

Glenn W. Shippy Recreational League Playing the Game - Baseball & Softball Rules

*Revised 2024

1. Glenn Shippy Baseball & Softball League Rules

All divisions will use NFHS rules except for the following Association variances.

2. Shippy League Pitching and Base Distances

A.	Grade 1 & 2 Boys	Coach pitch	35/60	Double Safety Base
	Grade 1 & 2 Girls	Coach pitch	35/60	Double Safety Base
	Grade 3 & 4 Girls	Petite	35/60	Double Safety Base
B.	Grade 5 & 6 Girls	Chic	37/60	Double Safety Base
C.	Grade 7-9 Girls	Sophomore	40/60	Double Safety Base
	Grade 10-12 Girls	Debutante	43/60	Double Safety Base
D.	Grade 3 & 4 Boys	Atom	43/60	Double Safety Base
E.	Grade 5 & 6 Boys	Bantam	50/70	
F.	Grade 7-9 Boys*	Midget	54/80	
G.	Grade 9-12 Boys	Junior	60'6"/90	

***Ninth grade boys playing in the Midgets division may not turn 16 years of age prior to May 1.**

- I. **Portable Mounds** – Portable mounds are allowed but are not mandatory. Each town has the option to use the mound. The mounds must be approved by NOCSAE or the Shippy League. For the division tournaments, the host town will decide if a mound will be used, and the decision must be made before the regular season starts. For the league championship games, including semi-final games, the mounds will be used unless both teams agree not to use them. ***Exception*** Atoms division will not use portable mounds. **Beginning in the 2025 season, portable mounds must be a standard size in all towns.**

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3. Players in the Field

Grade 5 & 6 Boys	Bantam	9 players on defense
Grade 7 & 8 Boys	Midgets	9 players on defense
Grade 9-12 Girls	Debutante	9 players on defense
Grade 9-12 Boys	Junior	9 players on defense
Grade 7 & 8 (9) Girls	Sophomore	9 players on defense
Grade 1 & 2 Boys	Coach Pitch Boys	10 players on defense*
Grade 1 & 2 Girls	Coach Pitch Girls	10 players on defense
Grade 3 & 4 Boys	Atom	10 players on defense*
Grade 3 & 4 Girls	Petite	10 players on defense
Grade 5 & 6 Girls	Chic	10 players on defense

* NOTE: The additional defensive player in baseball or softball must be positioned in the outfield in line with the normal three outfield positions. Positions will be left field, left center field, right center field, and right field. The additional defensive player will not be allowed to play in a “rover” position between 1st and 2nd base.

4. Starting and Finishing the Game

- A. Teams must have at least eight (8) players in the field to start or continue a game. This means any eight (8) players. If a team has eight (8) available at game time, they may not wait on one specific player. If a team is not ready to play by 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time, the game will be forfeited. If a game begins with nine (9) players and is forced to reduce their line-up (i.e. injury, ejection, etc.), the game continues. The spot vacated is just skipped in the batting order, with no automatic out. If additional roster player(s) show up after the game has started, then the player(s) must be inserted into the line-up immediately and must be placed at the bottom of the line-up.
- B. Official game time starts with the first pitch.
- C. If a team has 8 or less players available for a game, they are allowed up to 2 players from the younger division (division immediately under, same gender, from the same township, and listed on the appropriate roster) to play. **The borrowed players are limited to 2 and the total player count on the team can never exceed 9 on teams that may normally play with 9 defensive players or 10 on teams that may normally play with 10 defensive players.** These “borrowed” players must wear his/her actual team uniform and his/her participation in this game cannot interfere with the regular game schedule of his/her rostered team. The “borrowed” players must bat last and cannot pitch. When/if, at any time during the game, an additional roster player arrives at the game in uniform, the “borrowed” player(s) must sit and the rostered player will assume the “borrowed” player’s last position in the batting line up, regardless of time, score, or inning. Even though t-ball does not have GWSRL rosters, Coach Pitch teams may acquire a t-ball player from their town to make up their additional players when the team is short. The same uniform rules apply for T-Ball players.

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5. Length of all Baseball & Softball Games

- A. All baseball and softball games will be seven (7) innings.

- B. All games must be four (4) innings, three ½ innings if the home team is ahead, to be an official game unless stopped by the time limit.

6. Time Limits for League Games

NOTE: These are the standardized/mandatory time limits for each age division.
All Shippy League towns must follow these set time limits.

- A. G.W.S.R.L. divisions with a time limit of no new inning starting after one hour and fifteen minutes are:

Grade 1 & 2 Boys	Coach Pitch Boys
Grade 1 & 2 Girls	Coach Pitch Girls

- B. G.W.S.R.L. divisions with a time limit of no new inning starting after one hour and thirty minutes are:

Grade 3 & 4 Boys	Atoms
Grade 3 & 4 Girls	Petites

- C. G.W.S.R.L. divisions with a time limit of no new inning starting after one hour and forty-five minutes are:

Grade 5 & 6 Boys	Bantam
Grade 5 & 6 Girls	Chic
Grade 7 & 8 Boys	Midgets
Grade 7 & 8 Girls	Sophomores

- D. G.W.S.R.L divisions with a time limit of no new inning starting after two hours are:
Grade 9-12 Boys Juniors
Grade 10-12 Girls Debutantes

- E. Any inning started must be completed (no matter how much time is remaining).
The next inning starts when the final out is recorded in the bottom of the previous inning.

- F. In the event of an extraordinary situation, umpires may add time to the time limit.
i.e. Base continually dislodged and time is lost retying it.
i.e. Waiting because of an injured player on the field

- G. Umpires must add this time as near the incident time as possible and must notify coaches.

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7. Tie Games

- A. For games played in the Coach Pitch, Petite, Atom, Chic and Bantam divisions; If the time limit expires and the game is tied the teams will play one full “extra” inning. The game will end after that extra inning. If the game is still tied, the result of the game is a tie and will be scored/recorded as such. No replay of game will occur.
- B. A tie game is a game where the score is tied, and it is called due to rain or some other uncontrollable happening (i.e. darkness and no lights).
- C. If a tie game occurs, it shall be played as a new game later agreed upon by both coaches.

8. Rescheduling League Games

- A. Both managers shall reschedule games postponed, within one week of the postponed game.
- B. Both teams and towns must agree to the game change.
- C. In case the two managers cannot agree on a date, the League President will assign a date.
- D. Rescheduled dates assigned by the League President are final, and the game will be played on the date assigned by the League President, unless cancelled due to weather.
- E. All rescheduled games will be played as a new game from the beginning. Games will not be started from the point in the game when it was stopped due to uncontrollable conditions such as weather, darkness, etc.

9. Uniforms & Equipment

- A. All players shall have a number on their uniform.
- B. Hats are optional.
- C. There is no penalty for shirttails which come out.
- D. No steel cleats (spikes) may be worn in any League game, except the Junior and Debutante Divisions.

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9-1 Protective Headgear (Batting Helmets)

- 9-1.1 All players in the youth divisions must wear protective headgear while outside the dugout and within the fence.
- 9-1.2 Players who deliberately remove this headgear shall be warned once by the umpire and declared out for a repeated violation.
- 9-1.3 Batting Helmet Face shields will be mandatory for divisions of Sophomores and Debutantes.
- 9-1.4 Defensive Facemask are mandatory for pitchers in all girls' divisions. GWSL strongly recommends facemask for all infield positions.

9-2 Catcher's Equipment

***All youth catchers must wear the following equipment:**

- Mask
 - Helmet
 - Shin Guards
 - Chest Protector
 - Throat Guard, unless wearing a hockey style mask or the face shield extends past the chin.
 - Protective Cup (Boys Divisions)
 - Coach Pitch Girls may wear kneepads.
- NOTE: The penalty for a player not being able to wear any of the equipment listed above will not be allowed to catch during the game.

9-3 Bat Rule

- 9-3.1 The Junior Division will be restricted to bats of 2 and 5/8" barrels with no restrictions on the ratio of the bat.
- 9-3.2 There are no restrictions on any baseball or softball bat used in the baseball divisions below the Junior division, or in any softball division.
- 9-3.3 Baseball for baseball and softball for softball.

9-4 G.W.S.R.L Softball Sizes

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|-------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 9-4.1 | Coach pitch | 11-inch optic yellow softball |
| 9-4.2 | Petite Division | 11-inch optic yellow softball |
| 9-4.3 | Chics, Sophomore & Debutante Division | 12-inch optic yellow softball |

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10 Free Substitution (Line-Up Substitution)

- A. In all youth divisions, managers may freely substitute players as long as every eligible player present plays three (3) defensive innings, if the game goes the full seven (7) innings.
- B. If the game is stopped by the run rule or time limit this rule does not apply.
- C. All substitutes must be inserted defensively by the fourth inning of all Shippy League games.
- D. It is mandatory for all players who are present at a game to be placed in the batting order for the entire game and all league games.
- E. If any of these rules are not followed, then the offending team will forfeit the game.

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11 Run Rules

- A. Ten (10) runs after five (5) innings in Bantams, Chics, Midgets, Sophomores, Juniors, and Debutantes.
- B. Fifteen (15) runs after three (3) innings in Bantams, Chics, Midgets, Sophomores, Juniors, and Debutantes.
- C. In Coach Pitch boys and Girls, Atom, and Petite divisions; when one team gets ahead by more runs than the losing team can score in its remaining at bats, the game is over. This rule applies even if the run separation occurs in the middle of an inning. Example: in a game where each team can score five runs per inning: team A, the home team, is winning 15-1 heading into the bottom of the fourth. Team A scores two runs in the bottom of the 4th with 1 or 2 outs. Due to the run separation, the game is over at this point because Team B only has 3 offensive bats remaining, capable of scoring a maximum of 15 runs making them unable to win. If the losing team wants to keep playing then the game will continue, but if the losing team wants to stop the game at any time they may.

E. Runs per innings allowed:

Division	Runs
Coach Pitch	5
Petite	5
Atom	5
Chic	7
Bantam	7
Sophomore	10
Midget	10
Deb	10
Junior	10

12 Fake Tags by the Defense

- A. When a defensive player fakes a tag when the player does not have the ball, obstruction will be called.
- B. Repeated violations of this rule may result in disqualification.

13 Batting & Base Running

- A. If a batter throws a bat, either intentionally or unintentionally, first offense: he/she will be given a warning and the result of the play will stand. Second offense: Dead ball will be called; no runners may advance and he/she will be called out.
- B. (Optional, not mandatory) - A courtesy runner is allowed for a player scheduled to start the next defensive inning in the position of catcher when there are two outs. The courtesy runner MUST be the player that made the last preceding out.

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14 Slide Rule

- A. It is strongly recommended base runners slide on all close plays at 2nd, 3rd base and at home plate.
- B. If such contact is considered malicious or flagrant by the umpire, the runner shall be called out and could be ejected from the game (if deemed necessary by the umpire).

15 Shippy League Pitching Limitations and Guidelines

A. BASEBALL

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|----|---------|---|
| 1. | Atoms | Pitchers will be allowed to pitch 4 innings per day |
| 2. | Bantams | Pitchers will be allowed to pitch 5 innings per day |
| 3. | Midgets | Pitchers will be allowed to pitch 6 innings per day |
| 4. | Juniors | Pitchers will be allowed to pitch 7 innings per day |

SOFTBALL

- | | | |
|----|------------|--|
| 1. | Petite | Pitchers will be allowed to pitch 4 innings per game |
| 2. | Chics | Pitchers will be allowed to pitch 5 innings per game |
| 3. | Sophomore | Pitchers will be allowed to pitch 7 innings per game |
| 4. | Debutantes | Unlimited |

- B. The definition of one day is: One calendar day.
- C. Violating the league pitching limitations will result in the pitcher being removed from the pitching position (the player can remain in the game). The batter and all base runners currently on base at the time the violation is identified will advance to home.
- D. The definition of an inning is: The delivery of 1 pitch to a batter.
- E. For the purposes of this pitching limitation rule, it is possible to have one (1) inning charged to different pitchers in the same inning. For example, if you bring in three (3) different pitchers during the same inning, each will be charged with an inning pitched, regardless of how many pitches they delivered.

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- F. Pitchers who have been removed from the pitching position and still have eligibility to pitch (have remaining innings they can pitch) will get five (5) warm-up pitches regardless of when they return to the mound to pitch again.
- G. Baseball pitchers shall be removed from pitching for the remainder of the game if a coach has two conferences with the pitcher in the same inning. A conference is declared when the coach calls time and talks to the pitcher.
- H. Softball will use the National Federation of High School Rules for pitching in all grade levels. Refer to NFHS Rule 6 Section 1 Diagram 6 for proper positioning.
- I. A pitcher removed from playing defense is allowed to return to the pitching position.
- J. **NFHS Softball Rules - Rule 8 Section 7 (Fast Pitch) Look-Back Rule (2009 revision).**
ART. 1 The look-back rule will be in effect when the ball is live, the batter-runner has touched first base or has been declared out, and the pitcher has possession of the ball within the pitcher's circle.
ART. 2 The runner(s) may stop once, but then must immediately return to the base or attempt to advance to the next base.
ART. 3 Once the runner stops at the base for any reason, she will be declared out if she leaves the base.
ART. 4 Responsibilities of batter-runner after completing a turn at bat, and while the pitcher has the ball within the 16-foot pitching circle, including a base on balls or a dropped third strike are as follows:
- a. A batter-runner who rounds first base toward second base may stop, but then must immediately, without stopping, return to first or attempt to advance to second base.
 - b. A batter-runner who overruns first base toward right field, turns left and immediately stops, must then return non-stop to first or attempt to advance to second base.
 - c. A batter-runner who overruns first base toward right field, turns left and moves directly toward second base and stops is committed to second and must attempt to advance non-stop to second base.
 - d. A batter-runner who overruns first base toward right field, turns left and moves back toward the infield in any direction except directly toward second base is committed to first and must return to first base.
 - e. A batter-runner who overruns first base toward right field, and turns right, is committed to first base and must return to first base.
- PENALTY:** (Arts. 2,3,4) The ball is dead. "No Pitch" is declared when applicable, and the runner is out. If two runners or more are off their bases, when one is called out, the ball is dead and other runners are returned to the last base touched. Only one runner may be called out.
- EXCEPTION:** The runner will not be declared out if a play is made on another runner (a fake throw is considered a play), the pitcher no longer has possession of the ball within the 16-foot circle, or the pitcher releases the ball on a pitch to the batter.
- K. **NFHS Softball Rules - Rule 3 Section 7 Charged Conferences (2009 Revision)**
ART. 1 Each team, when on defense, may be granted not more than three charged conferences without penalty during a seven inning game to permit coaches or their representatives to confer with a defensive player or players. In any extra inning game, each team shall be permitted one charged conference without penalty each inning while on defense. The number of charged conferences permitted is not cumulative. A request for time for a conference may be made by a coach, player, substitute, or bench

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personnel. Time granted for an obviously incapacitated player shall not constitute a charged conference. A conference is not charged when the pitcher is removed as pitcher. This defensive team charged conference rule coverage is effective when the ball first becomes live at the start of each half inning.

PENALTY (Art. 1): After three charged conferences in a seven-inning game, or for any charged conference in excess of one in each extra inning, the pitcher shall be removed as pitcher for the duration of the game.

ART. 2 Each team, when on offense, may be granted not more than one charged conference per inning to permit the coach or any of the team's personnel to confer with base runners, the batter, the on-deck batter, or other offensive team personnel. The umpire shall deny any subsequent offensive team request for charged conferences. The offensive team charged conference rule coverage is effective when the ball first becomes live at the start of each half inning. Time granted for an obviously incapacitated player shall not constitute a charged conference.

ART. 3 When either team has a charged conference, the other team may also have a conference which is not charged, provided the non-charged conference concludes when the opposing team's charged conference concludes, thus not delaying the game.

- L. **NFHS Softball Rules - Rule 6 Section 1 Art. 2 C.** about the pitch: The pivot foot may remain in contact with or may push off and drag away from the pitching plate prior to the front foot touching the ground, as long as the pivot foot remains in contact with the ground and with the 24-inch length. Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate is illegal.

Notes:

1. It is not a step if the pitcher slides her foot in any direction on the pitcher's plate, provided contact is maintained.
2. Techniques such as the "Crow hop" and "the leap" are illegal (See 2-16 ; 2-33)

Rule 2 Section 16 Crow Hop: A crow hop is the replant of the pivot foot prior to delivering the pitch.

Rule 2 Section 33 Leap: A leap is when both feet are airborne by the pitcher prior to delivering the pitch.

PENALTY: (Arts. 2) Illegal Pitch. The ball is dead at the end of the playing action if the ball is pitched. A ball is called on the batter, and the base runners are awarded one base without liability of be put out.

16 Balks

- A. Each pitcher in the Bantam or Midget division game shall be given one warning for a balk.
- B. Regular rules shall be enforced after the warning.
- C. No penalty shall be given to any Atom pitcher who balks.

17 Good Sportsmanship

- A. In all divisions: Good sportsmanship is foremost.

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- B. Players or fans should not “RAZZ” other players. For example: Players will not yell “SWING, BATTER, SWING!” to the batter.
- C. No noisemakers, horns, whistles, bells, etc., can be used by the players, coaches, or spectators to ensure the atmosphere is conducive to good sportsmanship.
- C. Players and fans need to keep their cheering positive not only to their team, but to their opponent as well.
- D. Coach, player, or fan may be ejected by the umpire for any acts of negative sportsmanship.
- When a player, coach, or fan is ejected from a game the following must take place.
 - Player: The player must either stay in the dugout and cannot participate in the game or they can go sit in the stands with a parent or guardian
 - Coach: A coach must leave the playing field/area. Area would include the stands or surrounds. If they are waiting for a game to be over, they must go to the parking lot.
 - Fan: They must leave the viewing area. If they are waiting for the game to be over, they need to go to the parking lot.
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- E. **If a player, coach, or fan is ejected from a game then they will automatically be suspended for the next game played by that team.**
- F. **If a player, coach, or fan is ejected from two games in one year they will automatically be suspended for the remainder of the season for all teams they are associated with, pending Executive Board Review.**
- G. The G.W. Shippy Recreational League Executive Board shall have the authority to suspend, discharge, or otherwise discipline any player, manager, coach, umpire, league officer, or other person whose conduct is in violation of the rules and regulations of G.W.S.R.L. and these Bylaws, and/or is considered detrimental to the best interest of the League. Persons subject to disciplinary action shall have the right to a hearing before the Executive Board before such discipline is imposed. In the event the discipline procedures involve a player under the age of 18, that player’s parents or legal guardian shall be invited to attend the hearing with the player concerned. People, youth, or adult, who refuse to comply with the rules of the G.W.S.R.L., may be considered for disciplinary action. The League may impose one of the following penalties which seems to match the severity of the offense:

Warning - The offending person is to be advised of the offense and further advised that repetition of the offense shall result in a more severe penalty.

Suspension - The offending person is to be advised that he/she has been suspended from all League activity for a specific number of games or days.

Dismissal - The offending person is to be advised that he/she has been dismissed from the League for the remainder of the season and post season play.

Barred - The offending person is to be advised that he/she has been barred from present and future participation in the League, or for a specific number of years.

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This includes situations that warrant, but not limited to any type of law enforcement involvement.

Players, Coaches or Managers:

When a player or coach/manager is ejected from a game, the following procedures will apply:

1. Both umpires and both coaches will inform their Town Rep of the ejected players/coaches/managers full name and team within 24 hours of ejection.
2. Any player, coach, and/or manager ejected from a game will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled game. If the player and/or coach/manager fail to comply, the non-compliant team will subject themselves to forfeit.
3. The head coach will be notified by their Town Rep of the penalty,

Umpires: Will be barred from all association activities from situations that warrant, but not limited to any type of law enforcement involvement.

Towns: Towns found to be in violation of the Shippy League rules will be placed on a one-year probationary period. If the town is found in violation of the rules again during their probationary period, they will be expelled from the league.

18. Alcohol and Drugs

- A. No one, especially managers and coaches, may consume alcoholic beverages or be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol at the site of a League game, as this will be cause for forfeiture.
- B. No tobacco products allowed on the playing field. This includes dugouts.

19. Rough play is to be discouraged by the coaches.

- A. An umpire may remove any player who intentionally tries to injure another player with "high spikes" or unnecessary rough tactics from the game.

20. Score Submissions

- A. Game results must be turned into the town representative or designee of the winning team.
- B. The winning team is responsible for reporting the game results.

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- C. The town representative or their designee is responsible for emailing the game result to shippygr@gmail.com. One of the site administrators will update the website with the results. League schedule and standings can be found at www.glennshippyleague.com.

21. Protests

- A. An official protest form must be completed. The manager or duly registered coach or the protesting team must call “time out” and immediately notify the umpire and the manager of the opposing team the game is being played “under protest”. The form must include all details of the game including score, count, runners on base, inning, and any other pertinent information, along with detailed reasons for the protest. Protests will only be considered for a misinterpretation of a rule or rules and not for any judgment call. In addition, contact information of both head coaches and umpires must be included.
- B. Complaints, suggestions, and any other feedback (other than protests) must be submitted in writing through the designated GWSRL town representative in which the complainant participates. If contacting their own town representative appears to be a conflict of interest, the complainant should contact another town representative. All incident reports and/or complaints sent directly to the president will be automatically forwarded to the appropriate town representative(s).

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- C. All protests must be presented in writing and accompanied by a payment of \$50.00 for receipt within 5 days of when the game was played to:

**League Vice President:
Terry Hedglin
303 W 17th
Holden, MO 64040**

Protests may also be submitted via e-mail to terryhedglin1996@gmail.com within 5 days after the game. If e-mail is sent, the \$50.00 must be mailed for receipt within 5 days as well. The GWSRL Executive Board will provide a response to the complainant within 5 days of receipt of the appropriate protest form and payment. Half of the protest fee (\$25.00) will be refunded if the league upholds the protest. The remaining \$25.00 will be retained for administrative costs. If the protest is not upheld, the League will retain the entire \$50.00 fee.

- D. Protests of games played within five (5) days of the league's final day to schedule games, must be submitted by the Shippy League meeting preceding the post-season baseball and softball tournament.
- E. Use of ineligible players is not a protest but will be a cause of forfeiture of any or all league games.
- F. Failure of the protesting manager to comply exactly with the above procedure will nullify any future protest regarding the alleged violation.