



## **RULES AND REGULATIONS - 2011**

### **LONE STAR AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**

#### **PART ONE: LEAGUE PLAY**

**I. GOVERNANCE:** The Lone Star Amateur Baseball Association league play will be governed by the Official Baseball Rules except for High School Federation designated hitter, re-entry rule and high school slide rule. All American Amateur Baseball Congress rules will be complied with and in case of conflict between AABC and any other rules, AABC will govern.

#### **II. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- A.** To be eligible to play in this association, all players must meet the qualifications as outlined by the AABC. Each manager is responsible for the eligibility of his team at all times.
- B.** All players must sign the official contract of this Association. Contracts signed by anyone else but the player will not be official and will have no bearing on the player unless he participates in a league game with the contract team. Teams using a player who has not signed his own contract or a player who has two contracts outstanding may have a league game forfeited if the opposing team files a protest in accordance with the protest rules of this Association. Any player who has not received a release from a signed contract will be suspended automatically for a minimum of 2 weeks if he participates in a league game with another team. Possible suspension for the season could result.

**IMPORTANT:** Player contracts must be in the hands of the Secretary 24 hours before a player is eligible to play.

**C.** No player may transfer from one team to another in the Association unless he receives a bona fide release from his original contract. A player can make only one transfer during the season. A manager may grant a player a voluntary release, and the player may sign with another team immediately, but if a manager refused a player a release, the player may receive a requested release by appealing to the Executive Committee for a hearing. A release granted by a manager will enable a player to sign and play with another team immediately. A release granted by appeal to the Executive Committee requires a minimum 30-day waiting period after signing a new contract to play with a different team. The 30-day waiting period begins when the new contract is received by the Secretary (or after official approval by the Executive Committee for requested release). The effective date of the contract is the day after the 30-day waiting period ends.

**D.** Deadline for revising the AABC roster online is July 15 and no rosters will change after that date. Team rosters will be limited to 20 players for league play. All rosters must be registered with Lone Star and AABC before the first league game is played.

**NOTE:** Managers will be responsible for the enforcement of all rules and by-laws. If a player participates in a game in violation of paragraphs A, B, C or D of these by-laws, his team shall forfeit the game(s) in which he participated provided a protest is launched in accordance with provisions of Section Four below and is upheld by the Executive Committee or Commissioner.

Managers are responsible that all players fully understand the requirements of the by-laws of this Association before signing a contract.

## **PART TWO: RULES OF COMPETITION**

**A** Refer to Annual "Summary of Minutes" sheet for this year's League Play and other important information.

**B.** All games played in league play will be seven innings, except that a 2 hour time limit will be imposed on all games except tie games. An inning in progress will be completed if it started before the time expired, but no new inning will start unless the game is tied. Tied games will be played until a winner is declared, and the time limit will not be in effect. An inning begins with the last out of the previous inning. The umpire's time is official at all times.

**C.** The 8-run rule will apply to all games played in the Association. If either team has a lead of 8 or more runs at the end of the 5th inning (or 4 1/2 innings if Home Team is ahead) or any subsequent inning, such team will be the winner.

**D.** Games will be played as they appear on the schedule. The "home" team will take infield for 7 minutes twenty minutes before game time. The "visitors" will take infield for seven minutes thirteen minutes before game time. This will leave five minutes for final preparation by the scorer, umpires and managers before the scheduled game time.

**NOTE:** All games will begin 20 minutes after the completion of the preceding game except that no game will begin before the scheduled time unless both managers agree.

**E.** After games are scheduled in this Association, there will be no postponements for any reason except emergency postponements for inclement weather or death of anyone directly connected with the team scheduled to play or the immediate family of someone on the team. If this unfortunate circumstance occurs, the manager or coach will notify the opposing manager as quickly as possible and notify the league office for official proceedings to take care of the game and diamond assignments.

**F.** Players must appear in full baseball uniform of their respective teams in all scheduled games. All players should be dressed alike on each team for uniformity and to help make baseball the game it should be. However, no protest will be accepted by the Commissioner or Executive Committee for variation in color or other minor discrepancy in uniform of the baseball suit so long as the player is in full baseball uniform consisting of cap, outer baseball shirt, baseball pants, shoes, etc.

**G** The official ball will be the Diamond D-1 NFHS, Diamond D 1 Collegiate, or Rawlings R-100.

**H.** No one not in uniform will be allowed in the dugouts except for coaches, managers, sponsors and two bat persons. Coaches may be in uniform or in coaching shorts and shirt sleeves.

**I** All players must have on a protective helmet with two earflaps before stepping in the batters box and while on base. (Penalty -- a player who deliberately removes his helmet while advancing to a base will be called out by the umpire)

### **PART THREE: RULES OF CONDUCT**

**A.** The conduct of all games is the responsibility of the umpires and everyone connected with any team in this Association is required to respect their authority. Ungentlemanly conduct such as fighting, profane or derogatory language, indulgence in alcoholic beverages or drugs before or during a game, and abusive remarks from person in the dugout or on the playing field will not be tolerated. Any person found guilty of such conduct will be suspended for a minimum of 7 days. Person other than players either in the dugout or on the field area could cause the game to be forfeited and will not be allowed to accompany the team in the dugout the remainder of the season. Umpires involved will submit a written report within 48 hours in a league game or 12 hours in a playoff game to any member of the Executive Committee or Commissioner, and the Executive Committee or Commissioner shall take any action deemed necessary. Following an umpire from the field after the conclusion of a game will absolutely not be tolerated and any report of such act by any person, player, fan, parent or coach, will result in an automatic one game suspension. No appeal will be granted.

**B.** Umpires decision shall be final unless they are in violation of baseball rules as set forth in the Official Rule Book, MBC rules or the Lone Star Amateur Baseball Association By-Laws. In this event, the managers may submit a protest, but it must be in accordance with the Rules of Protest in these By-Laws. No protest will be considered which involves a judgment call by an umpire.

**C.** No alcoholic beverages or drugs will be allowed on the fields, in the bleachers or in any areas associated with the fields used by the Association. Team managers will be responsible for the conduct and actions of their players and regular followers insofar as practicable to prevent unpleasant situations from arising. Umpires will forfeit a game if necessary for any situation resulting from use of drugs, abusive language or action on the field or in the bleachers that could get out of control. The team involved could be suspended from further play in this Association. This Association would prefer to play to small orderly crowds than large uncontrollable mobs so baseball can continue to grow.

*NOTE:* Each manager will make certain each player on his team is made aware of this responsibility to the Association so they can assist in promoting good spectator relationships.

**D.** No tobacco use of any kind will be allowed on the fields or in the dugouts.

### **PART FOUR: RULES OF PROTEST**

**A.** Any player, any rule infraction and/or any game may be protested at any time by rule. All protests must be made in writing and filed with the Secretary or other member of the Executive Committee. Protest must be made by the head coach or manager. No protests will be considered if not filed in writing within 48 hours after the completion of the protested game and accompanied by a protest fee of \$100.00.

**B.** Any protest other than eligibility of players must be made to the umpire before, during or within one minute after the game and must be followed by the written protest as outlined above. Eligibility protests must be filed with the Secretary within 48 hours after the completion of the game involved.

**C.** Each written protest must be accompanied by a cash deposit, money order or certified check and such amount is to be held by the Treasurer until the protest is settled. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned; if the protest is not upheld, the money is to be retained by the Association. All protests will be acted upon by the Commissioner or the Executive Committee only.