

BAN JOHNSON
AMATEUR BASEBALL LEAGUE
RULES
2017

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I. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A. Age

Generally all players must be under 23 years old until August 1 of the current year. This means that only players born on or after August 1, 1994 are eligible to play during the 2017 season. An exception may be granted by the BJ Rules Committee for those players who may be older than 23 as of August 1 who still have college eligibility left and who are still playing baseball at the college level. Players meeting this latter category must submit the information to the League for prior approval.

B. Residency

1. Player is eligible if he is a full time student at a high school, junior college, college, or university located in the State of Kansas or Missouri as of the beginning of the spring semester of the current year. See 2d below for exception.

2. Other than those eligible under 1 (above) the following rules apply to non-student players:

a. Player is eligible if his permanent residence is within a 50-mile radius of Kansas City prior to or during the season.

b. Player is eligible if his parents move within the 50-mile radius of Kansas City prior to or during the season.

c. Players must live within the 50-mile radius of Kansas City effective January 1 of the playing year.

d. Players committed to and enrolling in either summer school or the fall semester of the current year in a high school, junior college, college, or university located in the State of Kansas or Missouri may submit a letter to the Rules Committee for determination of eligibility.

3. The Rules Committee may approve the eligibility of other students when warranted by the circumstances of a given situation. Any player desiring special consideration must submit a request in writing to the League for action.

4. There can be a maximum of five (5) players per team, unless specific authority for more is granted by the Rules Committee, whose permanent residence is outside of the 50-mile radius of Kansas City.

C. Team managers are responsible for assuring that their players are eligible. A team will be forced to forfeit any games in which an ineligible player, as determined by the Rules Committee, is used.

D. There may be players whose eligibility is questionable. In these cases, any manager may submit during the current season a written inquiry to the BJ Executive Director for referral to the Rules Committee.

E. The BJ Rules Committee will consist of the executive director, the president and up to three board members appointed by the president. The 2017 Rules Committee is composed of John Stipetich, Nancy Milgram, Harry Peel, & Bob McFarlane. The BJ Rules Committee will examine the evidence for each inquiry submitted and will make a decision. The decision of the BJ Rules Committee is final and will be communicated all BJ sponsors and managers.

F. If the eligibility of a player is under consideration by the BJ Rules Committee, the Rules Committee can forbid the player from participating in a BJ game until a ruling is made. During the waiting period, a team will forfeit all games in which the questionable player participates.

G. No more than four (4) players from any NCAA Division 1 school may be signed to the roster of any single team during the season. NCAA Division II and III, NAIA, and Junior Colleges have no player limits.

H. The waiver or selective paying of league registration fees is prohibited, to protect the amateur standing of all

participants in accordance with both NCAA & NAIA rules. Each player must pay his own fee.

I. Changes in Amateur status as determined by the NCAA or other governing body of college athletics may result in reinstatement of amateur status and if so the Rules Committee may review any case and make a final determination of the eligibility to participate in the BJ program.

II. Player Recruitment and Signing

A. Recruiting

1. It is the responsibility of each team manager, with the assistance of his coaches, to recruit players for his team. Nobody else is authorized to recruit players for the BJ.

2. It is anticipated that outsiders (high school, college or little league coaches, major league scouts or others) periodically will recommend players to BJ managers or coaches. It is the responsibility of the BJ manager or coach to contact a player directly to discuss the possibility of his playing in the BJ.

B. Signing

1. Prospective players will all register on the BJ Baseball website at bjbaseball.com and complete the player registration. The Director will assign players to a team subject to approval by the team manager. Once approved the player must complete payment either by check or credit card to be eligible to participate. No refunds of player fees will be possible once the season starts and the player has appeared in a game. Refunds may be approved by the Executive Director prior to appearance in a game in an amount deemed appropriate. A team will be subject to forfeit for playing any player not properly registered, approved, and paid prior to participation, at the discretion of the BJ Executive Director. The player registration process will fulfill the requirement to be under contract as written contracts are no longer required.

III. Team Rosters

A. Roster Changes

1. A team may have a maximum of 30 players under contract at any time and these 30 players constitute the team's active roster. Every team must have a minimum of 18 registered and paid players on its roster.

2. The opening day roster (including each player's name, address, telephone number, school, height, weight, and email address) must be submitted via website registration to the executive director at least three days prior to the team's first scheduled game.

3. During the first half of the BJ season (if halves are played) or dates set by the league, each team is allowed to make an unlimited number of roster changes.

4. The BJ executive director must be informed immediately when a roster change is made.

B. Removal of Players From A Roster

1. A player may be taken off a team roster by either a cut or a release.

a. A player cut is originated by the team manager. A manager may cut a player from his roster at any time, except during the frozen roster period.

b. A player who is cut is eligible to sign with any other team in the league.

c. The BJ executive director will compile a list of all players who are cut from team rosters. During the season, the BJ Executive Director will advise the managers of those players cut from other teams. During the off-season, the BJ executive director will mail a list of those cut to each manager. During January, or as soon as possible, the BJ Executive Director will obtain a current roster from each manager and will make it available on the website to each team manager.

2. A release is requested by the player, and initiated by his present manager.

a. For players who have played in at least on BJ game for the team they are on:

1. If a player wants his immediate release, the manager must give it to him immediately (except during the frozen roster period). If a player wants to remain in the BJ, the last place team in the standings at the time his release is initiated will have the first opportunity to sign the released player. If the last place team does not sign the player, then the next to the last place team will have the opportunity to do so. This procedure will continue for each team in ascending order of their positions in the standings.

2. If two or more teams are tied for a position in the standings, and more than one team wants to sign a released player, then the flip of a coin by the BJ executive director in the presence of the team managers involved, will determine which team has the right to sign the player.

3. During the season, a team will have no longer than 24 hours to decide about signing a released player.

4. During the off-season, priority for obtaining released players is determined by the final season records (not counting post season) of the preceding season. A new team is considered to be in last place during the off-season.

b. For players who have never played in a BJ game for the team whose roster they are on:

1. If a player is signed by a team before the season begins and has not played in a BJ game within 20 days after the season starts, he is eligible to be a free agent by merely notifying his manager or the BJ Executive Director of his desire to become a free agent. He will then be removed from that team's roster and is free to sign with any team in the BJ.

2. If a player is signed by a team during the season and does not appear in a game at all for the remainder of the season his registration is void and he is a free agent as of the end of the season, and can sign with any team in the BJ. If he desires to stay with the prior team or play with a new team, he must execute a new registration in accordance with the regular registration rules.

c. A player may request only one release under rule 2-A-1 during his BJ career.

d. All releases under rule 2-A-1 must be in writing, signed by the team manager, and the player involved, and is approved by the BJ executive director. A release form is available for this purpose.

e. Tampering with players on rosters of competing BJ teams is strictly prohibited. Managers and coaches may not approach players under contract to competing teams to encourage them to ask for their releases. A breach of this rule could result in suspension from the BJ for a period to be determined by the Rules Committee.

f. A released player will not be allowed to play for another BJ team until he has returned all team property to his previous team.

C. Trades

1. Players may be traded from one BJ team to another at any time and all players involved in the trade must approve.
2. All trades must have the approval of the BJ Executive Director to take effect.

IV. Relations with Other League

A. A player may be on both a BJ roster and the roster of a team in a league composed of younger players. In the case of conflicting games on the same date, a player will be allowed to participate in the BJ game only if the manager of the other team or parents of the player provides a written statement of approval, and the statement is in the possession of the official scorekeepers prior to the start of the conflicting game. Otherwise, the player must play in the other league. A violation of this rule will result in a team forfeiting any game in which an ineligible player participates.

B. A player on a BJ roster may not play in other leagues in the KC area with the same or older age limits (i.e., Jr/Sr Men's League, Jayhawk League, M.I.N.K., Mid Plains League, etc.) during the BJ scheduled season.

V. Scheduling

A. Each team will play a schedule of games in either two halves or single season in a number set annually by the Rules Committee.

B. The BJ executive director provides the official BJ schedule prior to the beginning of the season. The Executive Director as required by circumstances may change the schedule.

C. The BJ Executive Director shall make all final decisions regarding postponements, (which shall be done only due to poor weather conditions, unplayable field conditions, or any other circumstance deemed to be detrimental to, or for the best interest of the league). The BJ executive director will notify the sponsors and managers of the teams involved.

D. The BJ executive director is responsible for drafting the official BJ schedule prior to the season and the scheduling of all make-up games, but may delegate the responsibility. The game will be scheduled as soon as possible, and in most cases will be played in the order of the original postponement if possible. The BJ Executive Director will make sure that sponsors, managers, umpires, and playing

field officials are notified of the dates of the make-up games.

E. Postponed games may not be rescheduled after the conclusion of the first or second half (if halves are played) unless a game could have an impact on the determination of the championship of that half.

F. The first half games (if halves are played) of significance will be completed prior to the start of the second half, if possible. First half games may be played after the start of the second half. Scheduled games at the start of the second half may be moved to accommodate this rule.

G. It shall be League policy that all reasonable efforts will be exercised to provide each team with the opportunity to play all regular season games. The Executive Director shall be responsible for all decisions concerning scheduling and rescheduling.

H. The first team listed on the schedule will be the visiting team and will occupy the first base dugout. In the second game of a double header the teams will switch dugouts if either manager requests to do so, otherwise they will stay in the same dugout as the first game.

VI. Procedures on Game Dates

A. Pre Game Procedures

1. For any single game or the first game of multiple games, the home team can take batting practice any time up to one hour prior to the scheduled game time, if cages are unavailable.

2. The visiting team will have the opportunity to take batting practice from the time of one hour to 30 minutes prior to the scheduled game time, if cages are unavailable.

3. If a team does not want to take batting practice, the manager of the team should notify the other team manager so that the other team can use the field during that time, if desired, if cages are unavailable.

4. Each team is allowed 10 minutes of infield practice, with the home team-taking infield first from 25 minutes to 15 minutes prior to scheduled start time. The visiting team will take infield from 15 minutes to 5 minutes prior to scheduled start time. Failure to use the allotted time results in a lost opportunity. Managers are expected to keep

track of time because games will start at scheduled times even if one or both of the teams has not had infield.

5. Game time is forfeit time. BJ games are expected to start at scheduled times. Starting times will be delayed only in case of rain, light failure, the playing field not being ready, or other circumstances determined by the Executive Director to be in the best interest of the Program.

6. A team will be forced to forfeit any game in which it does not have at least nine players ready to play by scheduled or revised starting time. There is no grace period. Managers cannot agree to change starting times. Forfeit time on 2nd game of double-header is start time listed on schedule or 20 minutes after completion of first game whichever is later. A manager can agree to forfeit second game early if he knows he will not have enough players but he cannot be forced to forfeit early.

7. A manager or coach must submit a completed line-up card to the home plate umpire and the scorekeeper ten minutes prior to the start of each game and the person acting as manager for that game must be identified to the umpire. It must include the following information: each player's first and last name, number and position. A player may accompany the manager or coach, but cannot go alone. Failure to submit a completed line-up card on time could result in the game not being played.

B. Game Procedures

1. The Ban Johnson League follows the rules of the Official NCAA Baseball Rules, as well as special league rules set by the Rules Committee. Each BJ manager and coach is responsible for completely understanding the rules.

2. As a manager or coach, you are responsible for running your ball club on the baseball field. The umpires officiate the games, and you handle your own teams. Umpire jurisdiction in regard to personal confrontations and unsportsmanlike conduct directed toward them begins when the umpires enter the game site (parking lot) and ends when the umpires have left the parking lot.

3. Only managers, coaches and eligible players are allowed on the playing field or on the bench during a game, and all must be in uniform. Under no circumstances will anyone else be allowed on the field or the bench.

4. While the game is in progress, all managers, coaches and players must remain on the field or in the dugout, and nobody is allowed to converse with anyone in the stands or

behind the dugouts. Violators can be ejected from the ballgame.

5. Any manager, coach or player ejected from a game by the umpire must leave the field and the grandstands immediately. The ejected person must remain out of sight of the umpires for the remainder of the game. Failure to do so will result in a one game suspension from the BJ.

6. Only managers and coaches are allowed in the coaching boxes. Players can only be used if a manager or coach is not in attendance at a game. All must wear appropriate head gear while on the field.

7. Only the manager may approach an umpire to talk about a call or umpire's decision.

8. When the bases are unoccupied, the pitcher must deliver the ball to the batter within 20 seconds after he receives the ball. Each time the pitcher delays the game; the umpire shall call "Ball".

9. Run spread: Any team that is ahead by 10 runs after 5 innings (7 inning game) or after 6 innings (9 inning game) will be declared the winner of the game.

10. Regulation Game: Shall be 7 innings per game in double headers and single games.

a: It shall be a regulation game if called by the umpire at any time after 5 innings in a 9 inning game or after 4 innings in a 7 inning game have been completed, and the score shall be that of the last equal inning played, except that in the following circumstances the score of the game shall be the total number of runs that each team has scored:

1. If the team second at bat has scored more runs at the end of its fourth (9 inning game) or third (7 inning game) than the team first at bat has scored in five (9 inning game) or four (7 inning game) completed innings;

2. If the team second at bat has scored in an unequal number of innings more runs than the team first at bat, or;

3. If the team second at bat is a bat when the game is called and has scored in the uncompleted inning the same number of runs or more runs than the team first at bat.

b. It is a regulation game if it is called by the umpire for any cause that puts patrons or players in peril such as for darkness, inclement weather, a facility problem, crowd

behavior, etc., or if a curfew has been met, provided the conditions in 10-a have been met

1. Second games of doubleheaders will start 20 minutes after the first game is completed or the scheduled time whichever is later. If both Managers agree the 2nd game can start before the time listed on the League schedule once the 20 minute time period has passed.

2. Protests must be made at the time of the alleged infraction per the Official Rules of Baseball and noted properly in the official scorebook. The protester must deposit \$50.00 with the BJ executive director within 48 hours to become official. The BJ Rules Committee will rule on the protest. The \$50.00 will be returned only if the protest is upheld.

3. If the BJ executive director is not in attendance at a BJ game, or cannot be contacted via electronic means, his appointed representative will be in charge and will be authorized to act on his behalf.

C. Equipment

1. Every player must wear a double earflap protective helmet while batting and running the bases. In addition base coaches are required to wear a helmet. Play will not continue until compliance with this rule is met. It is recommended that the coach's helmet meet NOCSAE/standards.

2. Catchers must wear throat protectors and protective helmets when fielding their positions.

3. Wood bats meeting official Baseball specifications and approved composite bats are allowed, no other bat may be used unless approved by the League.

D. Conduct at the Ballpark

1. Managers and coaches are responsible for informing their players about the rules of the BJ and for assuring that good sportsmanship is practiced at all times.

2. The consumption of beer and other alcoholic beverages by the BJ managers, coaches, players, umpires or other BJ officials, is prohibited at the site of a BJ game when it violates Park Rules. The site includes the ballpark itself, the grounds surrounding the ballpark and the parking lot. Violators will be suspended from the BJ for 10 days.

3. Smoking and chewing tobacco are prohibited on the playing field or in the dugouts for all personnel.

4. Managers, coaches and players are expected to exercise restraint in the use of their language during the games. Anybody who, in the opinion of the BJ executive director, uses excessive, profane language, is subject to suspension from the BJ for a period of up to one year.

5. Any BJ business that is conducted between the BJ Executive Director, the BJ managers, and coaches must be handled in a quiet and businesslike manner. The BJ executive director has the authority to suspend for one game any manager or coach who engages in loud, verbal abuse that the BJ executive director considers disrespectful or unbecoming to the image of the BJ.

6. Managers, coaches and players cannot make derogatory remarks to each other. The umpire is in charge of enforcing this rule. It is his decision as to what is out of line. If this is violated, the umpire will issue a warning first. Then, he can eject said parties from the ballgame. In addition, the BJ Executive Director can suspend violators for one game.

7. The BJ Executive Director may suspend a manager, coach, or player for up to two games at his discretion for violation of any BJ rule. The BJ Rules Committee must approve a suspension for more than two games. The BJ Rules Committee, following a hearing, may authorize a suspension for a longer period. The BJ Rules Committee has the right to defer decisions on suspensions to the BJ Board of Directors.

VII. All-Star Game

1. The BJ will play an All-Star Game at Kaufman Stadium at a time and date to be announced.

2. The game will consist of two teams of BJ players. Each All-Star Team will consist of players from 1/2 of the BJ teams. Divisions (if used) will divide the teams. In the event that divisions do not exist the BJ Rules Committee will determine how the All-Star Teams will be divided.

3. Each All-Star Team will consist of 27 players: 2 players at each position (including DH), 7 pitchers, and two utility players. These numbers are subject to change depending on the circumstances of a particular season. The Executive Director shall designate the final numbers.

4. The BJ will follow this selection procedure:

A. A meeting with the BJ managers and the BJ Executive director is held prior to the All-Star Game to select the All-Star Team.

B. The BJ executive director establishes certain criteria that All-Star candidates must meet.

C. The names of the players who meet these criteria are listed on a ballot by position.

D. Every BJ manager has about one and one-half minutes to talk about the players on the ballot that are from his team.

E. Every BJ manager and the BJ executive director have one vote for a player at each position. The voting will be done by secret ballot.

F. The players with the most votes at each position constitute the 1st team.

G. The voting procedure is repeated to establish the 2nd team.

5. Every BJ team must have at least three players on the All-Star Team. If a team does not have at least three players after the balloting is completed, the manager from that team will choose the remaining player or players from his team. The Executive Director will have the final say if those in attendance are unable to reach a satisfactory agreement.

6. The manager of each BJ All-Star Team will be selected by the BJ Executive Director using previous year's records where possible.

VIII. PLAY-OFFS, LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP, POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT

A. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (Divisional setup)

1. If a divisional setup is used winners of each division plus appropriate lesser finishers will advance to post season. Ties within a division will be broken by: (1) head to head competition; (2) record within the division; (3) total runs scored within the division.

2. The division winners plus others selected will then play the best 2 of 3 seven inning games to determine the participants in the Championship finals which be the best 3 of 5 series for the League Championship.

B. POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT (Non Divisional setup)

** Unless specifically approved by the rules committee, teams with a forfeit during the season will not be eligible

for participation in any post season games and in such case their position will be determined to be the next team in the standings.

1. For the 2017 season the top 4 teams will advance to the Post Season Tournament. The first round will pair the highest seed vs the lowest seed in a best 2 out of 3 series with the winners advancing to the Championship Round which will be best 3 of 5 series. Pairings will be scheduled by the Executive Director. All games will be 7 innings whether part of a double header or single game.

2. Seeding's will be based on final standings. The tie breakers will be as follows:

a. Wins and losses will be the first criteria. Games won by forfeit shall not count as wins for seeding purposes.

b. Head to Head play will be the second tie breaker.

c. Record against teams seeded higher will be the third tie breaker.

d. Runs allowed for the season will be the fourth tie breaker.

e. If still tied at any position in the seeding's, a toss of the coin shall determine the seeding.

3. To be eligible for participation in the Post Season Tournament (if played) a position player must have played in at least 6 of the team's regular season games. A pitcher must have appeared in at least three regular season games as a legitimate pitcher and have completed at least 10 innings. All questions of eligibility will be subject to review and action by the rules committee.

4. No player who replaced another player under a medical exception will be eligible for the League Championship or Post Season Tournament unless he appeared in the required number of games or is approved by specific league action.

IX. Ban Johnson Player Awards

1. Regular Season

a. Lester Milgram Most Valuable Player

At the end of the season, the league asks each team to submit the name of its Most Valuable Player and provide a brief statement with the reasons for the selection. Team MVPs become nominees for the league MVP. Then the league prepares a ballot including names/reasons/key stats and

asks all managers along with the Executive Director and regular scorekeepers to vote for the league MVP.

b. Hustle Award: Same process as MVP

c. Bob Allison Offensive Player of the Year

The league compiles offensive stats (including PA, HR, RBI, AVG, OBP, SLG, H, XBH) and prepares a ballot with the top three candidates and their stats. Then the league asks all managers along with the Executive Director and regular scorekeepers to vote.

d. Rick Sutcliffe Pitcher of the Year: Same process as Offensive Player of the Year with pitching stats including IP, Wins, ERA, SO, WHIP, BAA.

e. Frank White Award for Defensive Excellence: Same process as Offensive Player of the Year with fielding stats including GP, Errors, TC, PO, Fielding %, Assists.

f. Offensive Statistical Awards: Batting Champion, Most Home Runs, Most RBI, Most Stolen Bases

g. Pitching Statistical Awards: Most Wins, Lowest ERA, Most Strikeouts, Most Saves

2. Other Player Awards

a. All Star Game MVP: selected by Executive Director and scorekeepers attending the game

b. Post-Season MVP: selected by Executive Director and scorekeepers attending the post-season game

X. Miscellaneous

1. Candidates for managerial and coaching positions in the BJ must submit a resume and two letters of recommendation to the Executive Director. The Board of Directors must then review and approve all new managers and coaches, to be eligible.

2. It is possible that a situation will arise that is not covered by BJ rules. In these situations, it is the responsibility of the BJ Rules Committee to set policy or to delegate the decision to the BJ Executive Director.

XI. Rules

1. The League will play by NCAA Baseball Rules except as herein modified.

2. Lightning

The League has adopted a policy to the effect that no game shall be played or continued in a situation where the possibility or probability of lightning strikes exists. Once the game is under the jurisdiction of the Umpires it is within his sole discretion as to whether or not a game shall continue. The Umpire may utilize any means available to assist in his determination. If lightning detectors are available at the facility they will be utilized in the decision. Prior to the Umpires assuming jurisdiction the Executive Director or his designate will be responsible for the decision. Safety of all personnel is of primary importance and it is expected that all personnel use good sound reasonable judgment. If an error in judgment is to be made it must be made in the interest of safety.