

2011 EWBC Rules

The EWBC follows all National League Baseball rules with these noted exceptions:

1. General

- a. All participants must sign a "Waiver and Release of Liability" form before playing in the EWBC.
- b. Team fees, payable to the EWBC, are required as follows: For existing teams, a non-refundable deposit of \$500 by January 31; for new teams, a non-refundable deposit of \$500 by February 28; for all teams, the balance, to be determined each year by April 15. New teams are defined as those not represented on the Board. Checks should be hand-delivered at the pre-season Board meetings or mailed to EWBC, P.O. Box 10528, Alexandria, VA 22310. Teams that do not submit the deposit will not be included in the game schedule, which is drafted during the month of March. Teams that do not pay the full balance by the deadline will be removed from the draft schedule and a new schedule will be created. Should a team fold, the players from that team may select another team to play on, subject to mutual agreement.
- c. Games are 7 innings with no new inning starting after 2 1/2 hours. If a game is stopped by the umpire for any reason beyond our control (weather, light malfunction, permit expiration), five innings constitutes a complete game. Otherwise, the game is suspended and will be resumed from where it ended at the next time the teams meet as a first option, or a rainout date as second option. If a game is tied when time expires, the game may be continued to its completion if the field is available. Two teams may agree not to play a rescheduled game or resume a suspended game if that game does not affect the standings.
- d. A 12-run slaughter rule will be implemented after 5 innings.
- e. Rained out games will be rescheduled as follows:
 - i. The first games rained out will be rescheduled during the next meeting of the two teams as a double header if at all possible (if fields and teams are available), or as a weeknight game at the next available opportunity. Otherwise, they will be rescheduled at the end of the regular season.
 - ii. All attempts will be made to reschedule every rainout within two weeks after the regular season ends. However, if for some reason a rained out game is not played, winning percentage will determine the final standings for the purpose of playoff seeding.

2. Team Rosters

- a. Team rosters must be submitted to the League president and the team managers at least 48 hours prior to the start of the season.

b. After the season begins, any additions to the roster must be reported to the League president and the team managers at least 24 hours before game time.

c. Players not listed on the roster are ineligible to play.

d. During the regular season, a player is permitted to leave a team to join another before the 4th game of the team she is leaving. The transferring player must pay a \$25.00 transfer fee to the League. The player must return any team-owned uniform or equipment before playing for the new team. The new team may charge the transferring player uniform costs. A player may change teams only once during a season and only under the conditions described herein.

3. Player Pool

A Player Pool will be used to help teams that are short-handed and in danger of forfeiting. The following rules apply:

a. Only team managers may request a player from the pool and must do so no earlier than one week prior to said game. The request is to be made by the team manager via email to Susan McCarthy at mccarths@mail.nih.gov. Susan will send an email to the Player Pool identifying the time and place of the game, but not the team, and copying all team managers. Pool players should reply to all so that all team managers are in the loop. Susan will assign the first pool player who responds to the first team that submitted a request, and so on, copying all team managers on the "assignment" email.

b. Team managers may not request a specific player from the pool.

c. Each team must provide at least 2 volunteers for the Player Pool.

d. A maximum of 1 player from the pool may be added to a team. The pool player may play any position.

e. If a team that requested a pool player has 9 or more of its own players at the game, the pool player may not play. If this situation occurs more than once, the team will not be permitted to use the Player Pool again.

f. The player pool will end on June 13.

g. Teams that intentionally violate the Player Pool rules may not use the Player Pool thereafter, to be determined by majority vote of the Board of Directors, with offending

team not voting.

h. 2011 players who played in previous seasons must sign up for the Player Pool before midnight May 10 via email to the team manager, who in turn sends the names and email addresses of all pool players to the Board by midnight May 11. New players in 2011 who want to join the Player Pool must do so by midnight of the day of their 2nd game.

i. A pool player may not play for another team if her primary team has a game that overlaps with that of the team seeking pool players. For a given game, players from the opposing team may not play for the team in need of players.

j. Players who knowingly violate the Player Pool rules will be removed from the pool, to be determined via the Board process described in vii. above.

4. Team Uniforms

a. Players will not be permitted to play out of uniform without the consent of the opposing manager. All players on a team must wear matching jerseys. Each player's jersey will have a unique number.

b. All players on a team must wear baseball pants or shorts of the same color. Players are encouraged to wear baseball pants rather than shorts.

c. Hats, if worn, must be identical in color and logo. Players are encouraged to wear team hats.

d. All batters/baserunners must wear a helmet. Helmets are optional for base coaches.

5. Equipment

a. Only baseballs supplied by the League will be permitted. Each team must bring two new balls to each game.

b. Aluminum (metal alloy/composite) and wooden baseball bats are permitted. Little league baseball bats are permitted. Softball bats are not permitted.

c. A pitcher may wear a glove under her mitt as long as it is not a distraction.

6. Field Maintenance

a. The home team is responsible for readying the playing field (applies only to fields that are not maintained by the County or City), and is assigned the 3rd base dugout.

b. The pitcher's mound and home plate must be filled and raked by the home team before and after every game, if necessary. Other areas of the infield must be raked and filled, if necessary.

(Applies only to fields that are not maintained by the County.)

- c. Informal batting or pitching practice must cease 45 minutes prior to the game start time to allow teams to begin formal pre-game warm-ups/infield. Pre-game throwing and stretching must be done in the outfield (not in front of the dugouts).
- d. It is each team's responsibility to remove all trash from its dugout and replace all equipment on the field at the conclusion of each game.

7. Forfeits

- a. A legal line-up consists of 8-10 players, i.e. less than 8 players, at any time during the game, results in a forfeit.
- b. A forfeit will be recorded as 7-0 in the scorebook.
- c. There is a 15-minute grace period from the scheduled start time before a forfeit occurs.
- d. A team that forfeits 3 games will be removed from the league for the season. Future games scheduled for that team will be recorded as forfeits; prior games will remain recorded as wins or losses. Should a team fold, the players from that team may select another team to play on, subject to mutual agreement.

8. Player Substitutions

- a. Liberal player substitutions are permitted under the following provisions:
 - i. A player substituted into the game must remain in the game for a minimum of 2 full innings (i.e., 6 outs by both teams) or until the end of the game, whichever occurs first.
 - ii. The removed player must remain out of the game for at least 1 full inning (i.e., 3 outs by both teams), then may re-enter the game only once, at any position in the field and in the line-up position of the player being replaced.
- b. If a player is removed from the game due to injury the following rules apply:
 - i. The injured player must be replaced with a legal substitute if one is available.
 - ii. In the event that a legal substitute is not available, then an illegal substitution may be made from the roster without following rules 8 (a) i and ii.

9. Batting Order, Extra Hitter

- a. A 10-batter line-up includes an extra-hitter, who must start the game as such. Teams may add a 9th batter, but not a 10th batter, after the start of the game.
- b. Teams playing with 8 batters must take an automatic out when the unoccupied position in the

batting order is reached.

c. If the number of batters is reduced from 9 to 8 batters after the start of the game, an automatic out occurs in the line-up for the batter removed. To clarify: If a team goes from 10 to 9 batters because of an injury, no action is taken; if a team goes from 10 to 9 because of a NON-INJURY, an out occurs in the empty spot; if a team goes from 9 to 8 batters for any reason, an out occurs in the lost batter's position.

10. Player Conduct

a. Players must avoid unnecessary aggressive contact with other players. Any unnecessary aggression, in the umpire's judgment, can result in an out for the batting team and/or the ejection of the aggressive player.

b. Fielders may not fake a tag or block the runner from reaching a base if the fielder is not making a play. This will be called an obstruction by the umpire and may result in the ejection of the defensive player.

11. Playoffs/Final Standings

a. Playoffs will begin as specified in the schedule each year.

b. All teams will be eligible for the playoffs. The playoffs will be single-elimination with all games played on the same weekend and at the same location, if possible. The first round will be played on Saturday and the championship game on Sunday. Rainouts will be rescheduled on the next available date, i.e. games rained out on Saturday will be played on Sunday; games rained out on Sunday will be played on the following Saturday.

c. In the first round, the 2nd place team will play the 3rd place team (Game 1), and the 4th place team will play the 1st place team (Game 2).

d. Should there be a tie in the regular season standings, the following tiebreaker will be implemented in the following order: (1) head to head, (2) runs allowed btw tied teams, (3) runs allowed total, (4) runs scored btw tied teams, (5) runs score total, (6) coin toss.

e. Players must play in at least 5 regular season games for the playoff team to be eligible for the playoffs. Exceptions will be made for injured players who attend their team's games. Such players must be present for the entire game and must be in the dugout (not in the stands). Opposing team managers must be informed of the player's attendance and the player's name must be recorded in the scorebook. Rained-out games that are not made up will count as eligible games for all players on the roster.

f. Team managers may request a waiver from the Board of the 5-game playoff eligibility

requirement for certain players.

12. Tournament Team Eligibility (effective beginning in 2012, based on 2011 participation)

To qualify for the Thunder in a given year, a player must qualify for her team's playoffs in the previous year. Anyone joining the league after one-third of the season is completed is exempt from this rule. Players may request a waiver from the Board of the eligibility requirement for unusual circumstances.

13. Procedure for Protests

a. Protests must be verbally declared to the umpire in charge and the opposing manager at the time of occurrence. Umpires and managers must sign and date the scorebook at the end of the game.

b. Protests must be filed with the League president within 48 hours after the end of the game in question.

c. A \$50.00 fee must be given to the opposing team manager, who then forwards it to the League President. The fee is refundable only if the protest is upheld by the League.

d. Protests will be reviewed and decided by the President unless he/she has a conflict of interest (COI), in which case the Board will decide (with any Board members recusing themselves in the event of a COI), or by an Arbitrator if the Board so decides.

14. General Disclaimer:

The EWBC Board of Directors has the authority to decide, by simple majority vote, all matters regarding the conduct of the League, including, but not limited to, the eligibility of teams and/or players to enter and/or remain in the League; disciplinary matters such as suspension or forfeiture of the right to participate in the League, without return of fees or further recourse; interpretation and amendment of these rules and regulations; scheduling and rescheduling of games; and the placement of teams into divisions for competition. Any such decisions shall be final and binding, except as the Board of Directors may otherwise decide.