

BILL McCUTCHIN

SKAGIT VALLEY DREAM FIELD INVITE

American Legion "A" Baseball Tournament

General Playing Rules & Guidelines

www.skagitcounty.net/parks

Sportsmanship, Fair Play and "Adult like" conduct is expected from all players, fans and spectators at all times.

Official playing rules are the American Legion Rules of Baseball, with the following noted or added exceptions:

1. First team listed is home team and will occupy the third base dugout; unless a team playing a doubleheader already has the third base dugout occupied they will not switch dugouts.
2. When time allows, each team is allowed 10 minutes for infield/outfield.
3. Teams and umpires are expected to be ready to play at scheduled game time or earlier if prior game is completed early.
4. **Games are 6 innings in length with no time limit.**
5. **Extra Innings:** Teams will start their half of extra innings with a runner on second base. Runner shall be the player who made the LAST OFFICIAL PLATE APPEARANCE the previous inning.
6. **"Mercy Rule":** 8 run-ahead rule after 5 innings.
7. **Substitutions and Re-entry:** follow the same guidelines as NFHS. Starters only may re-enter (once) after being substituted for.
8. **Courtesy Runners:** JUNIOR AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL may use the courtesy runner rule for their respective Junior American Legion program: "Teams have the option to use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher at any time. The umpire-in-chief shall record courtesy runner participation and announce it to the official scorer. For speed-up purposes, it is recommended that the courtesy runner be used with two men out in all games." CLARIFICATION – The courtesy runner rule does not apply to a pinch-hitter for the catcher unless the catcher has been re-entered. A team may not use the same runner for the pitcher and catcher in the same inning. The courtesy runner may not be removed from a base to become a pinch hitter. A player removed from the game may not be used as a courtesy runner. Should the courtesy runner pinch hit, pinch run or enter the game at any position, he will no longer be eligible to be a courtesy runner. A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered an illegal substitute.
9. **Designated Hitter:** JUNIOR AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL may use the following designated hitter (DH) Rule for their respective Junior American Legion program: "A hitter may be (not mandatory) designated for any one starting player (not just pitchers) and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game. A starting defensive player cannot be listed as the designated hitter in the starting lineup. A designated hitter for said player shall be selected prior to the start of the game, and his name shall be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief and to the official scorer. Failure to declare a designated hitter prior to the game precludes the use of a designated hitter in that game. If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the designated hitter is used, that player becomes the new designated hitter. A designated hitter and the player for whom he is batting are locked into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation." CLARIFICATION – The role of the designated hitter is terminated for the remainder of the game when a) the defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the designated hitter batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits or pinch-runs for the designated hitter, or b) the designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position.

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10. **Fakes to Third Base:** NFHS – 3 to 1 move is legal.
11. **Warm-up Pitches:** Maximum of 5 warm-up pitches between innings for pitchers.
12. **Pitching/Innings:** teams are trusted to monitor their own pitchers for innings pitched.
13. **FORCE SLIDE RULE** is same as NCAA (8.4) – On any force play, the runner must slide on the ground and in a direct line between two bases. It is permissible for the sliders momentum to carry him through the base in the baseline extended. Contact with a fielder is legal, and interference shall not be called if the runner makes a legal slide directly to the base and the baseline extended. If contact occurs on top of the base as a result of a pop-up slide, this contact is legal. PENALTY for force slide infraction is to call the runner out for the interference and the Batter-Runner also, regardless if the defense could have completed the double play.
14. **INTENTIONAL WALKS:** as per NFHS rules, the pitcher will NOT throw pitches once decision is made to intentionally walk the batter. The batter goes directly to first base.
15. **Balks:** Rule follows the same guidelines as NFHS.
16. **Helmets:** Base coaches are required to wear a standard batting helmet, with or without earflaps (ejection for non-compliance after one warning).
17. **Bats:** Same as NFHS, wood is wood; any non-wood must have BBCOR certification marked on barrel of bat.
18. **Ejections:** Adults must leave (out of sight/sound). Players confined to dugout unless released by Head Coach. The coach/player must sit out the very next scheduled game.
19. **Appeal Plays:** Same procedure as NFHS.
20. Tournament Committee has the right to review and make final decisions on all matters concerning the tournament.

Pool Play Final Standings will be based on (in order):

- Won-Loss record in pool play
- Head to head competition
- Least runs allowed
- "Sudden Death" playoff..... if time allows)
- Coin flip

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED:

- *Hustle on and off the field...*with no time limit it is important to keep games moving along.
- Foul balls that leave the field or park on your dugout side need to be retrieved by your players or fans and returned!
- Please pick up your litter after games...THANKS!

Thank you for participating in the Skagit Valley Dream Field Invite. Good Luck...Have Fun!!