

# Intertown Baseball League 2026

## Overview:

A Board of Directors, representing membership from each of the towns, governs the Intertown Baseball League. The ITBL is comprised of a Major League and a Minor League, with each holding separate playoffs to determine a champion.

The Board is committed to ensuring the league provides an enjoyable experience for all participants and as such, enforces a “zero tolerance policy” from coaches, players, officials and fans. Coaches are held responsible for their actions and those of their team’s players and fans. The Board will address any violations of this policy in a prompt and equitable manner.

## Residence Player Eligibility Requirements:

Players will be eligible to play in the ITBL only if they reside or the physical location of the school where they attend primary academic classes is within the member town for which they register.

A player will be deemed to reside within a certain town if:

1. His/her parents are living together and are residing within said town, OR;
2. Either of the player’s parents (or his/her court-appointed legal guardian) reside within such town.

A player will be deemed to attend school in town if the physical location of the primary academic school where they attend formal educational classes is within said town.

For a player that qualifies to play in two different ITBL towns based on the above criteria (i.e. they reside in one and school choice to another), once they have chosen to participate in one town, unless their residency or school situation changes they do not have the option to switch between towns within the ITBL.

Member towns of ITBL will require proof of residence or school enrollment within said town at the time the player registers. Understanding that special residency cases will arise, a member town of ITBL may petition the ITBL board for a waiver of this requirement. Said waiver will be granted if more than 50% of the remaining member towns approve the request.

## Competitive Balance:

Understanding that the league is best served by having balanced, competitive teams in each division, each town will submit teams of equal skill level for both Majors and Minors. Every team submitted by each town will be comprised of a balanced mix of ages, grades and skill level. Towns will re-draft each team submitted to the ITBL each year so that there are no carry over teams from the previous year. Prior to each season each town will submit to the ITBL board a copy of their team rosters which will include ages and grades.

Minor league teams shall be comprised of all registered 3rd and 4th graders. Majors teams shall be comprised of all registered 5th and 6th graders.

***Registration for potential Majors age eligible 7th graders must be submitted in writing to town President for review by March 1st. League President, upon review will submit request to the ITBL Board for final determination. The decision of the ITBL Board is final, which prioritizes safety of all players and competitive balance.***

## PLAYING RULES:

### OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES APPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:

- 1) Teams will use a continuous batting order. Every non-injured roster player in attendance as of the start of the game will be included in the official batting orders exchanged by the teams. Any player arriving after the start of the game will be placed at the bottom of the batting order, regardless of the position in the batting order the team is at when the player arrives.
- 2) All players should play a minimum of three innings in the field each game and coaches are expected to make every effort to give all players relatively equal playing time over the course of the season. Coaches are on an honor system in regard to applying the guidelines; it is not to be a topic of discussion between opposing coaches during games. Concerns and questions regarding the playing guidelines should be brought to the attention of your director.
- 3) A team must field at least 8 players to start a game and maintain at least 8 players to continue the game. Failure results in a forfeit. Teams are to be given 15 minutes past the regularly scheduled start time before forfeiture.
- 4) Teams will not be forced to take “automatic outs” in their batting order when players have to leave the game unless the number of remaining positions in the order becomes less than 9. If only 8 players remain, and the team had 9 or more to start, an “automatic out” is enforced when that position in the batting order is reached. If a team starts with 8 players and maintains 8 throughout the game, there is no “automatic out”.
- 5) Player “Call-Up” Rules (both Majors and Minors Divisions)

Both Minors and Majors are allowed 1 “Dual Rostered Player” per team. A “Dual Rostered Player” is assigned to the same higher aged team for the entire season, practices with the higher aged team and is a roster player just like every other player on the team. A “Dual Rostered Player” is designated at the beginning of the season, evaluated and available at the draft for selection and the selecting team has the exclusive rights to the player’s services. This player must play on his/her primary team/age group as a priority.

“Dual Rostered Players” are available throughout the playoffs and can play any position. “Dual Rostered Players” must be added to the ITBL website and tracked like all other players. Pitch counts for “Dual Rostered Players” must be tracked on the ITBL website and their primary team governs the “Dual Rostered Players” pitch count limit. For example: *a Minor pitching in Majors only has as many pitches available as he/she’s Minors pitch count limit allows for the week. They do not get an extra 10+ because they are playing up.*

Both Minors and Majors are also allowed to pick a “Pool Call Up” in addition to their designated “Rostered Call Up”. These “Pool Call Up” players can be shared by all higher aged teams and will be rotated to allow “Pool Call Ups” a chance to “play up”. A “Pool Call Up” will be used in the more traditional sense for a Call Up (not as a pitcher or catcher **and to not** take away playing time from a Rostered Player—despite possibly having a high skill level).

Pool Call Ups are not to be used as competitive advantage or circumvent a pitch count/pitcher availability situation. They are positional players only. Pool players are not eligible for playoffs

unless permission is given by league president in extreme situations. "Pool Call Ups" must be identified at the start of games

6) The home team should complete its pre-game warm-ups and make the field available to the visiting team 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game. (This allows the visiting team more time to get to the field.)

7) It is the umpire's judgment as to whether a game should be stopped for darkness (if there are no lights) or bad weather. He may, but he is not obligated to, consult with the opposing coaches before making his decision.

a. Any game stopped due to bad weather or other emergency (ex: lights malfunction, serious injury, etc.) will be resumed from the exact point of stoppage, unless it is already an official, completed game (4 innings or 3 ½ innings if home team is leading.) The exception to this rule is if the game is called before 1 full inning has been completed, in which case the game starts over from the beginning.

b. **MINORS ONLY:** Regular season games shall be six (6) innings or two hours and 15 minutes. A new inning shall not start after the time limit has expired, unless needed to meet the regulation game requirement. (An official game is 4 innings or 3 ½ innings if home team is leading.)

8) A mercy rule is in effect. If a team has a ten or more run lead after 4 complete innings or 5 complete innings the game is declared over. This also applies if the home team has a ten or more run lead after 3 ½ or 4 ½ innings. (Notes: a) if the visiting team is ahead, the home team always has the chance to bat in its half of the inning; b) if the home team's lead reaches 10 or more runs in the bottom half of the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> inning, the game is over)

9) A five (5) run per inning rule is in effect for every inning, except the last inning. Unlimited runs are allowed to score (by either team) in the last inning.

10) In the case of bad weather or unplayable field conditions, the home team coach is to contact the umpire and visiting team coach at least one hour before the scheduled start of the game. All postponed games should be rescheduled within 24 hours and the game should be played on the upcoming Saturday. If there are any issues the towns President and the ITBL Level Coordinate will reschedule the game. (Note: playing a third or fourth game in the same week or playing games on two consecutive days is not deemed to be a valid reason to refuse a proposed makeup date. Just as head coaches availability is also not a valid excuse.)

11) Whenever there is a second game scheduled to follow on the same field, no new inning in the first game can be started within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time of the second game. Any inning already started before the 15 minute warning is reached will be allowed to be completed.

12) The home team is responsible for supplying two new baseballs at the start of each game and any additional baseballs needed throughout the game. The home team is responsible for confirming in advance (24 - 48 hours where possible) the scheduled umpire (name, date/time, and location) and paying the umpire's fee prior to the start of the game. The home team is responsible for preparing the field for play, including the lining of the base paths and foul lines.

13) Each team's dugout or bench area is to be restricted to players and four adult coaches. All adult coaches must be CORI-checked by their individual towns.

14) The winning team's coach is responsible for reporting the score of the game and the pitch count by players on both teams. League schedules, standings, scores, pitch counts and other

information will be maintained on [itblbaseball.net](http://itblbaseball.net). At the conclusion of each game, the head coaches are responsible for verifying with each other the pitch count totals for each pitcher on each team.

Results should be submitted within 24 hours of completion of the game. In the case of a tie, the home team should report the result. Repeated failure to report scores in a timely manner will result in forfeiture of the applicable games.

**15)** Standings at the end of the regular season will be based on a point system, with 3 points awarded for a win, 2 points for a tie and 1 point for a loss. One extra inning will be played when a game is tied after 6 innings; if the game is still tied after 7 innings, the game is declared a tie and each team gets 2 points.

**16)** A pitcher shall be removed if he hits 3 batters in one inning or 4 batters in the game. The pitcher may be moved to any other position in the field, but he may not pitch again in the game.

**17)** Curveballs are not allowed for obvious safety reasons. The determination is made solely by the umpire. The 1st curveball violation results in the pitch being called a ball and play is dead (unless the batter reaches base safely on the pitch in which case the play is allowed). The 2nd violation creates the same results as the 1st violation AND the umpire shall instruct the coach to immediately remove the pitcher. The pitcher may be moved to any other position in the field, but he may not pitch again in the game.

**18)** Bats must be stamped USABAT as of 2018 season and going forward. Any bat without that stamp of approval is not allowed. If a batter is caught using an illegal bat, he will be declared out as soon as one pitch in the at-bat occurs. The issue of the illegal bat must be brought to the attention of the umpire before a pitch is thrown to a subsequent batter in order for the batter to be declared out. If any baserunner advances on a batted ball in this situation, he has to return to his original base. Wood bats are allowed, even if they do not have the approval stamp, as long as they meet the USABAT weight, length and diameter restrictions.

**19)** Intentional Walks are NOT allowed at either the Minor or Major level.

**20)** The slide rule is in effect. Runners may not run into fielders covering bases. If they do not slide, they may be called out in the umpire's discretion.

**21)** Coaches are allowed one trip to the mound in an inning. Upon the second trip in an inning or the third trip in the game to the same pitcher, the pitcher must be removed. Under both rules sets, the manager may not make a second visit to the mound while the same batter is still at bat.

**Note:** *Crossing the baseline to enter the infield MAY be considered a trip to the mound by the umpire, even if it is to speak with infielders.*

**22)** NO SLASH Bunting - A slash bunt is the act of squaring to bunt in order to move the infield and distract the pitcher and the swinging away at the pitch.

Penalty: Batter is out and ball is dead, runners shall not advance

Note: Faking a bunt is legal as is pulling the bat back from a bunt stance

**23)** Player, Coach, and Fan Behavior

The ITBL is a zero tolerance league and the ITBL board has the authority to impose discipline on any coach, player or fan in its sole discretion. Any coach, player or fan who is removed from the

game by an umpire will automatically be suspended for the balance of that game and the next game. The ITBL board may impose additional suspensions at its discretion.

- There is NO discipline appeal process and the decision by the Board is final.
- ITBL will take action if it sees consistent negative behavior from a town/league/coach/player/spectator including action beyond the current season. Action could include banning from additional games in subsequent seasons or removal from ITBL league.

Spectators, players, or coaches will not be allowed within 20 feet of the backstop in any manner that promotes questioning of umpires' decisions. Furthermore, umpires are allowed (at their discretion) to remove fans standing behind the backstop at any distance.

Only the Team Manager may speak to the umpire or represent the team. In the absence of the Team Manager, one of the team's coaches shall be designated as the acting Manager.

### **Rules specific to Majors:**

1. The "balk" rules are meant to be enforced in such a way as to be instructional and the intent will be to penalize only repeated actions that result in balks. Umpire and coaches should discuss this in pregame home plate meeting.
2. Only USABAT stamped bats are allowed in Majors.
3. Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> Strike Rule: The batter becomes a runner when the third strike is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied", that an uncaught third strike does not result in a dead ball or stopped play and base runners may advance at their own risk.

### **Rules specific to Minors:**

1. Stealing of 2<sup>nd</sup> base and 3<sup>rd</sup> base is allowed with no limits per inning, but runners may advance only one base on a steal attempt per play.

Example 1: a player stealing from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> cannot advance to 3<sup>rd</sup> on the steal attempt, even if there is an overthrow or other defensive misplay.

Example 2: A player on 1<sup>st</sup> may steal to 2<sup>nd</sup> at the same time as a player on 2<sup>nd</sup> can steal 3<sup>rd</sup>, and a player on 3<sup>rd</sup> may steal from 3<sup>rd</sup> to home – all on the same play. Each runner is only allowed to advance one base

2. It is not considered a steal if the play was generated by a batted ball put into play even if the fielders then overthrow the ball.
3. Two successful steals of home are allowed per game.
4. Only USABAT stamped bats are allowed in Minors.

# *ITBL Pitching Rules*

## *Regular Season & Playoffs*

### **2023 MINORS PITCH COUNT RULES**

In order to minimize the risk of injury, the ITBL has adopted the following pitching rules:

#### **Pitch count rules:**

If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 51 - 65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 36 - 50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 21 - 35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no rest is required.

**The maximum number of pitches in a single game is: Minors (8-10U): 75 pitches**

**Pitcher to Catcher restriction:** Pitchers are limited to 50 pitches if they will be moved to catcher during the same game. If a pitcher exceeds the 50 pitch-count limit while facing his or her final batter they may complete the batter and still catch.

**Completion of batter rule:** If a pitcher reaches a pitch-count limit while facing his final batter, the pitcher may continue to throw until the batter reaches base, is put out, or the third out is made to complete the half-inning, and the pitcher's pitch count then shall be recorded as the pitch count limit. For example, a pitcher begins pitching to his final batter with a pitch count of 34 pitches. He throws 6 pitches to retire his final batter. The pitches to his final batter exceeded a pitch count limit of 35, so the official pitch count shall be recorded as 35 if the pitcher is removed from the game.

*The completion of batter rule does not apply to the MAXIMUM number of pitches. A pitcher must be removed when they get to the maximum of 75 pitches, regardless of the count of an at-bat.*

The manager shall designate a pitch count recorder to count the pitches each pitcher throws.

Managers shall announce to the umpire when a pitcher exceeds each pitch count limit.

Score Keepers from each team **MUST** compare pitch counts for each pitcher every ½ inning!

Winning Team Coach **MUST** submit Pitch Count online

#### **NOTE:**

Required Calendar day's rest rules per Pitch Count tier DO carryover from regular season to playoffs and DO carryover from one playoff round to the next.

**Game protests are not allowed in ITBL.**

# *ITBL Pitching Rules*

## *Regular Season & Playoffs*

### **2023 MAJORS PITCH COUNT RULES**

In order to minimize the risk of injury, the ITBL has adopted the following pitching rules:

#### **Pitch count rules:**

If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 51 - 65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 36 - 50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 21 - 35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.

If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no rest is required.

**The maximum number of pitches in a single game is: Majors (10-12U): 85 pitches**

**Pitcher to Catcher restriction:** Pitchers are limited to 50 pitches if they will be moved to catcher during the same game. If a pitcher exceeds the 50 pitch-count limit while facing his or her final batter they may complete the batter and still catch.

**Completion of batter rule:** If a pitcher reaches a pitch-count limit while facing his final batter, the pitcher may continue to throw until the batter reaches base, is put out, or the third out is made to complete the half-inning, and the pitcher's pitch count then shall be recorded as the pitch count limit. For example, a pitcher begins pitching to his final batter with a pitch count of 34 pitches. He throws 6 pitches to retire his final batter. The pitches to his final batter exceeded a pitch count limit of 35, so the official pitch count shall be recorded as 35 if the pitcher is removed from the game.

***The completion of batter rule does not apply to the MAXIMUM number of pitches. A pitcher must be removed when they get to the maximum of 85 pitches, regardless of the count of an at-bat.***

The manager shall designate a pitch count recorder to count the pitches each pitcher throws.

Managers shall announce to the umpire when a pitcher exceeds each pitch count limit.

Score Keepers from each team **MUST** compare pitch counts for each pitcher every ½ inning!

Winning Team Coach **MUST** submit Pitch Count online

#### **NOTE:**

Required Calendar day's rest rules per Pitch Count tier DO carryover from regular season to playoffs and DO carryover from one playoff round to the next.

**Game protests are not allowed in ITBL.**