



2009 Niagara League Rules

1. League shall have a minimum of 3 officials:
2009 League officials:

- President – Dan Prichard
- Vice President – Rob Purczyki
- Treasurer – Susan Prichard

2. All rule changes/ league votes shall be done by majority vote of league managers. Tie breakers shall be made by presiding officer. A quorum of 5 teams must be present to vote. Officers reserve the right to table any vote.

3. Entry Fees: Initial payment of \$375.00, is due in by Thursday, April 23. The final payment is due in by Friday, May 15th. In the event that a team does not turn in final payment, a grace period will be in effect until June 5. However, during this period of delinquency, the team will forfeit all games played whatever the outcome. After June 5th, the non-paid team will be asked to leave the league and the schedule will then be adjusted to accommodate this change.

4. A team must have eight players at the beginning of the game. Additions should be made at the bottom of the lineup. A team may not use non-rostered players.

5. There is a five minute grace period at the beginning of each game. A grace period shall not be used if you have 8 players to start the game. Use of non-rostered players constitutes a forfeit.

6. In the case of a rainout – rescheduling will be arranged by the league officers.

7. All men participating in the league must be 35 by December 31, 2009.

8. During the course of a game, a team manager may ask for identification for an opposing team player. The manager or the team player must show sufficient identification immediately or before the beginning of the next week's games (a photo identification card with date of birth, i.e. passport, driver's license) or their team forfeits regardless of the outcome of the game.

9. Final rosters are due by June 5, 2009; no exceptions. Rosters may contain a maximum of 25 players. Copies of team rosters shall be distributed to team managers by June 12th. There will be no pick-ups allowed after this date, unless brought to a vote of the managers, and they approve the addition.

****Rosters may only have 3 major players.**

Definition of “MAJOR”:

A major player is defined as an individual who as an active player, within the last 3 years, was on the roster of softball or baseball team that competes in one or more of the leagues or organizations specified below.

- Any minor league or semi-professional baseball organization.
- Any men’s USSSA , ISA or ASA Major softball classification.

Pitching: pitchers that have competed in the above defined organizations within the last 3 years are not be eligible to pitch in the league, but can be a position player.

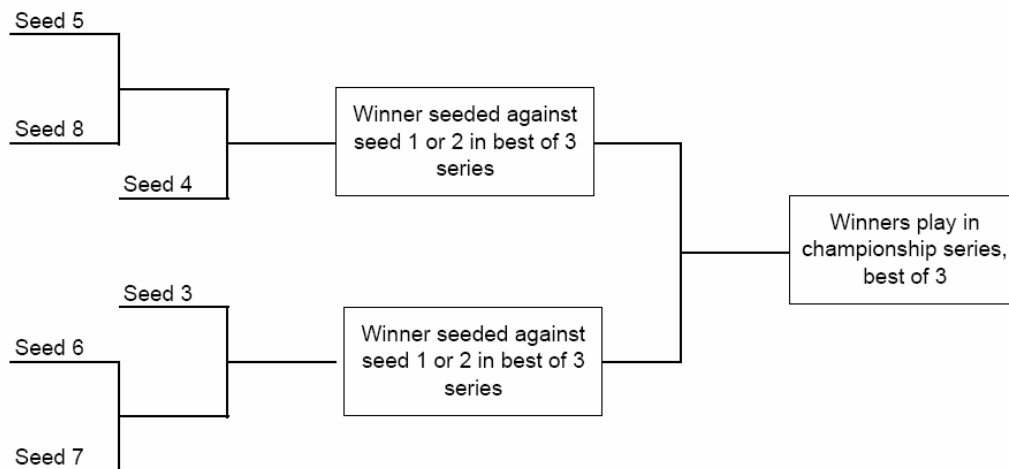
10. Base Burglar: The Base Burglar is a designated player that can be used strategically once per half inning, as a pinch runner. Whether to replace an injured player or to simply place speed on the bases at key times, the Base Burglar adds another player to a team’s lineup and strategy to the offensive game. The Base Burglar must be designated in the lineup prior to the start of the game (similarly to a DP or EP). The Base Burglar shall be designated as “BB”. The Base Burglar may be exchanged with a position player at any time during the game, with the exchange lasting at least one full inning. The Base Burglar will take the position players place in the field and batting order. The position player will then become the Base Burglar. The Base Burglar can also be used as a replacement player. (e.g. if a player gets hurt, the Base Burglar can take that players place, and the Base Burglar position is eliminated from the game.
11. Courtesy runner: A courtesy runner will only be utilized if:
 - The team does not have enough players to have a BB or subs.
 - The base burglar has already been used in the inning.
 - There are no substitutes left on the bench.
 - Both opposing managers agree to allow the courtesy runner. This agreement is on a case by case basis, and not agreed upon for the whole game.

The courtesy runner will be the last out made. The last out is the last player to be called out, whether it is in the base paths or batting. The courtesy runner is to be used for injury, not as a means of strategy.
12. No slap bunting. Once you square to bunt, you cannot swing and hit away. Non-compliance penalty: Batter is out and ejected from the game.
13. Upon approaching a base, the runner must slide (or give himself up) if the baseman/catcher has the ball prior to the runners touching the base or the plate. Non-compliance penalty: Runner is automatically out; double-play, where appropriate; and possible ejection by discretion of umpire.

14. A player must play a minimum of six of the regular season games to be eligible to play during post-season tournaments, playoffs. A manager questioning eligibility may contact the secretary to confirm that a player has indeed played the required games.
15. Intentional "base on balls" may be enacted simply by the manager/pitcher announcing the intent to the umpire.
16. Bats: We will utilize the NSA Approved list of bats, which will be provided to all team managers prior to the season. Umpires will rule on all questioned bats. If you have a bat that was manufactured prior to having to have an approved stamp, you must have the umpire declare it legal prior to the at bat. The umpires decision will be final. Outcome incurred with an illegal bat will be an automatic out. No other penalty will be metered out.
17. No metal spikes.
18. **Ten Run Rule: 10+1 Rule (up to the fifth inning) will now be used.** During the course of the game, any team exceeding the opposing team's score by ten runs will immediately take the field. During the following innings, the ahead team will be allowed one additional run per innings above ten over the other team's score. If a team is ahead by ten runs at the end of the fifth inning the game is over. (Home team does not have to bat if ahead by 10 or more runs, home team does get opportunity to bat if down by 10 or more). If a team goes ahead by 10 runs in the 6th or 7th inning, **GAME IS OVER!** (Home team does not have opportunity to bat if down).
19. International rules for extra innings will not be invoked. Teams will proceed with extra innings until a winner is determined.
20. A DP (Designated Player) may enter the game as a defensive player. In essence, he will become the 2nd EP, and will be used in the same manner.
21. Signed Game Roster Sheets must be turned in to Rob Purzycki. Game roster sheets must be turned in as soon as possible. Failure to complete and turn in roster sheets will result in a recorded loss for both teams. These sheets will serve as record for; reporting wins/losses to the paper and determining player eligibility for playoffs. **Full names** must be used on the Game Roster Sheets, and it is also preferred that they are used in the team scorebooks as well.

22. Ejections: Any player ejected from a game for any action which has an intent to harm, will also receive a one game suspension, which will be the next scheduled league game. Note that an ejection may occur when a player does not give himself up going into a base. There are times when a player does not realize that there is going to be a play, and does not slide. This may not constitute a flagrancy. This will be up to the discretion of the umpire as to whether or not the player flagrantly did not give himself up, and constitutes an ejection and suspension. The umpires ruling will be final.
23. Post season Playoffs: All teams make the playoffs. First rounds are single elimination games, with the top 2 regular season seeds receiving a bye. Seeds 3 & 4 receive a mini bye:

First round is double header, with seeds 3 & 4 receiving mini bye!



Top seed is home team in single elim games, and first games of series, then alternate.

24. Seeding Tie breaker rule: When a tie occurs in the standings between two or more teams, the order of finish is determined by:
- Best record in games between tied teams.
 - Best difference between runs for and runs against in games between tied teams.
 - Least runs given up between tied teams.
 - Coin flip.
25. Forfeitures: Any team forfeiting 3 games during the regular season shall be expelled for the remainder of the season.