

2017-18 MSHSL Rules and Policies

Official Bylaws for Baseball

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 501](#) for information regarding:

- Maximum Number of Contests

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 502](#) for information regarding:

- Daily and Season Player Participation Limitations

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 504](#) for information regarding:

- Contests
- Equipment
- Last Date to Join a Team
- Practice Sessions Before First Game
- Season Begins

ELIGIBILITY DURING MSHSL TOURNAMENTS (subsection, section & state) - (Refer to Bylaw 206.6): A student must be fully eligible under all local school district policies, MSHSL Bylaws and Rules & Policies to be in uniform, to occupy the bench or playing area, participate and receive individual and/or team awards, including all-tournament honors, in the awards ceremony.

CONTEST RULES - (Refer to Bylaw 402): Except as modified by the League, the National Federation of High School Association rules for the current year shall be the official game rules for all interscholastic contests in which League members participate.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS (Refer to Bylaw 405):

A member school must schedule a minimum of three interscholastic varsity games, meets or matches to qualify for League-sponsored tournament participation in that sport.

END OF SEASON - (Refer to Bylaw 411):

A. Student Participation on a Non-School Team While the Season is Still in Progress:

1. Individual players may play with independent amateur teams during the high school season, summer and fall, provided they retain their amateur status and do not participate with an all-star team or in an all-star game. The term "all-star game", as here used, shall not apply to a Minnesota team playing intact, against a team from another state, territory, or country.
2. Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.
3. Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that activity.

B. School Team Practice and Competition:

The "end of the season" shall be defined to be the last date of the state tournament in that sport.

- 1) Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series, until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.
- 2) Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that activity.

C. No school may engage in any meet or meets, practice, training or other activities between the end of the season and the opening of the next season.

D. During the Summer Vacation Period (Bylaw 208 3 Non-School Competition and Training—Team and Individual Sports) members of a high school team may participate on a non-school team and they may receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport provided the school has approved a summer coaching waiver for the coach or coaches of that sport.

GENERAL INFORMATION

See the [General Section](#) of the Athletic Rules and Policy Manual for information regarding the following:

- Athletic Director Checklist
- Coaches Responsibility: Student Eligibility Checklist
- Multiple level teams at Sub-Varsity levels
- Official Squad Size
- Revenue Sharing
- Substitution in League Tournaments
- Weather (heat, cold, lightning)

RULE MODIFICATIONS

BASEBALL COURTESY RUNNER/SPEED-UP RULE

1. At any time the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. 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.
2. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
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. If an injury, illness or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.
4. The umpire-in-chief shall record courtesy runner participation.
5. A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered to be an illegal substitute.

Exception: Should an injury, illness or ejection occur to the courtesy runner, another courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher may run.

GAME ENDING AND 10-RUN RULE: The game ends when the visiting team completes its half of the 7th inning provided their runs are fewer than the number scored by the home team in 6 innings, or, game will end when, after five innings of a 7-inning game, a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat.

REGULATION GAME: It is a regulation game if: (a) five full innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored an equal or greater number of runs in four or four-and-a-fraction terms at bat than the opponent has scored in five terms at bat; or (b) if play has gone beyond five full innings.

In (b), the game is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed terms at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning; except that if the home team, in their half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.

SUSPENDED GAME (Regular Season and Post Season): A suspended game is any game that is ended **before** it becomes a regulation game, or a regulation game that has a tie score when ended. If darkness, rain or other cause interference's with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire before it is a regulation game, such game shall be declared a suspended game.

If a regulation called game has a tie score when ended, it shall be declared a suspended game and must be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. The lineup and batting order of each team shall be exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules governing the game.

TIES - REGULAR SEASON GAMES: *(Conferences May Adopt This Special Rule)*

Each year during regular season play some conference games, after going five full innings or more are called because of rain, darkness or other cause while the score is tied. According to the rule, this is a tie game. Batting and fielding records are counted but the game is not counted in computing percentages of games won and lost.

There is, however, the choice, by conference adoption, that a regulation called game with a tie score shall be counted as half-game won and a half-game lost for each team.

PITCHER LIMITATION: In any game, the starting pitcher may return to the mound once in relief; however, if the pitcher is not a starter he may make two relief appearances. This does not modify Rule 3-1-2, National Federation Rule book. If there is a violation of this rule, a full report of the violation must be made to the MSHSL office by the school officials of the school violating the rule. The Board of Directors will determine the responsibility and penalize the responsible school official or officials. **THE GAME MUST BE AUTOMATICALLY FORFEITED.** See Bylaw 504 for full Pitch Count policy.

RULE 3-1-4 EXPERIMENT: The Pitcher may be listed as starting Pitcher/Designated Hitter on the lineup card presented to the umpire-in-chief and official scorer prior to the start of the game. (This will appear as a nine player lineup for the game but has a tenth player listed due to the dual position listing of the starting pitcher.) A hitter may (not mandatory) be designated for any one starting player (~~not just pitchers~~) and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game.

A starting defensive player cannot be listed as the designated hitter in the starting lineup except for the pitcher. The pitcher can concurrently play pitcher and designated hitter. A designated hitter for ~~said a~~ player shall be selected prior to the start of the game, and his name shall be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief and to the official scorer. Failure to declare a designated hitter prior to the game precludes the use of a designated hitter in that game. If during the course of the game the player is replaced as the pitcher; he can remain in the game in the role of the designated hitter. If during the course of the game the player is replaced as the designated hitter, he can remain in the game as the pitcher. The player (pitcher) shall be locked into his original slot on the lineup card as pitcher/designated hitter/ or both and may re-enter the game one time in either position, the same as any other starter.

If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the designated hitter is used, that player becomes the new designated hitter. The player who was the designated hitter may re-enter as the designated hitter under the re-entry rule. A designated hitter and the player for who he is batting are locked into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation. The role of the designated hitter is terminated for the remainder of the game when:

- a. the defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the designated hitter, batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits or pinch runs for the designated hitter; or
- b. the designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position (except the starting pitcher); or
- c. If the starting pitcher plays any defensive position other than pitcher.

OFFICIAL MSHSL ATHLETIC POLICIES FOR THE CONDUCT OF BASEBALL

MOUTH GUARDS: The use of mouth guards is strongly recommended. Mouth guards that have been cut down or modified in any manner are illegal equipment.

NON-SCHOOL TEAM PARTICIPATION: Individual players may play with independent amateur teams during the high school season, summer and fall, provided they retain their amateur status and do not participate with an all-star team or in an all-star game. The term "all-star game", as here used, shall not apply to a Minnesota team playing intact, against a team from another state, territory, or country.

- A. Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.
- B. Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that activity.

PITCH COUNT: The following pitch count policy will be in effect with the 2017 Baseball season. All schools and coaches must abide by these limitations and report their pitch counts as described.

| Required Days of Rest | Number of Pitches (Varsity) | Number of Pitches (lower levels) |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0 | 1-30 | 1-25 |
| 1 | 31-50 | 26-35 |
| 2 | 51-75 | 36-60 |
| 3 | 76- 105* | 61-85 |
| Daly Max | 105 | 85 |

- Once the limit is reached a pitcher may finish pitching to that batter.
- One day of rest is required if a pitcher pitches two straight days.
- Days of rest are measured in calendar days, not 24-hour periods. If a player throws 55 pitches on Monday they are not able to pitch on either Tuesday or Wednesday, but could pitch again anytime on Thursday.
- Only pitches thrown to a batter count toward the pitch count.
- When pitching below the varsity level, those pitch counts apply. The pitcher must meet the rest requirements for that level before pitching at the varsity level. When pitching at the varsity level those pitch count rules apply. The player must then meet those rest requirements before pitching at a lower level.

*The maximum is extended to 115 once Section Playoffs begin.

Penalties:

Violation of Pitch Count Rule:

When a pitcher pitches more than the allotted number of pitches or does not meet the rest requirement they become an ineligible athlete.

1st Offense: Game is forfeited and the head coach is censured.

2nd Offense in the same season: Game is forfeited and the head coach is suspended for one game.

3rd Offense in the same season: Game is forfeited and the head coach is suspended for four games.

Violation of tracking pitches policy:

Failure to record and track pitches as per the following stipulations will result in the following penalties:

1st Offense: Head Coach is reminded.

2nd Offense: Head Coach is censured.

3rd Offense: Head Coach is suspended for one game.

4th Offense: Head Coach is suspended for four games.

VIDEO TAPING ANOTHER SCHOOL'S GAME: It shall be an ethical violation to tape another school's game, meet or contest without their permission. Further it may be a violation of the laws governing copyrights. Each school owns the copyrights to their games, meets and contests. Taping another schools game without permission could constitute a violation of the copyright law.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SECTION AND STATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Section Tournament managers are to secure instructions and rules as set by the Region Committee which administers your section tournament. Under provisions of the MSHSL Constitution, Region Committees have the authority to modify certain provisions, if they so desire. If said Committee has not modified the rules, then State rules are to be followed. Be familiar with all rules and procedures. Official squad size, length of game and all rules contained in the rule book must be followed.

Tournament managers will inform member schools of policies, procedures, dates, sites and times of section games.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT BALL – The Official MSHSL Tournament baseball is Wilson A1010 BHS1-SST. Schools/teams are encouraged to use this ball, but you may use a ball of your choice throughout the regular season. The Wilson ball will be used for all games beginning with the State Tournament Quarterfinals.

OFFICIAL SQUAD SIZE: The official squads for tournament participation shall be 20 players, two student managers, and three coaches. (Student Managers can not be in uniform)

The official squad may include less than 20 players (number who dress for games), but schools may not include additional student managers, coaches, or faculty representatives to the maximum listed above.

One high school coach in uniform is permitted to occupy each coach's box.

Personnel in each dugout shall be limited to the members of the official squad plus one additional person (additional coach or faculty rep.)

[SEE STATE TOURNAMENT PROGRAM INFORMATION DEADLINES](#)

STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFYING SCHOOL INFORMATION: Specific information for qualifying schools is available on the MSHSL Administrative Web Site under Tournament Information.

STATE TOURNAMENT SITES:

Class AAAA: CHS Field, St. Paul

Consolation: T.B.D.

Class AAA: Siebert Field, U of M

Consolation: T.B.D.

Class AA: Dick Putz Field, St. Cloud

Joe Faber Field, St. Cloud

Class A: Chaska Athletic Park, Chaska

Consolation: Mini Met, Jordan

Championship Games for all 4 classes: Target Field

STATE DATES & SCHEDULE: See the brackets on www.mshsl.org

SUSPENDED GAMES IN SECTION AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

Suspended Game: A suspended game is any game that is ended before it becomes a regulation game, or a regulation game that has a tie score when ended.

If darkness, rain or other cause interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire before it is a regulation game, such game shall be declared a suspended game.

In tournament play, if a regulation called game has a tie score when ended, it shall be declared a suspended game. A suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. The lineup and batting order of each team shall be exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules governing the game.

NOTE: See definition of Regulation Game under Rule Modifications. Section Tournament Games do not have to go a full 7 innings to be a regulation game.

REGULATION GAMES IN STATE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND GAMES (Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Championship)

Seven (7) innings of play (6.5 innings if the home team is ahead) must be completed unless: 1) the ten run rule is applied; or 2) extra innings are necessary because of a tie score. If seven innings cannot be completed due to darkness, weather or other causes, the game will be suspended, as defined in the MSHSL Rules and Policy Manual for Baseball.

The Tournament Director, with agreement of the Faculty Representatives from each school (as identified in Bylaw 409.1), may terminate a regulation game (as identified in the most current NFHS Baseball Rule Book).

STATE TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS *Pairings for All Classes:* A seeding meeting to determine state tournament pairings will be held prior to the state tournament. The participating coaches will seed teams 1-5 in their respective tournament, and the remaining teams representing seeds 6-8 will be determined by a blind draw.

AWARDS

| | Trophies | Medals | Certificates |
|------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Subsection | 1st & 2nd place team | 1st & 2nd place team (22) | |
| Section | 1st & 2nd place team | 1st & 2nd place team (22) | |
| State | 1st - 4th place teams consolation winner | 1st - 3rd place team (22) and coaches (3) | official squad (22) coaches (3) |

It is a violation of MSHSL policy for a member school or a representative of a member school to establish, distribute or accept any awards not provide by the MSHSL for section or state tournament.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT

In order to elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, member schools, fans and school personnel, the MSHSL held a Sportsmanship Summit and asked student participants to identify behavior expectations they felt should be in place at every school event.

These minimum behavior expectations provide a foundation upon which member schools, conferences, administrative regions and the League's Board of Directors can build specific guidelines for activities under their control.

MSHSL Bylaw 409, **RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING TEAMS, STUDENTS AND SPECTATORS**, speaks to this issue, directly, and Bylaw 409-2 specifically states that, **"School officials shall be held responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held."**

In all MSHSL activities, each participating school shall designate a person or persons from that school to serve as crowd control supervisors or chaperones. MSHSL tournament staff may require school administrators to contact the tournament manager prior to the start of the tournament game so that they can be immediately contacted to respond to behavioral issues regarding their team members, students and/or spectators at the tournament site. Each supervisor or chaperone should be immediately identifiable to the students and to the tournament site ushers and other security personnel. This will help to coordinate crowd control between school supervisors and tournament site personnel.

MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR REGULAR AND POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT COMPETITIONS:

- Respect the American flag and the National Anthem.
- Spectators must wear clothing that covers the entire torso. Those who do not comply or who wear clothing that is vulgar, obscene or that in some other way inappropriate, as determined by school/tournament personnel, will be removed from the arena/stadium if they do not cooperate with this behavior expectation.
- The use of appropriate language is expected at all times. Profanity, negative chants, booing, trash talk, name calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable and must be immediately addressed by school and/or tournament administrators.
- Respect the game/contest. Under no condition shall anyone other than the members of the official squad enter the playing surface. No one may interfere with the contest in any way.
- Hand held signs, which do not obstruct the view of others, will be permitted provided they are in good taste. Signs, message boards, "white" boards or other similar items contest/tournament officials deem to be in poor taste will be removed.
- **Signs on sticks, balloons, or any other type of artificial, celebratory items are not permitted.**
- Artificial noise makers (i.e. megaphones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks, and other similar items) are not allowed.
- Laser lights are strictly prohibited.
- No Pets Allowed

THANK YOU for supporting your student athletes and fine arts participants and for providing a positive environment in which educational activities are conducted.