

Rules And Regulations for Joe DiMaggio Baseball

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ADMINISTRATION

The Board of Directors gathers input from local league organizations and then relays information and decisions based on such input back to the leagues. The Board of Directors also serves as administrative and service agents to the individual leagues.

Flexibility is a key word in JOE DIMAGGIO Baseball philosophy; providing a pattern of league operation that may be adapted to the needs of the community, rather than asking the community to adapt to an arbitrary set of rules and regulations.

"League Age" is that age attained by a player prior to August 1st of the current league year and determines the player's eligibility for that season.

Four to sixteen teams comprise a local league and more than one division may be operated by the said league. League boundaries are established by the league, but are subject to the ultimate approval of the Board of Directors.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The following may be adopted by the league as a guide for the handling of player or adult discipline problems:

A: The league officers shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any player, manager, coach, league officer or any other person whose conduct is in violation of the Rules and Regulations of JOE DIMAGGIO Baseball and/or is considered detrimental to the best interests of the league.

1) Persons subject to such discipline shall have the right to a hearing before the league officers to appeal the discipline being imposed.

2) In the event of discipline procedures involving a player, or other person under the age of 18, that person's parents shall be invited to attend.

B: Persons, youth or adult, who refuse to comply with the rules of Baseball, JOE DIMAGGIO Baseball, or the League, may be considered for disciplinary action.

C: Recognizing the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for a variety of violations of acceptable conduct, the following penalties are suggested . League officers may impose the one which, in their opinion, appears to match the severity of the offenses.

1) WARNING. The offending person is to be advised in writing of the offense, and further advised that repetition of the offense shall result in a more severe penalty.

2) SUSPENSION. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from all league activity for a specific number of games or days.

3) DISMISSAL. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year.

4) BARRED. The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been barred from present and future participation in the league permanently, or for a specific number of years.

JOE DIMAGGIO BASEBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

This web site does not contain a complete set rules governing play in the JOE DIMAGGIO Baseball League. Play is governed by Official Baseball Rules. "The Sporting News" edition. This web site contains only those exceptions to Official Baseball Rules which are necessary in a youth program, as well as regulations governing league organization and administration.

1. THE LEAGUE

A. JOE DIMAGGIO Baseball does not limit participation in leagues on the basis of disability. All leagues are required to comply with this policy and failure to do so shall be grounds for revocation of or refusal to renew a league membership.

B. The individual league shall be the smallest unit of the organization.

C. A league shall be composed of not less than four (4) no more than twelve (12) teams. Each team shall pay a league registration fee, equal for each team, on or before the first day of May of the current season. The fee shall be determined by the State Board of Directors each season.

D. Each original league shall apply for a charter certificate on the "Application for Charter" form furnished by JOE DIMAGGIO League Headquarters not later than March 1st of the application year.

E. Each league shall be administered by a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

2. INSURANCE

A. Accidents and injuries can occur while participating in baseball games. To protect our members, all leagues are required to determine that accident insurance coverage is procured for the players, managers, and coaches with a policy provided by the league similar to that available through JOE DIMAGGIO Baseball, or policy provided by another source.

B. Teams in all leagues are required to carry a baseball accident insurance policy with benefits similar to the plan available through JOE DIMAGGIO League Headquarters. This insurance must be in force prior to the start of practice sessions so that all players trying out are covered. The policy must cover injuries sustained by players, coaches and managers while participating in their respective capacities during a practice session, exhibition games, regularly scheduled league games and tournament games, and must cover all personnel mentioned in a group directly to or from any of the specified events. Proof of insurance other than official JOE DIMAGGIO League insurance must be submitted to Headquarters.

C. All affiliated leagues are required to purchase league liability insurance with minimum limits of one million dollars in an occurrence policy basis and naming JOE DIMAGGIO Baseball as an additional insured. Such coverage shall be available through JOE DIMAGGIO Baseball.

3. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS AND PLAYERS

A. Each team shall consist of a minimum of fifteen (15) and a maximum of twenty-one (21) players whose names will appear on the approved roster form issued by JOE DIMAGGIO League Headquarters.

B. Team composition shall be a maximum of twenty-one (21) players, eighteen (18) years of age and under, in accordance with Article 4 of the Rules.

C. The selection of players for JOE DIMAGGIO League teams shall be left to the discretion of each league, provided players meet the age requirements and live within the specific boundaries as approved by JOE DIMAGGIO League Headquarters.

D. Only Players listed on the official JOE DIMAGGIO League Team Roster and filed with League Headquarters on or before the first working day after July 4th, shall be eligible. Preliminary rosters are due before the said teams first league game.

4. LEGAL PLAYERS

A. JOE DIMAGGIO League is open to players 18 years of age and younger. Any player whose 19th birthday falls on or after August 1st of the season in question is eligible to compete in that playing season of the JOE DIMAGGIO League.

1) Players who are 19 years old may participate in JOE DIMAGGIO League events including, but not limited to the Tournament of Champions, if the players meet ALL of the following criteria:

a) The player must have been a high school student and a player eligible through their school's graduation date during the school year that corresponds with their 19 year old JOE DIMAGGIO season. For example, player graduates June 2005, only is eligible for JOE DIMAGGIO summer season of 2005.

b) The player must not attain their 20th birthday prior to August 1st of the said JOE DIMAGGIO season. A player whose 20th birthday is on July 31st or before is ineligible, even if the said player graduated from high school during the corresponding year.

c) The player must have been a rostered player for a sanctioned JOE DIMAGGIO League team the previous summer, and said player must have participated in no less than 50% of the previous summers JOE DIMAGGIO League games. (Appeal for a medical dispensation can be made to the Board of Directors.)

B. Only those of eligible age whose residence, as determined by the residence of their parents or legal guardians, or by school records, within the boundaries determined by the league and approved by JOE DIMAGGIO League Headquarters, shall be eligible for active participation in the league.

C. Dates of birth of candidates for the JOE DIMAGGIO League shall be certified by birth certificate, hospital certificates, baptismal certificates or legal documents which must be presented to the league administrators prior to the leagues first regularly scheduled game. (Photostat copies of any of the above certificates are acceptable, provided they are notarized.)

D. A players competing in the JOE DIMAGGIO League shall not compete in any other chartered or franchised league if that player is officially rostered in the JOE DIMAGGIO League. Roster deadline is the first working day following July 4th.

E. JOE DIMAGGIO League competition shall be restricted to amateur players only. Players who have received remuneration for playing any type of ball or other compensation are not eligible.

F. No member playing on a high school or college team shall be eligible to play in the JOE DIMAGGIO League until their school playing season has terminated.

5. BOUNDARIES

A. League boundaries shall be determined by the administrators of each league, but in the case of dispute are subject to annual approval of the Board of Directors.

B. At least two (2) maps, clearly indicating the current boundaries of league, must be sent to JOE DIMAGGIO League Headquarters. Definite boundaries must be established.

C. JOE DIMAGGIO League Board of Directors reserve the right to adjust boundaries in the event of an overlapping of territorial request of because of inequitable conditions.

6. PLAYING FIELD

A. Refer to Official Baseball Rule 1.04 except a JOE DIMAGGIO playing field need not have an enclosed fence surrounding the outfield playing area.

7. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

A. Players in JOE DIMAGGIO League shall at all times, while at bat or on base, wear a major league approved protective helmet with double ear flaps. All players, coaches and managers participating in league or tournament play shall wear like baseball uniforms. Those "not-in-uniform" shall not be permitted on the field of play.

B. Ball- refer to Official Baseball Rule 1.09.

C. JOE DIMAGGIO League Patches- Each player, at the start of each JOE DIMAGGIO game, shall wear on his uniform a regulation JOE DIMAGGIO League patch appropriately displayed, attached or screened onto the sleeve.

D. Bats- Each and every player has the option of using a bat as approved under the "Official Baseball Rules" or using an official aluminum bat as approved for organizational baseball play.

E. Metal-cleated baseball shoes, rubber-soled or rubber-cleated shoes are permitted. Alteration of metal cleats, such as sharpening which might make them dangerous to participants, is specifically prohibited.

F. Catchers are required to wear proper protective equipment (including a mask, chest protector and shin guards) when behind the plate. Any player serving as a catcher to warm up a pitcher shall wear a mask, whether the pitcher is warming up from the mound, in the bullpen or elsewhere.

G. It is recommended that managers make every effort to encourage the wearing of athletic supporters by all male players.

H. No jewelry shall be worn by any player, except for medical identification.

8. PLAYING RULES

THE OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES, AS RELEASED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF BASEBALL, WILL APPLY TO THE JOE DIMAGGIO LEAGUE WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTION:

A. DESIGNATED HITTER:

In the JOE DIMAGGIO League, the designated hitter will be allowed for the pitcher only. For purposes of clarification, this rule will be the same as the "American League" rule.

B. SLIDE RULE

The "High School" slide rule is to be used.

C. PITCHING

1) Any team member may pitch subject to the other restrictions of the pitching rules.

2) In league play, a pitcher will not be allowed to pitch more than fourteen (14) innings during any calendar week (Monday thru Sunday).

3) As soon as a pitcher delivers one pitch to a batter a full inning is considered as having been pitched by the pitcher.

4) Pitchers in violation of any of the pitching rules shall be considered ineligible, and subject to those penalties outlined in the section of PROTESTS (14) and PENALTIES (16).

D. LENGTH OF GAME

REFER TO THE OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULE 4.10, EXCEPT THAT A JOE DIMAGGIO REGULATION LEAGUE GAME SHALL CONSIST OF SEVEN (7) INNINGS.

1) If a score is tied and the umpire call the games, it shall be declared a "tie-game" and shall be replayed.

2) Local rules may permit nine (9) inning games to be played. In such cases both managers shall agree to the nine inning game prior to commencing play. Nine innings shall constitute an official game in lieu of seven innings. Nine innings shall not be permitted when either team plays more than one game in that same day.

3) When agreed upon by both managers previous to the beginning of a said game, the 10-RUN RULE may be used. If a team is leading an opponent by at least 10 runs after five or more complete innings have been played or four and on-half innings if the home team shall have a 10 run lead at the end of its fourth inning, or before completion of its fifth inning, the game shall be terminated and the team in the lead shall be declared the winner.

E. BLOOD RULE

As of 1996, the high school "Blood Rule" is in affect.

9. SCHEDULE

A. The schedule of games shall be approved by the administrators of the league.

B. Rosters shall be submitted to league presidents prior to the first league game, accompanied by proper identification, no later than the first working day after July 4th. Rosters must be on file at JOE DIMAGGIO League Headquarters. No additions will be accepted after the first working day following July 4th and those players whose names appear on those rosters will be official and eligible for tournament play.

C. A copy of the approved league schedule must be sent to the JOE DIMAGGIO League Headquarters prior to the start of league play.

D. Under no conditions shall a team be required to play more than two (2) games in one (1) day.

E. Each league will maintain an official scorebook or books to be completed in detail covering all league games.

10. UMPIRES

A. Assignment of umpires shall be the responsibility of the home team. At any time the umpires assigned fail to report or are otherwise unavailable, any other umpires used in that game shall be agreed upon by the opposing managers, preferably in writing.

B. The use of tobacco in any form by umpires on the field is prohibited.

C. There shall be at least one (1) umpire, assigned by the home team, working each game.

11. SCOREKEEPERS

A. The official scorekeeper shall record at-bats, hits, runs, errors, strikes, outs, bases on balls, innings pitched in by each pitcher and scheduled starting time of games, or actual starting time if a game is delayed more than two (2) hours.

B. The official scorer should notify the manager concerned if an ineligible player or an improper batter is about to be used in the game, but the failure of the scorer to do so has effect upon the rules.

12. SPONSORSHIP

A. JOE DIMAGGION League recommends that leagues carefully select sponsorship from organizations and individuals. JOE DIMAGGIO League forbids sponsorship of any organization or individual whose activities may be construed as detrimental to the welfare of youth.

B. Specifically, no firm or company whose advertising reflects the sale of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products shall be permitted to sponsor the program or be permitted to display any forms of such advertising in connection with the program.

C. It is forbidden to make commercial use of the name JOE DIMAGGIO or nickname, likeness, photographs, and other identifying symbols or marks without written permission from JOE DIMAGGIO League Headquarters.

13. MANAGERS AND COACHES

A. Adult coaches, if properly dressed in a full baseball uniform, or in a uniform specified by a league, may be used in either or both the first and third base coaching boxes. Only players in baseball uniform and protective helmet shall be used as base coaches when adult coaches are not used.

B. Players, managers and coaches shall remain in dugouts, on the benches or in the prescribed areas throughout the games.

C. If a manager or coach goes onto the playing field to talk to any player or players more than once in a half inning, while the same player is pitching, a pitching change shall be made. The only exceptions to the rule shall be in case of injury.

D. The use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs in any form by players or adult leaders in the dugout, on the benches or on the playing field shall not be permitted.

14. PROTESTS

A. A team failing to field at least nine (9) players within fifteen minutes after the scheduled starting time of the game shall forfeit the game.

B. The playing of illegal players shall result in the forfeiture of games in which the players participate illegally.

C. A protest based on a play which involves an umpire's judgment is not permitted.

D. If a protest is based on an interpretation of the rules, the objecting manager must at the time the play occurs, and before the next legal pitch, notify the head umpire, the opposing manager and official scorer that the game is being played under protest and submit the protest in writing to the league administrators within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the game.

E. When a protest, based on an interpretation of a rule, is upheld by the league Decisions Committee, the games concerned shall be replayed from the point of the protest.

F. Any team manager or other adult leader, who withdraws a team from the field of play, under any circumstances prior to the official completion of the game shall forfeit all rights to protests as prescribed in this section.

15. LEAGUE DECISIONS COMMITTEE

A. The league President shall appoint a Decisions Committee of not less than five (5) persons to receive and resolve all protest lodged during the play of league games. At least three (3) members of the committee shall be present to render a decision.

B. The Decisions Committee shall concern itself only with game protests, leaving the resolution of other matters in the hands of league officers.

C. The Decisions Committee may solicit testimony and advice from any source it chooses, but actual decisions shall be based on majority voted of the members of the committee only.

1) The Board of Directors shall give verbal guidance on the intent and interpretation of a rule when requested to do so by a member of the Decisions Committee.

D. When feasible, the Decisions Committee shall make every effort to tender a decision on a protest within 48 hours of receipt of the protest in written form.

E. Decisions of the Decisions Committee shall be final and are not subject to appeal. Managers may request confirmation of a ruling by the Board of Directors answered for informational purposes only, and shall not affect the specific official decision of the Decisions Committee.

16. PENALTIES

A. Violations of Rule 1, or general failure of the league to comply with the concept of league organization as defined in these Rules and Regulations, may result in refusal to accept the league membership application, or a revoking of the membership status of the league if the violation occurs after membership for the current season has been granted. Please refer to Rule 1A concerning JOE DIMAGGIO Baseball's policy on disabilities.

B. Penalty for use of illegal players shall be forfeiture of games in which the illegal players participated.

C. Penalty for the use of an ineligible player, upon appeal by the opposing manager or notification of the official scorer or league officers, when the official scorebook or other league records verify the ineligibility of the player concerned, shall be immediate removal of the player from the lineup and ejection of the team manager from the game. Both the player and the manager shall be ineligible to participate in the next scheduled game played by the team.

1) And ineligible player is one who is legally a member of the league, but who is ineligible to play or to pitch in a particular game or games because of the limitations set forth in these Rules and Regulations, or as the result of a previous rules violation or disciplinary action.

2) For the purposes of interpreting this rule, a player shall not be considered in violation of the rules until at least one pitch has been thrown to the batter after the point of violation.

3) In the event the manager of ineligible player refuses to remove the player from the lineup when the appeal is made and verified the game is subject to forfeit.

4) When the ineligible status of a player is not established until after the completion of the game, the game shall stand as played, but the player and manager shall be ineligible to participate in the next game played by the team, or the next game played after the ineligible status has been determined.

D. Illegal equipment shall be removed from the game.

1) Players are not permitted to use illegal headgear even if no other headgear is available. When proper headgear is not available, the game shall be delayed until the equipment can be obtained, or postponed and rescheduled by the league officers.

2) Penalty for use of illegal shoes shall be removal of the shoes from the game, and if no other legal footwear is available, removal of the affected player or players from the lineup.

3) Players who do not wear complete conventional uniforms, protective headgear and catching equipment as required by these rules, shall be removed from the lineup.

4) Players who intentionally, in the judgment of the umpire, throw bats or protective headgear, or discard protective headgear while batting or running the bases, shall be ejected from the game following completion of any play in progress at the time the violation occurs. Such action constitutes an out.

E. Pitchers in violation of any of the pitching rules shall be considered ineligible players subject to the penalties slated for use of an ineligible player in article "C" of this section.

F. Any player, coach or league official ejected from a game will be suspended from the said game and the next league game played by that team. Repeated ejections by a said player, coach or league official shall result in a league hearing to determine the level of disciplinary action to be taken (see Disciplinary Action)

17. BEHAVIOR/CONDUCT

A. JOE DIMAGGIO Baseball, through its Board of Directors, shall reserve the right to withdraw membership from any league, team, player or adult volunteer whose conduct, on or off the playing field, reflects in a manner that is detrimental to the best interest of JOE DIMAGGIO Baseball.

B. Players or adult volunteers who engage in un sportsmanlike conduct such as fighting, abusive language or similarly derogatory activity, shall be suspended for one or more games.

C. Teams, players or adult volunteers in violation of this General Conduct policy may be refused entry, OR MAY BE REMOVED FROM TOURNAMENT PLAY.

18. TOURNAMENT RULES

A. Each chartered league and division in a league shall be eligible to enter their champion in tournament competition. The first level of competition shall be league playoff.

B. Any selected tournament sanctioned team in a league shall be permitted to add to their roster three (3) extra players providing the total player roster for the tournament does not exceed the twenty-one (21) player limit. These additional players may play any position. These additional players shall have been bonified registered JOE DIMAGGIO League players in the league or in the division within the league in which the representatives won the right to compete in tournament competition.

C. Each player in tournament competition shall wear, on the uniform, a regulation JOE DIMAGGIO League patch appropriately displayed or attached. These patches will be furnished by the JOE DIMAGGIO League for a nominal fee.

1) Players without appropriately displayed or attached JOE DIMAGGIO League patches, at the beginning of the tournament game, shall not be permitted on any part of the playing field, and shall be deemed "not-in-uniform". Any player who has entered the game and is "not-in-uniform" shall be removed from the game and not be permitted to return to that game.

D. Tournament team managers or other officials must carry with them at all times, proper birth certificates or other legal verifications of birth defined in the regular league rules. These must be presented to the Credential Committee appointed by the Tournament Director before tournament play begins.

1) The Credential Committee shall examine the birth certification documents of all players on the tournament team and using the "Official Roster" form provided

by JOE DIMAGGIO Baseball, shall confirm the eligibility of the players on the tournament team representing the league.

2) The name of the player shall be listed on the "Official Roster" exactly as it is shown on the birth document. (Example: "John William Jones", not "Johnny Jones")

3) Two copies of the "Official Roster" shall be presented to the Tournament Director at the team's first tournament game.

E. Prior to the first game of Tournament play, a manager may petition the Tournament Director for a change to the "Official Roster" due to player injury or EXTREME illness; or for the loss of a player due to the said player signing a professional baseball contract. Any allowed changes to the "Official Roster" must be made in the presence of the Tournament Director.

F. Any replacement of a player on a tournament team for reasons of illness or injury to, shall be supported by written certification from an attending physician as to the conditions necessitating the replacement.

1) Replacement players shall be selected from among other legal and eligible players in the league in which the team played during the regular season. The said team is still limited to three (3) player additions to the regular season.

G. The site for the annual "Tournament of Champions" shall be determined by the Board of Directors by March of the said season.

H. A tournament pitcher shall be allowed to pitch a maximum of fourteen (14) innings during the Tournament (beginning with day 1 of the tournament).

I. Names of each pitcher actually appearing in the game, along with the number of innings pitched, shall be recorded on the "Tournament Pitching Record".

J. Once play has begun in a tournament game, the game shall be played to regulation length, seven (7) innings, or a fraction of those innings if the home team is leading.

1) If in tournament play, a game is halted before a regulation game (seven innings), or if a regulation game is halted when the score is tied, or in an incomplete inning, it shall be considered a suspended game and must be resumed from the point of curtailment at the next possible scheduled time as determined by the Tournament Director.

K. Tournament teams shall play until eliminated, at the sites and times designated by the Tournament Director or his representative, with the full

realization that to do so may require competition with teams composed of players of various race, creed, color and sex.

L. Once a team begins play in the JOE DIMAGGIO Tournament, no team or player shall be permitted to play in any other tournament. Teams that violate this rule shall be eliminated from the JOE DIMAGGIO Tournament play for the remainder of the tournament. Players that violate this rule shall be eliminated from the roster and shall not be replaced for the remainder of the tournament.

M. The Board of Directors shall have full responsibility for determination of team pairings, playing brackets, scheduling and rescheduling of tournament games.

N. The host league shall have full responsibility for scheduling competent umpires for tournament play under their jurisdiction. Tournament umpires shall be 18 years of age or older.

O. Only players, managers, coaches and bat boys in appropriate uniforms which are listed on the team's Official Team Roster will be permitted on the playing field.

P. At no time will a tournament team be required to play more than two (2) games in any one (1) day. EXCEPTION: Resumption and completion of suspended games shall not apply when interpreting this rule.

Q. At least one (1) adult manager, coach or business manager shall be with the tournament team at all times when a tournament team is traveling or is housed as a unit.

R. The Tournament Director shall appoint a Decisions Committee of at least three (3) persons, one (1) of whom shall be the Tournament Director. All members of the Decisions Committee shall be in attendance throughout the game or games concerned.

S. This Committee shall accept any protest of an umpire's decision, other than those based on an umpire's judgment. It shall immediately consider the protest in conference with the umpires and managers and then renders a decision before play is resumed. Such decisions shall be arrived at the members of the committee only, based upon information received from the umpires and managers, and the committee's own observation of the play or situation in question.

T. Decision of the Decision Committee are final and are not subject to appeal.

U. Protest of any umpire's ruling or other tournament condition shall be made to the Decision Committee immediately, before is resumed.

V. Under no condition shall a protest be made after a game is completed.

W. Penalty for use of an illegal player shall be removal of the player and the team manager from the game, and disqualification of the manager for the remainder of the tournament. An illegal player is one not qualified to be a member of the team because of failure to meet the requirements of participation, residence or age. Illegal players shall not be replaced on the team roster.

X. When the illegal status of a player is established prior to the end of a game, or after the completion of a game, but prior to the beginning of the said team's next tournament game, the result will be forfeiture of that game to their opponent.

Y. When the illegal status of a player is not established until after the completion of a game (or games), and also not prior to the beginning of the said team's next tournament game, the result(s) of the previous game(s) shall stand.

Z. An infraction of the rule described in sections "X" and "Y" shall result in the removal of the illegal player and their team manager for the remainder of the tournament. Neither the illegal player nor their team managers may be replaced on the team roster.

TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

Tournament play is exciting. Disputes will arise. Tempers may flare. The examples set by managers and coaches will be reflected by the players and coaches. As adults, guiding and setting an example for the young people, make it a good example. Violent displays of temper will not only give the program a bad name, but may cost the league fan and financial support in future years.

NOTES TO TOURNAMENT MANAGING PERSONNEL:

—DECISION COMMITTEE—

SINCE TIME AND DISTANCE ARE A FACTOR IN TOURNAMENT PLAY, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF JOE DIMAGGIO BASEBALL HAVE RULED THAT TOURNAMENT PROTESTS SHALL BE DECIDED ON THE SPOT—THAT NO APPEAL OF RULINGS MADE BY THE DECISIONS COMMITTEE IS TO BE ACCEPTED. THE DECISION COMMITTEE IS THE FINAL ARBITRATOR.