

# 2018 Eastern Women's Baseball Conference (EWBC) Rules

**The EWBC follows all National League Baseball rules except as noted:**

## 1. General

- a. All participants must sign a "Waiver and Release of Liability" form and return to League President no later than the week before the first games of the season. New players added mid-season need to sign and return to the President before they can play their first game (photo text or email acceptable). (rev.3/2017)
- b. Team fees, payable to the EWBC, are to be paid on a schedule set by the Board. Teams must submit the \$500 deposit no later than April 1. Teams must pay their balance in full by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Should a team fold, the players from that team may select another team to play on, subject to mutual agreement of the player and team.
- c. Games are 7 innings with no new inning starting after 2 1/2 hours.
  1. If a game is stopped by the umpire for any reason beyond our control (weather, light malfunction, permit expiration), after five innings have been completed (or four and 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead) it constitutes a complete game. Otherwise, the game is suspended and will be resumed from where it was stopped (1) at the next time the teams meet or (2) a rainout date. This rule will also apply to playoffs. (rev.3/2017)
  2. If a game is tied when time expires, the game may be continued to its completion if the field is available.
  3. Two teams may agree not to play a rescheduled game or resume a suspended game if that game does not affect the standings.
- d. Run Rule:
  - (1) A team will not be permitted to score more than five (5) runs in each of its offensive innings for the first four (4) innings of the game. If three (3) outs are not recorded before the run limit for the offensive team is reached, the half inning will conclude immediately and the opposing team will bat.
  - (2) Beginning in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, an unlimited number of runs may be scored and the offensive team will remain at bat until either three (3) outs are recorded or the mercy rule is reached as outlined in this rule.
  - (3) In games played under this rule, a 15 run mercy rule will be in effect after 5 innings (4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead); and a 12 run mercy rule will be in effect after 6 innings (5 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead).
  - (4) The run rule will be in effect for the entire season, with the exception of playoffs
- f. Mercy Rule: except for games played pursuant to the Run Rule, all EWBC games will be governed by the following rule: if after 5 or more complete innings the game will end if one team is ahead of its opponent by 12 or more runs. The game may end after the visitor's half of the inning if the home team is ahead by the required number of runs.
- g. Rained out games will be rescheduled as follows:
  1. The first games rained out will be rescheduled during the weekends set aside in the schedule.
  2. All attempts will be made to reschedule every rainout. However, if for some reason a rain 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. Season rosters may include more than 20 players per team to accommodate part-time participation. Official lineups or game rosters may not include more than 20 active players per team for any one game per insurance regulations. Any inactive or injured players present during a game may be added additional to those 20 active for playoff eligibility only. (rev.3/2017)
- c. After a team's season roster is submitted to the League President, any additions to the roster must be reported to the League President (phone/text/email) before the new player's first game. Official lineups will include first and last names and must be presented at the coaches' conference before each game. Lineups must then be submitted to the League President after each game to be confirmed and recorded for official playoff eligibility. Neglecting to turn in game lineups to the President may result in forfeiture of playoff eligibility for that game. (rev.3/2017)
- d. Players not listed on the roster in advance of their first game or who have not signed the "Waiver and Release of Liability" form are ineligible to play. (rev.3/2017)
- e. During the regular season, a player is permitted to leave one team to join another before the 4<sup>th</sup> game of the team she is leaving. 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. Substitution Pool**

- a. A league-wide Player Substitution Pool will be used to help teams that are short-handed and in danger of forfeiting. The following rules apply:
  - b. Only team managers may request a substitute player 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 the Substitution Pool Administrator. The Administrator will send an email to the entire league identifying the time and place of the game, but not the team. Players that wish to play as a substitute should reply to the Substitution Pool Administrator. The Administrator will assign the first player who responds to the first team that submitted a request, and so on, copying all team managers on the "assignment" email.
  - c. Team managers may not request a specific player from the pool.
  - d. If a team that requested a substitute player has 9 or more of its own players at the game, the substitute player may not play.
  - e. A substitute player can be requested and used mid-game in the event of an injury or early departure of a rostered team member, if the substitute player is still on site at time of the injury or departure. If at any point, a 9<sup>th</sup> rostered player arrives to the game after the start of the game, the substitute player will not be permitted to continue to play in the game.
  - f. The substitute player rule will be in effect for the entire regular season. Substitute players will NOT be available for the playoffs.
  - g. Teams that intentionally violate the Substitution Pool rules will forfeit the game in which the substitute player was used and may not use the Substitution Pool thereafter. This is to be determined by majority vote of the Board of Directors, with the team alleged to be in violation not voting.

h. A substitute 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. A substitute player may not offer to play for another team if her primary team has a game that overlaps with that of the team seeking a substitute. However, if no substitute players are available the opposing team may offer a player to prevent forfeit by requesting board approval ahead of time or by mutual decision from both team managers at the coaches' conference before the start of the game.

i. Players who intentionally violate the Substitution Pool rules will be ineligible to serve as substitute players, to be determined via the Board process described in 3.h. above.

j. If a team uses the Substitution Pool for more than 5 games, that team will automatically be seeded 4<sup>th</sup> for playoffs. If more than one team uses the Substitution Pool for more than 5 games the tie will be broken by higher usage first, with more use being seeded lower. If still tied, the overall record will be used to determine lower seed by team with more losses. (added 3/2017)

#### 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 of the same color.

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

d. All batters/baser runners must wear a helmet. **All base coaches must wear helmets (with or without ear flaps).**

#### 5. Equipment

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

b. Only "approved bats" may be used in league play. An "approved bat" is: (1) a wood bat, (2) certified BBCOR .50, or (3) certified USSSA BPF 1.15. **If any bat cannot be identified as an "approved bat," either through the marked certification or through some other method (such as Internet search in the event that the marked certification is not visible), then the bat shall be removed from the game by the umpire.**

##### Penalty for use of a non-conforming bat:

- Any bat that does not conform to the above rule, if discovered before the game begins, shall be directed to be removed immediately and not be allowed for use during the game.
- Once the game begins, if a non-conforming bat is discovered before a batter completes her "at bat" the bat is removed from play and the "at bat" continues with the same count as before the non-conforming bat was discovered.
- A player who uses a non-conforming bat and hits a ball upon which a play is made (either resulting in a hit or an out) will be ruled out. All runners who advanced during the play will be returned to the base they occupied prior to the start of the play, however, any additional outs recorded during the play shall stand. A team alleging the use of a non-conforming bat must raise their challenge prior to the first pitch being thrown to the next batter. The challenge can be made during either a time the ball is live or during a time the ball is dead, but must be made before a pitch is thrown to the next batter.

- If a team utilizes a non-conforming bat during an at bat, a warning will be issued to that team. If a second non-conforming bat is used by that team, the player using said bat shall be ejected.

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. The score of a forfeit will be 7-0 in favor of the non-forfeiting team.

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 of the player and team.

## **8. Player Substitutions**

a. Offensive Substitutions:

1. A starter may be removed from the batting order at any time and be replaced by a substitution player.

2. The removed starter may re-enter the game once but is subject to the following re-entry rules:

i. If the removed starter re-enters the batting order in the same position in the lineup as she previously held, she may re-enter at any time.

ii. If the removed starter re-enters the batting order in a different position in the lineup than she previously held, she must have remained out of the lineup for at least two full innings (6 outs recorded by each team).

3. 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) 1 and 2.

iii. Any player injured while running the bases whom cannot fulfill her base running duties may be replaced by a courtesy runner (The courtesy runner shall be the next available player, not the last out). If a courtesy runner is used, the injured player must then be removed from the game and another player substituted into her position in the lineup subject to the re-entry rules above. If a courtesy runner is used, the injured player may not return to the batting order during that game (except if an illegal substitution must be used). If the team elects to replace the injured player with a pinch runner, the injured player may re-enter the lineup subject to the re-entry rules above. The pinch runner is treated the same as any other substituted player and may not thereafter re-enter the game (except when an illegal substitution is allowed).

b. Pitchers: A pitcher who is removed from the mound and does not remain in the game as a position player may not re-enter the game as a pitcher. A pitcher may be removed from the mound and remain in the game as a position player and from such position re-take the mound as a pitcher. The replacement pitcher must pitch at least one complete at-bat before the original pitcher may re-take the mound (unless an injury occurs to the substitute pitcher)

c. Speed up rule: Teams *may* insert a runner for the pitcher and/or catcher.

1. If a runner is inserted for the pitcher/catcher that pitcher/catcher must serve as the pitcher or catcher for at least the first batter of the following half inning (if played).

2. The runner inserted will be the next available player, not the last out. [Example: If the catcher is Batter #4 and is on first base when there are two outs, and Batters #3 and #2 are on base at that time, Batter #1 will replace the catcher regardless of whether she is on the bench because she was retired earlier in the inning or scored already].

d. Defensive Substitutions:

1. There will be free and unlimited defensive substitutions, without reporting to the umpire. Defensive substitutions should be reported to the opposing team.

2. Pitching changes should be reported to the umpire.

3. This rule does not apply to the pitcher, who must follow Rule 8(c).

4. Defensive players are NOT required to play offense and offensive players are NOT required to play defense.

e. Courtesy Runners for Specific Players:

1. Players that will need courtesy runners must have their manager notify the opposing manager prior to the start of the game. If not so notified, the opposing manager may deny the request. Each team will be allowed a maximum of 2 players per game who can be run for each time that they reach base. The individual who runs for these player(s) needing a courtesy runner is not determined ahead of time; it is always the next available player who must run for the person needing the courtesy runner.

2. Once the game begins and the full complement of 2 courtesy runners has not been used, if a player sustains an injury, an additional courtesy runner may be used. In the event a player becomes injured during the game and the maximum number of courtesy runners (2) have already been designated, a pinch runner must be used and no courtesy runner will be allowed. If a batter (designated as needing a courtesy runner) opts to run, or forgets to get a courtesy runner and subsequently runs, she will lose her courtesy runner for the remaining portion of the game.

3. The offensive team that is replacing the courtesy runner has 30 seconds to make the runner change\*. If the runner is not replaced within this time period, the original runner must run and the right to use the

courtesy runner for this particular batter will be forfeited for the balance of the game. The 30-second time limit will begin at the time the umpire calls for time to allow replacement for the runner.

## **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 for any reason must take an automatic out when the unoccupied position in the batting order is reached.
- c. If a team goes from 10 to 9 players because of an injury the injured player's position will be skipped in the batting order with no penalty. If that injury occurs while the player is performing her offensive duties, i.e., while batting or running bases, then going backward through the line-up the first player who is not on base will complete the injured player's offensive duties and thereafter that position in the batting order will be skipped with no penalty. If a team goes from 10 to 9 players because of a non-injury, an out occurs in the empty spot.

## **10. Player Conduct Policy**

- 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.
- c. The Board will review the circumstances surrounding any player ejections from a game. The player, team manager and/or coach for both teams involved in the game at issue may submit a written (including email) statement regarding the events as well as other information regarding the player, the game or other factors they wish the Board to consider. The Board will review all submissions forthwith to determine if any further action should be taken regarding the ejected player. Any sanction imposed by the Board must be by a 4/5ths majority vote. Repeated acts of aggressive conduct or egregious acts of violence may be grounds for removal from league play for the remainder of the season.
- d. In addition to these standards, the EWBC has adopted an official Player Code of Conduct (see attached) that is referenced in the "Waiver and Release of Liability" form that must be signed and returned before a player is eligible to play in a league game.

## **11. Playoffs/Final Standings**

- a. Playoffs will begin as specified in the schedule each year.
- b. Playoffs will be determined by the final regular season standings [exception Rule 3.1.]. The team finishing the regular season in first place will play the team finishing in fourth place while teams finishing in second and third places at the end of the season will play each other. These games will be played in a tournament format resulting in the winners of said games playing each other for the championship. (rev. 3/2018). Losers of said games will play each other for a 3rd place game.
- c. Teams will be ranked in the standings based upon their win-loss record [exception Rule 3.1.]. If not, all teams play the same number of games, teams will be ranked by their respective win/loss percentage. Should there be a tie in the regular season standings based upon a team's win/loss record (or win/loss percentage), the following tiebreaker will be implemented in the following order: (1) head to head, (2) runs allowed between tied teams, (3) total runs allowed (4) runs scored between the tied teams, (5) total runs scored, (6) coin toss.

d. Players must play in at least 5 regular season games to be eligible for playoffs. Exceptions will be made for injured players who attend their team's games. Such players must be present for the entire game(s) missed and must be in the dugout in addition to being listed on Official lineups. Rained-out games that are not made up will count as eligible games for all players on the team roster at the time of that scheduled game. In the case of a forfeited game, all roster players on the winning team will be given credit for a played game. Rescheduled games that are not played due to mutual agreement of two teams (see 1c) will not count as played games.

f. Team managers may request a waiver from the Board of the 5-game playoff eligibility requirement for a player by submitting a written (including email) request to the Board.

## **12. Tournament Team Eligibility**

a. To be eligible to play for the D.C. Thunder in a given tournament, a player must currently be on the roster of a EWBC team.

b. In the event that the Thunder lacks enough rostered players to participate in a tournament, the Thunder coach may request a waiver from the Board to add other players to the roster.

## **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.*

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## EWBC Player Code of Conduct

- I will play within the EWBC Rules and guidelines.
- I will display good sportsmanship and fair play.
- I will be supportive after the games, win or lose.
- I will recognize good effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship.
- I will respect my coach, teammates, the other team, officials, spectators, and league organizers.
- I will not physically or verbally abuse a coach, official, scorekeeper, player, or spectator while participating in or attending any event/game.
- I will not argue with an official's judgment decision.
- I will let the coach dispute calls that involve interpretation of the rules.
- I will respect the decision of the game officials and league organizers.
- I will respect and comply with all rules of the fields on which EWBC games or other activities are conducted and will leave the field in the same condition as I found it.

### Misconduct and Penalties

**“Misconduct”** is a violation of the Code of Conduct occurring during a game or other EWBC activity (such as practice or scrimmage), including tournament team play. If an act of Misconduct occurs during the competition or activity, under normal circumstances, the player shall be allowed to complete the competition or activity in which she is participating at the time of the incident. Furthermore, it is principally the responsibility of team manager/coach to ensure that players comply with the Code of Conduct and to address instances of Misconduct with the individual player and her team informally.

If, however, the act of misconduct flagrantly violates the principles of fair play and sportsmanship embodied in the EWBC Rules and Bylaws, a written complaint of Misconduct can be transmitted to the EWBC President for the consideration of the Board of Directors. The complaint may not be submitted anonymously and must be shared with the player to whom the complaint is directed. The Board will exercise its discretion to investigate any complaint, including but not limited to obtaining the written statement of the player to whom the complaint is directed, and determine an appropriate penalty (if warranted) under the following guidelines:

OFFENSE	MIN.	MAX.
Defiance of Authority (willful refusal to follow a direction given by umpire, field representative or official; excessive obscenity/profanity or other verbal abuse directed to same)	Private verbal reprimand and warning	League removal
Assault (Action that causes a person to reasonably fear for his/her safety)	Private verbal reprimand and warning	League removal

Battery (Illegal touching of another in a threatening manner)	1-3 game suspension	League removal
Inciting Violence (verbally or otherwise encouraging someone to participate in a violent act)	1-3 game suspension	League removal
Willful Damage of Property (intentional destruction of property; participants in such misconduct will be responsible for all damages)	Private verbal reprimand and warning	League removal

Minimum penalties are the smallest that shall be given for a specified offense; repeated or more serious offenses result in more severe penalties up to the maximum. "League removal" means that the player is suspended for the duration of the EWBC season and may seek reinstatement in the following season. Suspensions, league removal and reinstatement require at least a 75% majority of the Board voting in favor. All other punishments require a simple majority.

### Annual Sportsmanship Award

While dealing with negative behavior is part of sports administration, the EWBC strives to promote good sportsmanship and teamwork through proactive methods. To this end, the EWBC has created an Annual Sportsmanship Award to be given at the conclusion of the EWBC season to the player who best embodies the EWBC spirit of competition and fair play. Each team will nominate a player for the award. The league then will vote on the candidates. A player who wins in one year is ineligible to be nominated the following year (only).

### Waiver and Release of Liability

I, Printed Name Player/Coach/Manager, a member of Team Name have read and agree to observe and abide by the Rules of the Eastern Women's Baseball Conference (EWBC). Additionally, I have read the Player Code of Conduct along with the penalties of misconduct and agree to adhere to those policies as well. I realize by participating in baseball there is a possibility of physical injury and voluntarily accept that risk. Lastly, I hereby release, discharge, and otherwise indemnify the EWBC, and its affiliated agents, facility owners, and the EWBC Board of Directors, against any claim by or on my behalf, as a result of my participation the EWBC.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant/Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date