

TOWN AND COUNTRY LEAGUE

BY – LAWS

Organized in 1954

Revised 1978, 1984, 1989, 1990, 1992

Revised and reprinted 1993, 2010

ARTICLE I - LEAGUE RULES

1. The TOWN AND COUNTRY LEAGUE will play according to the rules set forth by the Minnesota State High School League except as specified within this document. Unless specifically stated, the rules set forth by the High School League shall prevail.
2. As High School League rules change, they automatically become part of the By-Laws of this league unless modified during an official league meeting.
3. Team uniforms are not required. Uniformity in color of shirts is very encouraged. Uniform color of caps is required.
4. Tie breaker system: a. Head to head b. Division play c. Point system: 1-8 2-7 3-6 4-5 5-4 6-3 7-2 8-1 d. Coin flip

ARTICLE II - ELIGIBILITY

1. Age limit – a junior class member who has not reached the age of 18 by the date of the first scheduled game may participate in league play.
2. Radius limit – It is preferred to use home talent. When numbers will not support this, the player shall live within 10 miles of the home park location.
3. Any team using an ineligible player and found guilty will be penalized.

ARTICLE III - GAME TIMES

1. All games are to be played according to the TOWN AND COUNTRY LEAGUE schedule.
2. All Sunday games will be played at 10:00 A.M. unless modified by prior agreement by teams involved. When possible, the rescheduled game shall be played before the date it was to have been played according to the league schedule.
3. In case of bad weather, the home manager is responsible to contact the manager of the visiting team two hours prior to game time.

4. All make-up games are to be re-scheduled by the home team manager. They are to be completed as soon as possible.
5. In the event a team arrives late (not present by starting time) without prior arrangement with the opposing team manager, the game shall be forfeited to the team which is present, by a score of 7 to 0.
6. No inning will start after 12:00 noon if town team plays next. If no town team game, the T & C game will be completed.

ARTICLE IV - LEAGUE ALIGNMENT:

1. Prior year league standings
 - American - teams 1-4-5-8-9
 - National - teams 2-3-6-7-10

ARTICLE V - PRACTICE BEFORE THE GAME

1. The home team is to have the field until 20 minutes prior to game time.
2. The visiting team will have batting practice on their own field. The visiting team will be at the home field ½ hour prior to game time.
3. Each team will then have 10 minutes for infield and outfield practice. The order may be determined by the home manager.
4. If a team arrives late, they will give up their time to practice.

ARTICLE VI - GAME UMPIRE

1. The game umpire will be provided by the home team. One umpire is required. Two or more may be used when available. Cost of the umpire will be paid by the home team.

ARTICLE VII - PLAYER AND MANAGER CONDUCT

1. Players will use the best sportsmanship at all times. Conduct not in accordance with good sportsmanship will not be tolerated.
2. Players are not allowed to argue with the game umpire. The first incident will result in a warning; the next will result in ejection from the game and the ball park.

2. Swearing or other forms of abusive language will not be allowed. A warning will be given and if repeated the player will be ejected from the game and the ball park.
3. Any player taking a swing at another player or manager will be ejected from that game and the following game. If a second incident occurs, the player will be suspended for the season.
4. Managers may discuss calls made with the umpire. In no case shall misconduct by a manager be tolerated by the umpire. The umpire has the right to eject a manager when unsportsmanship behavior is encountered.
5. If in the manager's opinion a rule infraction has occurred, the manager may protest the game. (See Article VIII)

ARTICLE VIII - PROTESTS

1. Protests must be submitted to the league president within 48 hours after the game ended and must be accompanied by a fee of \$10.00.
2. A league meeting will be held within 14 days of all league managers and officers.
3. Protests may be withdrawn at any time during this 14 day period. The \$10.00 fee will be refunded.
4. All disputes will be settled by an arbitration committee.
5. If the protest is upheld, \$5.00 will be refunded to the team making the protest. If it is not upheld, the \$10.00 fee will be retained in the league treasury.
6. An umpire's judgement decisions may not be protested.

ARTICLE IX - PLAYOFF GAMES

1. The playoff schedule will be determined by the number of teams in the league.
2. Teams must play at least 70% of scheduled games in order to be eligible for playoffs.
3. Trophies will be awarded to the teams that finish in first place in their respective league during the regular season. Trophies also will be awarded to the playoff Champion and Runner-up.

ARTICLE X - CONTRACTS OF PLAYERS

1. Although players are not required to sign a formal contract, each team will submit a roster of players to the league president before the third scheduled game of the season.
2. Players may be added to the roster up to the second scheduled game of the season.
3. There is no limit to the number of players a team may have on its roster.
4. Players who are 13 years old and younger are not required to be on the roster.
5. Players 14 years old and older, used in a game, who are not rostered, are considered ineligible.

ARTICLE XI - NEW TEAMS

1. Before a new team may enter the league, they must be officially voted in by a majority of the league's team representatives.
2. The new team will be required to pay double the league's entry fee.
3. A new team will be in a one year probation period. At the end of the season, the league officers will determine if they may remain in the league or not.
4. Once a team is accepted after the probationary year, a 100 percent vote by all other teams in the league is required to remove a team from the league.

ARTICLE XII - LEAGUE MEETINGS

1. League meetings are called by the league president at a location to be designated by the president.
2. Each team shall have a representative present at each league meeting.
3. Each team shall have one vote in league meeting decisions.
4. The league president may cast a vote to break a tie if the president is not also a team manager.
5. The BY-LAWS of this league may be changed during an official league meeting. An official meeting means a simple majority of the teams have a voting member present.
6. League dues are due at annual meeting. They are not refundable.