



*Gompers Park Athletic
Association*

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2023 GENERAL RULES

MEMBERSHIP

All Parents of paid up players listed on official rosters for a given year are considered Members.

GOVERNING BOARD

The league shall be governed by a Board of Directors, elected from and by the membership, on a volunteer basis. The Board shall consist of the following: President, Vice-President for each Division, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Umpire-in-Chief, Equipment Manager, Booster Manager, Awards Manager, Sponsor Manager, Uniform Manager, and any Chairperson for any Committees active during the baseball/softball year. Officers are elected for one year terms, but may be re-elected an unlimited number of times.

DIVISIONS

The league shall be divided as follows:

BASEBALL

Pony Division ages 14 - 17.

Major Baseball Division ages 11 - 13

Minor Baseball Division ages 9 and 10

8-Ball Division ages 7 and 8

SOFTBALL

Major Softball ages 13 - 18

Intermediate Softball ages 10 - 12

Junior Softball ages 7 - 9

BOYS and GIRLS DIVISION

Tee-Ball Division ages 5 and 6

Player's age on May 1st of the current year determines eligibility for Divisions. All boys and girls who register and pay all required fees are eligible to play, regardless of playing ability.

MANAGERS AND COACHES

Teams shall be managed by adult volunteers, usually a player's parent from the team. Minimum age for a manager is 21; minimum age for the coaches is 18. There will be only one official manager and two official coaches per team. Managers and coaches and their children are automatically on the same team. Every manager and coach shall provide the necessary information for a background check before practices and games start. A manager or coach must be at every practice and game. Practices and games can not occur without at least one of them in attendance. **Managers and/or coaches cannot call off a game for any reason.**

TEAMS

Teams shall be formed by means of a draft, conducted each year before the official start date of April 1st. All players registered at that time shall be included in the draft. Late registrants will be added to teams as space allows. Each team is allowed to hold players from their prior year team. If a manager is taking over a team from the prior year due to the Manager of the prior year's team not managing, then that manager can hold the players from the prior team. Children of managers and coaches are automatically considered holds. The limit for holds is 5 players. Any sibling who is not one of the 5 holds must be drafted.

LENGTH OF GAMES

The following are the length of games for all divisions:

- Tee-Ball: 4 innings or 1.5 hours
- 8-Ball and Junior Girls: 5 innings or 2 hours, no standings, tie games allowed
- Minor Baseball and Intermediate Softball: 6 innings or 2 hours, standings, tie game rules (see division rules)
- Major Baseball: 6 innings, standings, no time limits
- Pony and Major Softball: 7 innings, standings, no time limits

FORFEIT TIME

Forfeit time for all games shall be 15 minutes after the official scheduled starting time. (Exception: This time may vary only on agreement among two opposing managers and the Home Plate Umpire.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS

A team can play with 8 players. When starting the game with 8 players, the 9th batter in the lineup is an out. The pitcher must throw 3 pitches (which will be strikes), as if there is a batter in the box. The ball is live and runners can advance at their own risk. Once the 9th player shows up they will be inserted into the lineup and will be put in the field immediately. If a team starts with 9 and then a player leaves, the out is taken in that spot. If a player leaves due to injury and a team now has 8 players, no out is taken for the 9th spot. If a team falls below 8 players, the game is immediately forfeited.

SUBSTITUTIONS

1. When less than nine members of a team are present for a game, the manager may call up a Gompers Park rostered player from the division immediately below theirs of to make nine players. (Major Softball can only call up from Intermediate Softball). A forfeiture of a game occurs when a team has seven or less players. On the 3rd occurrence of this situation, for any one team, after a report from the Vice-President, the Board of Directors may review for possible action to remedy the situation.
2. Substitutes may not be used as part of the battery for Pony and Major Softball. Substitutes may only play the outfield for all other divisions.
3. Substitutes must bat at the end of the line up and not before any rostered players. If a rostered player arrives late, then that player will bat after the substitute.
4. Substitutes from baseball divisions for baseball and softball divisions for softball.
5. Substitutes will abide by rules of division in which they are substituting.
6. Substitutes can play on any team that calls for a specific game.
7. If a substitute is called up for a game and for any reason there are now ten or more rostered players of the team that called the substitute up, the substitute can not play for the team that called him/her up. The manager must use his or her best efforts to not have the situation occur, since it is not fair to the player that has come to the game as a substitute. The substitute would be eligible to play on another team that was short on players, if this situation occurred.

8. Managers are expected to work together to field full teams for all games. For example, under no circumstances should a team with ten players (nine regular rostered players of that team and one call-up) win by forfeit over a team that has only seven or eight rostered players. The other team should transfer the call-up to the other team and the game played to completion.
9. When call-ups play in a game, they must play at least ½ of the game in the field and bat the entire game.

FIELD REGULATIONS

1. The team listed second on the schedule is considered the Home Team. The Home Team is responsible for setting up the bases and pitcher's mound and will occupy the third base dugout.
2. No smoking and **ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** will be allowed on the field or in the dugouts at anytime. This applies to all spectators as well as managers, coaches, umpires and parents. Failure to comply with the alcohol regulation can result in forfeiture of the game, suspensions from the league, or at worst, arrest. (Alcohol is prohibited by the law on Park District Property.)
3. No one except rostered players, managers and coaches are allowed in the dugout during the game.
4. *Only 2 coaches for the batting team are allowed on the field during the game. All other coaches and players not in the field or batting must remain in the dugout.*
5. Players are required to be at the field 30 minutes before game time. This allows proper time for warm-up.
6. No one will be permitted to stand or sit behind the backstop during the game. Exception: At Gompers Park fields, the on-deck batter is allowed behind the backstop in the on-deck cage.
7. Each team's spectators will be responsible for keeping their area cleaned of empty cans, food wrappers, etc., following the game.
8. A contact avoidance rule will be enforced. Any deliberate, forceful or intentional contact with a fielder will result in the runner being called "out" regardless of the location of the ball. **REMEMBER:** it is the responsibility of the runner to avoid the fielder whether the fielder is fielding a batted ball, receiving a thrown ball or tagging a runner. If the fielder impedes the runner, interference will be called on the fielder and the appropriate base or bases will be awarded to the runner, but under **NO** circumstances should the fielder be considered "fair game" to the runner.
9. An overthrow is a dead ball. An overthrow is defined as a ball thrown beyond the boundaries of the field. The runner is entitled to the base he is facing and advancing towards plus one, unless specified differently in Division specific rules
10. A pitcher is allowed 5 pitches between innings. Any new pitcher will be allowed 8.
11. On any ball hit to the outfield fence at Big Gompers, the fielder must get to the spot where the ball landed and attempt to find it. If they cannot easily find it, the fielder will throw their hands up and the umpire will award the batter the base they are approaching. A ball that bounces over the fence is a ground rule double. A ball that clears the fence on the fly is a home run.

UNIFORMS

1. Uniforms are to be worn in regular season games only, not for practice.
 - (A) Uniform is hat/visor, shirt, socks & pants/shorts approved by the Association. Athletic shoes must be worn. No other head apparel will be allowed.
 - (B) Player without full uniform will not be allowed to play. **EXCEPTION:** In the event of a last minute substitution managers must agree if player can play without uniform.
2. Uniform shirts must be tucked in at all times. Failure to comply with this rule will be as follows: Batter will be called out if this is noticed before the batter has taken a swing. If the play has happened and this is noticed, then the batter will not be called out, but must fix the shirt. A fielder will be warned once and removed from the game for 1 inning if shirt continues to not be tucked in.
3. All boys are required to wear an athletic supporter and protective cup at all practices and games. No boy will be allowed to play or practice without a supporter and cup.

4. All players are required to wear a helmet when at bat or on the bases, during the games and practices. Intentional removal of a helmet by a batter or base runner, while the play is in progress, will result in that player being called "OUT." (Umpire judgment).
5. A catcher's mask must be worn by any player who warms up the pitcher, whether during practice, before a game or during a game.
6. All batters must remove jacket, sweater, sweatshirt, etc. so that the uniform number is visible while batting. (In cold weather, a jacket or sweater may be worn over the uniform shirt on the bases and in the field.)
7. No metal spikes or opened toe shoes shall be allowed.
8. **A team warning should be made during "ground rules" regarding jewelry. Absolutely NO jewelry is to be worn by any player during practice or games. Any player caught wearing jewelry during the game while on the playing field or in the dugout will be ejected from the game. This rule is for the safety of all players on the field and will be strictly enforced. Band-Aids or other forms of concealment will not be allowed.**

ATTENDANCE

1. A player must notify his manager ahead of time if he/she will be unable to be at a practice or a game.
2. Unexcused absence from two consecutive games or practices or both may result in suspension from the team (per Board approval), with possible dismissal from the league. There will be no refund of the registration fee.
3. No player may be dropped from a team without prior notification in writing and a hearing before the Board of Directors.

MANAGERS AND COACHES FIELD DECORUM

1. The manager or acting manager will be the only person to hold discussions with the umpire once the game is underway. No one other than the manager or acting manager will be permitted to approach the umpire. This applies to players, spectators, parents and other coaches. Failure to comply with this rule may result in forfeiture of the game.
2. Managers are responsible for the behavior of all their players, coaches, and fans.
3. Managers and coaches should wear team shirt and hat at all games.
4. Only the team on offense may have a coach in each coach's box at first and third bases. All other coaches, offensive and defensive, must remain in the dugout, excluding special Tee-Ball rules.
5. No verbal abuse of any kind should be allowed by one team toward the other. (Opposing team should not say "swing" when opponents are at bat.) Derogatory remarks about a specific batter to the pitcher should be strongly discouraged. (He can't hit! or "Easy Out!" for example) **IN THE INTEREST OF SPORTSMANSHIP, ONLY POSTIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO ONE'S OWN TEAMMATES SHOULD BE ALLOWED.**
6. At the conclusion of the game, teams should line up behind their managers and, in a sportsmanlike manner, shake hands at the center of the field.
7. Managers will instruct their players not to spit in their hands before shaking hands with the opposing team. Any players found guilty of spitting in his hand may be subject to suspension of one or more games. (Per board approval)
8. No cell phones allowed on while on the playing field.

INJURIES

When a player is injured a time out will be called immediately by the umpire. Runners will be entitled to the base(s) as determined appropriate by the umpire. Home Plate Umpire's decision is final on all matters related to injuries.

WEATHER

1. Unless notified by their manager or the league, all players must report to the playing field as scheduled. In the event the field is determined to be playable by the umpire, the forfeit rule goes into effect automatically.
2. Some games may be permitted on the grass; subject to Board Approval.
3. The decision to cancel a game will be delayed as long as possible, right up to game time, if necessary.
4. If managers of both teams do not agree on playing conditions, the Home Plate Umpire will decide whether or not to play the game.
5. All canceled games will be scheduled for the next available open date.
6. Canceled games must be reported to the Division Vice-President and the Umpire-in-Chief immediately by the manager of the Home Team.
7. Once the game has begun, stopping, or cancelling the game becomes the responsibility of the Home Plate Umpire.

UMPIRES

1. All decisions by the umpire are final. Umpires have the authority to eject players, managers, coaches and spectators from the game. They also have authority to call a game a forfeit if actions of the spectators or participants warrant.
2. There are no appeals. Umpire has final judgment on all calls.
3. The Home Plate Umpire has the final word on any play. In certain situations, he/she may confer with the base umpire if requested to do so by a manager or coach. In those cases, the decision may or may not be overturned depending on the outcome of the conference. The Home Plate Umpire still has the final decision in these cases.
4. Umpires and base coaches are part of the playing field. If a batted or thrown ball hits an umpire or coach, the ball is still in play.

PROTESTS

1. There are no protests

EJECTIONS

- 1 Any manager, coach, or player that gets ejected from the game will automatically be suspended for the next game. There are no exceptions. NOTE: Until the umpire leaves the playing field you can still be thrown out
2. Any person that gets ejected will have to leave the playing area. Playing area is dependent on the umpire's judgment.
3. IF MANAGER OR COACH GETS EJECTED FROM A GAME THEY CAN NOT MANAGE OR COACH ANY TEAM IN ANY DIVISION UNTIL THEY HAVE SERVED THERE SUPENSION FOR THAT DIVISION THEY WERE EJECTED FROM. THIS INCLUDES IF THE MANAGER OR COACH IS A SPECTATOR AT ANOTHER GAME IN ANOTHER DIVISION.

SPECTATORS

1. Only the on deck batter is allowed behind the backstops.
2. Any problems or questions regarding the interpretation of rules should be directed to the Division Vice President or the President.
3. Any problems or questions regarding the umpires should be directed to the Umpire in Chief or the President.

PLAYOFFS

In divisions that have playoffs, seeding will be based on record. In case of a tie, the tiebreakers are: 1) head to head record; 2) runs allowed head to head; 3) coin flip.

The Home Plate Umpire’s decision shall be binding and final on all matters not specifically covered in these preceding pages or in the specific division rules. The Board of Directors retains the right to interpret, amend or add to these rules at any time.

STATE LAW (720 ILCS 5/12 – 4 FROM CH.38 PAR. 17)

Knows the individual assaulted to be a sports official or coach at any level of competition and the act causing the assault to the sports official or coach occurred within an athletic facility or an indoor or outdoor playing field or within the immediate vicinity of the athletic facility or an indoor or outdoor playing field at which the sports official or coach was an active participant in the athletic contest held at the athletic facility. For the purposes of this paragraph “sports official” means a person at an athletic contest who enforces the rules of the contest, such as an umpire or referee, and coach means a person recognized as a coach by the sanctioning authority that conducted the athletic contest.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

ANY CONDUCT DETRIMENTAL TO THE LEAGUE WILL BE GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE DISMISAL FROM THE GOMPERS PARK ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION