

## **Baseball Plan**

Section 145 – Athletic Purpose, Code, Plan Applicable

Subchapter B

### **BASEBALL PLAN**

(Boy Event; Six Classifications)

Rules in Sections 130-144 also apply to the Baseball Plan.

Section 146 – Qualifications

- I. DISTRICT PLAY. Teams must qualify for the state play-off by competition in district play.
- II. PLAYING DATES. Starting dates for practice, scrimmages, first playing date, and district certification are shown on the current TAPPS calendar.
- III. NUMBER OF GAMES.
  - A. No team shall compete in more than three (3) individual tournaments, plus 22 games in a season, up to and including the last date for certifying district champions.
  - B. Games after district certification
    1. No VARSITY games may be scheduled or played after the certification date, except by teams who are in the play-offs.
    2. No additional games may be played by a team once it has been eliminated from the playoffs.
    3. No SUB VARSITY games can be scheduled or played after the district certification date.
  - C. All District games must be played and all District games count as varsity games on the schedule.
  - D. No game is to be scheduled on Sunday.
  - E. Those students who play on both the JV and Varsity may play in no more than 3 tournaments plus a total of 28 games (Varsity and JV games combined).
  - F. A district tournament or district play-off does not count as one of the three tournaments.
  - G. Teams in the play offs are allowed one practice game between each round of the playoffs. These games do not count toward the total games allowed.
  - H. Schools may substitute two (2) games for each tournament dropped-or-add an additional tournament for each 2 dropped games. These changes should be clearly noted on the school's official schedule.
  - I. A varsity starter shall not play on a junior varsity team unless the opposing coach gives his permission, and there are not enough junior varsity players to begin the contest.

Under no circumstances should a varsity starter be allowed to play when there are junior varsity player(s) on the bench.

#### IV. SCHEDULES AND ROSTERS

A. Schedules should be input into the TAPPS database prior to the first interscholastic contest and should be updated as changes occur.

B. Rosters should be input into the TAPPS database prior to the first district contest and updated as changes occur.

#### V. EXCEPTION TO RESOLVE DISTRICT TIES.

A. Two Schools Tied. To resolve a two-way tie, the district executive committee may authorize a single elimination game. The tie breaking game may be in addition to the 20 allowed games.

B. Three or More Schools Tied. If three or more schools are tied, the district executive committee may authorize a single elimination tournament in addition to the total number of games and tournaments allowed for the season.

VI. QUALIFICATION BY CLASSIFICATION. The number of teams qualifying for the play-offs will be noted in Section 141.

VII. CERTIFICATION OF PLAY-OFF QUALIFIERS. The District President shall certify the District Champion and other play-off qualifiers to the TAPPS office by the deadline shown on the current year TAPPS calendar.

VIII. SEND TO TAPPS OFFICE. The District President's certification and play-off entries, and program information (rosters, etc.) shall be sent to the TAPPS office by the deadline on the TAPPS current calendar, through the TAPPS database.

#### Section 147 – Rules

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Baseball Rules shall govern all TAPPS games.

##### 1. NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES EXCEPTIONS

1.1. Metal cleats may be worn.

1.2. For minor violation of the Bench and Field Conduct rule,

1.3. The umpire may restrict the coach to the dugout.

1.4. Offenders may not be in coaches boxes and may not come on the field except to attend an injured player.

1.5. More abusive or flagrant behavior shall require banishment from the game.

1.6. The umpire may bypass this step with or without warning and eject a coach.

2. SPEED-UP RULES. Speed-up rules as outlined by the National Federation may be used:

2.1. in non-district and in playoff games by mutual consent of the schools prior to the beginning of the contest;

2.2. in district play by district executive committee approval prior to district play.

2.3. If prior mutual consent is not obtained in a., or if approval is not obtained by district executive committee in b., speed-up rules shall not be used; and

2.4. in the state tournament, by decision of the tournament director.

### 3. NATIONAL FEDERATION SPEED-UP RULES - RUNNERS.

3.1. The team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher as soon as they reach base. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.

3.2. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.

3.3. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning. NOTE: An unreported courtesy runner is an illegal substitute. PENALTY: For illegal substitution, such substitute shall be ejected.

### 4. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES. See Section 138.

5. OFFICIAL BALL - For all contests TAPPS schools must use the Baden Perfection Pro Baseball.

6. PRACTICE BALLS. Each team is responsible for its own practice balls for warm ups in batting and infield practice.

7. COACHING BOXES. Student players in uniform or coaches may occupy the coaching boxes.

8. PRE-GAME WARMUP. It is recommended that batting practice be eliminated and that each team be given 10 minutes for infield and outfield workouts prior to each game.

9. HEAD PROTECTORS. All players must wear head protectors when batting and when on the base paths.

10. RESOLVING TIES IN WON/LOSS PERCENTAGE. Districts should outline procedures (before the season begins) for determining two representatives in their district. Definite procedures should be outlined (in writing) to provide orderly facilitation for teams tied in win/loss percentage.

Especially remember to outline a procedure to be used when three teams are tied for the district runner-up spot.

### 11. GAMES

11.1. All games will be for seven innings (unless tied).

11.1.1. Exception: The 10-run rule after 4 ½ or 5 innings shall be employed

11.1.2. Exception: The 15-run rule after 3 innings shall be employed

11.2. In non-district games if a game is called before completion of the required number of innings, the umpire shall declare the contest "no game."

11.3. In district games, the game shall be considered suspended and the rules governing suspended games shall be followed. Pitch count shall be considered as a tournament if the game is continued the next day. If not resumed the next day, the pitch count rules and rest periods shall be applied.

12. TIE GAMES. A regulation called a game where a winner cannot be determined shall be counted as  $\frac{1}{2}$  game won and  $\frac{1}{2}$  game lost for each team and the game shall not be replayed. If the game is called before the completion of the number of innings, the umpire shall declare the contest "no game." The game shall be replayed from the start when and where determined by the two schools involved.

13. SUSPENDED GAMES IN PLAYOFFS. In playoff games past the district level, any suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time.

14. RAIN (BAD WEATHER) POLICY FOR BASEBALL PLAYOFFS. Teams may not play after the deadline for determining a district representative unless the following conditions are met:

14.1. Every effort must be made by both teams to determine the winner before the deadline.

14.2. If weather conditions make this impossible, then permission must be obtained from the potential next round opponents (or opponent). Example: District 1 winner and 2 runner-up find they cannot get their playoff decided by the deadline. They must obtain permission from District 3 winner and 4 runner-up representatives to play after the deadline (or just District 3 winner, if District 3 has already defeated District 4 runner-up in their respective playoff game).

14.3. If the team or teams involved in District 3 winner and 4 runner-up fail to give approval, then District 1 winner and 2 runner-up will have to determine a representative before the deadline specified in the baseball playoff procedures.

14.4. Extreme scheduling difficulties such as those mentioned above could result in a coin flip determining the representative to the next round.

14.5. Every effort must be made to get the representative determined on time. This includes obtaining neutral sites and scrambling for any available field. This could mean giving up a home field advantage if another field is playable.

14.6. In single elimination playoffs a team deciding a round after the deadline with the approval of the next round opponents will have to play on the date specified by the next round opponent.

15. OFFICIALS. See Section 134.

16. BI-DISTRICT/REGIONAL GAMES. The first round play-off games shall be Bi-district games, if more than eight teams qualify for the play-offs. If less than eight teams qualify, the first round shall be regional games.

17. BI-DISTRICT/REGIONAL SITE. Bi-District/Regional games shall be played at the site indicated in Section 141

18. ARRANGEMENTS. The two teams involved shall be responsible for all arrangements for the game and shall pay all expenses.

19. GATE RECEIPTS. Gate receipts, after expenses shall be divided between the two schools, unless mutually agreed before the game.

## 20. REPORTING SCORES

20.1. The winning coach shall report playoff scores in the TAPPS database as soon as possible after the conclusion of the contest.

20.2. The coach shall enter the next playoff contest information in the TAPPS database as soon as game information is concerned.

20.3. Pitch Counts shall be entered into the TAPPS database immediately following any contest at both the varsity and sub-varsity level.

21. ROSTERS. Team rosters must be in the TAPPS STATE OFFICE prior to the beginning of district play. ROSTERS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH TAPPS database.

## 22. PLAY OFF FORMAT

22.1. Admission for Bi-district and Regional should be determined by the teams involved. Admission for State Semi-Finals and Finals shall be determined by TAPPS.

22.2. Baseball playoffs will be as follows

22.2.1.1. Bi District games shall be a one game playoff

22.2.2. Area and regional games shall be as follows

22.2.2.1. A two out of three series

22.2.2.2. Exception:

22.2.2.2.1. mandated by TAPPS or

22.2.2.2.2. mutually agreed upon by the two coaches involved in the series or

22.2.2.2.2.1. A one game playoff is allowed if both coaches agree

22.2.2.2.2.2. If the coaches do not agree to either 2 out of three or a single game, then a coin flip shall determine the format

22.2.2.2.3. Required as a result of weather or other conditions that preclude a series being completed in advance of the published deadline on the official

TAPPS calendar

22.2.2.2.4. Semi-Finals and Championship hosted by TAPPS will be a single game.

22.2.3. Two out of three series order of play

22.2.3.1.1.1. Day 1 - Game 1 and Game 2

22.2.3.1.1.2. Day 2 - Game 3 if necessary

22.2.3.1.1.3. In the event weather prevents the three game series from being possible, the team winning the first game shall be declared the winner.

22.2.3.2. Batting Order

22.2.3.2.1. If home and away

22.2.3.2.1.1. Game 1 - Home Team

22.2.3.2.1.2. Game 2 - Visiting team

22.2.3.2.1.3. Game 3 - Coin Flip

22.2.3.2.2. If neutral site

22.2.3.2.2.1. Game 1 Coin Flip winner

22.2.3.2.2.2. Game 2 Coin Flip loser

22.2.3.2.2.3. Game 3 Coin Flip - winner's choice

22.2.3.3. Pitch Count

22.2.3.3.1. All rules remain in effect

22.2.3.3.2. If a game is suspended or deemed a no contest, all pitches thrown in the contest prior to termination shall be counted in the pitch count rules

22.2.3.3.3. Tournament rules apply only if the games are played on consecutive days

22.2.4. STATE SEMIFINALS AND FINALS SHALL BE SINGLE GAME ELIMINATION.

22.3. TAPPS rules will apply. The basis for TAPPS rules is the National Federation of State High School Associations.

22.4. Time Limits. Any time limits at Bi-District and Regional games shall be agreed upon by both schools prior to the beginning of the game. There is NO TIME LIMIT in State Tournament Games.

22.5. Run Rule.

22.5.1. The 10-run rule after 4 ½ or 5 innings shall be employed

22.5.2. The 15-run rule after 3 innings shall be employed

22.6. Number of Umpires. (A) For District at least two TAPPS Approved umpires per game shall be used; (B) In the playoffs three TAPPS Approved umpires shall be used; (C) In the state tournament umpires shall be scheduled from more than one chapter, if possible. (D) Unless mutually agreed, umpires will be selected from a neutral chapter.

22.7. Home Team. Home team designations shall be determined by a coin flip in playoff games on neutral fields, unless mutually agreed otherwise.

22.8. Baseballs. In the play-off games, schools shall use Baden Perfection Pro Baseballs, with each team retaining their own balls following the game. BADEN will provide all baseballs for the state tournament.

### 23. In Baseball Final Four Games

23.1. Single Games and not a series

23.2. HOME and VISITOR will be determined by coin flip prior to the game.

23.3. Teams shall use the dugout assigned by the TAPPS staff.

23.4. BATTING CAGE times will be assigned prior to Final Four games.

### Section 148 – Pitch Count Rules

I. Purpose: The following information outlines the TAPPS Pitch Count plan which is required by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

II. Basic Information:

A. High school pitchers will be limited to no more than 110 pitches per day.

B. During the season, pitch count total is determined at the end of each single game.

C. Only pitches thrown in the game count (warm up pitches do not count).

D. Rest is defined as not using a pitcher in a contest.

E. Rest days are counted for the full day regardless of appearance start time. (ex: Pitcher throws 95 or 97 pitches (this is based on pitch count limit selected) on Friday morning of the tournament. Rest days are Sat, Sun, Mon, and Tues. He is eligible to pitch on Wednesday, not Tuesday night.)

F. A pitcher will be allowed to complete the current at-bat even if the maximum number of pitches during the at-bat is reached, but must exit the game as a pitcher after that hitter regardless of recording an out or number of outs in an inning.

G. There are no restrictions on allowing any game day pitcher (starter or reliever) from resuming play in the field after being removed as a pitcher, regardless of pitch count.

H. Umpires shall have no jurisdiction pertaining to pitch count.

### III. Pitch Count Table:

#### Pitches Days Rest

1-30 0

31-45 1

46-65 2

66-85 3

86-110 4

### IV. Tournament or Series:

A. In multi game series or tournaments, pitch count can be divided into separate appearances as long as the combined total does not exceed appropriate pitch count max.

Days of rest will be determined by the final pitch count of the series or tournament. (ex: In post season series, the starter goes (X) innings for a total pitch count of (X) (amount not exceeding max count) in the first game of a 3 game series. That same athlete can be used as short reliever in either of the next 2 games of the same series, up to combined total pitch count max (85/110). At the conclusion of the second appearance, the combined total number of pitches will determine days of rest based on the chart.)

### V. Back to Back Games due to postponement or suspension:

A. In the case of games that are rained out, and rescheduled on consecutive nights, pitch counts will follow the series protocol.

### VI. Double Header:

A. In the case of a doubleheader, the second game will not serve as a rest day for pitchers who threw in the first game. However, pitch count max can be split up between both games and total pitches after the second appearance will determine rest day period.

B. If a pitcher is used twice in a 3-day series, the rest day start period will begin after the second appearance even if there was a day of rest in between. \*\*\*\*

### VII. Pitch Count Reporting:

A. The home team will keep the OFFICIAL BOOK.

B. Visiting team will keep the OFFICIAL PITCH COUNT

C. Totals shall be confirmed between the teams between each inning.

D. Coaches shall report the pitch counts for VARSITY and SUB-VARSITY contests including tournaments, non-district games, district games and post-district contests.

E. Link to PITCH COUNT REPORT

VIII. Accountability:

A. Pitch counts are part of the health and safety protocols for TAPPS.

B. Violations of the limitations will bring game suspensions and monetary fines for the head coach as determined by the Athletic Executive Committee (AEC) and approved by the

TAPPS Executive Board. Failure to report pitch counts is subject to review by the AEC who will determine sanctions for the violation(s).