

The Los Angeles Baseball Federation (LABF)
Code of Regulations & Rules



2024 season v2

LOS ANGELES BASEBALL FEDERATION
admin@labaseballfederation.com
www.labaseballfederation.com

The Los Angeles Baseball Federation (LABF) Code of Conduct

I pledge to honor and support my team and LABF by adhering to the LABF Code of Conduct. LABF Players shall:

- a. Treat all players, managers, assistant managers, umpires, and spectators with dignity and respect;
- b. Arrive on time for games, practices, and meetings if so scheduled;
- c. Adhere to the LABF Code of Regulations & Rules;
- d. In accordance with LABF Code of Regulations & Rules Sections I(5) and VVI(4)-(5), waive any liability to LABF or its participants of any injury sustained during an LABF event;
- e. Not fight with LABF players, members, managers, assistant managers, umpires, and spectators;
- f. Understand that LABF does not condone the consumption of alcoholic beverages or illicit substances during LABF events, however, if any player chooses to do so, that player does so at their own risk;
- g. Waive all rights to their image;
- h. Keep up to date on fees and dues;
- i. Wear a LABF team uniform when participating in LABF games.

The (LABF) Code of Regulations & Rules

I. Eligibility for LABF Season

1. Each player on a team's roster must have previously played on an LABF team in the previous season or have played in at least one (2) LABF spring training games for that season to be eligible for a roster position on any LABF team during that same season.
2. Teams must submit a preliminary roster before week one (1) of the season to Management Council.
3. Teams must submit a permanent roster by week five (5) to Management Council.
 - a. After week five (5), players may not be added to the roster as a permanent player. Accordingly, any player who intends to participate on a LABF team after week five (5) is subject to the Substitute Player Rules, below:
 - i. In order to qualify as a Substitute Player, each proposed Substitute Player's name must be submitted to a Substitute List, which is to be agreed upon by Management Council by a simple majority.
 - ii. This list may contain players who are not on an active team roster—this list shall be updated and maintained by a designated LABF member appointed by Management Council.
 - iii. Should a team require a Substitute Player, that team must accept a substitute player designated by an order of availability and service time—for example, if Pascual Perez is number one (1) on the list, but Pascual Perez served previously as a Substitute Player in a preceding game, then the number two (2) Substitute Player shall be called to serve that team that needs a Substitute Player, unless both teams agree to waive this provision.
 - iv. Women, Trans and non-bianary Substitute Players do not need be on the Substitute Player List and can serve as Substitute Players without notice or approval. This exception arises from LABF's policy of encouraging more diverse players to join our league.
 - v. Substitute Players shall always bat last in the lineup and shall only play the following field positions: catcher, first base, right field, and second base.
4. By participating in any LABF event, all rostered players and substitute players thereby waive any liability from LABF or any of its players for any injuries sustained during a game and on the baseball field. However, if any person in attendance of an LABF game or event intentionally causes bodily harm to any other person in attendance of an LABF game or event, that individual may still be held criminally and/or civilly liable.

II. Management Council

1. Management Council is comprised of every single manager representing each LABF team for a given season to be determined by each LABF team for that given season. That team's Manager representative shall perform all duties associated with Management of that LABF team for the duration of that season that the Manager is selected to conduct such duties unless good cause is shown to replace that Manager, which shall be determined by that particular team's discretion.
 - a. In the event of an absent Manager, a designated Manager may be appointed by each team for Management Council official proceedings or games
 - b. Management Council votes must be made public
 - c. Management Council votes are decided on a simple majority, e.g. 3/5 vote in order for approval of any measure or issue presented to Management Council, with the exceptions of the provisions enumerated in section V.
2. All Management Council votes may be vetoed upon a majority of votes from LABF registered permanent rostered players. Such potential veto shall be submitted in writing with written or electronic signatures in a public forum such as LABF's general Manager Signal chat or any other social media or e-mail correspondence.
3. Each year, Management Council will elect one Commissioner to maintain oversight of LABF operations prior to Spring Training. *See Section II Rule (1)(c).*
 - a. Duties shall include:
 - i. If there are an even number of members participating in Management Council, then the Commissioner shall provide the tie-breaking vote.
 - ii. Oversight of operations include, but are not limited to: scheduling and booking fields for LABF gameplay and/or practice; fundraising; promotion; community awareness and involvement; scheduling and coordinating Management Council meetings; taking minutes on Management Council meetings; and proper execution of Management Council duties.
 - iii. In addition, the Commissioner shall coordinate and execute all other functions and duties not enumerated and already designated to Management Council. For example, the Commissioner will coordinate and execute training and the selection process of Qualified Umpires. *See Section IX.* Such functions and duties may be revoked by Management Council upon a majority vote. *See Section II Rule (1)(c).*
4. All duties and functions performed by Management Council and the Commissioner must be publicly noticed on an e-mail chain and/or a social media site that every member has access to.

III. Fees and Dues

1. Each team manager must remit their team's portion of all league dues including, but not limited to, field reservation permit fees, general permit fees, liability

- insurance fees, and other general league dues determined by Management Council at any given time as any needs may arise for the effective functioning of the LABF.
2. It is at the discretion of each team Manager to collect dues. This includes individual player payment or team sponsorships. Ultimately, if fees are delinquent, that team's Manager is responsible for past-due and outstanding fees.
 3. League Fees and Dues invoices must be paid within thirty (30) days of receipt, to be noticed with Management Council.
 - a. Failure to pay shall result in an additional 5% interest on the total balance of payment due, per week.
 - b. Should any invoice not be paid in full eight (8) weeks after the invoice date or receipt of invoice, whichever is sooner, the offending team will be suspended from play until dues are paid in full.
 - i. Each suspended game will result in a forfeiture resulting in a loss for the offending, non-paying team and a win for the team that is not in forfeiture. Payment may be remitted via check, cash, PayPal or Venmo (or whatever technological data-mining currency sharing platform is in existence at the time that fees shall be remitted).

IV. General Gameplay

1. Generally, LABF follows the rules of play as set forth in the MLB [http://mlb.mlb.com/documents/0/8/0/268272080/2018_Official_Baseball_Rules.pdf]. However, the following rules apply specifically to LABF general gameplay:
2. No Stealing:
 - a. Baserunners are permitted to lead-off but not steal. However, in the event of an overthrow on a pick off play, the baserunner may proceed to the next base only after having tagged/touched the base the baserunner was on. Finally, the baserunner is only allowed to attempt to advance one base.
 - b. Baserunners may take a lead of no more than twelve (12) feet from the bag they occupy at the time (to be marked when possible). Baserunners can only move past the twelve (12) foot mark only after the ball has been hit.
 - i. Baserunners may not run past 12 feet until the ball has been hit. Otherwise, a player who runs past the twelve foot mark before the ball has been hit may receive a warning, any additional violations will result in the runner/player being called out immediately.
3. Substitutions:
 - a. Pinch runners are only permitted for catchers or injured players.
 - b. A pinch runner must be the last player to have taken an at-bat at the conclusion of the previous inning.
4. Dropped Third Strike Rule:
 - a. The dropped third strike rule is currently not enforced in the LABF.
5. Balks are not called. However a pitcher may not balk in the process of picking off a runner. In this case the play is dead and run(s) will return to the previously occupied base.

6. No hidden ball tricks unless it's for the laughs. Otherwise, they are not considered outs.
7. The infield fly rule is in effect with less than 2 outs and there are runners on first and second base or the bases are loaded. On any infield fly that is high enough to be deemed easily catchable by the ump the batter is automatically out and the runners may advance at their own risk (if the ball is caught they must tag to advance and if not caught they may advance at their own risk). The umpire must call infield loudly as "Infield fly, batter is out".
8. Batters must not intentionally crowd the plate. If they do crowd the plate and get hit by a pitch, the umpire is not obligated to grant them a walk. A walk in this instance is at the discretion of the umpire.
9. If a pitcher hits 3 batters in 1 inning, they are automatically removed as a pitcher for the remainder of that game. Furthermore, if one pitcher hits 5 batters throughout the entire game, they are automatically removed as a pitcher for the remainder of the game.
10. There is a 6 inning limit for pitchers in one game.

V. Complete Game & Roster Rules

1. Complete Games and/or Games of Record
 - a. A game of record is a complete game entered into the season's standings.
 - b. A complete game is nine (9) innings subject to the exceptions enumerated below:
 - c. A game shall not exceed three (3) hours if there are time restrictions due to field scheduling.
 - d. At the two hour and forty-five (2:45) mark, no new inning shall be started. For example, if at the 2:45 mark, it is the top of the sixth inning, then the game must conclude after completion of the bottom of the sixth inning unless that game runs beyond the 3-hour mark. If the game hasn't concluded at the 3 hour mark the game will be called and the final will be the result of the last full inning played.
2. Full Roster
 - a. Each LABF team shall have a minimum of fifteen (15) and a maximum of twenty three (23) players on their full-time active roster throughout a season. Of those rostered players, at least two (2) shall be non-cisgendered males.
 - b. Each team must have at a minimum (8) players on the field or in the dugout at the commencement of the scheduled game-time start subject to the exceptions enumerated below.
 - c. If one team only has eight (8) players thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled game-time start, that team shall enter a forfeit. Both teams can, however, play a game that is not a game of record.
 - i. If, however, both teams have seven (7) or fewer players at the scheduled game-time start, both teams' managers may decide to play a game of record.

3. Other Requirements

- a. At least two (2) non-cisgendered males on a team's active roster.

VI. Game Time

1. Games shall start promptly at the scheduled start times on the LABF website. The scheduled start shall be noted on the website. The scheduled start time does not mean the time that either team decides to begin the game.
2. For games subject to time restrictions
 - a. When the bottom of the inning concludes with fifteen (15) minutes or less remaining on a timed game, the game is considered concluded.
 - i. This is regardless of whether that game began late or is tied.
 - b. When the top of an inning concludes with fifteen (15) minutes or less remaining and the home team has a deficit of six (6) runs or more, the game is considered concluded.
 - c. The same shall apply for sundown or other field restrictions, such as another league needing the field, during that inning. See Section V Rule 1.
 - d. However, in the event that the park evicts the team's for any reason, the game shall be suspended and resumed at a later scheduled date regardless of the inning or whether it is a regular season game or the playoffs.
 - e. The current MLB rules for game delays for regular and postseason games shall apply to all other circumstances not listed in section IV.
3. Beginning in the eleventh (11) inning, if the game is tied, then each team shall start with baserunners on first and second.
4. Each Manager or Assistant Manager shall provide an official line-up to the umpire, Management Council, or Management Council representative prior to the start of the game. If providing a roster in advance of the game is impractical, then the Manager or Assistant Manager must provide a roster to the opposing Manager or Assistant Manager at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled game-time start.
 - a. Any players who arrive after the submission of a roster must bat at the end of the line-up. a

VII. Team Requirements

1. Each Team shall provide two (2) new game balls for that day's game.
 - a. If a team fails to provide at least two (2) new game balls for that day they will be invoiced for the cost of new game balls subject to the same rules for delinquent payments as provided in section III.
 - b. This rule is subject waiver upon an agreement made by LABF teams and approved by Management Council to collectively purchase a sufficient amount of Game Balls for the entire season before the season begins.

- i. This waiver provision of Section VII Rule (1)(a) is governed by the fee provisions outlined in Section III.
 - c. New Game Balls must be college level or higher.
 2. Each team shall have their own set of bases that attach to the ground via a metal pole. If both teams fail to provide bases, then safe and adequate bases shall be rigged for that game and neighborhood rules may apply upon agreement between the two teams for each base or single bases.
 - a. This Rule is subject to waiver upon an agreement made by LABF teams and approved by Management Council to collectively purchase and provide bases for each LABF game in advance of the start of a given season.
 - i. This waiver provision of Section VII Rule (2)(a) is governed by the fee provisions outlined in Section III.
 3. Each team shall have their own full catchers-gear.
 4. All batters shall wear a protective helmet while at the plate.
 5. Baserunners are not required to wear a protective helmet, but it is highly encouraged. In the event of injury, the player that decides not to wear a protective helmet as a baserunner shall incur his or her own costs of any resulting injury and relinquishes any personal injury damages to the league and/or individuals involved in that player's injuries as a result of not wearing a protective helmet.
 6. Cleats are not required, but it is highly encouraged. In the event of injury, the player that decides not to wear cleats shall incur his or her own costs of any resulting injury and relinquishes any personal injury damages to the league and/or individuals involved in that player's injuries as a result of not wearing cleats.
 7. Batters shall utilize only wood or wood composite baseball bats. Any bat that is determined to have been corked will result in that team forfeiting that game. In addition, the player determined responsible by Management Council will be suspended for five (5) consecutive games.
 8. The team that is up to bat shall choose, if any, music to accompany that half-innings batting performances.
 9. Friendly heckling of players and umpire staff is permitted. However, if such heckling is determined to have veered beyond friendly heckling by the umpire(s), players, or fans, that potentially offending player shall be offered one warning for that game. Should a player repeat such an offense, that player may be ejected from the game on the second occurrence.
 - a. Afterward, and only upon request of anyone and not just the offending player, any and all ejections shall be reviewed by Management Council to determine if further disciplinary actions should be taken by Management Council.
 10. All rostered players must have a team uniform (at minimum that team's jersey while out on the field). Failure to adhere to the uniform requirement shall result in that player not being able to play. At a minimum the player must wear that team's jersey. Failure to meet the minimum uniform requirement shall result in a warning. A second offense shall result in a game suspension, which shall be

served at a time that Management Council determines upon conference and vote. However, the opposing team can waive this requirement at its own discretion and only for that day's game.

11. Substitute Players must wear at least one article of clothing that indicates that the Substitute Player is on the team that he or she is designated a substitute for during that game.
 - a. If a Substitute Player is at any time designated as a full rostered player for an LABF team, then Section VII Rule (10) applies.

VIII. Boneheads, Bozos, & Disputes

1. Each LABF Team's Manager shall be responsible for its boneheads.
2. Only the three Managers on the field shall engage the umpire with any discrepancies that either Manager might have with a given call. Managers are subject to the rules set forth in Section III governing ejections.
 - a. If a player involved in the discrepancy is not a Manager and interferes with a call, that player shall receive a warning in accordance with the rules set forth in section III.
 - b. Any player who is not directly involved in the discrepancy and who interferes is automatically ejected.
 - c. If an umpire determines that a Manager is in violation of the Code of Conduct or these Regulations & Rules during the resolution of a dispute, that Manager is subject to ejections under Section III.
3. Management Council may, at any time during the season, bring up a vote for suspension or league expulsion.
 - a. A League Suspension shall be for a duration to be determined by Management Council but not to exceed three (3) consecutive games.
 - i. League suspension shall be decided upon a simple majority vote.
 - ii. League suspension shall include an opportunity for that individual player to be suspended with a right to present facts and testimony from witnesses in order to reduce his or her suspension or to have no suspension at all.
 - b. League Expulsion shall be determined by Management Council
 - i. League Expulsion shall be decided upon a quorum of all teams' Managers not including the team's Manager that the subject player plays for. Such a vote must be unanimous.
 - ii. League Expulsion shall include an opportunity for that individual player to be expelled with a right to present facts and testimony from witnesses in order to reduce his or her potential expulsion to suspension, governed by the rules above.
4. Managers must encourage a positive environment and share playing time evenly among their roster. Should tempers flare up in the dugout, the manager must immediately attempt to remedy the issue. Should no remedy be possible, the team members involved may express their grievances to the league. If the matter is

found to be extreme in nature, a suspension may be carried out subject to the rules governing suspension in section III.

IX. Umpires

1. Each LABF team will designate, at minimum, three (3) Qualified Umpires for the regular season.
 - a. Prior to each season, each proposed umpire must take an hour-long competency course in order to become a Qualified Umpire.
 - b. After a proposed umpire satisfies the requirement of Section IX Rule (1)(a), then Management Council must vote to certify a proposed umpire to become a Qualified Umpire.
2. Alternatively, if none of the Qualified Umpires are present during a game, then both teams must confer and agree upon Temporary Qualified Umpires in order to have a sufficient amount of Temporary Qualified Umpires.
 - a. If there are some Qualified Umpires, but less than three, then both teams must confer and agree upon Temporary Qualified Umpires in order to have a sufficient amount of Temporary Qualified Umpires.
 - b. A third-party umpire may umpire a portion of, or the entirety of, a game upon both teams' agreement.
3. If the umpire's calls are blatantly and consistently incorrect, the umpire may be replaced at the request of the pitching team's manager. Umpire replacement requests may only occur twice per team per game.
4. No matter the umpire, it is within the umpire's discretion to eject any player at any time for poor sportspersonship, excessive argument of calls, or any other reasonable issue that that particular umpire finds unbecoming of LABF culture upon a single verbal warning to that particular player and that team's Manager. Such warnings and ejections shall be considered in the event of a Management Council meeting deciding a player's suspension or expulsion.

X. Enforcement & Violations

1. Every LABF player subject to Section I, is considered a member of LABF.
2. Every member is bound by a duty to enforce, report, and execute these LABF Regulations & Rules and comply with the Code of Conduct.
3. Any team or individual in violation of the above Regulations & Rules shall be subject to sanctions outlined above and/or to be determined by Management Council as deemed appropriate.
4. Violations
 - i. First Violation: LABF members shall receive one formal warning for a violation, unless that violation is so egregious as to warrant further action by Management Council to be determined by Management Council.
 - ii. Second Violation: LABF members shall serve a one game suspension.

- iii. Third Violation: LABF members shall be suspended for the rest of the season, and subject to Management Council review to determine re-entry into LABF's following season.

XI. Amendments and Residuals

1. Any requests to amend and/or change these LABF Regulations & Rules must be submitted to Management Council, subject to the requirements of section II. If approved, any amendments and/or changes to these LABF Regulations & Rules shall not take effect until the next Sunday's games.
2. All other Regulations & Rules not enumerated here shall be governed by the Rules set forth in the MLB
[http://mlb.mlb.com/documents/0/8/0/268272080/2018_Official_Baseball_Rules.pdf
].