

# **2011 MPA BASEBALL BULLETIN**

(updated 3/11/11)

## **BASEBALL SEASON**

- March 21, 2011 - \*Eight Pitchers/Two Catchers Start (same 10 people)
- March 28, 2011 - First Practice
- April 14, 2011 - First Countable Game (after 3:00pm)
- June 1, 2011 - Last Countable Scheduled Game
- June 7, 2011 - Regional Prelim Games
- June 9, 2011 - Regional Quarter-Final Games
- June 11, 2011 - Regional Semi-Final Games
- June 14-15, 2011 - Regional Final Games (MPA site and responsibility)  
(Rain date-earliest possible date as determined by the committee)
- June 18, 2011 - State Championship Games

**\*The purpose of the additional week for pitchers and catchers is for conditioning and development of the pitchers' arms.**

## **MANDATORY CLINICS**

Thursday, March 10  
6:30pm  
Gorham Middle School

Wednesday, March 23  
6:30pm  
Gorham Middle School

Distance Learning Sites  
Oxford Hills H.S.  
Belfast H.S.  
Piscataquis H.S.  
Presque Isle H.S.  
Marshwood H.S.

Distance Learning Sites  
Madison H.S.  
Nokomis H.S.  
Mt. Blue H.S.  
Ft. Kent H.S.  
Washington Academy  
Katahdin H.S.

## **WEATHER CONDITIONS**

The safety of athletes (*participants*), spectators, coaches/directors, school personnel, and all others present at an athletic contest must be the first and foremost concern to the contest officials and building administrators.

1. When an interscholastic contest has been scheduled and dangerous playing conditions exist or severe weather is anticipated, the following should be considered:
  - a. Prior to beginning an athletic contest, when severe weather is anticipated, the head contest official and the principals of each school, or their designees, will meet to review the suspension and/or postponement procedures. This would include any playing rule book coverage.
  - b. The host school administrator will be responsible for informing contest officials, visiting school administrators and, if applicable, the individual responsible for public address announcements of designated shelter areas.

- c. When lightning is observed or thunder is heard in the vicinity of a contest conducted outdoors, play should be suspended.
  - d. If any other life-threatening condition occurs, play should be suspended immediately, and predetermined directions to safe locations will be announced.
2. When a suspension of a contest occurs, the following should be considered:
    - a. If the suspension is forty-five minutes or greater, resuming at a later date should be considered.
    - b. Play shall not be resumed until **30 minutes** after the last flash of lightning or clap of thunder.
    - c. When it appears that weather conditions are no longer a threat to the safety of participants, spectators, or contest officials, administrators from all schools involved will meet with the head contest official to determine if play will continue.
    - d. If play is to be resumed, contestants will be given at least a fifteen-minute warm-up period prior to competition.
  3. If evacuation is necessary, the following should be considered:
    - a. If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators should evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced.
    - b. All personnel, athletes and spectators should be clearly informed of available safe structures or shelters in the event a thunderstorm approaches. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced. The person in authority must be aware of the amount of time it takes to get to each structure and the number of persons each structure can safely hold. For large events, time needed for evacuation is increased and there must be a method (i.e., announcement over loud speaker) for communicating the need for evacuation and directing both athletes and spectators to the appropriate safe shelters.
    - c. The most ideal structure is a fully enclosed, substantial building with plumbing, electrical wiring and telephone service, which aids in grounding the structure. A fully enclosed automobile with a hard metal roof and rolled up windows is also a reasonable choice. School buses are an excellent lightning shelter that can be utilized for large groups of people. However, it is important to avoid contact with any metal while inside the vehicle.

Avoid using shower facilities for safe shelter and do not use showers or plumbing facilities during a thunderstorm as the current from a local lightning strike can enter the building via the plumbing pipelines or electrical connections. It is also considered unsafe to stand near utilities, use corded telephones or headsets during a thunderstorm, due to the danger of electrical current traveling through the telephone line. Cellular and cordless telephones are considered reasonably safe and can be used to summon help during a thunderstorm.

When caught in a thunderstorm without availability or time to reach safe structures, you can minimize the risk of lightning-related injury by following a few basic guidelines:

- Avoid being the highest object. Seek a thick grove of small trees or bushes surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch.
- Avoid contact with anything that would be attractive to lightning. Stay away from freestanding trees, poles, antennas, towers, bleachers, baseball dugouts, metal fences, standing pools of water, and golf carts.
- Crouch down with legs together, the weight on the balls of the feet, arms wrapped around knees, and head down with ears covered.

## **RULES**

The National Federation rules for baseball will be used as well as the MPA adoptions, exceptions, and additions listed below in all regular season and post-season games.

1. All notes in the rule book relative to state adoption are not adopted except Rule 4, Section 2, Article 2. MPA has adopted the rule which terminates a game when a team, after five and one-half innings is ten runs ahead in baseball for J.V or 9<sup>th</sup> grade games. This rule may NOT be waived for J.V or 9<sup>th</sup> grade games.
2. At the varsity level, games will be terminated at 4 1/2 innings or 5 innings depending on who is ahead by ten runs during the regular season; however, coaches have the option to waive the ten-run rule by mutual consent during the pre-game meeting. NOTE: THE TEN-RUN RULE IS IN EFFECT DURING REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENT COMPETITION.
3. Games called for darkness, weather conditions, or any other reason and is an official game (five innings or 4 1/2 with home team ahead) if tied shall be recorded as a tie; if less than official game, it shall be replayed in its entirety. There will be no tie games in tournament competition. Tie games in tournament competition must be replayed in their entirety.
4. Maine has no protest rule or option. If a rule interpretation or application is in question, the issue must be discussed and resolved before resumption of play. Coaches raising a question must have a rule book and/or bulletin in their possession and make specific reference to the rule at issue.
5. **BASEBALL PITCHING RULE** -- The Baseball Committee has adopted the following pitching limitation rule. Violations of this rule results in the forfeiture of the game for the use of an ineligible player. (Adopted 8/90, Revised 6/96, 6/97)
  - a. Throwing one pitch constitutes an inning pitched.
  - b. A day of rest shall be a calendar day (not a part-day 24 hours later).
  - c. A player who pitches in four or more innings *per day* may not pitch again until three calendar days have elapsed. (Example - a player pitches four or more innings on May 1st may not pitch again until May 5th).

- d. A player may pitch a maximum of ten (10) innings in one game and, having pitched four (4) or more innings in that game, may not pitch in another game until three (3) calendar days have elapsed.
- e. A player who pitches in more than one inning and less than four innings may not pitch again until one calendar day has elapsed.
- f. A pitcher who pitches in both games of a double header with the same team shall not pitch more than three innings per game.
- g. Two games in one day with different opponents -- If a pitcher pitches one inning or less in the first game they may pitch up to three innings in the second game. If a pitcher pitches over one inning they may not pitch in the second game.
- h. A player may pitch in one inning on any number of consecutive days.
- i. The pitching rule applies to the entire season; pre-season, exhibition, tournament, and all other games. Violation in non-counting games may result in the teams' ineligibility for tournament play. (9/91)

**Advisory:** A coach who has the best interest of a player in mind will remove that player once a total of 90-100 pitches have been thrown.

**NOTES:** If a game is terminated before becoming an official game, the pitching rule is in effect and will remain until the last full inning. Example: A game is called for rain after one and a half innings of play. The pitching rule is in effect and will revert to the last full inning.

- 6. A five-inning game (4 1/2 if home team is ahead) shall be an official game in all post-season play.
- 7. It is mandatory that each home baseball team have an "L" shaped screen for both teams to use.
- 8. Throughout the season, helmets must be worn during warm-up (batting practice) prior to all contests. (This is a major liability issue)
- 9. Catchers' masks which are not hockey style must have an attached throat protector.
- 10. Coaches must wear a helmet to be on the field. A hard baseball helmet is required; no-flap, single flap, and double flap helmets are permitted, while "skullies" and cap inserts are not permitted. If at all possible the helmet should be NOCSAE approved.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

- 1. Profanity/vulgarity of any kind will not be tolerated. Coaches, umpires, and school administrators are asked to address violators.

2. Any team personnel who leave the bench during an altercation will be ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior and the player will be ejected for the remainder of that game and the next regularly scheduled game.
3. Fighting, instigating, or retaliatory actions (i.e.: charging the mound, throwing a bat, etc.) will be considered unsportsmanlike behavior resulting in ejection for the remainder of the game and the next regularly scheduled game.
4. Game Disqualification Policy/Ejection Rule -- In all team and individual sports, ejection or disqualification from a game for unsportsmanlike behavior of any form, by a coach or a player, shall result in the suspension of that player or coach from that game, and the next countable, regularly scheduled, or postponed game at that level. This rule applies to a game suspended before completion as well as a completed contest. This penalty may not be served by sitting out an exhibition, sub-varsity, or other competition. This policy will not prevent standing committees from imposing more restrictive disciplinary action.

A suspended coach may not be present at the game site. Not being physically present at the site means the disqualified coach is not to be present in the locker room, on the sidelines, in the stands, or site area before, during, or after the game/meet.

Any coach or player ejected from the last game, meet, or contest of a sports season shall serve a one game suspension in the opening countable game, meet, or contest in the next varsity sport in which he/she participates. The player/coach may participate fully in the preseason prior to serving the one game suspension.

5. A coach who intentionally strikes, shoves, kicks, or makes other physical contact with an official before, during, or after an interscholastic contest, as determined by the school, shall be disqualified immediately and his/her coach's eligibility will be suspended for one full year. At the end of the suspension, the coach may request the reinstatement of his/her eligibility. At this time, the Interscholastic Executive Committee will place the request on their next meeting agenda, at which meeting the coach and principal must attend. The Interscholastic Executive Committee will make the determination whether or not to reinstate the coach's eligibility.

Any member of a team who intentionally strikes, shoves, kicks, or makes other physical contact with an official before, during, or after an interscholastic contest, as determined by the school, shall be disqualified immediately and shall be ineligible to participate in all sports for one full year. NOTE: Member of a team includes player, manager, score keepers, timers, and statisticians.

## **TOURNAMENT SELECTION**

The seeding for the tournament will be determined by using the Heal Point System. Athletic Directors are responsible for the reporting of home games ASAP following the game's completion. Coaches/athletic administrators are asked to enter results through the link on the MPA website. Please report all rescheduled games to the site.

The maximum number of countable games is 16. Each school's Heal Point divisor will range from a minimum of 12 to a maximum of 16, depending on the number of games scheduled. A team may play up to three countable games (maximum) with each opponent.

Scheduled five-inning games will not count toward tournament selection.

Schools must reschedule a postponed game on the next mutually open date (including Saturday) regardless of home field advantage, pitching limitation, etc. Postponements may be made only for weather, field conditions, death of a player, parent, or school member, or other reason deemed appropriate by the committee chair. If a team does not show for a scheduled contest, after an appropriate waiting period, the official may declare that no game will be held and participants may go home. They may not declare the game forfeiture. In the case of disagreement between schools, a date will be set by the Baseball Committee Chairperson. **SCHOOLS MAY NOT RESCHEDULE GAMES INTO THE LAST WEEK OF THE SEASON WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRPERSON.** Schools/leagues may schedule NO MORE THAN ONE GAME between May 30<sup>th</sup> through June 1<sup>st</sup>.

In case of a mathematical tie for the last qualifying position in the final Heal Point standings, ties will be resolved (for play-off bracket position) by looking first at head-to-head competition results. If the tie remains unresolved, a play-in game will be held with the home team being determined by a flip of the coin. The Committee recognizes that graduation programs and year-end schedules may conflict with scheduled regional games and, therefore, recognizes the need for changes of dates. With the Committee Chairperson's approval, preliminary, quarter-final, or semi-final games may be played one day earlier, but may not be played later than scheduled. The pitching rule is in effect for the day the game is originally scheduled even if it is played early. (Exception: A pitcher may not gain eligibility by moving a game a day earlier.)

### **MPA SPORTSMANSHIP/SPECTATOR TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS**

- Bare-chested individuals, shakers, signs, or placards on sticks or other devices designed to support the shaker, sign, or placard are not allowed. Banners may not obstruct spectators viewing of the contest.
- Horns, musical instruments, or noisemakers of any kind are not allowed.
- Anyone throwing objects on the playing field will be removed immediately from the field.
- Mascots or other individuals are not allowed on the playing field.

### **REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS (Preliminary/Quarter-Final/Semi-Final Games)**

1. Preliminary/Quarter-Final/Semi-Final games are held at the site of the higher seeded team. The home team is responsible for all expenses incurred. Admission may be charged and used to defray expenses. Concessions shall be at the discretion of the host school.
2. Condition of the playing field must be acceptable in terms of playability and safety or the game site will be changed by a Baseball Committee representative upon complaint to the Chairman of that Committee.

3. The time of all regional tournament games is 4:00 p.m. (1 p.m. on Saturday) or at a time mutually agreeable to both schools. Night games, if mutually agreed to, are also permissible (7:00 p.m. starting time or a time mutually agreed upon by teams).
4. Three umpires shall be hired for each regional tournament game. Regular season assigner will be used.
5. Dugout personnel are limited to the names submitted on the MPA game roster. A maximum of 25 people (to include coaches who have met eligibility standards, players, student managers, student score keepers, trainers) will be allowed to be on the bench for all tournament games. The head coach is responsible for all people in the dugout and the umpire is authorized to call a game forfeit if, after adequate warning, a team does not comply. All bench personnel must be high school age and all adults must be on the coaches' eligibility roster, including score keepers. A person must be listed on the eligibility roster in order to be allowed on the field during pre-game warm-ups or the post-game ceremony.
6. The principal, athletic administrator or principals' designee, of each school in the tournament, must be present at the game and is responsible for student behavior. Upon arrival, the school representative must sign in with the committee member in charge.
7. A pre-game warm-up schedule that includes 30 minutes hitting practice and 10 minutes fielding practice on the game field for each team shall be set by the home team. The pitcher may not be on the mound prior to the traditional warm-up tosses.
8. Baseball game balls that may be used are Wilson 1010, Rawlings R100, R01, or R100NF, Diamond D1 Pro, Baden 3B-BPRO, and BCA Worth. (The State game ball will be the Rawlings R100NF.)
9. All game baseballs must be stamped with the NFHS authenticating logo.

### **REGIONAL FINAL AND STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES**

1. A team shall not practice or play games on the MPA sites after June 6<sup>th</sup> unless it is the team's regular season home field.
2. Playoff brackets will be available on the MPA website ([www.mpa.cc](http://www.mpa.cc)).
3. The home team shall occupy the third base dugout. Home teams for 2011 are: Regional Finals-High Seed. State Championships: Class A - East team; Class B - West team; Class C - East team, Class D - West team.
4. Game balls will be provided by MPA. Baseball - Rawlings R100NF.
5. Umpire recommendations from coaches and local boards will be used to form a pool from which regional finals and state championship game

assignments will be made by the Baseball Committee and their official representatives.

6. Dugout personnel are limited to the names submitted on the MPA game roster. A maximum of 25 people (to include coaches who have met eligibility standards, players, student managers, student score keepers, trainers) will be allowed in the dugout for all tournament games. The head coach is responsible for all people on the bench and the umpire is authorized to call a game forfeit if, after adequate warning, a team does not comply. All bench personnel must be high school age (including bat boys/girls) and all adults, including adult score keepers, must be listed on the coaches' eligibility roster (excluding certified athletic trainers). A person must be listed on the eligibility roster in order to be allowed on the field during pre-game warm-ups or the post-game ceremony.
7. A pre-game warm-up schedule similar to the one listed for regional games will be set by the Committee and/or site director. (30-minute warm-up practice and 10-minute fielding practice for each team.) Teams may not wear t-shirts over their uniform for the awards presentation.
8. Team personnel on the game field must be in game or like uniforms during pregame practice and post game awards (shirts tucked in, unless manufactured to be worn out, hats on straight, etc.)
9. Pitchers may not warm-up on the mound prior to the game. Areas on the side will be provided. Teams at the regional and state championship games will use the outside batting cages for hitting prior to the game. Batting practice will not take place on the field.
10. A game that is called for darkness, weather conditions, or any other reason is an official game (five innings or four and one-half if the home team is ahead). If less than an official game, it shall be replayed. There will be no tie games in tournament play. Tie games must be replayed in their entirety.
11. A \$7.00 adult admission fee and a \$4.00 student admission will be charged. If it is necessary to postpone or replay a game due to weather, rain checks will be issued and honored at the make-up of that game.
12. In the event any situation not covered by the rulebook or this bulletin arises, it shall be the responsibility of the Committee, or their on-site representative, to make a decision and that decision shall be final. It is recommended that the principals, or their designees, be present and make their presence known for consultation purposes when appropriate.

**REGIONAL FINAL GAMES - (TIMES 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.)**

**West**

Dates:           Classes B and D     June 14 (St. Joseph's College)  
                      Classes A and C     June 15 (St. Joseph's College)

**East**

Dates:           Classes B and D     June 14 (Mansfield Stadium)

Class A  
Class C

June 15 (Morton Field, Augusta) 5:00 p.m.  
June 15 (Mansfield Complex) 7:00pm

**STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES**

Date: June 18, 2011

***Baseball Regional Final & State Championship Games***

**Tentative Schedule**

<u>ODD YEARS</u>	<u>EVEN YEARS</u>
<p><b><u>Regional Baseball Championships- West</u></b> <b><i>St. Joseph's College</i></b> Class B Tuesday 3:00 p.m. Class D Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Class A Wednesday 3:00 p.m. Class C Wednesday 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b><u>Regional Baseball Championships- East</u></b> <b><i>Mansfield Stadium - Bangor</i></b> Class B Tuesday 3:00 p.m. Class D Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Class C Wednesday 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b><i>Morton Field - Augusta</i></b> Class A Wednesday 5:00 p.m.</p> <p><b><u>State Championships</u></b> <b><i>St. Joseph's College</i></b> Class D Saturday 12:00 p.m. Class B Saturday 4:00 p.m.</p> <p><b><i>Morton Field - Augusta</i></b> Class A Saturday 2:00 p.m.</p> <p><b><i>Mansfield Stadium - Bangor</i></b> Class C Saturday 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b><u>Regional Baseball Championships - West</u></b> <b><i>St. Joseph's College</i></b> Class C Tuesday 3:00 p.m. Class A Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Class D Wednesday 3:00 p.m. Class B Wednesday 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b><u>Regional Baseball Championships- East</u></b> <b><i>Morton Field - Augusta</i></b> Class A Tuesday 5:00 p.m.</p> <p><b><i>Mansfield Stadium - Bangor</i></b> Class C Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Class D Wednesday 3:00 p.m. Class B Wednesday 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b><u>State Championships</u></b> <b><i>Mansfield Stadium - Bangor</i></b> Class B Saturday 11:00 a.m. Class D Saturday 3:00 p.m.</p> <p><b><i>St. Joseph's College</i></b> Class A Saturday 12:00 p.m. Class C Saturday 4:00 p.m.</p>

## BASEBALL CLASSIFICATION

CLASS A <u>735+</u>	CLASS B <u>400-734</u>	CLASS C <u>200-399</u>	CLASS D <u>0-199</u>
<u>EAST</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>EAST</u>	<u>EAST</u>
Bangor Brewer Brunswick Cony Edward Little Erskine Hampden Lawrence Lewiston Messalonskee Morse (11) Mt. Ararat Mt. Blue Oxford Hills Skowhegan	Belfast Bucksport Camden Hills Caribou Ellsworth Gardiner Hermon John Bapst Maine Central Mattanawcook Medomak Mt. Desert Mt. View Nokomis Old Town Presque Isle Rockland Waterville Winslow	Calais Central Dexter Fort Kent Foxcroft George Stevens Hodgdon Houlton Lee Madawaska Narraguagus Orono Penobscot Penquis Piscataquis Searsport Stearns Sumner Washington Academy Woodland	Ashland Bangor Christian Central Aroostook Deer Isle- Stonington East Grand Fort Fairfield Greater Houlton Jonesport-Beals Katahdin Limestone/MSSM Machias Schenck Shead Southern Aroostook Van Buren Washburn Wisdom
<u>WEST</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>WEST</u>
Biddeford Bonny Eagle Cheverus (11) Deering Gorham Kennebunk Marshwood Massabesic Noble Portland Sanford Scarborough South Portland Thornton Westbrook Windham	Cape Elizabeth Falmouth Freeport Fryeburg Gray-New Gloucester Greely Lake Region Leavitt Lincoln Academy Lisbon Maranacook Mtn. Valley Oak Hill Poland Wells Yarmouth York	Boothbay Dirigo Georges Valley Hall-Dale Jay Livermore Falls Madison Monmouth Mt. Abram North Yarmouth (13) Old Orchard Sacopee Valley St. Dominic Telstar Traip Waynflete Winthrop Wiscasset	Buckfield Forest Hills Greenville Rangeley Richmond Valley Vinalhaven/North Haven

