

# **Southeast Region Baseball LTD.**

*A NEOBL Exclusive Division*

**2021 11u League Rules & Information**

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All rules stated here supersede rules stated in the NFHS Rule Book. NEOBL & Charter League Members reserve the right to modify rules prior to the start of the season, if any item is misrepresented in this document.

\*Kent Baseball- (a 2021 10u/11u baseball team) shall have entry for the 2021 season. Kent 10u/11u will not be recognized as a Charter team but will have full participation in game play, playoffs and the All-Star game. The charter committee shall evaluate the status of Kent 10u/11u Baseball at the conclusion of the season prior to committing to a split team playing in what will be a 12u 2022 season.\*

- **League Name:**  
Southeast Region Baseball, LTD. – a NEOBL Exclusive Division
- **Charter Teams:**  
Aurora Baseball - Chagrin Falls Tigers – Geauga Knights- Hiram-- Hudson  
Kenston Bombers– Kent - Solon Stampede
- **Invite & Veto Power:**  
Charter teams will have the exclusive right to add or refuse teams entry into this exclusive division of NEOBL by a super majority Charter team vote of 6 out of 8 or 75%.
- **Oversight:**
  - League will be governed by a three-person coaches committee representing a cross section of participating Charter teams (cannot be two from same team) and chosen by a simple majority “yay” or “nay” vote of all Charter teams. This three-person committee will be chosen yearly by January 15<sup>th</sup> and can be made up of willing, head or asst. coaches.
  - This three-person committee will be responsible for soliciting team input and desires for the coming season, organizing said information, updating rules packet, fielding complaints from teams and settling any disputes between teams.
  - Disputes will be settled on a committee vote of 2/3's.
  - Should any committee member or his/her team be involved in a dispute or be deemed to have a vested interest in the outcome, they will be recused from arbitrating said dispute and dispute will be settled by unanimous vote of remaining committee members.
  - Any issue unresolvable by committee, will be taken to NEOBL directors Harry Oschip & Howie Briggs for final ruling. These men may also be consulted any time by committee for input prior to their initial vote.
  - The three-man committee can be replaced at any time prior to the start of a season by an agreed upon, independent outside commissioner with a super majority charter team vote of 6 out of 8 or 75%.
  - Head coaches are the voting members of each Charter team, each Charter team gets one vote on all voting matters.
- **Game-Changer:**  
All teams agree to use the “Game-Changer” app for scorekeeping and pitch tracking. The home team’s Game-Changer is the official scorebook in matters of unresolvable difference/discrepancy.

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- **Players:**  
Must be 11 or under as of April 30<sup>th</sup>.  
May only play on one NEOBL roster.
- **Games:**  
Will be 7 innings.  
Games are official after 5 innings (4.5 if home team winning)  
Extra innings can be played if it is tied after 7, unless the time limit has been reached.  
Games can end in a tie.
- **Time Limit:**  
No inning can be started after 2.5 hours;
- **Darkness:**  
If after 5 innings and before 2.5 hours, it is determined by the umpire that a game cannot continue because of darkness, the game will return to the last completed inning and that will be the final score.
- **Weather Disruption:**  
If weather interrupts a game before 5 innings have been played (4.5 if home team is winning), the game should be continued from the point of interruption if one full inning has been played. This may occur on the current day or on a subsequent scheduled day.  
In resumed games, the pitching rules pertaining to the original contest are still in effect.
- **Mercy Rule:**  
10 runs after 5 innings.
- **Umpires:**  
Games require the scheduling of at least one umpire. In the event no umpire shows up, games can be played with whatever substitutes teams can find that they jointly agree upon prior to start of game. If the game goes forward with agreed substitutes, the game will count. Proceed with caution. **Two (2) Certified umpires are required for all post season play** unless decided differently by the league chair committee due to unforeseen circumstances.
- **Protests:**  
All protests must be settled at the point of infraction and the umpire's decision is final. If it is determined it was a correctable error (misrepresentation of a rule), the oversight committee may elect to hear from the offended party.
- **Game Balls:**  
Our league's official/preferred Ball will be Rawlings ROLB-1. Teams may buy them where they wish, but they are available through the NEOBL at \$35.00 per dozen. Team may also substitute the ROLB-1 for any competing brand of equivalent quality.  
Home team will provide all matching baseballs for each game and will receive their baseballs back at the conclusion of each game.
- **Bases/Pitchers Mound:**  
Bases will be 70 feet apart. Pitcher's Mound is 50 feet from the back of home plate.
- **Bats:**  
There are no bat restrictions
- **Molded Spikes:**  
Players are to wear molded spikes exclusively. Metal cleats are prohibited at this age.

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- **Head-First Sliding:**  
For the safety of all players at this age, players are not allowed to slide head-first into a base except in the instance of diving back to a base under lead-off/pick-off circumstances or rounding a bag and diving back. Players sliding head-first are to be called out.
- **Leadoffs & Stealing:**  
Is permitted per typical Ohio High School (OHSSA) stealing rules.
- **Infield Fly Rule:**  
Is in effect for all games per OHSSA rules
- **Dropped Third Strike:**  
Is in effect with 0, 1 or 2 outs for all batters per OHSSA rules
- **Line-Ups & Substitution:**  
Lineups may be managed in the following ways, must be announced before the game and remain as such for duration.
  - Roster Batting: All present players bat and are allowed to be substituted defensively freely as desired. All batters must remain in the same batting position/order. Any player that shows up late must be placed at the bottom of the order.
  - 10 hitter lineup using “AH” or Additional Hitter: Teams may bat 10 players using an additional hitter. The additional hitter is considered a defensive position and therefore that player may be substituted into the field freely. Players not in the original lineup are considered substitutes and may be substituted into the game as desired including for the “AH”. The original starter/starters may re-enter the game in the same batting position for their substitute, and that substitute is then out of the game and cannot re-enter.
  - 9 hitter lineup: Same as 10 hitter lineup excluding use of “AH”
  - If a team is batting all present, uniformed players, with no eligible substitutes listed on the lineup card, and the number of players is 9 or 10, that team is considered to be roster batting for the purposes of defensive substitutions and courtesy runners, unless the coach has specifically declared otherwise at the pregame plate conference. If additional players arrive after the game has started, those players are placed at the end of the batting order. If the coach declares at the pregame plate conference that he is not roster batting, the late players are listed on the lineup as eligible substitutes.
- **Speed-up Rule:** Teams may use a courtesy runner anytime for the UPCOMING half inning’s pitcher and/or catcher. The runner must be a bench player or if none are available, the last batted out. If a bench player is used, this is NOT considered a “substitution” and that player may be used as an official substitution later in the game.
- **Player Injury:**  
If a player is injured during a game and there is not a replacement for him due to lack of players or roster batting then that injured player is NOT an out in the batting order. If a player is ejected or leaves a game/the field due to a non-injury and there is no replacement for the player due to lack of bench players or roster batting, that player is an out in the batting order when his turn comes up.

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- **Pitching Limits:**

We encourage coaches to keep their kids at or around 65 pitches maximum at this age. Pitchers will be limited PER DAY by **4 innings (which is equal to 12 outs) or 80 pitches** – whichever threshold is reached first.

For the health of youth arms, the following minimum rest schedule is required to be followed in league play.

- 0-20 pitches = 0 days rest
- 21-40 pitches = 1 days rest
- 41-60 pitches = 2 days rest
- 61-80 pitches = 3 days rest

- **Resumed Games Pitching Limits:**

In resumed games, the pitching rules pertaining to the original contest are still in effect as are the pitching limits for the day.

- **Pitch/Pitcher Tracking:**

Pitcher eligibility and rest will be based off the home team's Game-Changer box score of the current game. It is highly encouraged that the scorekeepers periodically check on the score and pitch count throughout the game and at the conclusion of the game. The home team's Game-Changer Box score will be the official record.

- **Balks:**

Each Pitcher should receive 1 warning before a balk is called and bases awarded. This should be mentioned to the Umpire when the Managers review the Ground Rules prior to the Game. Warnings will be eliminated at 12u and beyond.

- **Hit Batter:**

If a pitcher hits 3 batters over the course of a game, the pitcher must be removed. However, should the umpire feel there is a safety issue prior to these thresholds being reached, this rule will NOT supersede the umpire's discretion.

- **Mound Visits:**

A Coach is permitted to visit a Pitcher once an Inning without the Pitcher having to be removed. If a Coach visits a Pitcher twice (not related to an injury) in one inning, the Pitcher must be removed. If a Coach visits a Pitcher for third time overall throughout a Game, the Pitcher must be removed.

- **Schedule & Dates:**

Eight (8) or Nine (9) Team League – all teams will play each other twice, one home & one away.

Ten (10) or more teams will be divided into two random chosen divisions and play each team in division 2 times and each team out of division 1 time.

- Opening Day- Play can begin at any time in 2021
- Regular Season End - July 14
- Playoffs Commence - July 15
- Championship Game - July 17
- All-Star Game- July 18th

*(all above dates subject to good weather – goal to have all games complete by July 18)*