

## BI-COUNTY All Division Rules

**The following rules apply to all grade divisions participating in the league unless otherwise specified in the individual division rules**

### I. Player Eligibility

- a. A **player** must play for their **hometown team** or the team from the town where they **attend school**, provided that town offers an **age-appropriate team**. Once a player begins the **season** with a team, they must remain with that team for the remainder of the season unless their **residency changes** or the town no longer offers an age-appropriate team. If a town does not offer a team at a specific **age level**, players may play for another town offering that level. To be eligible for tournament play, a player must have **participated in at least half** of the regular season games for a Bi-County team in their town. A player may play at **their age level or play up** during tournament play, provided they have met the minimum participation requirement with either their age-appropriate team or the older team. **Playing down is not permitted** in regular season or in the tournament. A player may **pitch for only one team** at one level during tournament play.

### II. Uniforms/Equipment

- a. Uniforms or shirts must be the same color for all players, with each player wearing a unique number that is clearly visible on the front or back.
- b. While **batting or running the bases**, all players must **wear approved batting and running helmets**.
- c. **Catchers** must wear **full protective gear**, including **shin guards, chest protector, mask, and helmet**.

### III. Scheduling and Cancellations

- a. If a **game is canceled** due to weather, the home team must attempt to reschedule within one week or forfeit. If canceled for other reasons, the **requesting team must reschedule** within one week or forfeit. Games must be scheduled within one week, but not necessarily played within a week to avoid forfeit. Any game canceled multiple times due to weather or any game canceled in the week before the tournament will not need to be rescheduled and will not result in a forfeit.

### IV. Conduct and Process

- a. **Any coach** removed for **unsportsmanlike conduct** receives a one-game suspension. Further incidents result in a lifetime ban from coaching in the Bi-County League. All incidents must be reported to Bi-County.
- b. **Profanity** toward umpires, players, or coaches will result **in removal** by the umpire or supervisor on site.

### V. Umpires

The home team is responsible for providing **at least two** qualified umpires for each scheduled game for **3/4 and older** age divisions, and at **least one qualified** umpire positioned behind home plate for **1/2** age divisions.

## VI. Governing Rules

- a. **NFHS** rules apply when not otherwise covered for **Softball** and **USA Rules** for **Baseball**.
- b. **Protests** are discouraged and must be made by the town president
- c. It is expected that these **rules will be understood** and adhered to by all coaches and umpires in the Bi-County League. Every attempt should be made to work out **any differences** and clarify ground rules prior to the beginning of each game to minimize any difficulties, which may ensue.
- d. **All coaches and umpires must follow the rules of their designated age division and use the appropriate, approved equipment. Failure to follow or altering age-division rules by coaches will result in a forfeit.**

## VII. Tournament Seeding

- a. **Seeding** will be determined by **winning percentage**. In the event of a tie, the following tie-breakers will be applied in order:
  1. **Head-to-head record**
  2. **Run differential among the tied teams**
  3. **Coin flip, if necessary**
    - b. If **more than two teams** are tied, the tie-breakers will be used to determine the **highest remaining seed first**. Once a seed is determined, the remaining tied teams will restart the tie-breaker process.
    - c. All coaches must submit current team records to the tournament host **7–10 days prior** to the start of the tournament.

## VIII. Tournament Rules

- a. **Early round tournament games will follow time limits. Championship and third-place games play all innings with no time limit unless mercy rule or mathematical elimination applies.** Suspended games due to weather will resume where stopped.
- b. No field warmups are allowed.
- c. All lineup changes must be reported to the official scorekeeper and to the opposing team.

## IX. Tournament and Regular Season Awards

- a. Trophies awarded to 1st–4th place teams unless six or fewer teams, then 1st–3rd only. Regular season champions receive individual trophies.

## X. New Pitch Count Rules

- **3rd/4th Grade Boys: Maximum of 60 pitches per game or 80 pitches per week.**
- **5th/6th Grade Boys: Maximum of 75 pitches per game or 90 pitches per week.**
- **For pitch count purposes, the week is defined as Sunday through Saturday.**
- **It is strongly recommended that both teams track pitch counts and communicate with one another to ensure accuracy.**
- **The use of GameChanger is highly recommended to help prevent discrepancies.**
- **These rules are in place for player safety and not about winning a trophy.**
- **Coaches must also consider players who participate in travel baseball and may be pitching in multiple leagues. Dual pitching between leagues is strongly discouraged.**

- **Overuse of a player's arm at this age is highly discouraged and should be avoided in the interest of player safety.**