star games, players must have the jersey and hat that represents their team. **The umpire shall not allow a player to play that doesn't meet these basic requirements, regardless of opposing manager consent.**



2.b) Each team must bring at least three (3) new, league-provided balls to the game, **giving two (2) to the home plate umpire at the pre-game meeting** and having the third on hand ready to replace any lost or unusable balls.

2.c) All games are played with wood bats only. Composite and metal-wood bats are permissible as long as the hitting surface is made of wood. If a player uses an illegal bat and a protest is made, the offending batter will be declared out and ejected from the game.

3.a) Unless otherwise specified, all games are 9 innings. Regular-season doubleheaders played between the same two teams will consist of a 9 inning game followed by a 7 inning game. Games can be ended early at the umpires' discretion due to darkness, rain, or other field conditions if player safety is compromised, or due to field conditions (see rule 2.e).

3.b) In the regular season, the time limit (i.e. the time after which a new inning may not start), is 2 hours 45 minutes for a 9 inning game, and 2 hours 15 minutes for a 7 inning game. Playoff games do not have an explicit time limit or mercy rule and will be played to completion unless the game is ended early for safety or conceded by the trailing team.

3.c) The trailing team can concede **for any reason after 5 innings** have been played.

3.d) **Regular season games can end in ties** and will not be completed at a later time.

3.e) Mercy Rule. 15 runs after 5 innings and 10 runs after 7 innings. 10 runs after 5 innings in a 7 inning game. **NO MERCY RULE** in the playoffs.

4.a) Lineup cards **must be submitted to both the umpire and the opposing manager** at the start of the game, and must contain at least last name, and jersey number for each player.

4.b) A team must have 8 players for an official game. In the event that only 8 players are available, there is no penalty to the shorthanded team beyond the implicit penalty of having 8 fielders on defense. Teams which show up to the field without 8 players may borrow a player from the opposing team to reach 8 or 9 players if offered....

4.c) A team may bat as many players as desired, with a minimum of 9 (unless the team has only 8 players). Batters cannot be deleted or skipped over, regardless of their batting position...

4.f) A team may declare any batting order position as an A/B slot that is occupied by two (2) players that will alternate batting each time through the lineup.



4.g) A team may identify, at the start of the game via the lineup card, a **maximum of two "non-runners"** that can be replaced with a courtesy runner whenever they reach base.

4.h) If the player that will be playing catcher in the next half-inning is on base with 2 outs, **he must be replaced by a courtesy runner.**

4.i) **Courtesy runners**, whether for catchers or non-runners, **must always be the last batted out.**

4.k) All teams **must announce offensive additions, substitutions, and/or changes to the home plate umpire** and opposing team manager and/or scorekeeper.

4.l) If a player is forced to leave a game early for any reason, a reserve player, not previously entered into the game as a hitter, must hit in the replaced hitter's place. If there are no reserves who can replace the individual AND the vacated spot was not due to injury, there will be an out assessed the next time that spot is due up in the lineup.

Player Safety

5.a) Only one offensive player (on-deck hitter) **shall be permitted outside of the enclosed dugout area.**

5.e) It is never specifically required to slide into a base, but there is zero tolerance for any violent, intentional collisions that could have been easily avoidable....

5.f) For the specific case of force-plays, we use U.S. High School rules in place of the MLB Rules...

5.g) No fielder may fake a tag where the primary purpose is to deceive a runner into thinking that a throw is coming...

Player behavior and conduct

6.a) Every ejection, for any reason, carries with it an automatic, minimum one-game suspension. An umpire has sole discretion to eject any player or manager from the game for cause....

6.b) The League has the right to suspend or expel any team or team member who abuses League rules or **who does not exhibit a sense of sportsmanship** or who plays **without**



regard to the safety of the umpires or other players. This Code of Conduct lists some behaviors that are strictly prohibited, along with the associated penalties.

No manager or player shall commit the following:

1. Lay a hand upon, shove, strike, or threaten an official.
- 2. Refuse to abide by an official's decision**
- 3. Be guilty of objectionable demonstrations of dissent at an official's decision.**
- 4. Discuss with an official** or officials the decision reached by such official or officials, **except for the manager or his designee who are authorized to participate in such discussions.**
5. Use unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of the game against the body or person of an opposing player.
- 6. Be guilty of physical attack as an aggressor upon any player, manager, official,** or spectator, before, during, or after a game.
- 7. Be guilty of verbal abusive attack upon any player, manager, official,** or spectator, before, during, or after a game.
8. Consume alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs during the game or be on the field of play at any time in an intoxicated condition
9. Smoke or use tobacco products on the field of play or in the dugout.

(Rules from NABA website, accessed March 5, 2020.)