

2018 NGSА Important Parent/Guardian Information

The NGSА board of directors is always here to do what we can to ensure that your child has an educational and enjoyable experience while playing in our league. Any time you have any questions, comments or concerns, please get in contact with your child's division director. The division directors and their contact information are on the home page of our website, www.northbaseball.org.

Legal Bats: All bats must be permanently stamped with the USSSA **1.15 BPF** or the **BBCOR.50** certified mark, or made of wood by a licensed USSSA wood bat manufacturer. There are no rules that apply to the barrel size.

- **4U – 12U Divisions:** There is no maximum length to weight ratio, also referred to as the bat's "drop", required. The "drop" of a bat refers to the difference between the length and weight of the bat. For example, an bat with a length of 29 inches and a weight of 20 ounces has a length to weight ratio, or a "drop" of (-9) and is referred to as a "drop 9"
- **14U Division:** All bats must have a length to weight ratio, or "drop" no greater than (-5). In other words, all bats used in 14U must be a "drop 5" or heavier.

Metal Spikes: Metal spikes are only permitted in the **14U divisions** and higher. However, for safety reasons and for the protection of property, 14U and up players must wear rubber cleats when pitching from a portable mound.

Minimum Play Requirement (MPR): All coaches are responsible for making sure each player on his/her roster meets their MPR each game. The only valid reasons for MPR not being met for a player is when a player shows up late to a game and/or a game does not last enough innings for MPR to be met. The MPR guidelines are as follows:

- Each player that is present for the start of the game shall play at least **SIX** defensive outs and complete **ONE** at-bat.
- For any player that arrives after a game has started, but **BEFORE** their team has completed one full cycle through the batting order, their MPR is reduced to **THREE** defensive outs and **ONE** at-bat.
- For any player that arrives after a game has started and their team has completed one full cycle through the batting order, MPR is not required for that game.
- For any game where a coach is in violation of the MPR rule, and MPR is not met for a player, that player shall **START** in the team's next scheduled game and shall play the **ENTIRE** game. **EXCEPTION:** In the event a player shows up late to a game, and the game ends before MPR for that player could mathematically be met, the coach is not in violation of the MPR rule.

Pool Players: Any time your child plays a game for another team as a pool player, he/she shall start and play the entire game; no matter what. Even if the player that your child was supposed to replace ends up showing up to the game, your child still must start and play the entire game.

The NGSА Mid-Season Classic Exhibition Game: NGSА will host an exhibition game for divisions 8U – 14U on a designated Saturday during the regular season. 24 players in each division will be selected by the 1st and 2nd place coach to form two teams of 12. It will be the responsibility of the head coach to reach out to those of you whose children are nominated to play in this game and ask if your child will be available.

NGSА End of Season Tournament: First and second place for each division will be determined by a two day tournament held on the last weekend of the season. Please be advised that the **MPR** for the tournament is reduced from **SIX** defensive outs and **ONE** at-bat to **THREE** defensive outs and **ONE** at-bat. In the case of a player arriving to a game after it has started, MPR will not be in effect for them.

Post Season Play (8U – 12U): Each NGSА team in the eligible divisions is permitted to represent NGSА in the USSSA Texas State Championship. The first place team from each division will have their entry and gate fee paid for by the league. Any other team that chooses to participate must pay their own way. Each team/coach is responsible for following all guidelines in reference to the State Championship, and the World Series that follows, when they choose to participate in one or both. These guidelines are as follows.

- Each coach that plans on participating must offer each player on his/her team the opportunity to participate. You will be contacted by your head coach about your child's availability, and in turn, you must inform your head coach **NO LATER THAN May 14th** of your child's availability to participate if/when the team goes. **IMPORTANT:** Failing to inform your coach by the given deadline will be considered as a response of "Not Available to Participate".
- Those of you inform your coach that your child **WILL NOT** be available to participate will result in that player's spot becoming open for the head coach to fill with a player from another team. If plans change and your child then becomes available, they may **ONLY** participate with their original team, and if there is still a spot available and the head coach still allows them to.
- If your child is on a team that chooses not to participate in the State Championship, but would be available to participate in the State Championship, he/she will be placed in a pool of players that are eligible to be added to the roster of a different participating team. After the season is over, any participating team that has roster spots to fill will draft from this pool of eligible players.

Player Freezes: Certain rules allow players to be frozen to rosters before player evaluations. This means that the player is automatically on a team and will not attend player evaluations. If your child is targeted as a player freeze, you will be contacted by the head coach of the team and must fill out the paperwork required to be frozen to that team. All freeze paperwork must be turned in by the head coach before a given deadline prior to player evaluations. For any paperwork not turned in by the given deadline, that player cannot be frozen and must attend player evaluations

Player Evaluations: For all players not frozen to a roster, they must attend one of the two player evaluations held by the league in early February. The coaches for their divisions will evaluate each player, and each player that evaluates will be available to be selected in the NGSAs Player Draft. Any player that is not frozen to a roster, and does not attend one of the two player evaluations, is not eligible to be selected in the player draft. They will instead be drawn at random at the conclusion of the draft.

Playing "Up" an Age Division: Players shall be allowed to evaluate, and attempt to play in, **one age division** higher than their league age permits. For this to be available, the player must play the fall season in the age division he/she wishes to play up in during the next spring season. He/she will be evaluated during the fall season by the coaches of the division and the league directors to see if it would be in the best interest of the player to allow them to play in that division in the Spring. Examples to follow;

- Players league age 5, 7, 9, and 11 are not eligible to play up, as one age division up would be the division they are already in.
- Players league age 6 that wish to play in 8U (7 and 8 year olds) next spring must first play in the 8U division during the fall.
- Players league age 8 that wish to play in 10U (9 and 10 year olds) next spring must first play in the 10U division during the fall.
- Players league age 10 that wish to play in 12U (11 and 12 year olds) next spring must first play in the 12U division during the fall.
- Players league age 12 that wish to play in 14U (13 and 14 year olds) next spring must first play in the 14U division during the fall.