



NEW PROVIDENCE GREEN AND GOLD LEAGUE

GENERAL RULES and REGULATIONS (All Divisions)

- I. The New Providence Green League (*Gold Division, Green B Division, Green C Division, and 7u Division*) are governed by the [Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Rules of Baseball](#)
 - A. As a *developmental* baseball league, there are certain **NPGL General Rules and Regulations** that override the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth rulebooks in some areas.
 - B. In the absence of an NPGL Rule or Regulation, all Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth rules apply.
- II. **PARTICIPATION RULES**
 - A. The NPGL has implemented "Participation Rules" for all age groups and divisions. Our mission is to allow *every* player an opportunity to play baseball. The only way to develop baseball players and give them a great experience is to LET THEM PLAY. NPGL Participation Rules override any rules in the Ripken/Ruth rulebooks.
 - B. **Batting Line-Up and Extra Hitters:**
 1. All uniformed players in attendance are required to be placed in the batting order (Roster Batting).
 2. An injured uniformed player in attendance will not be required to bat unless the injured player enters the game into any defensive position on the field, then that player is required to bat.
 3. If a player is required to leave the game, his place in the batting order shall be skipped and no out shall be recorded, as long as at least nine (9) batters remain in the team's batting order.
 4. The *Roster Batting* requirement is mandatory only to the number of players on your opponent's roster.
 - a) Example: Team A has 11 players; Team B has 13 players. Team A is

required to bat all 11. Team B is required to bat 11.

- b) ALL PLAYERS MUST PLAY A MINIMUM OF 3 INNINGS OUT OF 6 AND A MINIMUM OF 4 INNINGS OUT OF 7 WHEN NOT ROSTER BATTING ALL UNIFORMED PLAYERS TO EQUAL THE SIZE OF YOUR OPPONENT'S ROSTER.

C. Playoff Participation Rules:

1. Any Coach who asks any roster player to not to participate in the playoffs shall cause their team to be disqualified.
2. A team may use one (1) non-roster player in a game in the event that the team has 8 or less regular players available.
 - a) Any such substitute player cannot pitch, and the Head Coach must identify the player to the opponent before the start of the game.
 - b) Any such substitute player must be placed last in the batting lineup. c. Any such substitute player cannot take playing time away from a roster player.

D. Eligibility Rules:

1. In order for a player to be eligible to play in the Green B or Green C Divisions he/she must not be a member of a town's "All-Star", "A" or "tournament" team. For 14-year-olds, American Legion is considered to be an "A" team.
2. A team may use one (1) such player in a game in the event that the team has only 7 or 8 players from its official roster available. In this case, the "A" player cannot pitch, and the team's coach must identify the player to the opposing Head Coach at the home plate Umpire meeting before the start of the game.
 - a) In the case of a town with only 1 traveling baseball team in the summer, this rule will be considered to have been waived at the time of their entry into the league.
3. In the case of a Green "B" player playing up for a Gold "A" team, the above rules are likewise in effect. A Gold team can use such a player in a game in the event that the team has only 7 or 8 players from its own roster available. In this case, the "B" player cannot pitch and the team's Head Coach must identify the players to the opposing Head Coach before the start of the game.

4. Independent teams based in a town are not considered to be an "A" team for purposes of determining eligibility for the Green B or C Divisions as long as that team does not enter district tournaments, Cal Ripken tournaments etc.
5. Tournament teams are subject to review by the NPGL Rules Official to determine eligibility for Green Division registration.

E. Re-Entry Rule/Free Substitution

1. Free defensive substitution: Teams may make unlimited defensive substitutions (from their entire roster, not just the players in the batting order) except at pitcher. Once a pitcher is removed, he/she may not return as a pitcher (though he/she may play any other position).
2. A courtesy runner may be used for a player injured during the at-bat or inning in which they were injured. The player making the last batted out will be used for this courtesy as well.

III. GENERAL RULES – All Age Levels

- A. Unless otherwise agreed upon by both managers, game time is 6:00 p.m. The Home Team shall have use of the field from 40 minutes before game time until 20 minutes before game time. The Visiting Team shall have use of the field from 20 minutes before game time until game time. If a field has a curfew, or a limit on the length of the game, the Home Team Head Coach must notify the Visiting Head Coach of the time limit during the pre-game meeting with the Umpire.
- B. **Games:** Please be aware that the schedule is *flexible*. NPGL coaches have unlimited latitude in agreeing to rescheduling of games.
 1. Eight (8) official games must be played out of a 10-game season to be eligible for postseason play. There are no exceptions to this rule.
 2. NPGL coaches are encouraged to be accommodating and understand the importance of playing games.
 3. NPGL coaches are encouraged to reschedule games early to middle of the season in order to avoid missed games.
 4. 5. Teams may start games with a **minimum of eight (8) players**. If players arrive late, they may only be added at the end of the batting order. If a team's batting order only contains eight players, an out shall be recorded each time

the ninth place in the order comes to bat.

5. **Forfeit time** shall be 30 minutes after the scheduled game time unless otherwise specified in a specific rule matrix for an age group or division. If a team does not field the minimum number of players by that time (8), they forfeit the contest.
6. **Mercy Rule:** NPGL uses a 10-run mercy rule after the losing team has at least completed its turn at bat in the 4th inning of a 6-inning game, or the 5th inning of a 7-inning game, or in any later inning in a regulation game.
7. **Infield Fly Rule:** The infield fly rule may be in effect at certain age levels, see the rules matrix for that level. There is no infield fly in 7U.
8. **Pitching Rules:** The New Providence Green League is a certified MLB Pitch Smart Select Compliance Organization. Pitching Rules are found on the NPGL website and/or as an addendum to these rules.
9. **Fields:** Some fields used by teams in NPGL do not conform to Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth or Little League specifications. Example: Fields may be unlined or poorly lined, may have short fences or no fences, may have no mound or a mound of incorrect height, etc.
 - a) All teams shall play on any field provided by the home team if irregular field conditions exist, as long as conditions do not create an unsafe playing environment as determined by the Umpire-in-Chief.
 - b) A double first base bag (white in fair territory, orange in foul territory) is permitted but not required. If a double-bag is used on any field the entire base (white and orange) is considered "safe" for base runners.
 - c) On-deck batters are permitted to prepare for their at bat in an enclosed on-deck circle or designated other areas.
 - (1) Local rules will apply for facilities and safety. If a particular field, for safety reasons, does not allow an on-deck hitter to swing a bat then no on-deck swinging is allowed.
 - (2) Coaches are responsible for maintaining a safe environment for all players and spectators when allowing an on-deck batter to swing a bat.

10. **Uniforms:** Numbered uniforms, identical in color, are required. Players who are not in uniform may nonetheless play in a game as long as they are on the official roster.

11. **Coaches:**

- a) Adults may coach both first and third base.
- b) The use of a protective helmet for adult coaches is recommended.
- c) Players or Base Coaches under 18 YO are required to wear a protective batting or coach helmet while on the field.
- d) NPGL does not limit the number of coaches on a team.
- e) Coaches may warm up pitchers and players between innings. Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a catcher's mask or batting helmet.

12. **Local Rules:** In many cases, participating towns have "local" rules which must be respected. An example of this is time-limit on the length of a game. This is common at fields with lights where the town is trying to play multiple games on a field and/or have a "lights-out" curfew. It is imperative that the home team Head Coach notify the opposing coach of any such local rules prior to the start of a game.

13. If a game is suspended and must be continued the same players must be used. Players may not be added to a roster for a continuation.

14. The "Mercy Rule" is also in effect for postseason play.

15. **Postseason Official Game:** Postseason Games are considered official when all "Play-By" dates have been exhausted.

- a) Postseason games are scheduled on a "Game Date" and a "Play-By Date" that usually spans 3 days. If a game has not been completed, the teams must continue playing until the last Play-By Date has expired, then 4 innings have been completed of a 6-inning game, or 5 innings are completed of a 7-inning game.