

Baseball Rulebook



Revised May, 2017

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Enclosed are the official rules and regulations for the 2017 New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC) Baseball season. Any and all baseball programming conducted at NORDC playgrounds is required to comply with these rules and regulations.

These rules and regulations are intended to enhance a competitive balance between playgrounds, minimize risks to participants, and promote enjoyable participation and sportsmanship. Any activities conducted outside the scope of these rules and regulations will not be considered to be part of the authorized NORDC athletic program that entitles players, coaches, and sponsors to certain rights and privileges.

The rules and regulations adopted herein have taken into consideration various sporting authorities with rule governing power not provided by NORDC. However, the NORDC rules and regulations outlined herein will supersede any others when applicable.

Our Site Facilitators are the NORDC officials most closely connected to our athletic programming and will be most informed on matters regarding the playgrounds and applicable athletic leagues. We strongly suggest that parents, coaches, and players contact their playground Site Facilitator for any assistance needed.

Purpose of the Rules and Eligibility Committee

The purpose of the NORDC Rules and Eligibility Committee is to determine the rules and regulations pertaining to the playing of games and environment as well as regulations pertaining to the eligibility of plyers.

The Committee shall consist of one (1) coach from each district, one (1) NORDC Site Facilitators, one (1) industry expert, one (1) parent, and one (1) official.

The NORDC Rules and Eligibility Committee, at the request of the Athletic Director, will provide recommendations on rules and eligibility interpretations.

NORDC Rules and Eligibility Committee members shall serve no more than a two (2) year term.

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CODE OF CONDUCT

The New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORDC) encourages people in the New Orleans community to become volunteers on playgrounds and in all of our recreational programs. The safety and security of our participants is our foremost concern. It is the responsibility of NORDC to ensure that our facilities are safe play areas for children and completely free from any form of abuse or inappropriate behavior. We encourage good sportsmanship, fun, and personal improvement over an atmosphere of fierce competition.

For the above stated reasons, all volunteers must comply with appropriate Codes of Conduct as described below. All volunteers must submit a background check from the New Orleans Police Department. Background checks will be valid for a period of one (1) year and will need to be resubmitted following that period. All applications are subject to screening by the New Orleans Police Department.

ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE USE

Use of Illegal Substances is strictly prohibited on all NORDC facilities and during the management of any NORDC program. Any volunteers who participate in the unlawful manufacturing, use, sale, purchase, transfer or possession of illegal substances while involved with NORDC will be turned in to the police department and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. NORDC volunteers are not allowed to drink alcohol at any NORDC facilities while volunteering.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

All volunteers are strictly prohibited from any inappropriate behavior, including but not limited to that which could be construed as physical (paddling), emotional (name calling), verbal (profanity) or sexual abuse/harassment (inappropriate touching).

NOTICE OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

Any volunteer who is arrested or otherwise charged with committing a criminal offense, other than a minor traffic violation, must notify their NORDC supervisor immediately. Failure to give prompt and proper notice will constitute grounds for dismissal.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

Volunteers will promote good sportsmanship, team play, personal improvement, leadership skills and ongoing involvement in recreational activities. Any volunteer that does not display good sportsmanship will be dismissed from all NORDC programs and relieved of all volunteer coaching duties. Examples of poor sportsmanship include, but are not limited to, ridiculing of officials, opposing teams or coaches, and use of profanity.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Volunteers will display a positive image of NORDC at all times. All interactions with NORDC staff, participants, other volunteers, parents, the media, and members of the community should be based on mutual respect.

ORGANIZATIONAL

- All teams and coaches participating in sanctioned NORDC Baseball League will be under the supervision of NORDC and its staff.
- All playing rules will be Mayor League Baseball playing rules for this program except where changed within this handbook.
- All NORDC volunteer coaches are required to complete all NORDC designated clinics and trainings, which are Major League Baseball/ Urban Youth Academy Coaches clinic, SafeSport, Intro to Pitch Smart, Base running Fundamentals, Coaching the Basics of Hitting,
- All participants must present a valid NORDC-issued identification (ID) card. These I.D. cards must be shown at all pre-game warm ups.
- All home game sites will be responsible for having a first aid kit and AED on the premises.
- Each team is responsible for having water available for their players at all times.
- It is the District Manager and Site Facilitator's responsibility to see that the above rules are <u>STRICTLY</u> enforced.

2017 Season Timeline

2017 KEY DATES & DEADLINES

Wednesday, March 9, 2017	Rules Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 15, 2017	Rulebook First Draft to Rules Committee
Wednesday, March 22, 2017	Rulebook to Athletic Director for Review
Wednesday, March 29, 2017	Final Edit of Rulebook
Monday, April 10 2017	Rosters are due, minimum of 12 players, maximum of 18 players. Full-team registration closes.
Tuesday and Thursday, April 25 and 27, 2017	Urban Youth Academy Baseball and Softball Clinic – Wesley Barrow Stadium
Monday, May 1, 2017	Staff In-Service at Treme/Distribution of Schedule
Tuesday. May 2-Friday, May 5	Pitch, Hit, Run and Home Run Derby Week
Saturday, May 6, 2017	Regular Season begins
Monday, May 15, 2017	Last Day for Roster Add-on (individual athletes only)
Monday, June 26, 2017	Regular Season Ends
Wednesday, June 28, 2017	Playoffs Begin
Friday, July 7, 2017	Senior Championship at Wesley Barrow
Saturday, July 8, 2017	Championship Games TBD

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The competitive balance and integrity of the NORDC Baseball program are maintained by strict adherence to the following eligibility criteria. NORDC staff and volunteer coaches are responsible to assure that players and their parents are aware of and are in compliance with these criteria.

SECTION 1: AGE RESTRICTIONS

Participants must play in their correct age classification as specified within the rules and regulations below. Additionally, the players cannot reach 7, 9, 11, 13, and 16 years of age by May 1st of the current calendar year.

The NORDC Baseball Program shall also be divided into five (5) separate age Divisions. The Divisions are as follows:

- Novice- 5-6 years old.
- Freshman 7-8 years old.
- Sophomore 9-10 years old.
- Junior 11-12 years old.
- Senior 13-15 years old.

SECTION 2: NORDC Baseball & ATHLETIC DISTRICTS

2.1 NORDC Baseball Districts

The NORDC baseball districts shall be divided as follows:

- EAST NORDC Downtown and Lakeshore Districts
- WEST NORDC Uptown and Algiers Districts

2.2 NORDC Athletic Districts Boundaries

Lakeshore District

Beginning at Lake Pontchartrain and the Jefferson Parish Line, South on the Jefferson Parish Line to the Southern Railroad tracks north of Marguerite Street. East along the Southern Railroad tracks to the Pontchartrain Expressway. South along the Pontchartrain Expressway to City Park Avenue. East along City Park Avenue to Wisner Boulevard. North along Wisner Boulevard to Interstate 610. East along I-610 and I-10 to the Industrial Canal. South along the Industrial Canal to the Mississippi River Gulf outlet. East along the Mississippi River Gulf outlet to the St. Bernard Parish line. East along the St. Bernard Parish line to the Rigolets. West through the Rigolets and Lake Pontchartrain to the Jefferson Parish line.

Downtown District

Beginning at the Mississippi River and Pontchartrain Expressway, North along the Pontchartrain Expressway to City Park Avenue. East along City Park Avenue to Wisner Boulevard. North along Wisner Boulevard to I-610. East along I-610 and I-10 to the Industrial Canal. South along the Industrial Canal to the Mississippi River Gulf outlet. East along the Mississippi River Gulf outlet to the St. Bernard Parish line. West along the St. Bernard Parish line to the Mississippi River. West along the Mississippi River to the Pontchartrain Expressway.

Uptown District

Beginning at the Mississippi River and the Jefferson Parish line, north along the Jefferson Parish line to the Southern Railroad tracks, north of Marguerite Street. East along the Southern Railroad tracks to the Pontchartrain Expressway. South along the Pontchartrain Expressway to the Mississippi River to the Jefferson Parish line.

Algiers District

All of Orleans Parish on the westbank of the Mississippi River.

SECTION 3: RESIDENCY & DUAL PARTICIPATION

All participating players shall reside within Orleans Parish.

3.1 Residency Exceptions

**NOTE: All requests for an exception must be submitted in writing and become effective upon signed approval from the District Manager and Athletic Director.

Allowable residency exceptions include the following:

- If a player moves from their original playground district to another district during a season, that player shall be allowed to complete that season, including the playoffs, with the original playground team. The player has the option of seeking eligibility at a playground they now live nearest to or remain with the original team. Family hardship will be considered in writing.
- Temporary Transfer If a playground does not have a team in the particular age group, participants may apply to the Athletic Director requesting to play at another playground within the District that does have a team in that particular age group. Upon completion of that particular season, participants must return to their base playground for two (2) consecutive sports unless the playground does not have teams in the desired age group. If this is the case, the participant will have the option to remain at the transferred playground.

3.2 Dual Participation

- Any player registered with their school as a baseball participant and LHSAA is ineligible to play with NORDC. Any player, who is a member of a LHSAA sanctioned baseball team for the school year starting in August 1, 2016 - July 31, 2017, is ineligible to participate in the 2017 NORDC Baseball Program.
- NORDC prohibits dual participation in its own programs. Dual participation with other baseball teams, not affiliated with NORDC or LHSAA, is permissible.
- Senior Division (13-15yr) baseball rules will be governed by RBI rules

SECTION 4: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY, RESIDENCY & DUAL PARTICIPATION VIOLATIONS

Any challenges of the eligibility credentials of a participant will be fully investigated by NORDC prior to assessment of penalties. Participants will be required to produce certified affidavits with backup documentation to support their eligibility status.

- Verified violators, identified by means of protest as outlined in these regulations, or any other means of identification, will result in immediate expulsion from the baseball program.
- Violators are subject to suspension for the remainder of the year plus one (1) additional athletic program calendar year.

When a player is declared ineligible by the NORDC Rules Committee or the NORDC Athletic Director, NORDC reserves the right to follow these actions:

- The ineligible player's team shall forfeit all events in which the ineligible player's name appeared on the team line-up sheet.
- The head coach shall also appear before the NORDC Rules Committee for a hearing. After the committee determines the coach's involvement, the head coach may be suspended for one (1) year, with no further coaching responsibilities.

Safety Policies

SECTION 5: FLEXIBILITY & STRETCHING

Flexibility exercises are to be incorporated into the conditioning program utilized during preseason and regular season workouts. Increasing the flexibility of an athlete causes players to be less injury prone and more likely to perform with higher ability.

5.1 Static stretching

A stretch that is held in a challenging but comfortable position for a period of time, usually somewhere between 10 to 30 seconds is considered a static stretch. Static stretching is the most common form of stretching found in general fitness and is considered safe and effective for improving overall flexibility.

5.2 Ballistic Stretching

This form of stretching is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. Ballistic stretching is a form of passive stretching or dynamic stretching in a bouncing motion. Ballistic stretches force the limb into an extended range of motion when the muscle has not relaxed enough to enter it. A ballistic stretching example would be a hurdler's stretch where the trunk of the body bounces towards the extended leg to stretch the hamstring.

5.3 Stretching Recommendations

- Any and all stretching done by players should NOT involve drastic stretching or stretching to the point of pain.
- All stretches are to be done slowly.
- Neck bridging is NOT recommended. The neck bridge exercise is demanding and requires precise technique and focus. It may be dangerous because it places considerable stress on the cervical spine and may cause neck injury.

SECTION 6: CONDITIONING & PRACTICES

6.1 Preparation

- Each coach is REQUIRED to plan all practices in advance.
- Every practice is required to incorporate proper calisthenics and stretching at the beginning of each practice session.

6.2 Conditioning

- Any conditioning exercises are NOT to be used as punishment. Site Facilitators will monitor practices to ensure this practice is adhered to.
- Conditioning of players is to concentrate on building cardiovascular strength by incorporating jogging, sprint drills and callisthenic exercises.
- It is extremely important that Coaches ensure that ALL players are properly hydrated by drinking adequate amounts of water before, during, and after workouts.
- The administration of salt tablets, vitamins, any form of medication or sports enhancing additives, drugs, and/or supplements to players is STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

6.3 Practice Structure/Scheduling

- No team will be allowed to practice unless their coach is present.
- Practice sessions are to be limited to thirty (30) minute intervals with a ten (10) minute break between each interval. Overall practice sessions must be limited to two (2) hours per day, including break times.
- All practices must end by 9:00pm.
- Practice is to be authorized by a NORDC Site Facilitator/District Manager at times when the playground or gym will be open, with availability to first aid equipment, water, and telephone.

First Aid & Emergency Policies

SECTION 7: FIRST AID

- Coaches shall always be prepared to seek immediate medical attention for any and all injuries that occur.
- NORDC supervisory personnel are trained in first aid and CPR procedures. In emergency situations, coaches are to seek assistance from NORDC supervisory personnel, as well as a physician, nurse or any other emergency medical personnel present at the practice and/or game site.
- Any and all injuries, regardless of severity and type of injury, must be reported to the playground Site Facilitator. All details and information about the injury must be accurately documented on a NORDC injury report and submitted in a timely manner.
- Coaches are required to have their players' phone numbers and emergency contacts on file and readily available for use in the event of an emergency situation. Parents must be <u>immediately</u> advised of all injuries.
- Each NORDC playground and gym maintains first aid supplies in a designated area. Coaches are required to know where these supplies are located at their playground for quick accessibility in the event of an emergency situation.

SECTION 8: EMERGENCIES

8.1 Heat Related Illnesses

Overexposure to heat causes heat related illness. Once the signs and symptoms of a heat related emergency begin to appear, the player's condition can quickly become life threatening. Recognizing heat related signs and symptoms in its early stages increases the chances of reversing symptoms.

Heat Cramps

These are the first signals that the body is having trouble with the heat. Signs and symptoms include painful muscle spasms occurring in the legs and abdomen.

Treatment:

- Have the player rest in a cool place.
- Give cool water to drink.
- Lightly stretch the muscle and gently massage the area.
- When the cramps stop completely, the player can usually start activity again if there are no other signs or symptoms of illness.
- Encourage the player to continue drinking plenty of fluids.
- Carefully monitor the player for further signs or symptoms of heat-related illness.

Heat Exhaustion

Signs and symptoms include cool, moist, pale, ashen or flushed skin, headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, and severe fatigue.

<u>Treatment:</u>

- Move player to <u>cooler</u> environment with circulating air while applying wet towels.
- Loosen or remove clothing.
- If player is conscious, give four (4) ounces of water to drink every fifteen (15) minutes.
- Discontinue player's participation in practice or competition.
- Carefully monitor the player for any changes in condition and/or additional signs or symptoms of a more serious condition.

Heat Stroke:

Heat stroke is a SERIOUS LIFE THREATENING MEDICAL EMERGENCY. Signs and symptoms include refusing water, vomiting, red appearance, hot to touch, dry skin, rapid and weak pulse, and/or shallow breathing.

Treatment:

- Move player to **cooler** environment with circulating air while applying wet towels.
- Keep player lying down---if vomiting, place player on their side.
- Remove/loosen any tight clothing.
- Apply cool, wet cloths. Ice packs should be applied on player's wrists and ankles, on the groin, each armpit, and on the neck to cool the large blood vessels. Be sure to place a cloth barrier between the skin and the ice pack.
- **DO NOT APPLY RUBBING ALCOHOL**.
- If player is conscious, give four (4) ounces of water to drink every fifteen (15) minutes.
- If there is a <u>change in consciousness</u>, <u>911 should be called immediately</u> as this is life threatening.

8.2 Physical Injuries

When a player is injured, be careful and be sure to leave the player lying flat, especially when a head, neck, or spine injury is involved. Do not move the player, get medical treatment right away.

Bruises

The simplest type of closed wound is a bruise. This occurs when an injury causes blood and other fluids to seep into the surrounding tissues, which results in the area swelling and changing color.

Treatment:

- Elevate injured part as long as **IT DOES NOT CAUSE MORE PAIN**.
- Apply direct pressure on the area to decrease bleeding beneath the skin.
- Apply ice with a damp cloth or small bag of ice to the injured area for a period of about 20 minutes. Place a thin cloth barrier between the ice and bare skin. Remove the ice for 20 minutes before reapplying.

**NOTE: Do not assume that all closed wounds are minor injuries. Coaches and/or trainers should examine the player to determine whether or not more serious injuries could be present. Should the player have any of the following signs/symptoms, 911 should be called immediately:

- Player complains of severe pain or cannot move a body part without pain.
- The force that caused the injury was great enough to cause serious damage.
- The injured extremity is blue or extremely pale.

Fractures

Closed fractures are a complete break, chip or a crack in a bone and the most common type of fracture. Open fractures are more dangerous due to bone breaking the skin, which will cause risk of infection and severe bleeding.

Always suspect a serious injury when any of the following signals are present:

- Significant deformity
- Extreme bruising and swelling
- Inability to normally use the affected part
- Bone fragments sticking out of a wound
- Player complains of feeling bones grating
- Player felt or heard a snap or pop at the time of injury
- Injured area is cold to the touch and/or the affected area feels numb
- Cause of the injury suggests that the injury may be severe

**NOTE: If the fracture involves a large bone such as the thigh, has severed an artery and/or is affecting breathing, the injury is life threatening and 911 should be called immediately.

8.3 General Muscles, Bone & Joint Care

Remember RICE!

<u>Rest</u> Do not move or straighten the injured area

Ice Stabilize the injured area in the position it was found. Splint the injured part*

*Only if the person must be moved and it does not cause more pain.

Compression Fill a plastic bag or wrap ice with a damp cloth, apply to the injured area for 20

minutes and remove the ice pack for 20 minutes. Reapply if needed. Place a thin cloth

barrier between the ice and bare skin.

Elevation DO NOT elevate the injured part if it causes more pain.

Splinting

• Splint only if the person must be moved or transported by someone other than emergency medical personnel.

- Splint only if you can do so without causing more pain.
- Splint an injury in the position you find it.
- Splint the injured area and the bones or joints above and below the injury.
- Check for circulation (feeling, warmth and color) before and after splinting.

**NOTE: HEAD, NECK AND BACK INJURIES MAY CAUSE UNINTENTIONAL DEATH OR LIFELONG NEUROLOGICAL DAMAGE----CONTACT 911!!! Player should not be moved.

8.4 Safety Precautions

Bodily Fluids/Blood

NORDC employees, league commissioners and volunteer coaches are to be aware of and monitor situations during practice and competitions, when there is an injury that results in blood being present. Good hygiene shall be practiced. Towels, uniforms, cups and water bottles should not be shared. Staff and volunteers must be cognizant that anytime there are blood and body fluids present, there is the possibility that those fluids may transmit infectious disease. Under circumstances in which differentiation between body fluid types is difficult or impossible, all body fluids are considered potentially infectious.

Before competing, all players must cover wounds on their body. Practice or competition must be stopped and any injured player must be immediately attended to.

In the event of injury or sickness involving blood or bodily fluids, the following procedures must be followed:

- If at all possible, the injured person shall render first aid to himself and cover his own wound.
- When rendering first aid, protective gloves must be worn when it is anticipated blood or bodily fluids are involved.
- Clean gloves must be worn for each individual treated.
- Do not wear the same gloves for multiple injured parties.
- An individual who has treated an injury where blood is present or has cleaned a potentially contaminated surface should wash their hands with soap and hot water, whether or not protective gloves have been worn.



SECTION 9: SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Players who experience any of the signs and symptoms listed below after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body may have a concussion.

SIGNS OBSERVED BY COACHING STAFF	SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY PLAYER
Appears dazed or stunned	Headache or "pressure " in head
Is confused about assignment or position	Nausea or vomiting
Forgets instructions	Balance problems or dizziness
Is unsure of game score or opponent	Double or blurry vision
Moves clumsily	Sensitivity to light
Answers questions slowly	Sensitivity to sound
Loses consciousness (even briefly)	Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
Shows, mood, behavior, or personality change	Concentration or memory problems
Can't recall events prior to hit or fall	Confusion
Can't recall events after hit or fall	Does not "feel right" or is "feeling down"

SECTION 10: ACTION PLAN

If you suspect that a player has a concussion, the following four (4) steps should be taken:

- 1. Remove player from competition.
- 2. Ensure that the player is evaluated by an appropriate health care professional. Non-medical personnel such as the coach should NOT judge the seriousness of the injury.
- 3. The coach should inform the player's parents or guardians about the possible concussion and provide the fact sheet on concussion.
- 4. Keep the player out of play the day of the injury and until an appropriate health care professional has provided written clearance to return to practice and play. (See Post Concussion Medical Clearance Form in the appendix section)

WHEN IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT...

Game Policies & Procedures

SECTION 11: SCHEDULES, PROTESTS, FORFEITURES & SUSPENSIONS

11.1 Scheduling

There will be no changes to the regular schedule of baseball games, except for extreme emergencies, weather conditions, or if deemed necessary by the Athletic Director.

11.2 Protests

Protests are limited to player and coaches eligibility issues. Officials' calls are final and shall not be protested under any circumstances. An official protest must be done via NORDC Athletic Protest Form and followed by the rules and guidelines associated thereof (see appendix section).

- All protests shall contain date, time of game, names of opposing teams, and signatures of the head coach and playground Facilitator. No one else has the autonomy to submit a protest.
- A protest must be lodged before any action continues in the game, time and game situation must be noted on score sheet. All protests shall be written.
- If the day following the protested game is a city workday, the protest may be submitted any time up to 24 hours after the game has been played.
- A protest must be filed by the head coach on NORDC's Athletic Protest Form (see Attachment-Athletic Protest Form)

Example: If a game is played on Wednesday, May 27, 2017 and the game ended at 9:00pm, the protest may be submitted any time up to and including Thursday, May 28, 2017 at 9:00pm.

• If the day following the protested game is not a city work day the official protest must be submitted by the appropriate time on the next city work day.

Example: If a game is played on Friday night, the protest must be filed on the following Monday no later than the hour the game ended.

Protests for the current season must be submitted in writing by the Head Coach to the Site Facilitator. After review and verification, the Site Facilitator submits the recommended protest in writing to the respective District Manager.

**NOTE: The burden of proof, once team rosters have been accepted, will be on the protesting party. If proven to have ineligible player(s), appropriate penalties will apply.

All validated protests will be reviewed by the NORDC Rules Committee and a decision will be rendered within forty-eight (48) workday hours of receipt of the protest.

11.3 Umpires

If a player or coach is ejected from a game, all umpires are required to submit a game report immediately after the game. The report must be submitted to the Site Facilitator, District Manager, or Athletic Director no later than 24 hours after the infraction took place.

The ejected player or coach will have to sit out for the next scheduled game.

11.4 Forfeitures

- All players on the lineup sheet must play. If a violation occurs, the offending team will forfeit the game.
- Games in which an ineligible pitcher has played will be declared forfeited by the offending team.
- If a player is injured after all substitutes have been utilized, the opposing coach will choose the replacement player. .
- It is mandatory that all batters and base runners wear protective helmets. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of game.

- It is mandatory that catchers wear the appropriate protective gear: chest protector, shin guards, facemask, and (protective cup; girls are exempted). Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of game.
- There is no grace period in any division. Teams must be ready to play at the scheduled time. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of game.
- The correct bat size and type, per division requirements, must be used by all players during games. The player using the incorrect bat will be called out. The illegal bat must be given to the score keeper. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of game.
- Forfeiture determinations can only be declared by the official umpire.

11.5 Suspended Games

Games suspended for weather conditions may be resumed at a later date from the point at which it was suspended if the teams have not played three innings. Also, the Athletic Director can determine if the game needs to resumed.

SECTION 12: TEAM ROSTERS

The official team roster is a vital document that allows NORDC to verify the credentials of players at game sites. It must be accurately and neatly filled out. The official team roster will be initialed by a District Manager in red ink to prevent tampering. All players must have an assigned jersey number on the roster in order to be eligible.

- Team rosters must have a minimum number of twelve (12) players in order to be accepted in the NORDC program. A team must arrive with a minimum of 8 players to play. Every at bat is an out for the 9th player.
- The roster shall have a maximum number of eighteen (18) players.
- Each playground team must have 18 participants to form an age group baseball Team A. There can be no Team B unless Team A has 18 participants.
- A current parental consent form must be signed and on file before a player participates in any kind of drill, practice, or game.
- If a player is denied participation because of roster limitations, that player may choose to play at another available park.
- Players may be moved from one team roster to another team roster if:
 - o The original team is disbanded before the add-on deadline.
 - o Either a Permanent Playground Transfer Form or Temporary Form is approved by NORDC.
 - o If the above still remains in conflict, the NORDC Rules Committee shall have final say in placing players on new teams.
 - A player must return to his original park at the completion of the season.
- All coaches' names must appear on all rosters. The maximum number of coaches allowed is three (3): one (1) head coach and two (2) assistants. Team moms must be registered as a coach in order to sit in the dugout.
- NORDC will provide each team with their approved roster. Coaches must add player's uniform number and sign their name on the signature line.
- Duplicate numbers of player uniforms are strictly prohibited; each player must have a distinct jersey number.
- A pitcher and a catcher are required.

SECTION 13: COACHING STAFF ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

 Any and all coaching staff is required to give consent for NORDC to conduct a criminal background check. The background check includes but is not limited to sex offender registries maintained by the

- Louisiana State Police, child abuse and criminal history records. The appointment of a volunteer is conditional upon receiving no inappropriate information on the background check.
- Coaches and Site Facilitators are responsible for knowing and abiding by all the policies, procedures, rules, and regulations outlined in this manual, where applicable.
- Coaches are required to attend the NORDC rules clinic meeting. Any coach failing to attend rules clinic meetings or subsequent make up clinic will not be allowed to coach.
- All coaches are expected to set a positive example, especially in their behavior and sportsmanship, to their team. The use of PROFANITY is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** AT ALL TIMES.
- Ridicule or harassment of officials by coaches or members of his team, the opposing team, or otherwise, will not be tolerated.
- Coaches are required to keep their respective team on the field during a baseball games. If any coaches remove their team during the game, they will be subject to dismissal by NORDC.
- Coaches ejected from baseball games must immediately leave the facility, may not return to the game from which they are suspended, and cannot attend their team's next baseball game. If a suspended coach returns to the facility after the game and engages in unsportsmanlike conduct such as confronting a game official, the suspended coach shall be subject to further disciplinary action.
- On offense, a first base and third base coach will be allowed on the field. On defense, coaches must remain in their dugout. One coach may stand directly in front of the dugout for the purpose of defensive instruction. Offense Coaches must remain in coaching boxes. Coaches may assist runner's vocally only, no bodily contact. Runner will be called out if physically assisted by baseline coach. Defense Coach-two coaches allowed on field (behind 120' fence or marker)

SECTION 14: PLAYING AREA

The following chart will be used for pitching and base distance for league play:

Division	Age	Pitching Distance	Base Distance
Novice	5-6	35"	52"
Freshman	7-8	35"	55"
Sophomore	9-10	46"	65"
Junior	11-12	50"	70"
Senior	13-15	60.6"	90"

SECTION 15: USA BASEBALL PITCHING GUIDELINES

NORDC has established rules to ensure that players must follow the guidelines while playing in the league. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the parent and the athlete to ensure that the player follows the guidelines for his age group over the course of a year — given that he will oftentimes play in multiple leagues with different affiliations covering different times of the year.

It is important for each league to set workload limits for their pitchers to limit the likelihood of pitching with fatigue. Research has shown that pitch counts are the most accurate and effective means of doing so.

Pitch Count Limit	s and Required Res	t Recommendations
-------------------	--------------------	-------------------

Age	Daily Max Pitches		Rei	quired Rest (Pitches)	
		0 days	1 Days	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+

SECTION 16: GENERAL BASEBALL RULES

16.1 NORDC Modified Baseball Rules for all Divisions

- 1. Players and coaches are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. The COACH OR CAPTAIN AND ONLY THE COACH OR CAPTAIN may participate in any discussions regarding a decision of a play. The umpire will be the sole judge on the decision of a play. The umpire has the authority to eject any player or coach from the game when deemed necessary. This applies to all players- active or on the bench.
- 2. The number of active players in a game at one time shall be no more than 10 (limited to Novice and Freshman divisions only) There will be: five (5) infielders, four (4) outfielders, and one (1) pitcher. There must be a minimum of 8 players per team on the field or the game is a forfeit.
- 3. Batting order must be presented to the opposing coaches and scorekeeper before the game. Line-up sheets must be turned in thirty (30) minutes before the start of the game. The lineup sheet must include the first and last name of the player and the player's jersey number.
- 4. All teams will bat round robin. Exception: If one team has more players than the other, the team with the greater number of players only has to match the other team for players. (At the discretion of the Coach) If a batter becomes disabled during the game and cannot bat, the player's at bat will be considered an out. If a player is sick before the game, the player must be left off the line up and both opposing coaches and the press box must be informed. The player cannot enter the game.

- 5. Any of the 9 starting players may be removed from the game and re-entered once. Upon re-entry the player must be placed in the same batting position.
- 6. Every player on the roster must enter the game in all age divisions.
- 7. A substitute player that enters the game as a batter, pinch hitter, fielder etc., cannot return once another player has replaced them.
- 8. A starting pitcher that is removed from the game while a batter or base runner may re-enter the game immediately at any position. A starting pitcher removed from the game because of a second trip to the mound in the same inning, may re-enter the game in any position except as a pitcher.
- 9. Courtesy runners are allowed for the catcher.
- 10. Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used shall be declared forfeited by the offending team.
- 11. At the beginning of each half inning, or when a pitcher relieves another, the relief pitcher gets 5 warm-up pitches. Note: a pitcher returning to pitch in the same half inning will not receive warm-up pitches. A pitcher is deemed to have begun pitching once a warm-up pitch has been thrown and must pitch unitl the first batter facing has completed their at bat or until an out is recorded.
- 12. In the event a player is injured after all the substitutes have been utilized, the opposing coach will choose the replacement player. If a player is ejected from the game after all substitutes have been utilized, the game is forfeited.
- 13. The use of cleats with steel spikes, screws made of hard rubber, plastic, nylon or metal is **only** allowed in the senior Division. All other divisions must use soft-soled shoes.
- 14. It is MANDATORY that batters and base runners wear protective helmets. Catchers must wear chest protector, shin guards, facemask, and protective cup. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of game.
- 15. Warm-up will be the time available before the start of the scheduled game.
- 16. Maximum number of players per team is 18. **Absolutely no exceptions.**
- 17. No new inning may start with 10 minutes or less left to play (i.e. 1 hour and twenty minutes or more elapsed.) An inning officially starts when the last out is made on the previous half inning and not when a pitch is thrown.
- 18. Games called because of rain are considered complete after three innings of play. If the home team is leading after two and one half innings of play, and the game is called because of rain, it will be considered a complete game.
- 19. A game cannot end until the inning is complete.
- 20. Only rainouts that impact the district or city playoffs will be made up. Games that impact the district or city playoffs which are rained out before they can be declared official will be resumed from the point they were called. (Time remaining and inning)
- 21. In all divisions unless otherwise specified, the ten run rule will prevail after 3 innings.
- 22. In all divisions, there will be no grace period. Teams must be ready to play at the scheduled time.

- 23. Deliberate "bowling over" of a defensive player or sliding with raised feet by a base runner is strictly prohibited. Penalty for such action will be that the base runner is called out, regardless of whether the ball is held or not, and the base runner (player) will be ejected from the game.
- 24. Aluminum bats are legal. For juniors (11-12) and under the length of a bat cannot exceed 33 inches and the barrel cannot exceed 2 1/4 inches. Softball bats are illegal.
- 25. All umpires are required to submit a game report immediately after a player or coach is ejected from the game. The report should be submitted to the Athletic Coordinator or Designated Staff Persons no later than 24 hours after the infraction took place.
- 26. In all divisions, all protests must be filed with umpire before the next pitch is thrown. Games must be completed or the team will forfeit despite filing a protest or its result. Protests must be submitted in writing after completion of a game.

RULES NOT COVERED HEREIN WILL FOLLOW OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES.

16.2 NORDC Playing Rules for Novice Division

- 1. The NORDC Novice Division uses a pitching machine. The pitching machine's speed setting will be approximately: 33 miles per hour on single wheel and 35 miles per hour on double wheel. Each batter will receive five (5) pitches or three (3) strikes.
- 2. Each side of the diamond must be 52 feet long with a base at each corner. The pitcher's mound must be 35 feet from home plate. The batter's box must be 3' x 6'. Center field must be 120'.
- 3. During play, base runners can be thrown out when no time is called...
- 4. Coaches may only assist runners vocally. There cannot be any physical contact between coach and player. Runners will be called out if physically assisted by baseline coach. Offensive Coaches must remain inside the coaching boxes. The Novice Division allows two coaches on field (behind 120' fence or marker).
- 5. Stealing, bunting, and infield fly rule are not permitted. Sliding is O.K.
- 6. Blocking bases or baseline without possession of a ball or making a play is not permitted. Runners will be allowed to advance one base per umpire judgment.
- 7. The umpire is in full charge of all games and their decision will be the final in all matters of judgment. The umpire will be the official timekeeper.
- 8. A regulation game is four (4) innings or one (1) hour- whichever comes first. In case of a tie, if there is time remaining, the game will be played out. If at the end of time the game is still a tie, it will count as a tied game. If after three innings the game is called because of weather, it is a complete game (5 run rule per inning, except the 4th inning which is unlimited). Play-off and championship games must have a winner.
- 9. Players must remain on base until the bat makes contact with the ball. If the player leaves the base before the bat makes contact with the ball, the player must return to the base, no pitch. The first time a player leaves the base before the bat makes contact with the ball, the player will receive a warning for the team, the second time the player will be called out.

- 10. On any ball thrown out of field of play on any individual play, the runner will be awarded next base, as per umpire judgment.
- 11. A batted ball that strikes the umpire will be considered a dead ball. The play will be dead and the player will advance one base.
- 12. Any infielder can call time-out on a throw from outfield. Outfielders cannot call time-out.
- 13. A fly ball that goes over the 120' fence or marker will be declared a home run by the umpire. If a ball rolls under the fence, barricade or pass the 120' fence, barricade or pass the 120' fence marker; the play will be considered a ground rule double.

On ground balls, a runner may advance to as many bases as they can until time is called. After time is called runners will be called out if they are not half way down the baseline and have not reached the next base.

- 14. Infielders may not come up on batters any more than 1/3 distance from their assigned base/position.
- 15. Except for the top of the first inning, players must play on the field before batting. A substitute player must bat before an original player goes to the lineup to bat again. 1 pinch runner per inning.
- 16. There will only be one (1) 30 second time out per inning except when there is an injured player. Novice coaches can make multiple trips to correct batter if batter is too close to home plate or in danger of getting hit with the ball. The final decision will be based on the league coordinator's discretion.
- 17. When batted, the ball must reach the three (3) feet line in order to be considered a fair ball.
- 18. A courtesy (pinch) runner is allowed for the catcher.

RULES NOT COVERED HEREIN WILL FOLLOW OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES.

16.3 NORDC Playing Rules for Freshman Division

- 1. The coach is the official game pitcher.
- 2. The pitcher's position (the player) is to play defense inside of the circle. The player can be no more than 3ft. away from coach pitcher and not in front of the coach pitcher before the ball is thrown. If the pitcher (the player) is outside of the circle, the Umpire may call a no pitch. If the ball is hit, when the pitcher is outside of the circle, the offensive team can get either the play or replay the pitch.
- 3. Each batter will receive six (6) pitches or three (3) strikes. The batter must swing on the 6^{th} pitch. The batter will continue to bat as long as contact is made with the ball.
- 4. A regulation game will be 5 innings or 1 hour 15 minutes, whichever comes first. In case of a tie, if there is time remaining, the game will be played out. If at the end of time the game is still a tie it will count as a tie. If after three innings the game is called because of weather it is a complete game (5 run rule per inning, except for the 5th inning, which is unlimited.) Playoff and championship games must have a winner.

- 5. Each side of the diamond must be 55 feet long with a base at each corner. The pitcher's mound must be 35 feet from home plate. The batter's box must be 3' x 6'. Centerfield must be 120 feet.
- 6. Players cannot steal bases. A stolen base will be considered an out.
- 7. A batter that slings the bat after the third strike will be given a team warning. After one warning, any player on the warned team that slings the bat will be called out immediately and no runner can advance. The umpire will be the sole judge of whether the bat was slung or dropped. This is not a play that can be appealed.
- 8. All overthrown balls are live unless the ball leaves the field of play, in which case a one (1) base limit will be given to the runners. Any (fair) batted ball that bounces over, rolls through or under a fence, will be a ground rule double.
- 9. Infielder must have possession of the ball in order to call timeout and be ahead of the runner. The pitcher is always considered ahead of the runner. Outfielders cannot call timeout.
- 10. Bunting is not allowed. Infield fly rule will not be in effect.
- 11. The umpire will: call strikes, no pitch, call play on bases, call fair or foul balls, and stop play by calling time out.
- 12. On offense, a first base and third base coach will be allowed on the field. On defense, coaches must remain in their dugout. One coach may stand directly in front of the dugout for the purpose of defensive instruction. A third coach will be allowed on field to warm-up next batter.

RULES NOT COVERED HEREIN WILL FOLLOW OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES.

16.4 NORDC Playing Rules for Sophomore Division

NORDC's Sophomore Division will consist of an open league. The open league will follow official baseball rules except for the pitch count.

16.4.1 General Rules for Sophomore Division

- 1. There will be a maximum of 75 pitches per game.
- 2. A batter is automatically out after three (3) strikes.
- 3. The infield fly rule will be enforced.
- 4. Fake bunts or swings **will be** allowed.
- 5. A player pitching sixty-six (66) or more pitches in a game cannot pitch for the next three (4 calendar days.
- 6. A player pitching 36-50 pitches in a game cannot pitch for the next two (2) calendar days.
- 7. A player pitching 21-35 pitches in a game cannot pitch for the next calendar day.

- 8. A player cannot pitch in consecutive days unless no more than 20 pitches were thrown in the previous game/day.
- 9. The pitch count will be kept by both teams and the official scorer, if applicable. In the case of no official scorer, the home team book will be the official count.
- A player cannot pitch in consecutive days unless no more than 20 pitches were thrown in the previous game/day.
- 2. The pitch count will be kept by both teams and the official scorer, if applicable. In case of no official scorer, the home team book will be the official count.

RULES NOT COVERED HEREIN WILL FOLLOW OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES.

16.5 NORDC Playing Rules for Junior & Senior Division

- There will be a maximum of five innings. There will be a maximum of 85 pitches per game in the Junior
 Division and 95 pitches per game in the Senior Division
- 2. A player pitching sixty-six (66) or more pitches in the Junior or Senior Division game cannot pitch for the next four (4) calendar days.
- 3. A player pitching 4 36-50 pitches in a game cannot pitch for the next two (2) calendar days.
- 4. A player pitches 21-35 pitches in a game cannot pitch for the next calendar day.
- 5. Players cannot pitch in consecutive days unless no more than 20 pitches were thrown in the previous game/day.
- 6. The pitch count will be kept by both teams and official scorer (if applicable). If a scorer is not available, the home team book is the official count.

RULES NOT COVERED HEREIN WILL FOLLOW OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES.

16.6 NORDC Playoff Eligibility

- 1. Each team shall come to each league game or citywide tournament with eight (8) players.
 - A. A player must play 50% of the scheduled league games to be eligible for the playoffs.
 - B. Every player certified on the lineup sheet must play. If a violation occurs, the team will forfeit that game.

C. Any team forfeiting two or more games cannot be eligible for the city playoffs.

The most acceptable grounds for protest are eligibility issues. The on-site coordinator shall rule immediately on other grounds; however, if a determination cannot be resolved, an official protest must be done via NORDC Athletic Protest Form and followed by the rules and guidelines associated thereof (see Attachment-Athletic Protest Form). Judgment calls such as balls, strikes and outs are not subject to protest.

16.7 Rules Addenda

PLAYOFF & CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RULES

- 1. The top 4 teams from each district will advance to the playoffs. The 1st place team from the East will play the 4th place team from the West. The 1st place team from the West will play the 4th place team from the East. The second place team from the East will play the 3rd place team from the West. The 2nd place team from the West will play the 3rd place team from the East.
- 2. In the event of a tie, (2 teams from the same division having the same record) ties will be broken in the following manner, in order:
 - a. Head to Head Win Will always break a tie. If two teams have the same record, but they played each other in the regular season the winning team will advance.
 - b. Record against team with the best record.
 - c. Record against team with the second best record.
 - d. Record against team with the third best record.
 - e. Record against team with the fourth best record.
 - f. Coin toss.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Louisiana Battery of a School or Recreation Athletic Contest Official Law

LSA-R.S. 14:34.4

- A. (1) Battery of a school or recreation athletic contest official is a battery committed without the consent of the victim when the offender has reasonable grounds to believe the victim is a school athletic or recreation contest official.
- (2) For purposes of this Section, "school athletic contest official" means any referee, umpire, coach, instructor, administrator, staff person, or school or school board employee of any public or private elementary and secondary school while actively engaged in the conducting, supervising, refereeing, or officiating of a school sanctioned interscholastic athletic contest.
- (3) For purposes of this Section, "recreation athletic contest official" means any referee, umpire, coach, instructor, administrator, staff person, or recreation employee of any public or quasi-public recreation program while actively engaged in the conducting, supervising, refereeing, or officiating of a sanctioned recreation athletic contest.
- B. (1) Whoever commits the crime of battery of a school or recreation athletic contest official shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars and imprisoned not less than forty-eight hours nor more than six months without benefit of suspension of sentence, except as provided in Paragraph (2).
- (2) The court, in its discretion, may suspend the imposition of the sentence and place the offender on probation with the condition that he shall perform five days of community service work. Failure to successfully complete the community service work, as determined by the supervisor of the program to which he is assigned, may result in revocation of probation

APPENDIX 2: 2015 NORDC Baseball Definition of Terms

Balk

An illegal motion made by the pitcher that may deceive a base runner. All base runners are awarded one base as a result.

Base Coach

A team coach who is stationed in the coach's box at first or third base to direct the batter and runners.

Batter's Box

The designated area where the batter stands when at bat.

Bench or Dugout

Seating area designated for players and coaches.

Bunt

A ball that is batted but not swung at.

Called Game

When the umpire terminates play and ends the game.

Closed League

One of NORDC's sophomore leagues designed to be a skills building developmental league for youth 9-10 years of age.

Dead Ball

A period in the game when the ball is not playable and no movement/advancement can be made by players.

Ground Rule Double

An award of two bases from the time of pitch to all baserunners including the batter-runner, as a result of the ball leaving play after being hit fairly and leaving the field under a condition of the ground rules in effect at the field where the game is being played

Flv Ball

A ball that is hit in the air, usually very high.

Forfeited Game

A game declared ended by the umpire for violation of the rules.

Open League

One of NORDC's sophomore leagues for youth 9-10 with more baseball playing experience.

APPENDIX 3: Post Concussion Medical Clearance Form



POST-CONCUSSION MEDICAL CLEARANCE FORM

NORDC rules require a written statement from a physician that authorizes and clears a player to return to competition after being diagnosed with a concussion.

"If a competitor is determined to have a concussion, he/she shall not be permitted to continue practice or competition the same day. Written approval of a physician shall be required for the player to return to competition. If a physician recommends a player not continue, he/she shall not be overruled".

The undersigned physician has examined the student player identified below and authorizes/provides clearance for the student player to return to competition on the date and in the event specified below.

PLAYGROUND:		
SPORT:	RETURN DATE: _	



VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT FORM

Volunteers will be expected to follow all rules set forth by NORDC, including but not limited to, deadlines to turn in required paperwork and rosters, timelines and attendance at mandatory meetings and clinics. Failure to follow these rules may result in the coach and/or team being denied participation in the NORDC league.

I have thoroughly read and understand the above Codes of Conduct and agree to comply with these standards of behavior.

NAME:	 	 	
PARK:			
SIGNATURE:	 	 	
DATE:			

PLEASE RETURN SIGNED FORM TO YOUR PARK'S SITE FACILITATOR OR NORDC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR.

New Orleans Recreation Development Commission
5420 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70122 504-658-3052 504-658-3050(fax)
www.nola.gov/nordc f NORDCommission



PLAYGROUND TEMPORARY TRANSFER FORM

Pursuant to the policies and procedures in place for all NORDC Athletic participants involved with active sports and the rules established by NORDC, please complete this form accordingly.

		Section I	
I(Participant)	and Parent _	(Name of participant's Parent) (Date)	_
Street, City, State & Zip Code		/ Telephone / Email address	_
Petition to NORDC to temporar the reason(s) outlined below.	ily transfer from	to	for
	SECTION II: REASO	ON FOR TRANSFER REQUEST	
	TO BE COMPLET	ED BY NORDC STAFF ONLY	
Parent Signature	(Date)	Site Supervisor Signature (Date)	_
District Manager Signature	(Date)	☐ Approve ☐ Disapprove	
Athletic Director Signature	(Date)	☐ Approve ☐ Disapprove	
signature and submission to the	Athletic Director. Main	Submit form and attachments, if any, to the Site Facilitain the last copy with the Site Facilitator's signature written response will be forwarded accordingly.	for your
5420 Franklin Ave	nue, New Orleans, Lou	ion Development Commission isiana 70122)



PLAYGROUND TRANSFER FORM

Pursuant to the policies and procedures in place for all NORDC Athletic participants involved with active sports and the rules established by NORDC, please complete this form accordingly.

SECTION I					
I(Participant)	and Parent _		_		
Street, City, State & Zip Code		/	Contact #s / E	-mail address	·····
Petition to NORDC to temporaril the reason(s) outlined below.	y transfer from		1	to	for
	SECTION II: REASO	ON FOR T	RANSFER REQU	JEST	
	TO BE COMPLETE	ED BY NO	RDC STAFF ON	LY	
Parent Signature	(Date)	5	Site Supervisor S	ignature	(Date)
District Manager Signature	(Date)		☐ Approve	☐ Disapprov	e
Athletic Director Signature	(Date)		☐ Approve	☐ Disapprov	e
<u>Instructions</u> Complete all sections and submission to the Athletic Coorreviewed, a decision will be made a	dinator. Maintain the la	ast copy wi	th the Site Facilita	any, to the Site Factor's signature fo	cilitator for signature r your records. Once
5420 Franklin Avenu	New Orleans Recreat ne New Orleans, Loui www.nola.gov/nordc	isiana 701	22 504-658-3	052 504-658-3	— 3050(fax)



ATHLETIC PROTEST FORM

Pursuant to the policies and procedures in place for all NORDC Athletic participants involved with active sports and the rules established by NORDC, please complete this form accordingly.

	SECTION I				
vs					
(HOME TEAM)	(VISITOR TEAM)	(DATE OF GAME)			
		/			
Head Coach Contact Information:	Name, Street Address, City, State & Z	ip Code / Contact Number			
S	SECTION II: Complaint Details				
Head Coach's Signature	_	(Date)			
	COMPLETED BY NORDC STAFF O	• •			
Site Supervisor's Signature	(Date)	(Time received)			
District Manager Signature	(Date)	(Time received)			
	(= 3333)	(
Athletic Director Signature	(Date)	(Time received)			
Football Rules Committee Representative	(Date)	(Time received)			
Decision:					
Instructions Complete all required information					
by the District Manager and maintain last copy be ma	for your records. Once reviewed by the NOR ade and a response will be forwarded according				
	•	-			
	eans Recreation Development Comr eans, Louisiana 70122 (phone) 504-				
	ola gov/nordc • ff F NORDComn				