

# ENYTB PLAYING RULES

## Governing ALL Regular Season Play Ages 22U through Unlimited

It is strongly recommended that each team bring a copy of these rules to all of its ENYTB regular season games. In particular, before each game begins, the chief umpire should be made aware of Rules 5, 16, 22 and 23. If you believe your opponent has violated any of these rules it is your responsibility to bring the alleged violation to the immediate attention of the chief umpire. Furthermore, if you feel the umpires incorrectly interpret or apply any rule, your only recourse is to IMMEDIATELY inform the chief umpire (before the next pitch or play, whichever happens first) that you wish to protest the game and have him sign the scorebook at the point of the alleged infraction. Have the umpire provide his telephone number as well. All protests must be submitted to the League within 24 hours (see Section 9.12 of Constitution and By-Laws).

NOTE: The rules governing ENYTB regular season play, denoted below, differ significantly in many instances from the playing rules for sanctioned tournament play. The latter are governed by the applicable national sanctioning body e.g., AABC, NABF, PONY, CABA or GSA.

*The official playing rules for ENYTB regular season play shall conform to the official rules of Major League Baseball applicable to the National League with the exceptions and modifications denoted below:*

### **Section 1 – FIELD & EQUIPMENT**

1. **Field Dimensions** - All regular season games shall be played on 90' diamonds with a pitching distance of 60' 6".
  2. **Baseballs** - A high school quality baseball or better shall be used in all games.
  3. **Provision Of Game Balls:**
    - a. Single games - the team designated as the home team on the official league schedule shall provide the umpires with all game balls. However, if the visiting team does not have access to a home field available for league play, it should supply the home team with three new or next to new quality baseballs before the start of each game.
    - b. Split DHs i.e., DHs with two different opponents - same as single games.
    - c. Doubleheaders (2 games with same opponent on same day) - each team shall alternate as the home team and in such cases, each home team shall be responsible for providing all game balls to the umpire.
- EXCEPTION: TEAMS W/O A HOME FIELD ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE HOST TEAM WITH TWO NEW BASEBALLS FOR EACH GAME PLAYED.**
4. **Metal Spikes** - Allowed.
  5. **Bat Restrictions**
    - (a) Any material except metal;
    - (b) Length-weight differentials minus 3 (or heavier); and,
    - (c) Barrel diameter = 2 ¾" maximum.

## **Section 2 - UMPIRES**

6. **Scheduling Of Umpires.** Under normal circumstances, the home team shall be required to contract for two certified, fully uniformed umpires.

Exceptions:

### **Third Party or Neutral Fields:**

- ▶ **Opening Weekend** - It shall be the duty of each "host" field to schedule umpires for **ALL** third party games played on their field(s) on opening weekend.
- ▶ **Any Other Game When Neither Team Is Playing On Its Home Field** - the team designated as the home team on the official league schedule (website) shall assume the normal responsibilities of the home team for the contracting of the umpires.

If the field is owned by another league member, it shall be the responsibility of the designated home team to coordinate with that member the contracting for umpires and to inform that member of all subsequent game time changes in a timely manner. Field owners have the option under such circumstances to require that their normal umpire associations be assigned the game. If the teams cancel the game without providing the field owner with timely notification and the umpires require full or partial payment, the designated home team shall be responsible for all umpire fees incurred.

7. **Payment Of Umpires.** The home and away teams shall split all umpire fees equally at every game regardless of who is home and away. The team designated as the home team on the official league schedule (website) shall be responsible for any assignment fees. Payment may be required before the game, depending on the policy of the umpire organization to which the umpires belong.

8. **FAILURE OF UMPIRE(S) TO APPEAR** - Games may start with one ump, provided two were contracted for and one failed to show for reasons beyond the home team's control.

If both umpires fail to appear within 20 minutes following a game's scheduled start time, the visiting team may leave without penalty.

If the home team failed to contract for two umpires as required by rule 6, the away team shall be awarded a 7-0 win or two 7-0 wins if a scheduled doubleheader. If both umpires failed to show for reasons beyond the home team's control no forfeit is awarded. Instead, the game(s) shall be rescheduled AND the away team shall have the option to require the make-up game(s) to be played on its own home field. When this option is exercised, the home/away designations of the original scheduled game shall apply to the make-up game but the non-traveling team shall contract for umpires.

## **Section 3 - OFFICIAL GAMES**

9. **Length of Games.** All games shall be played as 7 inning games, including both halves of any doubleheader.
10. **Time Limits** - There shall be no preset time limit on any official league game.
11. **9 Players Needed To Start Game** - No game shall officially start without a minimum of 9 league eligible players being present in uniform for both sides. Any team with less than 9 such players shall be provided 20 minutes after the scheduled start time

to field a team of 9 such players. At that point the game shall be recorded a 7-0 loss for the team unable to field a complete team and the offending team shall be required to pay any ump fees due. If the game is the first game of a doubleheader the 2nd game shall be rescheduled but the away team, if it is not the offending team, has the option to require the make-up game to be played on its own home field. When this option is exercised, the designated home and away teams shall remain the same as in the original scheduled game.

12. **Minimum of 8 Players Needed For Game To Continue** - When a team is unable to continue to field 9 eligible players because of injury or other extenuating circumstance, **but not ejection**, the game shall be allowed to continue with 8 players. The opposing manager shall choose an ineligible player from the bench, if one is available, and make him eligible to play in the field only. If no such player is available the game shall be allowed to continue with 8 players on defense. In either case, an automatic out shall be recorded each time through the lineup, in the spot in the batting order previously occupied by the injured or otherwise lost player. When a team is unable to field 8 eligible players regardless of cause or extenuating circumstance, the game is over immediately and the offending team shall lose by a final score of 7 to 0.
13. **If 9<sup>th</sup> and Last Eligible Player Is Ejected From Game** - If a player is ejected from the game and the team has no legal substitute player available, the game is over immediately and the offending team shall lose by a final score of 7 to 0.
14. **Completed Games** - Any game not completed because of weather, darkness, curfew or any other reason except as provided below, shall be considered complete if the game is of official length. Official length means the losing team had at least 5 complete innings at bat.

Exceptions:

- (i) **EXTRA LONG GAME** - Home field owners have the right to suspend any game that has significantly extended in time beyond the usual amount of time allotted (2.5 hours). In such circumstances, **even if the game is of official length**, the game shall be treated as a suspended game i.e., it shall be finished at another time. The official rules of major league baseball for a suspended game shall govern the resumption of play
- (ii) **Tie Games** - Any regulation game called by the umpire with the score tied shall be officially recorded as a complete game and a "tie" game. The game must be of official length when play is terminated.

NOTE: Whether the last inning is complete or not has no bearing on the determination of a tie game i.e., even if play is terminated in the top half of an inning immediately after the trailing team has tied the game, it shall be a tie game, provided the game is of official length.

15. **Suspended Games** - Any game not of official length and discontinued for any reason other than bad weather e.g., darkness, curfew, etc. shall be treated as a suspended game. The official rules of MLB for a suspended game shall govern resumption of play.

NOTE: Any game not of official length and discontinued because of bad weather shall be replayed in its entirety i.e., it is NOT a suspended game.

16. **Mercy Rule** – There shall be a 12 run "mercy" rule except as provided below.

Exception: All games played on fields in the Herkimer-Utica-Rome Area shall have a 10 run mercy rule due to the requirements of the local Umpire Associations.

NOTE: All games must be of official length before the mercy rule is applicable.

#### **Section 4 - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

17. **Use of Ineligible Players** - The use of a player that is ineligible because of his age, any roster restriction or league rule governing player protection as defined in Articles XVI and XVII of the League's Constitution and By-Laws shall result in the forfeiture of all games that the ineligible player appeared in.
18. **Re-entry Rule** - Re-entry is permitted pursuant to the high school re-entry rule. Any starter, replaced by a legal substitute, may re-enter the game once, at any time, provided the re-entered player occupies his original position in the batting order.

The penalty for violation of this rule upon discovery (Rule 3 Article 1 NFHS rulebook) shall be:

- (1) Ejection of the offending player.
- (2) An illegal player on offense, whether as a batter or runner, shall be called out immediately and ejected. The penalty for illegal substitution shall supercede the penalty for batting out of order. If the player should score a run, advance or cause a play to be made that advances another runner, discovery must be made BEFORE the first pitch to the next batter of either team. This would invalidate the action of the illegal offensive player. Any out(s) made on the play would stand and all other runners return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
- (3) An illegal player on defense shall be replaced immediately upon discovery. If the illegal player is involved in a play and the infraction is discovered prior to the first pitch to the next batter of either team, the team on offense has the option to let the play stand or to allow the batter to bat again.

**Note: Players in the starting lineup may not pitch after re-entering the game IF they made an official pitching appearance prior to being substituted for.**

#### **Section 5 - MISCELLANEOUS**

19. **DH Rule** – The American League designated hitter, or DH, rule is adopted (pitcher only). Once the DH takes the field or any player DH'd for enters the lineup, the DH is lost for the rest of the game. To have a DH, you must start the game with one.
20. **NCAA HBP Rule - Per NCAA RULE 8 D-2 A.R (2008):**
- (i) Batters who freeze and/or are hit by the pitch in the batter's box will be awarded first base.

If the batter freezes and is hit by a pitch that is clearly inside the lines of the batters box the ball is dead and the batter is awarded 1st base.

If the batter freezes and is hit by a pitch, excluding inside the vertical lines of the batter's box, the ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base.

- (ii) Batters who move into pitches and are attempting to be hit will be kept at home plate when this tactic is clear to umpires.

If a batter intentionally gets touched by moving or rolling any part of his body into the pitch, the umpire should call a strike or ball in accordance with NCAA rule 7-4 and 7-5.

If the batter is hit by a pitch in the strike zone, the pitch is a strike, the ball is dead, no runners may advance and the batter is not awarded first base.

21. **COURTESY RUNNER** – Not Allowed.

22. **CATCHER CONTACT** - In the vicinity of home plate, when the catcher is in the process of fielding the ball or has the ball and is waiting to make the tag, any runner in an upright position must make an attempt to avoid contact with the catcher or slide. In this circumstance, any runner failing to make an attempt to avoid contact with the catcher or slide shall be declared out. The ball becomes dead. In the same circumstance, if the contact is further judged to be malicious, the offending player shall be ejected.

23. **NCAA Force-Play-Slide Rule** - Shall be adopted for all regular season play at all age divisions beginning 2008 season.

The intent of the force-play-slide rule is to ensure the safety of all players. This is a safety as well as an interference rule. Whether the defense could have completed the double play has no bearing on the applicability of this rule. This rule pertains to a force-play situation at any base, regardless of the number of outs.

- a. On any force play, the runner must slide on the ground before the base and in a direct line between the two bases. It is permissible for the slider's momentum to carry him through the base in the baseline extended.

Exception—A runner need not slide directly into a base as long as the runner slides or runs in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. Interference shall not be called.

- i. "On the ground" means either a head-first slide or a slide with one leg and buttock on the ground before the base.
  - ii. "Directly into a base" means the runner's entire body (feet, legs, trunk and arms) must stay in a straight line between the bases.
- b. Contact with a fielder is legal and interference shall not be called if the runner makes a legal slide directly to the base and in the baseline extended.

NOTE: If contact occurs on top of the base as a result of a "pop-up" slide, this contact is legal.

- c. Actions by a runner are illegal and interference shall be called if:
  - i. The runner slides or runs out of the base line in the direction of the fielder and alters the play of a fielder (with or without contact);
  - ii. The runner uses a rolling or cross-body slide and either makes contact with or alters the play of a fielder;
  - iii. The runner's raised leg makes contact higher than the fielder's knee when in a standing position;
  - iv. The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg; or,

- v. The runner illegally slides toward or contacts the fielder even if the fielder makes no attempt to throw to complete a play.

**PENALTY:**

With less than two outs, the batter-runner, as well as the interfering runner, shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.

With two outs, the interfering runner shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.

If the runner's slide or collision is flagrant, the runner shall be ejected from the contest.

NOTE: If the bases are loaded with no outs, a double-play attempt is made, and interference is called, all other runners must return to their original bases.

## 24. **Penalty for Ejections**

### A. Reporting System

The League President shall be notified by both team managers whenever a player, coach, manager team representative is ejected from a game. Failure to report an ejection within 48 hours of the infraction shall result in an automatic \$50 fine.

### B. Penalties For Ejections

- i. An individual ejected for verbal abuse or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be suspended.

If a player, coach, manager or team representative is ejected from a contest because of verbal abuse only, the following shall be enforced:

- a. For the first offense by an individual, ejection plus suspension from the team's next contest.
  - b. For a second offense by an individual in the same season, ejection plus suspension from the team's next two contests.
  - c. For a third offense by an individual in the same season, ejection and suspension for the remainder of the season, including postseason competition.
- ii. An individual ejected for fighting, defined as any physical abuse of a player, including attempting to strike with the arms, hands, legs, feet or equipment in a combative manner, or intentionally spitting at an opponent, or physical abuse of game officials, umpires or coaches defined as any threat of physical intimidation or harm to include pushing, shoving, bumping, kicking, intentionally spitting, throwing at or attempting to make physical contact, shall be suspended:
    - a. For the first offense by an individual, ejection plus suspension from the team's next three contests.

Exception—For a violent attack (punching or kicking) of a player, umpire, game official or any opposing coach, the offending individual shall be suspended for the team's next five contests, even if it is the individual's first offense. A second violent attack, regardless of time period, shall result in the individual's indefinite suspension from league participation.

- b. For a second offense by an individual, regardless of time period, ejection plus suspension from the team's next five contests.
- c. For a third offense by an individual, regardless of time period, ejection and suspension for the remainder of the season, including postseason competition.

NOTE: A player involved in a fight while remaining at his position on the field and judged to have been acting in self-defense and not contributing to the fight shall not be ejected or suspended.

NOTE: If a confrontation or fight develops, the head coach and assistant coaches are expected to leave their positions to bring their players under control. If a player or coach makes physical contact with another player in an obvious attempt to prevent a fight or confrontation, that individual shall not be ejected or suspended. Coaches should not involve themselves in physically restraining personnel from an opposing team.

- iii. Intentional Throwing at a Batter By A Pitcher—If a pitcher is ejected for intentionally throwing at a batter, the following penalties shall be enforced:
  - a. For the first offense by the individual, ejection plus suspension from the team's next four regularly scheduled contests.
  - b. For a second offense by the individual, regardless of time period, ejection plus suspension from the team's next eight regularly scheduled contests.
  - c. For a third offense by the individual, regardless of the time period, indefinite suspension from all league participation.
  - d. If the coach has been warned during or before the contest, the coach also shall be ejected and suspended according to the provisions of B(ii) above.

NOTE: The suspended pitcher shall not be allowed to participate in any manner during the suspension.

C. Procedures for enforcing ejection and suspension penalties are as follows:

- i. Immediately following an ejection, the offending individual must leave the field and dugout area immediately; remove himself from sight and sound of the contest; and, not communicate with team members or the umpires.
- ii. If a person is ejected in the first game of a doubleheader, that person shall serve any suspension beginning in the second game.
- iii. Suspended persons shall be restricted to the designated spectator areas and they:
  - a. Shall NOT be dressed in team uniform, allowed in any team area or perform any team duty;
  - b. Shall NOT take part in any pre-game activities at the site of competition nor be on the field once pre-game activities have started; and,
  - c. Shall be prohibited from any communication or contact, direct or indirect, with the team, coaches and/or bench personnel from the start of the contest to its completion — including all extra innings.

- iv. When applying the suspension rule, penalties shall be served for the team's next previously scheduled and completed contest(s). If a previously scheduled game has been postponed or halted, that make-up game against the originally scheduled opponent shall count as a regularly scheduled contest. Games may not be added after the incident in order to fulfill the requirements of this rule.
  - a. If serving multiple suspensions from a fight would cause a team difficulty in fielding a team for its next game or games, the club may request that the suspensions be staggered by the League office.
  - b. All suspension penalties shall carry over from one season to the next, and from regular-season to post-season competition.