

**BAN JOHNSON**  
**AMATEUR BASEBALL LEAGUE**  
**RULES**  
**2015**

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**I. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

**A. Age**

Generally all players must be under 23 years old until August of the current year. This means that only players born on or after August 1, 1992 are eligible to play during the 2015 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 three board members appointed by the president. The 2015 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](http://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. 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. Other than a team's last five regularly scheduled games, a team may have a maximum of 25 players under contract at any time and these 25 players constitute the team's active 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. Frozen Roster Period (Only if halves are used)

1. All team rosters will be frozen from the beginning of the second half or other date set by the League until each team's last five regularly scheduled games. During the period that rosters are frozen, no players may be added to or taken off any roster.
2. Before the frozen roster period, a player who is cut from a team at the deadline has 48 hours to sign with another BJ team.
3. If a player is injured during the frozen roster period, the team manager may submit, in writing, an appeal to the Rules Committee, along with a letter from a doctor. If the appeal is accepted, the injured player will be taken off the roster for the remainder of the season and replaced by another player.
4. For a team's last five regularly scheduled games, a maximum of five additional players may be signed and added temporarily to the roster. These players must be rookies who have never played in the BJ. These players will be ineligible for the BJ Playoffs. No registration fee will be charged these rookies. The Rookie registration will be a special registration, which will become void at the conclusion of the referenced five games. Rookies will be

permitted to participate with only one team during the rookie period, but will be eligible the next season to sign with any team in the League.

5. During the 2015 season, the frozen roster period will begin on the date the first half ends or the date set by the League. The frozen roster period will end for each team prior to its last five scheduled games, and rookies may be added at that time.

#### C. 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.

#### D. Trades

1. Players may be traded from one BJ team to another only during the off-season or during the season 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, 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., 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.

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.

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.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Baseball Rules of the Major League Baseball, 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.

7. The manager only 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 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 years records where possible.

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

##### A. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

1. If a divisional setup is used winners of each half of the division (if different) will play a one game nine inning playoff at the end of the season to determine the division winner. 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. If the same team wins both halves that team will be declared the Division Winner.
3. The two division winners will then play the best 3 of 5 nine-inning games to determine the League Champion.

## B. POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT

1. The post season tournament will be conducted involving all 15 teams. Teams seeded 8 thru 15 will play a double elimination round to determine the #8 seed for the tournament. Once determined teams will be seeded 1 thru 8 and will be paired 1 vs 8, 2 vs 7, 3 vs 6, and 4 vs 5 in a true Double Elimination Tournament with the winners and losers advancing to the next round. A team suffering 2 losses will be eliminated. The Championship round will pair the highest seed vs the lowest seed in a true Double Elimination format requiring 2 losses to be eliminated. Pairings will be scheduled by the Executive Director. All games will be 7 innings whether part of a double header or single game.

2. Seedings 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 and losses will count but any team not having a forfeit will be seeded above a team with the same number of losses (without a forfeit).

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 seedings a toss of the coin shall determine the seeding.

3. To be eligible for participation in either the League Championship Series or the Post Season Tournament (if played) a position player must have played in at least 6 of the team's games. A pitcher must have appeared in at least three 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. Awards

1. The winners of the Lester Milgram Most Valuable Player and the Bruce Rice Hustle Award will be selected by the BJ managers, coaches, Executive Director and the official scorekeepers. Each team will have two votes: one from the manager and one from the coaching staff. The executive director and official scorekeepers will each have one vote. Managers and coaches are allowed to vote for players on their own teams.

2. The ballots from the managers and coaches will be returned to the executive director on the day of the team's last regularly scheduled game of the season. The completed ballots of the executive director and official scorekeepers are due on the last day of the season. The executive director will tally the votes and give the results to the BJ President. The BJ president will announce the winners.

3. To win the batting title a player must have 2.5 plate appearances per game based on teams total games played.

#### 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 American League Rules except as herein modified.

2. Force-Play-Slide Rule: The intent of the force-play slide rule is to insure the safety of the defensive player. This is a safety as well as an interference rule. Whether the defense could have completed the double play has no



bearing on the applicability of this rule. This rule pertains to a force-play situation at any base, regardless of the number of outs.

(a) On any force play, the runner must slide on the ground and in a direct line between the two bases.

EXCEPTION: A runner need not slide directly into a base as long as the runner slides or runs in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder.

(1) "On the ground" means either a headfirst slide or a slide with one leg and buttock on the ground.

(2) "Directly into a base" means the runner's entire body (feet, legs, trunk and arms) must stay in a straight line between the bases.

(b) Contact with a fielder is legal and interference shall not be called if the runner:

(1) Makes a legal slide directly to the base, or

(2) Is on the ground at the time of contact and the fielder moves directly down the line between the two bases to attempt a play.

(c) Action by a runner is illegal and interference shall be called if:

(1) The runner slides or runs out of the base line in the direction of the fielder;

(2) The runner uses a rolling, cross-body or pop-up slide and either makes contact with or alters the play of a fielder;

(3) The runner's raised leg makes contact higher than the fielder's knee when in a standing position;

(4) The runner goes beyond the base and either makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder;

(5) The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg;

(6) The runner illegally slides toward or contacts the fielder even if the fielder makes no attempt to throw to complete a play.

**PENALTY FOR (c.1-6)**

(1) With less than two outs, the batter-runner, as well as the interfering runner, shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.

(2) With two outs, the interfering runner shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.

(3) If the runner's slide or collision is flagrant, the runner shall be ejected from the game.

**3. Batter's Box Rule:**

(a) The batter must keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout the time at bat.

**Exceptions:** A batter may leave the batter's box but not the dirt area surrounding home plate when:

(1) The batter swings at a pitch.

(2) The batter is forced out of the box by the pitch.

(3) The pitcher calls time out.

(4) The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound after receiving the ball.

(5) The pitcher throws to a base during a pick-off attempt.

(6) An appeal is made at any base.

(7) The batter request and is granted time.

**PENALTY FOR VIOLATION**

(1)--If the batter intentionally leaves the batter's box and none of the exceptions applies, the plate umpire shall award a strike. The pitcher shall not pitch but the ball is live.

(b) The batter may leave the batter's box and the dirt area when time is granted for the purpose of:

- (1) Making a substitution.
- (2) An offensive conference.
- (3) A defensive timeout or conference.

(c) If the batter refuses to take a position in the batter's box during the time at bat, the umpire shall award a strike. The pitcher shall not pitch, but the ball is live.

#### 4. Game Misconduct

(a) Unsportsmanlike-Conduct Rule.

(1) No coach, player team representative shall at any time, whether from the bench, the coaches box or on the playing field, or elsewhere:

(a) Incite or attempt to incite, by word or sign, a demonstration by spectators;

(b) Call "Time" or employ any other word or phrase or commit any act while the ball is in play for the obvious purpose of trying to make the pitcher commit a balk. If a balk is committed, it shall be nullified;

(c) Take a position in the batter's line of vision, and with deliberate unsportsmanlike intent, act in a manner to distract the batter.

PENALTY FOR 1, 2, AND 3--The offender shall be ejected from the contest.

(b) Coaches--Misconduct Rule. Misconduct is any act of unsportsmanlike conduct or unprofessional behavior that discredits the Ban Johnson League or the game.

PENALTY--The coach shall be suspended for his team's next two scheduled games. The umpire-in-chief (of game involved) is responsible for reporting this act to the League Executive Director in writing.

(c) Fight Rule: The rules committee believes there is no place in the Ban Johnson League for physical abuse of officials or fighting among opponents. A fight rule penalizes offending team representatives (e.g. players, coaches, etc.) for physical abuse or fighting. However, coaches must understand that they are responsible for the actions of their players. Cooperation is needed from players, coaches, administrators, and game officials to prevent fighting and physical abuse.

Fighting--Any physical abuse of an opposing player, including attempting to strike with the arms, hands legs, feet or equipment in a combative manner.

Pitcher Intentionally Throwing at a Batter--If a pitcher is ejected by an umpire for throwing at a batter; the fight-rule penalty shall be enforced. If the coach previously has been warned during the contest, the coach also shall be suspended.

Physical Abuse of Game Officials (Umpires)--Any threat of physical intimidation or harm to include pushing, shoving, kicking, throwing at or attempting to make physical contact.

Coach--Shall include the head coach (manager), assistant coach, and base coach.

PENALTY--If a player, coach or team representative is ejected from a game because of physically abusing an official or fighting an opposing player, the following shall be enforced:

(1) For the first offense by an individual, ejection plus suspension from the team's next game.

(2) For a second offense by an individual in the same season, ejection and suspension for the remainder of the season, including postseason competition.

\*\*\* The physical abuse/fighting penalty is not in effect for an ejection involving arguing or verbal abuse.

(3) Procedures for enforcing penalties are as follows:

(a) After ejection, the offending individual must leave the field and dugout area immediately and is not allowed to communicate with his team or the umpires.

(b) Suspended personnel shall not be in uniform, allowed in any team area or perform any team duty while serving their suspension.

(c) It is the responsibility of the team's manager to administer and enforce the suspension penalty. If a suspended player or coach is found to have participated in a game for which he was suspended, the game will be forfeited by the offending team.

(d) An umpire has jurisdiction to impose penalties for fighting from the beginning of the game until the umpires have left the playing area (stadium) after the final game of the day.

(e) Verbal Abuse (Bench Jockeying)--Game personnel shall not use language that will, in any manner, refer to or reflect negatively upon opposing players, umpires, or any spectator.

PENALTY--The umpire shall warn the offending individual and the coach one time. After such a warning, the offender shall be ejected if the verbal abuse continues. If the verbal abuse continues after the first ejection, the manager will be ejected along with any other offending players(s).

## 5. Game Personnel

(a) Manager (Head Coach)--Is responsible for team's actions on the field and at the facility where the game is played and represents the team in communications with the umpire and opposing team.

(b) Assistant Coach--Is a person who assists the manager and is ineligible to compete as a player.

(c) Base Coach--Is an eligible team member, manager, or assistant coach who occupies the coach's box at first or third base to direct the batter or runner. A base coach must be in the same type and color of uniform as the team's players. A base coach may address only his team members and

may not use language that will reflect negatively upon the players, umpires or spectators.

PENALTY--Removal from game after a warning.

## 6. Collision Rule

The rules committee is concerned about unnecessary and violent collisions with the catcher at home plate, and with infielders at all bases. The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid such collisions whenever possible.

(a) When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly is in possession of the ball, the umpire shall judge:

(1) Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (could the runner have reached the base without colliding) or unavoidable (the runner's path to the base was blocked) or

(2) Whether the runner actually was attempting to reach the base (plate) or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder.

PENALTY--If the runner: a) could have avoided the collision and reached the base, or b) attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner shall be declared out even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

A.R. 1--If the fielder blocks the path of the base runner to the base (plate), the runner may make contact, slide into, or collide with a fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base or plate.

A.R. 2--If the collision by the runner was flagrant, the runner shall be declared out and also ejected from the contest. The ball shall be declared dead. In addition the Executive Director may assess an additional one game suspension.

(b) If the defensive player blocks the base (plate) or base line clearly without possession of the ball, or is not in the immediate act of catching the ball, obstruction

shall be called. The runner is safe and a delayed deadball shall be called.

A.R.--If the runner collides flagrantly, he shall be declared safe on the obstruction, but will be ejected from the contest, and is subject to an additional one game suspension by the Executive Director. The ball is dead.

#### 7. Blood Rule

Aggressive treatment of open wounds or skin lesions should be followed. In particular, whenever a participant suffers a laceration or wound where oozing or bleeding occurs, the practice or game should be stopped at the earliest possible time, and the athlete should leave the field of play and be given appropriate medical treatment. During practice, the athlete should not return to the field of play without the approval of medical personnel. If, during a game, the athlete can be treated without undue delay, play shall be stopped until the athlete has received treatment and is cleared to play by medical personnel.

However, if the bleeding requires extensive treatment, a substitute shall replace the injured player.

#### 8. 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.

