

PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE RULES

As Adopted by the Board of Directors for the 2007 Season

Chapter One: Introductory Provisions and League Operations

- 1.00 Mission Statement:** The Pacific International Baseball League (PIL) administers a highly competitive, professional quality of baseball.
- 1.01 American League Book:** The American League Book (as distributed by the National Baseball Congress) shall govern matters not addressed by these league rules.
- 1.02 Application of League and American League Book Rules:** Neither coaches, league officers nor other parties may privately agree to waive or revise any of these rules in any PIL contest. Any attempts to do so shall be null and void. Issues on rule interpretation are to be resolved by the Commissioner. Only the PIL Board of Directors may formally revise these provisions.
- 1.03 Commissioner:** The Commissioner shall:
- A. Resolve any issues that may arise over the season schedule and administer any post season play devised by the Board of Directors;
 - B. Interpret and enforce Chapter Two of these League Rules throughout all such competition, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter Four; and
 - C. Maintain a current set of League Rules and summary of precedent from previous rulings.
- 1.04 Behavior of League Representatives:** Whenever anyone officially affiliated with the PIL or any of its teams is conducting league business or is otherwise in a position to reflect on the league, he/she shall act in a polite, professional manner and not be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances. Violations of this rule are to be reported to the Board of Directors for any action deemed appropriate.

Chapter Two: Rules on Game Conduct

2.00 Guidelines for Scheduling League Games:

- A. When and if conflicts arise, league games are to be given priority over all non-league contests.
- B. When and if necessary, league games that must be rescheduled due to rain or other reasons will take priority over non-league games, which may need to be cancelled in order to accommodate league contests.
- C. No non-league games are to be scheduled during the five days prior to the league championship playoffs. Those days are to be reserved for possible make-up games that may become necessary.
- D. Without their consent, teams shall not be required to travel extensively during mid-week. Such road games are to be scheduled for weekends only, unless other arrangements are mutually agreed upon.
- E. Once the league schedule is set, teams may mutually agree to change the times and locations of scheduled contests. However, game dates may only be changed for good cause and with the advance approval of the Commissioner, unless the Commissioner determines that 1) obtaining advance permission was not possible, and 2) there was good cause for changing the date.

2.01 Playing Field: The home team will insure that the field is always in good repair and safe condition.

- A. Within fifteen minutes of game time, the field shall be dragged, the bases put in place, and the foul lines and batter's box lined.
- B. If lights are available to the home team, the latter shall have access to turning them on at the request of the umpires.

2.02 Security: The home team is responsible for reasonably securing the safety of all fans and game participants.

2.03 Batting Practice: Within two hours of game time, both the home and visiting teams shall have an opportunity for an equal amount of batting practice, for at least 45 minutes each, with the home team going first.

2.03 Equipment: All equipment and uniforms must be in good condition, free of defect and in safe repair.

- A. All helmets must be in sound condition (with no cracks, breaks or holes). All batters, on deck hitters, base runners, and catchers must wear helmets. Single flap helmets are acceptable.
- B. A team's players and coaches shall wear identical uniforms unless the coaches and umpires all agree otherwise prior to the start of the game.
- C. Both the home and visiting teams are responsible for ensuring that their respective uniform colors are duly distinguishable, if possible. The visiting team shall bring at least two different jersey colors if it has them and shall use one that suitably distinguishes the two teams.
- D. Only wood bats may be utilized.
- E. Umpires are authorized to halt game proceedings unless and until these requirements are met.

2.04 Player Eligibility: To be eligible for any PIL game a player:

- A. Must be at least 18 years of age;
- B. Must not be under any other contractual obligation to play baseball for any other team, without the consent of each team for whom the player has signed to play;
- C. Must have filed with the PIL or the team itself a player's release from any professional contract entered into during the previous two years;
- D. Must have signed and filed with the PIL or the team itself the standard Player's Contract provided by the National Baseball Congress and the standard Hold Harmless Agreement provided by the PIL;
- E. Must be clear of any equipment obligations due the PIL or any other written objections filed with and deemed valid by the Commissioner;
- F. Must not be suspended from play in the game in question; and
- G. Must be properly listed on the team's roster and lineup sheet.

- H. Teams shall also have their players sign and submit to the league the Code of Conduct form and the Player's Information Sheet. Whereas the above provisions of Rule 2.04 relate to player eligibility and violations may be punished by game forfeitures, a violation of this subsection shall be punished by fine only.

2.05 Players Who Quit a Team: A player who signs with and then quits a PIL team may petition the Commissioner for the opportunity to play for another PIL team. In that event the Commissioner shall advise all the other PIL teams of the player's availability and give all of them one week in which to claim the player. If two or more teams claim the player, the Commissioner shall award the player to the team with the poorer league record. A player who quits two PIL teams in the same season is ineligible for further play in the PIL for the duration of the season in question.

2.06 Lineup Sheets: Only those players listed on a team's lineup sheet exchanged at the plate prior to any particular game are eligible to play. Only up to 25 players may be listed on any particular lineup sheet.

2.07 Rosters: Each team is also required to maintain and exchange at least three days prior to each league game a typed roster, listing all players and the standard player information.

- A. Until the July 15, roster changes may be made anytime at the will of each team.
- B. By midnight on July 15, each team's final roster of no more than 30 players is to be filed directly with the Commissioner. Thereafter, roster deletions may still be made at will; but any additions may only be made with the advance approval of the Commissioner and only for reasons relating to: 1) a player's inability to play due to injury, illness or family emergency, or 2) a player's resignation from his team.
- C. Only those players listed on a team's final roster after July 15 and noted on a 25 man lineup sheet for each particular game are eligible to participate in league play.
- D. To be eligible for participation in post-season play, a player must have played in at least three Pacific International League games prior to the playoffs.

2.08 Umpires: The home team is responsible for contracting for the services of at least two umpires per game. The home team is also responsible for providing at least two hours notice to the relevant umpires for the cancellation of any scheduled game, if possible.

- A. If a team wishes to make a formal complaint about a particular umpire's general conduct, a written set of grievances shall be filed with the Commissioner, whose duty it is to review the situation with the head of the relevant umpire's association.
- B. The PIL does not tolerate offensive physical contact or such threatened contact with an umpire by a player or coach. Coaches or players who offensively touch, push or in any way initiate or threaten to initiate offensive physical contact with an umpire shall be suspended for at least the next three scheduled PIL games. Teams shall be liable for monetary fines should this misconduct occur in the final game(s) of the season.

2.09 Game Parameters:

- A. **Scheduled Length:** Single games shall consist of 9 innings.

In a double header, the first game shall consist of 7 innings; and the second game shall consist of 9 innings. In the event that the first game of a double header is tied after 7 innings, it shall become a 9-inning game, in which case the second contest shall become the 7-inning game.

At the home plate meeting before the second game of a double header the two teams may agree to make the second game a 7 inning contest, if there is some logistical difficulty (such as curfew or weather) that suggests a 9 inning contest might not be completed. If there is no agreement to shorten the contest at the home plate meeting, the game must be played as a 9 inning contest.

In the event rescheduling results in teams playing each other twice on the same day, the contests shall be treated as a double header in terms of scheduled game length.

- B. **Mercy Rules:** There shall be no mercy rules in effect unless both teams agree at the home plate meeting with the umpires prior to the game to the following:

A 9-inning game shall be terminated early when and if one team is ahead by 8 or more runs after 7 innings of play (or after 6 and ½ innings if the home team is ahead by 8 runs or more). A 7-inning game shall be terminated early when and if one team is ahead by 10 runs or more after 5 innings of play (or after 4 and ½ innings if the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more).

- C. **Other Early Termination:** A game is considered complete if the umpires terminate a contest due to rain and the home team is ahead after at least 4 and ½ innings of play, or if the visiting team is ahead after at least 5

innings of play. If the game is suspended due to rain, with a tie score after at least 5 innings of play, it must be rescheduled for completion from the point at which play was suspended. Games otherwise terminated by rain must be rescheduled and replayed from the very beginning.

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D. Suspended Games: Games stopped for other reasons – such as curfew, darkness, the untimely operation of sprinklers, etc. – shall be rescheduled and resumed from the point at which play was suspended.

E. Rescheduled or Resumed Games: The teams in question shall reschedule games that must be resumed or replayed; and they have 48 hours from the date the original game was suspended or rained out to decide upon rescheduling details and to communicate that decision to the Commissioner. If the teams cannot reach such a mutual decision, they shall so notify the Commissioner – who will then resolve the matter.

The Commissioner has the discretion to delay rescheduling any suspended or rained out game until it becomes apparent whether the outcome of such a game could have a material affect on the final standings. If such a game could not materially affect final league standings, the Commissioner may rule that the game need not be played.

F. Intentional Walks: For an intentional walk the pitcher must throw at least four pitches. Automatic walks (by signal to the umpire) are prohibited.

G. Behavior on the Field and in the Dugouts:

- 1) **Language:** The PIL does not tolerate profane or abusive language on the field of play or in the dugouts, and umpires are requested to eject players or coaches who violate this rule.
- 2) **Thrown Equipment:** No coach or player may throw a bat, helmet or other piece of equipment to register disgust, either with himself, another player or an umpire. Umpires are requested to eject players and coaches who engage in this behavior.
- 3) **Tobacco, Alcohol and Other Drugs:** Smoking and the use of alcohol and controlled substances on the playing field or in the dugouts are prohibited. Umpires are requested to eject those who violate this rule. The use of alcohol and controlled substances in parking lots and other areas adjacent to the ballpark is also prohibited.

Teams must also abide by whatever additional rules may apply at particular ballparks.

- 4) **Fighting:** Combat is not acceptable and is grounds for ejection. Intentionally pitching at a batter will be regarded as an effort to provoke a fight and is therefore grounds for ejection, as well.

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H. Forceful and Malicious Contact: A runner may use forceful contact against a fielder in an effort to dislodge the ball or otherwise prevent a defensive play from being made, so long as the force is not used maliciously. Contact, such as a collision, is considered to be “malicious” if 1) the contact is the result of intentional excessive force, and/or 2) there is intent to injure. A player guilty of malicious contact shall be ejected from the game.

I. Safety Provisions:

- 1) Only roster members, coaches, managers, trainers, owners, one scorekeeper, and one batboy or batgirl are permitted in the dugout. All team personnel must be inside the dugout, in the on-deck area, on base, at bat, in a fielding position or coaching box, in the bullpen, or completely inside clearly marked or designated dead ball territory.
- 2) There can be but one batboy or girl per team, and each must be at least ten years of age. If a team utilizes a batboy or girl, someone in that team’s dugout must be assigned responsibility for the child’s safety. All bat boys and girls must at all times wear a protective helmet with a face shield.

The visiting team may decline the use of a batboy or girl by giving at least 24 hours notice to the home team.

- 3) Unless the bullpen area is completely protected, there shall always be at least one player assigned to watch for and guard against foul balls hit in that direction.
- 4) Umpires are requested to halt a game unless and until these rules are observed.

J. Score Keepers: The home team shall designate an official scorer, and the visiting team shall also keep a separate scorebook. In the event of a protest, request for a forfeit or other dispute, copies of each team’s scorebook shall be supplied to the Commissioner if relevant. The failure to

preserve a proper record of an issue is grounds for a related appeal, protest or forfeit request to be denied.

- K. Public Address Announcers:** If a team utilizes a public address system, it shall be operated in a professional manner.

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Chapter Three: League Championships, Playoffs, and Tournaments

- 3.01 League Championship in a Single Division:** Unless otherwise provided by the Board of Directors, the following rules shall apply in determining the league champion in a season with a single division:
 - A. To be eligible for final league standings a team must have played or won by forfeit at least 90% of its regularly scheduled league games.
 - B. Eligible teams shall be ranked in the descending order of their winning percentages in league contests.
 - C. In the event of a tie for first place, the first tiebreaker shall be head to head competition. If a tie still remains, there shall be a one game playoff. If there is a three-way tie for first place that cannot be broken by head to head competition, there shall be a two game playoff after lots are drawn to determine which two teams shall play the first game.
- 3.02 League Playoffs:** During a season in which there are two divisions, the Board shall determine in advance the format for a playoff system.
- 3.02 Affiliated Tournaments:** The league champion shall be given first opportunity to represent the PIL in any affiliated tournaments and be provided such financial assistance as approved by the Board of Directors. Should the league champion decide not to participate in the affiliated tournament, the second place team may represent the league and receive the financial assistance in question.
- 3.03 Roster Additions:** In the event that new players may be added to a team's roster for participation in affiliated tournaments, clubs are required to select players from other teams within the PIL. If two or more PIL teams are participating in the same affiliated tournament, they may not draft players from each other's teams; but the teams may select the players they desire from the remaining PIL franchises. The team that finished highest in the league will get to make all its selections first, followed in order by the next highest team(s).

Chapter Four: Rule Violations and Enforcement Process

4.01 Forfeits: The Commissioner may order a game forfeited if:

- A. A team utilizes one or more ineligible players;
- B. A team does not take the field to start or continue a properly scheduled or rescheduled game and there is no valid reason or excuse for failing to do so;
- C. A team cannot field nine players, either at the beginning of or during a game; or
- D. A team refuses to reschedule a game as ordered by the Commissioner.

A team requesting a forfeit must file a written complaint with the Commissioner within 48 hours of the incident(s) giving rise to the request, on pain of having the request denied unless the Commission finds that there was good cause for the filing delay. Thereafter, the Commissioner shall consult with the relevant parties and issue a written decision as expeditiously as possible.

4.02 Protests: All protests must be filed in writing with the Commissioner within 48 hours of the incident(s) giving rise to the protest, or the protest will be denied unless the Commissioner finds that there was good cause for the filing delay. Thereafter, the Commissioner shall consult with the relevant parties and issue a written decision as expeditiously as possible.

However, a protest or requested forfeit concerning an alleged roster violation shall be ruled upon only after the game in question has been completed.

4.03 Ejections: If a player is ejected from either a league or non-league game, he shall be ineligible to play in his team's next PIL game. If a player is ejected for the second time during any one season, he shall be ineligible to play for his team's next 3 PIL games. Upon a third ejection in the same season, he shall be ineligible for any further PIL play that season.

While serving their suspensions players must be in uniform and in the dugout while their teams are playing.

These rules apply to both regular season games and any post season play sponsored in whole or in part by the PIL. These suspensions may only be stayed or lifted through the appellate process stated in Rule 4.04. If the suspensions

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cannot be served before the end of the season, the Commissioner may direct that the suspension or remaining balance thereof be served at the beginning of the next season.

4.04 Ejection Appeals: An appeal of an ejection must be filed in writing with the Commissioner within 24 hours of the incident(s) giving rise to the ejection or prior to the player's next PIL game, whichever comes first, or the appeal shall be denied unless the Commissioner finds that there was good cause for the filing delay.

While the appeal is pending, the game suspensions specified in Rule 4.03 shall be stayed.

The Commissioner shall consult with the relevant parties and issue a written decision as expeditiously as possible.

If a player who is the subject of the appeal participates in a game(s) for which he would otherwise be suspended under Rule 4.03, he shall serve twice the period of suspension otherwise specified if the Commissioner finds that there was no issue worthy of an appeal or that the appeal was filed solely for purposes of delaying the suspension(s) in question.

If the appeal is denied and it is necessary to re-impose the game suspension(s) under Rule 4.03, the Commissioner shall indicate the most suitable remaining game(s) for which the appellant is to be suspended – taking into account the particular game(s) in which the player would have been ineligible had the suspensions under Rule 4.03 been served originally.

4.05 Rule Violations: The Commissioner is responsible for investigating all alleged violations of league rules and is authorized to issue penalties commensurate for any actual violations, after consultation with at least two other league officers or board members. Any particular penalties that may be outlined in the various provisions of the League Rules, such as those prescribed in Rule 4.03, are presumptive only; and the Commissioner is authorized to impose greater or lesser penalties after taking into account all the relevant circumstances -- as long as those factors are stated in his written decisions. Among other things, the Commissioner shall consider whether the team or player in question has any

history of violations and was previously given any warnings for rule violations, any relevant precedent from previous rulings, any mitigating or aggravating circumstances surrounding the incident, and the presence or absence of any bad faith on the part of the transgressing parties.

Rule violations may be penalized by warnings, fines, game forfeitures, or other consequences as deemed appropriate by the Commissioner.