

2019 BAC In-House Summer Baseball – Minors

Code of Conduct

All players, coaches, and spectators are expected to act responsibly and demonstrate sportsmanlike behavior at all BAC and partner organization In-House Summer Baseball games, practices or other activities. A primary goal of the In-House Summer Baseball Program is to help our children grow and mature through participation in baseball. At all activities we want the players to have fun, to get as much playing time as possible, to be put in positions where he or she can improve and experience success, and to learn and exhibit good sportsmanship.

BAC PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND LEAGUE LEVELS

AGE LEVEL	BAC	VAA	PLAY	EAGAN	EASTVIEW
Mites (K-1 Grade)	•				
Squirts (2-3 Grade)	•	•			
Minors (4-5 Grade)	•	•	•		
Majors (6-7 Grade)	•	•	•	•	•
Ponies (8-9 Grade)	•	•	•	•	•
Seniors (10-12 Grade)	•	•	•	•	•

PLAYER CONDUCT

Any player who:

- ◆ Demonstrates poor sportsmanship through language, gestures, or other displays intended to degrade the activity or participates including use of profanity or verbal assaults.
- ◆ Intentionally throws equipment (bat or helmet).
- ◆ Intentionally disregards Summer Baseball rule(s).
- ◆ Verbally abuses an umpire, coach or other players. Players are not allowed to confront umpires on calls.

Shall:

- 1st offense – player receives a warning from the umpire or players head coach.
- 2nd offense – player is ejected for remainder of game. Ejection is to be reported to the League Commissioner and Chief Umpire. Present and future ejections will be reviewed and may result in suspension/expulsion.

Any player who physically abuses an umpire, coach, or other players, or uses tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs:

- 1st offense – player is ejected for remainder of game (no warning required). Player is not allowed to participate further until the player, his/her parents, and coaches meet with the commissioner or designee to discuss past behavior and future involvement, which may include expulsion from the league.
- 2nd offense – player is ejected for remainder of game. Ejection is to be reported to the League Commissioner and Chief Umpire. Present and future ejections will be reviewed and may result in suspension/expulsion.

Note – these offenses are cumulative throughout the entire baseball season. Depending on severity of behavior, steps may be omitted.

COACH CONDUCT

Coaches are expected to maintain a good example for both players and adults. Verbal abuse of umpires, other coaches, or players **WILL NOT BE** tolerated. Coaches are not allowed to use tobacco on or within site of the playing field or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at games or practices.

- 1st offense – Coach receives a warning from the umpire or League Baseball Committee member present.
- 2nd offense – Coach is ejected for remainder of game. Ejection is to be reported to the League Commissioner and Chief Umpire. Present and future ejections will be reviewed and may result in suspension/expulsion.
- 3rd offense – Coach is removed until he/she meets with the commissioner and a committee designated representative to discuss further involvement.

Note – depending on severity of behavior, steps may be omitted.

TEAM CONDUCT

Any team involved in two or more ejections of players, coaches, or spectators over 2 or more games within a single season will be subject to review of further participation by the commissioner or his designee. Teams that are repeatedly warned of inappropriate behaviors not necessarily resulting in ejections are also subject to review. Coaches are responsible for behavior of players and expected to control and take appropriate actions against players repeatedly violating rules of conduct. After review, sanctions may include team suspension, removal of players, or removal of coaches from participation. If a coach is removed and a suitable replacement is not available, the team will not be allowed to participate in future games.

SPECTATOR CONDUCT

If a spectator demonstrates unsportsmanlike behavior directed towards umpires, coaches, or players the following will take place:

- Initial offense – umpire will notify both coaches of the problem. Coaches are expected to take the appropriate action.
- If behavior continues – umpire will give warning to the spectators' team head coach.
- If the behavior still continues – umpire will declare a forfeit on spectators' team.

It is the policy of BAC that no spectator may use tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs at games/practices.

Note – depending on severity of behavior, steps may be omitted).

Enforcement of these conduct rules and omitting steps are at the discretion of the umpires or BAC Summer Baseball Committee members present at the game. Any game ejection will result in a one game suspension in accordance with Minnesota State High School rules. The BAC Commissioner will review all game ejections.

BAC IN-HOUSE BASEBALL

“Spirit of the Game”

In an effort to make Baseball an enjoyable experience for all participants, the In-House Baseball Directors have developed a “Spirit of the Game” philosophy.

BAC In-House Baseball should be an enjoyable and learning experience at all levels. Every effort should be made to play all games when players from both teams are present. Should circumstances prevail that dictate forfeiture (i.e., not enough players from one or both teams), an effort should be made to play, call it a scrimmage if you like.

Treat other participants with respect, cooperate with officials, coaches and fellow participants. Support all players, fans and coaches who teach and display good sportsmanship.

Sportsmanship is contagious! If coaches and parents exhibit good sportsmanship, players will do the same.

This is all in the “*Spirit of the Game*”.

The BAC In-House Baseball Committee

The National Federation of High School rules govern the baseball program of the BAC. The only exceptions are contained in the following special rules.

LEAGUES

Grades apply to the school year at the time of registration.

1. MITES Kindergarten and 1st Grade
2. SQUIRTS 2 2nd Grade
3. SQUIRTS 3 3rd Grade
4. MINORS 4 4th Grade
5. MINORS 5 5th Grade
6. MAJORS 6th and 7th Grade
7. PONYS 8th and 9th Grade
8. SENIORS 10th, 11th and 12th Grade

TEAM ROSTERS

1. Each team roster consists of a minimum of 10 players, but no more than 14 players. All other exceptions must have the approval of the Baseball Commissioner and of the respective Area Director.
2. Teams will be formed geographically, by a league draft (held by coaches), or by the assignment of the league director. If assigned by geography, every effort will be made to assign players to teams within their own neighborhoods. However, availability and location of coaches, number of registrants, late registrations, etc. may result in players being assigned to other teams in other geographic areas.

PARTICIPATION OF PLAYERS

1. Each eligible player in attendance must appear at bat in every scheduled game. The batting order is continuous for all divisions. All players present bat in order throughout the game. If 13 players are present, then all 13 bat in rotation, while only 9 players are in the field at any one time. For BAC/VAA, a continuous batting order applies, but can have a new lineup each game. For PLAY, batting order will be continuous from game to game during the regular season. Coaches can change the batting order 3 times per regular season. Note: PLAY follows the new lineup each game during tournaments.
2. Each eligible player in attendance must play at least 4 full innings in the field for each 6-inning game, at least one of which must be any infield position of 1b, 2b, 3b, shortstop, pitcher or catcher. A full inning is defined as three consecutive outs. The innings need not be played consecutively. This rule does not apply to called games, discipline actions (must alert umpire/coach BEFORE game,) when a player is injured either prior to or during a game, or when the 12-run rule is invoked. Parents and/or players are encouraged to contact the appropriate Division Director if a coach is not enforcing playing time. Violations of this rule shall be dealt with and adjusted at the time of the infraction. All infractions of this rule shall be reported to the league director after the game. An offending coach will be warned of any complaints and that any subsequent violations, either reported by a parent, player, coach, or committee member, will result in a GAME FORFEIT of future games played in violation of this rule.

3. When a player is removed from the game because of an injury, the home plate umpire **AND** the opposing coach must be notified at the time the injured player is removed. If the situation changes and the injured player is able to return to the game, both the home plate umpire and the opposing coach must be notified that the injured player has returned to his original spot in the batting order. The participation rule is amended for that player to the number of innings played plus the number of innings outlined in 2 above, whichever is less.
4. Substitutes present for any game **MUST** play, subject to participation rules up to a maximum of 11 players (10 players for playoffs and tournaments).
EXAMPLES:
 - a. If 10 regular team members are present, 1 substitute may play, but may not start the game on defense. (not allowed in playoffs)
 - b. If 9 regular team members are present, up to 2 substitutes may play, but may not start on defense. (1 sub in playoffs)
 - c. If 8 regular team members are present, up to 3 substitutes may play, but only one may start on defense. (2 subs in playoffs)

SUBSTITUTES

1. Coaches are **REQUIRED** to use substitutes from a lower BAC In-House Baseball division (see rule 2) when conditions are such that violations of the following rules are possible:
 - a. A game shall be forfeited to the opposing team when a team cannot provide 8 eligible players within 15 minutes of game time.
 - b. A game shall be forfeited to the opposing team when a team cannot provide 8 players to finish a game.
2. Substitutes may not play in two consecutive games for the same team. Majors 5 are limited to Majors 4, and Majors 4 are limited to SQUIRTS 3 substitutes.
3. Substitutes must wear their own current team uniforms (**BAC IN-HOUSE BASEBALL ONLY – traveling players are not permitted**).
4. Substitutes are not eligible to pitch, but may play any other position.
5. In all cases where substitute players are involved – please remember “THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME”. Coaches must advise each other as to intentions **PRIOR TO PLAYING!**
6. PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF SUBSTITUTE RULES: GAME FORFEIT.

GROUND RULES

1. The distance to the backstops, outfield boundaries and location of player benches are dictated by the limitations of the available fields.
2. The home team shall occupy the dugout on the first base line and the visiting team shall occupy the dugout on the third base line.
3. Special ground rules for each field are determined by the two opposing coaches prior to the game with the approval of the umpire.
4. Coaches are responsible to ensure that equipment used in games is safe and complies with equipment regulations. Umpires may verify equipment compliance and may disallow use on non-conforming equipment or require repair of equipment before play can resume.
5. The Division Umpire Coordinators are responsible for scheduling umpires. Two umpires are scheduled for each game. Rotation of umpires is not permitted during the regular season or playoffs, i.e. the umpires will work the assigned position (plate or bases) for the entire game unless an injury to one of the umpires occurs.
6. For BAC and VAA, fields are not scheduled for practices. Fields are available for practices on a “first come, first served” basis. A team coach must be present to have a valid first claim on a field for practice. PLAY assigns practice fields with the schedule available on the PLAY website. Questions regarding additional practices should be asked to the scheduling coordinator. Scheduled games or make-up games have precedence over practice.
7. In cold weather/rain conditions, **BOTH** head coaches must agree to postpone a game. Home team coach must inspect the field and contact the opposing coach **BEFORE** contacting his team. If the opposing coach cannot be reached, **BOTH** teams are expected to show up at the fields and mutually agree to postpone the game. After the first pitch is thrown, the umpire and **NOT** the coaches must postpone the game. **NOTE: Leaving a message on a voice mail or with another person is considered “NOT REACHED”.**

GAME CONDUCT

A Code of Conduct (printed on the back cover of this handbook) has been developed which applies to all participants. In addition to the Code of Conduct rules, the following game conduct rules apply.

1. The umpires or any Baseball Committee Member/Area Director in attendance at a game has the authority to enforce the conduct rules.
2. When a dispute or a question of rules arises, only the team’s **HEAD** coach may confer with the officials/umpires.
3. The head coach is responsible for the conduct of assistants, players, parents and spectators. Upon request of the officials, he/she will take whatever action is necessary to allow the game to continue.
4. Spectators, players and coaches are **NOT** allowed behind the backstop during the course of the game, with the exception of fields where there are bleachers behind the backstop. In this case, spectators are allowed behind the backstop.
5. Coaches, players and spectators will not interfere with or harass umpires. The head coach will ensure the enforcement of this rule for his/her team.
6. All players, when not in the field or at bat must be on the bench, except for the on-deck batter who must not interfere with the home plate area.
7. All equipment must be behind the bench/backstop in an orderly manner and not on the field of play.
8. Only coaches and roster players are permitted in the bench/dugout areas during the games. The head coach will ensure enforcement of this policy for his/her team. Upon request of the officials, he/she will take whatever action is necessary to allow the game to continue.
9. Coaches may not mutually agree to suspend any rule(s) for any given games.
10. Alcoholic beverages are **NOT** permitted at or near practices or games.
11. The use of tobacco products by anyone during a practice or game is not allowed.

12. Profanity and racial comments are not permitted and will not be tolerated. We strive to create a family environment at our events and this behavior shall not be permitted. There are no warnings required prior to an ejection occurring. Coaches may be ejected if the offending player cannot be identified. Umpires will be instructed to enforce a ZERO-TOLERANCE policy in this regard.
13. Electronic rule books are not permitted on the playing field. Use of electronic devices for rule interpretation by coaches or players will result in ejection from the game. The use of electronic scorekeeping devices is permitted.
14. Players shall not be permitted to have or use cell phones on playing field. Any player found with a cell phone on the field with a cell phone shall receive a warning and must remove the device from the field of play, and each bench (both teams) shall receive a bench warning about cell phone usage. Any subsequent offense by either team after the bench warning shall result in player ejection.

STANDINGS

Standings will be kept throughout the season. Standings will be calculated by providing each team 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss. Any unplayed regular season games shall constitute a loss in the standings. The tiebreakers for teams with the same point total at the end of the season are: 1) team with the most wins; 2) Head to head, if tied the run differential between the two teams in head to head 3) if still tied after (more than two teams tied), winning percentage of head to head games of tied teams. If after the two tiebreakers the standings remain equal, the tiebreaker will be the least defensive runs allowed averaged for total games played.

POSTPONED GAMES – REGULAR SEASON

1. The umpire-in-charge may call any game when conditions, in his/her opinion, become hazardous or unplayable. Such conditions are, but not limited to rain, hail, lightning, darkness and/or sound of city sirens. See guidelines in this rule book for lightning disturbances. Games may be postponed or cancelled in their entirety if weather conditions support the decision.
 - a. A game in which 2 complete innings have not been completed will be replayed in its entirety at a mutually agreed date and time. Upon completion of 2 full innings or more, a game which is suspended will be continued from the point it was stopped. For continuance, coaches and umpires are required to initial a Score sheet to establish: last batter's order, pitch count, current pitcher and number of outs. If the Score Sheet suspended game pitcher does not start at game continuation, an inning will count against that pitcher's weekly inning count maximum. Upon game continuation, the recorded batter in the order will begin the game with the recorded pitch count, and recorded number of outs. The intent of this rule is to continue a game as if no interruption had occurred and to minimize incentives to prematurely suspend a game.
2. If at the point of a postponement a game IS NOT a legal game and does not have 2 complete innings, then it must be rescheduled and completely re-played at a later date.
3. If at the point of a postponement a game IS NOT a legal game and does have 2 complete innings or more, then it must be rescheduled and the continuation of the suspended game is played at a later date
4. If at the point of a postponement a game IS a legal game, then the score at the end of the last completed inning determines the winner.
5. If at the point of postponement a game IS a legal game and the score is tied, then it is considered a tied game in the standings. Innings pitched in such a game count toward per week pitching restrictions.
6. Postponed games must be re-scheduled by contacting the league director and/or division umpire coordinator. Games must be rescheduled within one (1) week of the postponement. If the game does not get rescheduled and played, both teams forfeit and the game will be recorded as a LOSS for both teams.
7. If re-scheduling is needed for any other reason but weather, the coach requesting the change shall be responsible for the field and umpire coordination. NO GAMES CAN BE POSTPONED/RESCHEDULED WITHIN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO A SCHEDULED GAME unless field/weather conditions dictate a postponement on the date of the game. A team unable to provide enough players must forfeit the game. Games may be rescheduled prior to 72 hours with mutual consent of the coaches and notification of the umpire coordinator prior to 72 hours before the game.

SPECIAL RULES – ALL DIVISIONS

1. Runners who intentionally charge into any fielder are out. If in the judgment of the umpire, intentional and significant contact was made in an effort to dislodge the ball or interfere with the fielder's ability to receive the ball, the runner will be ejected.
2. A fielder without the ball is not allowed to block the base or baseline at a spot preventing the runner from running or sliding into the base ("obstruction"). The runner shall make efforts to avoid charging into the player, and be called safe on fielder interference. (Example – a catcher waiting to receive the ball cannot block the baseline at a spot that would prevent a slide into the base.)
3. All bats (including wood bats) must have a grip. Softball bats may **NOT** be used. All bats must be in compliance with MYAS bat regulations at each age level.
4. A bat may be swung during a game only while in the on-deck circle or in the batter's box. The first offense will be a warning; the second offense will result in the player being ejected from the game. This does not have to be the same player as the original offense. A maximum of two offensive players (batter and on-deck batter) shall be permitted to swing bats on the field.
5. To help speed up the pace of the games, if possible batters must keep at least one foot in the batter's box at all times. *Penalty: A strike may be called for each unforced violation (at the discretion of the umpire).*
6. The appeal play for base running infractions does not apply. The umpire, in his/her judgment, may call a runner out for failure to touch a base after all playing action has ended (delayed dead ball).
7. A batter-runner who reaches first base safely and over runs or over slides may immediately return to the base without liability of being put out provided he does not attempt or feint an advance to second base. This is a judgment call by the umpire.
8. No head-first sliding is permitted. *Penalty: This is a delayed dead ball play.* This rule does not apply to runners diving back to a base on an attempted pickoff play.
9. Each team, when on defense, is permitted not more than THREE charged conferences during a game, without penalty, to permit coach and his/her representative to confer with a defensive player or players. In an extra inning game, each team is permitted ONE charged conference per inning (not cumulative) while on defense. Time out granted for an injured player is not a charged conference.

- Penalty:* The umpire denies subsequent requests for charged conferences, and the pitcher has to be removed from the game. Two conferences in one inning requires the removal of the pitcher on the second conference.
10. Each team, when on offense, is permitted no more than ONE charged conference per inning to permit the coach or his/her representative to confer with a batter or a base runner. Time out granted for an injured player is not a charged conference. *Penalty: The umpire denies subsequent requests for charged conferences.*
 11. A ball that goes out of play (according to the ground rules set prior to the game), the runner will be awarded 1 + 1 from the time the ball goes out of play if the player was halfway to the next base.
 12. NO MODIFICATION CAN BE MADE TO THE LEAGUE-ISSUED UNIFORM WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NAMES ON THE BACK OF THE JERSEYS. For example, SLEEVES CANNOT BE CUT OFF. A Player with a modified uniform will not be allowed to play in the game. This rule is enforceable by the umpire, or if prior to the game, by a BAC committee member. Names on jerseys must be consistent with the BAC Code of Conduct.
 13. Protective safety equipment issued by the League to include catcher's helmets, throat guards, chest protectors, shin guards, and batting helmets MUST be properly worn during games and practices. Batting helmets are to be worn by batters, on deck batters, runners and players coaching a base. Issued safety equipment for catchers is to be worn at all times while in that position.
 14. Any baseball used must be issued from the League for that specific age level.
 15. Starting pitcher may re-enter the game one time only. No other pitchers may re-enter the game at any time.

SPECIAL RULES – MINORS – 4TH AND 5TH GRADE:

1. See Special Rules page below for pitching limits. Pitching in any part of an inning constitutes a full inning. Innings pitched in a game do not need to be consecutive
2. TO ENCOURAGE FASTER PLAY, it is recommended (but not required) that pitchers pitch from the stretch.
3. When a pitcher is in contact with the rubber and the ball is in his possession and the catcher is in the catcher's box, the runners must not delay going to a base (no dancing in the baseline). If violated, the runner will be called out. This is a judgment call and the umpire's *RULING IS FINAL*.
4. If any play is made against one base runner, all other runners may advance and attempt to score at their own risk.
5. **4th GRADE ONLY – NO STEALING.** A runner may lead off after the ball crosses home plate, but may not advance unless the ball is hit.
6. **LIVE BALL** – Any runner leading off must immediately return to the base he/she occupied after the pitcher controls the ball. In Minors Grade 5 ONLY, defensive players may make a play on a runner that leads off too far before returning to the base. As no stealing is allowed, all runners must return to the original base before attempting to advance on a live ball, which is defined as an errant pick-off throw or loose ball thrown from catcher to pitcher (pitcher drops ball).
7. **5th GRADE ONLY** – A runner may advance (steal) after the ball crosses home plate. Runners may attempt to advance (steal) at their own risk. Runners must abide by Rule 3 in returning to the base.
8. **4th GRADE ONLY** – will not be allowed to advance on a passed ball.
9. The balk rule, infield fly rule, and dropped 3rd strike DO NOT APPLY.
10. Bunting is allowed.
11. Coaches are encouraged to stress pitcher accuracy and aggressive hitting in an attempt to limit the number of walks in a game. Umpires will be instructed to establish liberal strike zones.
12. No curve balls, sliders or similar "breaking ball" pitches are allowed and coaches must prohibit their pitchers from attempting to throw these pitches. Pitchers are permitted to vary speed of their pitches. Penalty: for 1st offense, the umpire shall warn the pitcher and both coaches. For 2nd offense, the pitcher shall be removed and not permitted to re-enter the game. Umpires shall make this call on obvious attempts to throw breaking balls, and will not penalize a pitcher for natural movement of their pitches.
13. A team remains at bat until 3 players have been put out or until 6 runs have been scored, whichever comes first, with the exception of the 6th inning, in which unlimited runs may be scored. The unlimited rule applies to both teams in the 6th inning. If a game will end prior to the 6th inning due to time constraints, the unlimited run rule DOES NOT APPLY.
14. A 12-run mercy rule applies in the 4th inning and 5th inning; If scoring margin is 12 runs (e.g. 12-0) or more after 4 or 5 complete innings of play, the game score is considered final. If time permits and both coaches agree, the game can continue until 6 innings are complete but the remaining innings will not be officially scored.
15. No new inning may start more than 2 hours after the schedule start of the game. Games tied at the end of the regulation will go into extra innings only if the inning can be started within 2 hours of the scheduled start. If any inning cannot be completed due to weather or darkness, the score of the last complete inning is final. If the total number of innings meets the requirements for a legal game, the game is considered complete. If there are fewer than the required number of innings for a legal game, refer to the POSTPONED GAMES – REGULAR SEASON section. The time limit is 1:45 for a new inning if there is another game starting after the game in progress. 2 hour hard stop in order for the next game to start on time.
16. **At 4th GRADE** – any combination of walks or hit batters in an inning that equal four (4) incidents requires removal of the pitcher. If the starting pitcher is being removed for this reason, he/she may not re-enter the game as a pitcher.

BAT STANDARDS – MINORS-LEVEL:

Only the following bats made by approved USSSA licensed manufacturers will be allowed:

1. Is made with the NEW USSSA mark (see image below); or
2. Is made with the USA Baseball mark (see image below); or
3. Is wooden.



SPECIAL BASEBALL RULES BY DIVISION

<u>TYPE OF RULE</u>	<u>MINORS 4</u>	<u>MINORS 5</u>
GRADE	4 TH (M4)	5 TH (M5)
LENGTH OF REGULATION GAME	6 INNINGS	6 INNINGS
LEGAL GAME	4 INNINGS	4 INNINGS
LENGTH OF BASES	60 FT	60 – 65 FT
PITCHING DISTANCE	46 FT	46 FT
PITCHING RESTRICTIONS (PER-GAME)	3 INNINGS OR 65 PITCHES	3 INNINGS OR 75 PITCHES
PITCHING RESTRICTIONS (PER-WEEK, SUN → SAT)	6 INNINGS OR 95 PITCHES	6 INNINGS OR 105 PITCHES
SHOES (ONLY ATHLETIC TYPE)	NO STEEL CLEATS	NO STEEL CLEATS
BASE STEALING	NO STEALING	PERMITTED - SEE RULE
WHEN RUNNER CAN LEAD OFF	WHEN BALL IS HIT	WHEN PITCHED BALL PASSES HOME PLATE
PENALTY – LEAVING BASE TOO SOON	WARNING FIRST TIME, OUT SECOND TIME	RUNNER IS OUT
DROPPED THIRD STRIKE	DOES NOT APPLY	DOES NOT APPLY
INFIELD FLY RULE	DOES NOT APPLY	DOES NOT APPLY
BALK RULE	DOES NOT APPLY	DOES NOT APPLY
PITCH LIMIT PER BATTER	DOES NOT APPLY	DOES NOT APPLY
RUN RULE ("MERCY RULE")	12 RUNS AFTER 4 AT- BATS BY LOSING TEAM	12 RUNS AFTER 4 AT- BATS BY LOSING TEAM
RUN LIMIT PER INNING	6 (UNLIMITED IN 6TH INNING)	6 (UNLIMITED IN 6TH INNING)

PITCHING RESTRICTION NOTES/CLARIFICATIONS

1. The pitch limits are designed to protect players and encourage coaches to use and develop more pitchers. Note that there may be times during the season when teams will play 3 or more games in a single week (with makeup games). Coaches should manage their pitching staffs accordingly.
2. Coaches are responsible to track pitch counts and should verify pitch counts with the opposing team after each inning. In the event of non-matching pitch counts between the head coaches or both teams, the home team's pitch count shall be deemed to be correct. Note that umpires do not track pitch counts or manage pitching limits (except during tournament play, when umpires are responsible for tracking innings pitched). Violations or abuses of the pitching limits discovered during game play should be discussed with the age-level league director or a BAC committee member. Violation of the pitch limits will result in head coach ejection from the game.
3. If a pitcher reaches the pitch count limit during (in the middle of) an at-bat, the pitcher is permitted to finish pitching the at-bat and then must be replaced prior to the next batter.
4. Innings pitched and pitch count are both tracked. Whichever limit is reached first is the limiting factor.

- a. Example #1: Pitcher A at Minors 5-level throws 55 pitches in 2 innings and is then removed. The player then has only 20 pitches or 1 inning remaining for the game, whichever occurs first.
 - b. Example #2: Pitcher B at Minors 5-level throws 20 pitches in 1 inning before being removed. The player then has 55 pitches or 2 innings remaining for the game, whichever occurs first.
5. For continuation games, innings pitched and pitch count are to be included in the continued game total and will apply to the game total when the game resumes. Note that only innings pitched and pitch count from the current week apply to the weekly totals.
 - a. Example: Pitcher C at Minors 5-level throws 1 inning and 20 pitches before the game is stopped due to inclement weather. If the pitcher has available innings or pitches during the week the continuation games is being played, the player could pitch 2 innings or throw 55 pitches for the continuation game. Any innings pitched or pitches thrown in the continuation game would apply toward the weekly limits (MON → SUN) for the week the game is played.
6. For tournament play, the pitch limits in the table above will apply to the 3-day tournament duration.

**BAC IN-HOUSE BASEBALL
GUIDELINES ON HANDLING CONTESTS DURING LIGHTNING DISTURBANCES**

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a default policy to those responsible for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of contests based on the presence of lightning. Player and participant safety should be the overriding decision criteria for weather-related matters. The BAC guidelines are derived from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) guidelines, and differ primarily in the time delay requirements for suspension of play.

Prior to the start of the game, the coaches are responsible for decisions regarding weather-related postponements and cancellations. Following the start of the game, the umpires assume the responsibility for weather-related decisions.

1. Monitor local weather conditions before and during events.
2. Criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
 - a. As soon as lightning is seen or thunder is heard, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
 - b. For facilities with multiple ball diamonds, coordinate activities with the adjacent teams and/or umpire crews when possible to maintain consistency in actions taken.
 - c. 30-minute rule: Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming play.
 - d. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count should reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
 - e. Games may be postponed or cancelled in their entirety if weather conditions support the decision.
 - f. Note – tournament and Championship Weekend guidelines may vary. If different, these will be posted or announced for each event.
3. Additional notes:
 - a. Lightning is one of the most consistent causes of weather-related deaths and injury in the US. According to the National Severe Storms Laboratory, there are approximately 100 lightning-related deaths and over 1000 injuries yearly.
 - b. The National Weather Service (NWS) issues storm watches and warnings during times of severe weather. A watch means that the conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop, while a warning indicates severe weather has been reported and appropriate precautions should be taken. It's important to note that any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury, even if not deemed "severe" by the NWS.
 - c. People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge. Therefore, it's safe to perform CPR, if needed. Ideally, injured persons are moved into a safe shelter. Lightning-strike victims who show signs of cardiac or respiratory arrest need emergency help.
4. References:
 - a. NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook, Fourth Edition, May 2011
 - b. NFHS Guidelines on Handling Contests During Lightning Disturbances