

HIGHLIGHTS OF HOUSELEAGUE RULE UPDATES

1. Addressing abusive behaviour
 - Any abusive behaviour (e.g. yelling) or language (e.g. insults) by any person in a NT baseball uniform witnessed by a uniformed umpire (would apply before, during and after games) results in an automatic warning, reportable to the HL committee; a second warning in the same season results in an automatic suspension of at least one game
 - Umpires have no discretion with respect to application of this rule
2. Game time is from the time scheduled, not the time of first pitch. (Umpires will use discretion to adjust for uncontrolled factors such as weather or grounds keeping and will communicate any such changes to both teams)
3. Defensive players must allow base runners a clear path to all bases; the umpire shall award the runner the base if, in the umpire's view, the defensive player failed to do so (intentionally or not) [note: regardless of this rule, a baserunner may not collide with a defensive player in an attempt to knock the ball loose; attempting to do so will result in a called out]
4. To prevent defaults, during the regular season only, teams are encouraged to use eligible players (players registered with NTBA in the same age group or younger, including rep players)
5. One warning per team for thrown bats
6. Defaults will be recorded as 7-0
7. **12U to 18U:**

While the principle of equal playing time and no player sitting out 2 consecutive innings are unchanged, coaches have been given more discretion with respect to how players are fielded. Specifically:

 - Peewee: players should generally play an equal amount of time in the infield and outfield
 - Bantam and Midget: full discretion
8. **12U and 13U:**
 - Bunting is permitted
9. **18U:**
 - Wood bats only (bats will be supplied by the league)
 - Pitchers may throw a total of 4 innings on consecutive days (the 3 inning limit per day [with the exception of 7 inning games] is still in effect)
10. **7U:**
 - Game rules according to rookie ball rules
 - Batter may hit off a T or have coach pitch
 - If batter elects to have coach pitch, a maximum of 2 pitches will be thrown
 - If batter is unable to put ball in play within 2 coach-thrown pitches, batter will be allowed 1 swing off the T
 - A batter electing to hit off the T will have an unlimited number of swings to put the ball in play