



GSBL Advisory Committee Meeting

Results from October 26, 2009



A.

Rule Modifications

1. **10u Leagues-** On a passed ball from a pitcher, a runner occupying 3rd base may not steal home.

Discussion by coaches/directors in attendance:

- Needs consistency throughout league and tournaments so people are on same page.
- There was confusion for players on what rule they were playing with during tournament play.
- The runner's do not know when the rule is in place when you participate in tournaments and league play.
- Secondary leads and aggressiveness with base runners diminish with rule in place.
- A big issue is to teach the pitcher's to cover home.
- Catching skills? - With current rule it allowed players to become lazier, sloppy and not progress, skill wise
- By stealing home, there are a lot of unnecessary runs scored and more coach manipulation on the actual rule.
- Need to let them steal home to help develop kids with their catching skills, running skills, etc.
- Option #2 gives kid's the opportunity to improve more dramatically throughout the course of a season
- Progression phase...advantage or disadvantage
- **The committee approved Option #2 which is a compromise to the rule over the past few years**

NEW RULE STATES: A runner may lead off/and or steal after the ball crosses the plate. EXCEPTION FOR 10 YEAR OLD LEAGUES IN 2010: **On a passed ball from a pitcher, a runner occupying 3rd base may not steal home until after June 1, 2010.**

2. **15 - run "Mercy Rule"**

Discussion by coaches/directors in attendance:

- Number of incidents?
- If implemented, is it in effect after 2 or 3 inn?
- 10-run rule – then they can play more after they call the conclusion of the game. This gives kids the opportunity to play against good competition and more time to fine-tune their skills almost like a scrimmage or practice.
- Umpires? Would they stay or go after the game was finished? Coaches umpire?
- 5 more runs are not that big of deal and can easily be made up after the June 1st date.

The committee voted to maintain using only the 10-run rule and then allow the coaches to mutually decide to play additional exhibition innings.

3. **Field Preparation-** Home team must have field prepared at least one hour prior to the start of the game.

Discussion by coaches/directors in attendance:

- During the school year, use the same fields as the school.
- Situational instances – Weather, schedule conflicts, etc.
- Not asking too much and should be a common courtesy.
- Expenses to maintain the fields = added costs
- If you hire people to do the fields, they are not always right. (Dimensions)

It was determined that this should be handled as an expectation or suggested to add a reminder about the HOME TEAM responsibilities in the General Rules portion.

4. **Runner leaving the base early at 10-11u**

Committee voted to add additional wording to the "Base Running" portion of the rules. If a base runner leaves the base early prior to the ball leaving the hand or crossing the plate, a warning will be issued. The second offense, the runner will be called out.

B.

Other proposed items for action

- 1. Start regular season one week earlier- add flexibility to allow more practice time. (10-14u)**

Discussion by coaches/directors in attendance:

- Need the extra week because of conflicts and then there is more flexibility for games and practice times.
- Going into August; people want family vacation time and want to be done with baseball at the end of July.
- By moving the season up a week – Weather issues (snow, rain, cold)
- Would prefer it later than earlier because of weather.
- Start season at the end of April, but optional.
- The need for additional umpers?
- Pressure on try-outs?

The league start date will be moved up a week earlier (April 28- 10-13u & May 5- 14u), but is optional if teams want to begin during the first week of play.

- 2. Innings Pitched vs. Pitch Count**

Discussion by coaches/directors in attendance:

- Less people would report the number of pitches.
- Innings pitched is more manageable throughout.

Committee unanimously voted to only have “Innings Pitched” reported. The league is too large to have a “pitch count”.

- 3. Offer a 9u OPEN league with a shorter season**

Discussion by coaches/directors in attendance:

- 9’s play with the 10’s a lot of the times.
- 9u open?
- Limit the number of tournaments and games these teams can play?

MYAS staff will poll association directors to determine the need for a 9u league. This may be offered in 2010.

4. **Additional Consequences for Ejections and/or Unsportsmanlike**

Discussion by coaches/directors in attendance:

- Was a strange year, but what caused it? Umps, kids, mixture of everything, etc.
- Suspensions? 2 games, 4 games, etc.
- Some had no idea about the policy until after an incident.
- Leave it in the hands of the MYAS?
- Opposing team comes in to play a game, how do you know if a player is suspended?
- Will younger coaches police themselves correctly?

The committee strongly encouraged the staff to provide a more detailed Code of Conduct in 2010. A further explanation or understanding of the consequences of unsportsmanlike conduct while participating in an MYAS event.

ADDED RULE IN 2010: If a player is ejected, the coach will be ejected as well.

5. **Thrown Bats (all ages)**

Discussion by coaches/directors in attendance:

- Consistency with the umpires
- Warning's first, next time player is out.
- Next time he comes up in the order is it an out if he already gets out on the play?
- Per team warning?
- It is not with the other ejection policy
- Verbalized by the umpires

NEW RULE IN 2010: Per team warning, then an out unless it is deemed intentional.

C. **Additional discussion and suggestions by committee**

- Continue to improve communication with umpires, coaches and associations
- Outstanding communication, much improved
- Home team must notify opposing teams prior to first play date if they will be using portable mounds. This is mandatory!
- Add to scheduling session what determines who is home and who is away if a doubleheader is scheduled.

Compiled by Tyler Oakes and Dawson Blanck

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