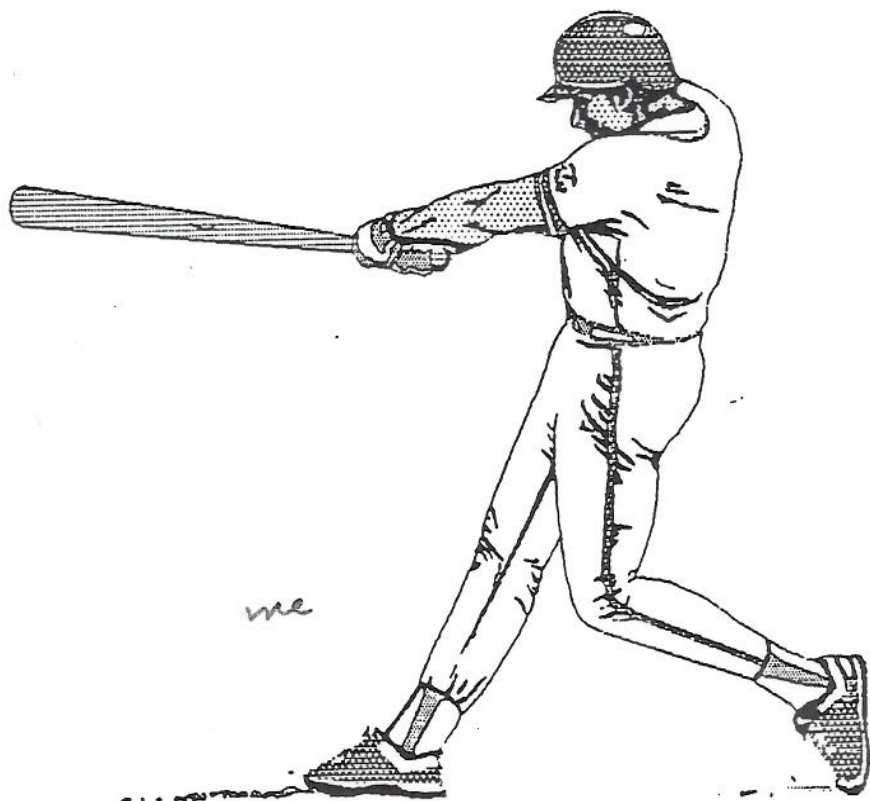


**NORTHEAST BASEBALL**  
**LEAGUE, INC.**



NORTHEAST BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC.

Constitution

Article 1

NAME

The name of the organization will be known as The Northeast Baseball League, Inc., a nonprofit organization.

Article 2

OBJECTIVE

The Purpose of the League is to provide an opportunity for playing amateur baseball between the ages of 16 and 18 years of age.

Article 3

POWERS

This League will have the power or right to enforce or curtail games of various teams and/or subdivisions of the League.

Article 4

MEMBERSHIP

This League will set up rules and regulations for yearly membership, and will charge a suitable fee as an entrance fee. All monies are to be handled by League Commissioner with an accounting thereof to the full League.

Article 5

OFFICERS

The League will have an 'overall' coordinator to be known as the League Commissioner, who will make decisions relative to supervising, coordinating, and perpetuating the League. Assisting him in these duties will be Division Directors representing their subdivision of the League, i.e., North, South, East, West. These directors will be chosen by respective teams of each subdivision. The League Commissioner will be chosen by the whole League - as a person who will best serve the League in its full capacity and with a full magnitude of what the job calls for. His term will be for one year starting in January following annual elections of the prior year. He will remain in office until an election is held.

Article 6

MEETINGS

Meetings will be called for in Spring and Fall, and at any special occasion that the League commissioner and/or League Directors deem necessary. Quorum should be over 50 percent of each League division represented including the Commissioner and Directors. Meetings will be called of all divisions collectively or only at division level. Commissioner need not be present at divisional meetings.

Article 7

AMENDMENTS

Amendments can be made with due notice with a two-thirds vote of League Divisions represented at full meeting with Commissioner, Directors, and team representatives voting. Notice of all regular and special meetings will be given with a 7-10 day notice. Directors will have only one vote if also representing a team in the League.

By Laws

Article 1

OFFICERS

The League will consist of a League Commissioner and a Director for each Division.

Article 2

ELIGIBILITY

Players are eligible to play up through age 18 years but cannot be nineteen years old before August 1 of each current playing year.

Article 3

DUES

Each team in the Northeast League will be required to send to League Commissioner (Northeast League) an entrance fee by the first of April. This will go to League treasury for expenses of League.

# NORTHEAST BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC.

## Northeast Baseball - Playing Rules

The league will play all games under the same set of rules as adopted by The American League of Professional Baseball. Official Baseball Rules, published by the Sporting News, is available at most sporting goods stores. Any exceptions to these official rules are listed as follows as amendments for our use in The Northeast Baseball League.

### Northeast Baseball Amendments

#### All-Star Games

1. An Annual All-Star Game between The North All-Stars and The South All-Stars will be played at the end of the fifth week of the regular season. This will give us the following weekend for a make up game if we get rain, without taking us into the final week of the season.
2. Players for the game will be selected by their respective coaches.
3. Managers for the game will come from the teams who finished first and second in their respective divisions from the season before. If a manager declines, it will fall to the manager of the next place team from the previous year.
4. Baseballs and two umpires for this game are provided by the league.
5. The site will vary from year to year alternating between a north division park and a south division park. We will try to obtain the nicer playing fields for this game.
6. Each team in the league should be represented by a player. The better teams with the better records can obviously have more players named than the weaker teams.
7. Where this is a showcase game for the best players in the league, all players should get to play in the game.
8. The All-Star will be a nine inning game in order to get all the players longer playing time.
9. The same rules that apply to the regular season and playoffs apply to the All-Star Game.
10. If a team drops out of the league prior to the All-Star Game, player eligibility for the dropped out team will be decided by a vote of the coaches in that division.

#### Baseballs

1. Game balls are provided by the home team. Figure on three to four balls per game (more on wet nights) and about six dozen for a season.

2. Top grade baseballs such as The American or National League Ball, Wilson A1010, or top grade Diamond Balls should be used.

### Bats

Aluminum baseball bats are allowed, not to exceed a barrel diameter of 2 3/4".

### Designated Hitter (DH)

1. The rule for the DH is the same as outlined in rule 6.10 of the major league rules. The variation in our league is that we may use the DH for any position player, not just the pitcher as it is in Pro Ball.
2. Keep in mind that you use a DH for a position, and not for an individual. If you start a game using the DH for your shortstop and you then move that shortstop to another position, you may no longer DH for him. You may continue to DH for the subsequent shortstop (providing he has not already been in the batting order) but the first shortstop who has moved into another position must now bat in either the DH slot or in the slot of the position he has assumed. The use of the DH would be terminated for that game.
3. If you do not use a DH at the start of a game, then you may not use one at all for that game.
4. Remember that the DH does not follow one player from position to position. It is for one position only for the entire game.

### Dress

1. All players must be in full uniforms (including stirrups).
2. All players should be in like uniforms.
3. American Legion uniforms are not permitted.
4. Basecoaches must be in full uniform. Coaches in street clothes are not permitted in the coaching boxes.

### Dues

1. An annual entrance fee will be paid to the league by each team by April 1 of the current playing year.
2. If this fee is not received by scheduling time of the current year, no games will be scheduled for that team. It will be considered a withdrawal from the league by that team.
3. If the league should cease to exist, the balance of monies left in the league account after expenses is to be evenly divided amongst those teams which were actively participating in the league at the time of its failure.

Fields

1. Fields should be lined and in good playing condition with mounds and batters boxes smoothed out.
2. Bases should be tied down during games.

Forfeits

1. A team will forfeit a game if it can not field nine roster players in full uniform within fifteen minutes of the scheduled start of the game.
2. The forfeiting team is responsible for paying the umpires. Whether you are the home team or the visitor, if you forfeit, you pay.

Games

1. Games are scheduled for 6:00 PM starts unless otherwise stated.
2. Playoff games are scheduled for 5:45 PM unless otherwise arranged.
3. All games for the regular season and playoffs are seven inning games.
4. For a game to be an official game it must go five complete innings with the visiting team ahead or four and a half innings with the home team ahead. The losing team must have had five complete at bats for a game to be official. Any game that ends before it is an official game does not count and must be replayed in its entirety.
5. Any game that is an official game, but ends because of darkness or weather before it goes seven innings, counts as a complete game, with the exception of any playoff games which must go the entire seven innings.
6. Games which are official games, be they five innings, seven innings, or extra innings, and end in a tie, count as a tie with each team receiving one point in the standings.
7. Playoff games which end in a tie after seven or more innings must be replayed in their entirety.
8. If a team drops out of the league after part of the season it forfeits the remainder of its games. Any games it has played already, count in the standings.
9. Rainouts or postponements should be made up immediately, where possible at end of the same week they were rained out in. I do not want to see postponements from the first or second week of the season hanging around at the end of the season. If a team refuses to make up a game it is in danger of forfeiting that game. I will not postpone playoffs because of one or two teams who are negligent and who do not make up their games.

10. There is a cutoff date for playoffs, the same as there is for State Tourney Play in high school. A team has until midnight on the day playoffs are scheduled to start to make up its games. At that time the two teams in the two divisions with the highest point totals will be the playoff teams. If we have several rainouts during the last week of the season, then and only then will I postpone playoffs.
11. Make ups should be arranged with the home team finding a mutually acceptable date and then arranging for umpires.
12. Teams should contact their division director at least once every two weeks in order to keep an update on records and standings.
13. Games usually begin around the start of the second week of June and then go seven weeks to the end of the third week of July. Playoffs then begin for the next two weeks and everything should be over with by the end of the first week of August.

### Intentional Walks

You may intentionally walk any batter at any time by simply telling the other coach and the umpire. You are not required to pitch the four balls to the batter.

### Limited Substitution Rule

The league plays a limited substitution rule, for all games, including the All-Star game, which works as follows.

1. A starting player may be removed from the game once and then returned to the game as long as he returns to the same spot in the batting order (Except the pitcher, see pitching rules).
2. Once a substitute player has entered the game and then been removed, he may not play again in that game.
3. If a starter is put back into a game and then removed a second time, he may no longer play in that game.
4. A pitcher who is removed from the game to the bench, whether it is on the first or second trip to the mound in an inning by the manager, may not return to that game and pitch, although he may return and play a position providing he goes back in the same spot in the batting order. If the pitcher was being DH'd for and he is removed to the bench, he may go back into the game in a position, providing he assumes the spot in the batting order of the man he is replacing.
5. At no time may a player re-enter a game and bat in a different spot in the order.

### Pitching Rules

1. If a pitcher is removed from the game to the bench on either the first or second trip to the mound in the same inning by the manager, the pitcher may not pitch again in that game.

2. If a pitcher is removed from the mound and put into a position on the manager's first trip to the mound in an inning, that pitcher may at a later time return to the mound and pitch again in that game.

**NOTE:** If the pitcher is removed from the mound on the manager's second trip in the same inning, even if the pitcher is moved to another position he may not pitch again in that game.

### Player Eligibility

1. The league is set up for players between the ages of 16 and 18 years of age. A player may not assume the age of 19 years old prior to August 1 of the current playing year.
2. Players must be residents of the town for which they play, or be attending a school in the town for which they play.
3. Players under 16 are eligible.
4. All players must be on their teams roster.
5. It is recommended that all players are or have been members of their high school baseball team.

### Playoffs

All playoff games, to include both semi-final series and the championship series, are to be played on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of the last week of July and the first week of August.

### Playoff Eligibility - Players

For a player to be eligible to participate in post season playoff competition he must meet the following criteria.

1. He must be on the team roster which is to be submitted to the league by July 1 of the current playing year.
2. The player must have appeared in at least one third (1/3) of his team's regular season games. If the regular season was 18 games, the player must have appeared in 6 of them. This appearance could be as a pinch hitter, pinch runner, defensive sub, relief pitcher, etc. There is no rule governing how much playing time or how many innings each player must receive in each game. This is up to the discretion of the coach. This rule is intended to stop the practice of importing ringers for the playoffs. On a few past occasions, teams have brought a player to the playoffs who has not played in one inning of regular season play.

### Playoff Format

1. Playoffs will commence at the close of the regular season. This is usually at the beginning of the last week in July.
2. The first and second place teams from each division are in the



playoffs. These will be the two teams from each division with the highest total points in the standings.

3. The format has the first place team from the north play the second place team from the south, while the first place team from the south plays the second place team from the north. Both these semi-final rounds are a best two out of three. The first place teams have the home field advantage in games one and three, and the second place team has the home field advantage in game two.
4. The winners of these two series then play each other in a best two out of three for the league championship. This is usually during the first week of August. If a first place team plays a second place team, the first place team gets the home field advantage in games one and three, the second place team has home field in game two. If two first place teams or two second place teams play for the championship, the team with the higher winning percentage gets home field in games one and three. If the two teams have identical records, the tie breaking procedure would be decided by best record in head to head competition, and if still tied, by a coin flip with the league president and both coaches present.

### Protests

1. You may protest a game by informing the umpires and the opposing coach. You may protest a rule violation, a rule interpretation, an ineligible player, etc. You cannot protest an umpires judgement call.
2. You must notify the league president as soon as possible after the game of the protest. The league president will confer with the division director and render a decision.
3. Remember that if you win a protest, it is not an automatic win or a forfeiture. It means that the game is to be replayed from the point the protest was lodged, with the final outcome of the continuation counting in the standings.
4. Use of a ringer or an ineligible player in a situation where that player was a team's ninth player can result in forfeiture of that game.

### Publicity

1. The winning team is responsible for notifying the local newspaper with the scores and highlights of the game. If your local paper runs your scores and takes an interest in the league, please furnish them with the information. We have received a lot of good press over the years from the Lowell Sun, Wakefield Item, Woburn Times, and Reading Chronicle.

### Rosters

1. Rosters will be for a maximum of eighteen (18) players.
2. Rosters must be submitted to the league president by July 1 of the current playing year. (Let's face it, if you don't know by

July 1, which is over three weeks and between seven to ten games into the season, who is going to be a permanent part of your team, you are already in deep trouble)

3. Rosters will include the name, address, and DOB of your players. Anyone on this roster must appear in one third of your regular season games to be eligible to participate in any playoff games.
4. If a player has missed part of a season due to injury or serious illness, this eligibility can be looked at on an individual basis.
5. No player may play under an assumed name.

### Standings

1. Standings are computed on a point system. A win gives you two points, a tie gives you one point.
2. The two teams with the highest point total in each division at the end of the regular season make the playoffs.

### Suspended Games

1. Regular season games that are official (went the required 4 1/2 or 5 innings), but do not go 7 innings, count as complete games.
2. Playoff games that fall into this category must be completed to 7 innings.
3. Playoff games that end in a tie after 7 or more innings must be replayed in their entirety.

### Suspensions

1. Any player or coach who is thrown out of a game by an umpire is finished for that game, but may return for then next game.
2. Any player or coach ejected for the second time in the same season must sit out the next following game as well.
3. Any player or coach who assaults an umpire, another coach, or another player, will be suspended from the next three ball games. A second offense of this type will result in that player or coach being suspended from the league for the remainder of the season.

### Tie Breakers

1. In the event of two teams being tied in the standings at the end of the regular season, the tie breaking procedure goes to highest winning percentage, then to head to head competition, then to a coin flip, with both coaches and league president being present.
2. If two teams tie for a division title in points, the team who wins the tie breakers will be seeded as #1 and the other team as #2. **Example:** Teams A & B tie in the north with 24 points each. Team A is 12-4 for 24 points, Team B is 11-3-2 for 24 points.

Teams A has won more of its games giving it the higher winning percentage and the first place seed for the playoffs. If their records were equal, it would go to best record between each other, and if still tied the coin flip would decide playoff seeding.

3. This same procedure is used to determine home field advantage if two first place teams or two second place teams with identical records face each other in the league championship series.
4. If two teams tie for second place with the same point total, the tie breakers will be used to determine a home team. A one game playoff would then be played, on the final weekend of the season, to determine which team would go into the playoffs as the second place team, and which would end their season.
5. If three teams tie for first place in a division the tie breakers are used to determine a bye. The team winning the bye would be the first place seed in the playoffs based on the tie breakers. The remaining two teams would play a one game playoff to determine who would get second place, and who would end their season. The tie breakers would also be used to determine home field advantage for this one game playoff.
6. If three teams tie for second place, the tie breakers are used to determine a bye. The remaining two teams play a one game playoff. The loser is eliminated. The winner then plays a one game playoff with the team who had the bye. The winner goes to the playoffs as the second place team. If this should happen the playoffs would have to be backed up in order to play the two playoff games.

### Umpires

1. There will be two umpires assigned to all games. This includes regular season, playoffs, and All-Star Games.
2. Home plate umpire is the head umpire.
3. Umpires are to be paid prior to the start of the game.
4. If only one umpire shows up, game is to be played with that umpire receiving his fee plus half of the others.
5. Only regular league umpires are to be used. It should be someone listed on the league list of officials from which the umpire in chief assigns from.
6. Once a game begins, the officials receive full fee, even if the game is rained out in the first inning.
7. If the umpires show up at the field, but the game does not begin because of weather, forfeit, etc., the officials will receive half of their fee each.
8. If you are going to cancel a game you must notify the umpires one hour prior to the scheduled game time. If you do not and they go to the field you owe them half a fee.

9. Once the game begins the decision to play or not rests with the umpires. Before the game begins the decision to play or not rests with the home team.
10. Any team which forfeits a game must pay the umpires.
11. Any team which drops out of the league and forfeits the remainder of their season will not be held responsible for paying umpires, as long as those umpires involved are notified of the cancelled games prior to one hour before such games.

Uniforms

1. All players must be in full, like uniforms to play in a game.
2. Basecoaches must be in full uniform to coach on bases.
3. Batting Helmets must be worn by players while at bat and on base.
4. Catchers must wear a mask while warming up pitchers.

# NORTHEAST BASEBALL LEAGUE, INC.

## Amendments To Constitution

1. Base coaches during a game may be adults without uniforms if both coaches agree to do this prior to the start of the game. If both do not agree, we then adhere to the rule which states "Basecoaches must be in full uniform to coach on the bases."
2. During the semi-final rounds of the playoffs, the home team will pay for the playoff umpires. Due to budget restraints, the league will only be paying for the umpires during the championship series of the playoffs.
3. Baserunners coming into any base or home plate must slide or try to run around any fielder waiting to make a play on them. There can no longer be any collisions with fielders in an attempt to make the fielder drop the ball. If such a collision happens, the runner is out, even if the fielder drops the ball, and if in the umpire's judgement the collision was viciously intentional, the runner may be ejected from the game.
4. Inter-divisional games for 1994. Where we are all playing different teams from the other division, a win in an inter-divisional game receives one point in the standings instead of the usual two points. A loss or tie receives no points.
5. Legion or Senior Babe Ruth players who are on your rosters, who are only playing with you part time, must appear in one half of your regular season games and have a minimum of plate appearances that are double that number of games, to be eligible for playoff competition. If the season is 16 games, these players must appear in 8 of them and have at least 16 plate appearances. Using such an ineligible player will result in a forfeit of that playoff game. Non-League games do not count, they must appear in one half of your regular season league games, furthermore once a Northeast League game begins, it is illegal for a player to come to the field from a Legion or Senior Babe Ruth game, and then enter the Northeast game, after it has begun.  
  
**NOTE:** This was voted in to prevent the small number of teams who were using certain part time players on their rosters, having them show up at the minimum number of games in the last inning, pinch hitting them a total of 5 or 6 times in the entire season, and then using them in the playoffs if their other season was over.
6. All teams participating in the league are required to carry insurance covering on field and travel liability on all players and coaches. You may obtain this insurance on your own or through the league. You must show proof of such insurance before start of each current season, or your games will be cancelled. Be sure names of all players and coaches appear on your roster which must be submitted by July 1 of each playing year.
7. Any team who forfeits more than two games in a season can be suspended from the league.