



Great Eight Baseball LTD.

A NEOBL Exclusive Division

2020 12u League Rules & Information

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All rules stated here supersede rules stated in the NFHS Rule Book. NEOBL & Charter League Members reserve the right to modify rules prior to the start of the season, if any item is misrepresented in this document.

- **League Name:**

Great Eight Baseball, LTD. – a NEOBL Exclusive Division

- **Charter Teams:**

Aurora Athletics - Aurora Green - Chagrin Falls Tigers – Hudson Explorers
Kenston Bombers – Ohio Rebels – Solon Stampede – Streetsboro Rockets

- **Non-Charter Teams:**

Nordonia Green Knights – Nordonia White Knights – Stow Bulldogs

- **Invite & Veto Power:**

Charter teams will have the exclusive right to add or refuse teams entry into this exclusive division of NEOBL by a super majority Charter team vote of 6 out of 8 or 75%.

- **Oversight:**

- League will be governed by a three-person coaches committee representing a cross section of participating Charter teams (cannot be two from same team) and chosen by a simple majority “yay” or “nay” vote of all Charter teams. This three-person committee will be chosen yearly by January 15th and can be made up of willing, head or asst. coaches.
- This three-person committee will be responsible for soliciting team input and desires for the coming season, organizing said information, updating rules packet, fielding complaints from teams and settling any disputes between teams.
- Disputes will be settled on a committee vote of 2/3’s.
- Should any committee member or his/her team be involved in a dispute or be deemed to have a vested interest in the outcome, they will be recused from arbitrating said dispute and dispute will be settled by unanimous vote of remaining committee members.
- Any issue unresolvable by committee, will be taken to NEOBL directors Harry Oschip & Howie Briggs for final ruling. These men may also be consulted any time by committee for input prior to their initial vote.
- The three-man committee can be replaced at any time prior to the start of a season by an agreed upon, independent outside commissioner with a super majority charter team vote of 6 out of 8 or 75%.
- Head coaches are the voting members of each Charter team, each Charter team gets one vote on all voting matters.

- **COVID**

As we all experienced last season Covid is a current reality we are faced with. Each team agrees in committing to Great Eight for 2021, to abide by current State of Ohio health & safety orders as well as those of the community in which you are playing.

- **Divisions**

For 2021 season there will be two divisions of 6 & 5 teams respectively. Teams will play those in their division 2 times (1 home/1 away), and those in the opposite division 1 time (the 6 team division will play 2 home & 3 away – the 5 team division will play 3 home and 3 away).

Triumph Division

Aurora Greenmen
Kenston Bombers
Nordonia Green Knights
Ohio Rebels
Solon Stampede
Stow Bulldogs

Victory Division

Aurora Athletics
Chagrin Falls Tigers
Hudson Explorers
Nordonia White Knights
Streetsboro Rockets



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For games against opposite division the following defines home & away games.

- **Aurora Greenmen, Kenston Bombers, Nordonia Green Knights**
Away against: Aurora Athletics, Chagrin Falls Tigers, Hudson Explorers
Home against: Nordonia White Knights, Streetsboro Rockets
- **Ohio Rebels, Solon Stampede, Stow Bulldogs**
Away against: Nordonia White Knights, Streetsboro Rockets
Home against: Aurora Athletics, Chagrin Falls Tigers, Hudson Explorers
- **Aurora Athletics, Chagrin Falls Tigers**
Away against: Ohio Rebels, Solon Stampede, Stow Bulldogs
Home against: Aurora Greenmen, Kenston Bombers, Nordonia Green Knights
- **Hudson Explorers, Nordonia White Knights, Streetsboro Rockets**
Away against: Aurora Greenmen, Kenston Bombers, Nordonia Green Knights
Home against: Ohio Rebels, Solon Stampede, Stow Bulldogs

- **Nordonia vs. Nordonia:**

Due to the Nordonia association's desire for teams from the same community to NOT play each other, The Nordonia teams have 3 options to mitigate the one scheduled game against one another.

- A.) The Nordonia teams choose to play the one scheduled game.
- B.) The Nordonia teams mutually agree prior to season scheduling to not play the game and opt for a voluntary tie where each team would receive 2 points, despite the un-played game. (**Suggestion:** *Still get both teams together, intermix the two teams, have a little cookout, and play a scrimmage that unifies the two teams & community*).
- C.) Because the Ohio Rebels will be out of town and are therefore opting out of the playoffs, they have offered to play each Nordonia team one additional time to fill the gap of a non-played Nordonia vs Nordonia game. These games would be played on the Ohio Rebels home field but follow the home/away layout listed above. The Nordonia teams are responsible for the umpire fees. These "special circumstance" games must be delineated on the schedule so that the points are not counted for the Rebels.

The desire of both teams must be determined by the annual scheduling meeting.

- **Game-Changer:**

All teams agree to use the "Game-Changer" app for scorekeeping and pitch tracking. The home team's Game-Changer is the official scorebook in matters of unresolvable difference/discrepancy.

- **Players:**

Must be 12 or under as of April 30th.
May only play on one NEOBL roster.

- **Games:**

Will be 6 innings as is standard per nations baseball at 12u.
Games are official after 5 innings (4.5 if home team winning)
Extra innings can be played if it is tied after 6, unless the time limit has been reached.

- **Time Limit:**

No inning can be started after 2.5 hours; therefore, games can ultimately result in ties. The additional half hour limit may result in more expensive umpire fees being charged.

- **Darkness:**

If after 5 innings and before 2.5 hours, it is determined by the umpire that a game cannot continue because of darkness, the game will return to the last completed inning and that will be the final score.



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- **Weather Disruption:**

If weather interrupts a game before 5 innings have been played (4.5 if home team is winning), the game should be continued from the point of interruption if one full inning has been played. This may occur on the current day or on a subsequent scheduled day.

In resumed games, the pitching rules pertaining to the original contest are still in effect.

- **Mercy Rule:**

10 runs after 5 innings.

- **Umpires:**

Games require the scheduling of two umpires. In the event one of two does not show up, the game may be played with one umpire. In the event no umpire shows up, games can be played with whatever substitutes teams can find that they jointly agree upon prior to start of game. If the game goes forward with agreed substitutes, the game will count.

Proceed with caution. Two (2) Certified umpires are required for all post season play.

- **Ejections:**

- **Coach Ejections:** are at the discretion of the Umpire. All coaches are expected to honor the ruling of the umpire and leave the vicinity of the ongoing game without escalation of the situation. Provided that is done, there is no further/ongoing mandated league suspension. Egregious and/or repetitive situations with a coach can result in further suspension or dismissal from league participation upon review by oversight committee or commissioners of NEOBL.

- **Player Ejections:** It is our hope that prompt coach action with their players, results in keeping players from getting ejected. Bat, helmet and equipment throwing is dangerous, mouthing off, swearing, arguing with coaches & umpire, should not and likely will not be tolerated. As a coach you should be taking swift action with your own player. Should a player be ejected, they may remain in the dugout **as long as they are settled & behaved** as heading to the parent area can potentially instigate a situation with an angry parent. If the player cannot settle & behave, the umpire, opposing coach or you as coach of your team, can ask that the player leave the park. Egregious and repetitive situations with a player can result in further suspension or dismissal from league participation upon review by oversight committee or commissioners of NEOBL.

- **Parents:** Parents can get out of hand at games as well. Like players, it is our hope that prompt coach action with riled up parents will mitigate any such instance. It is our job to keep the level heads and remember this is little league baseball. The umpire is well within his rights to throw a parent out of the park and you as coach should also step in, temporarily stop game, and do so if necessary. Egregious and repetitive situations with a parent can result in suspension or dismissal from league game attendance of parent and even player (if needed to achieve result) upon review by oversight committee or commissioners of NEOBL.

- **Protests:**

All protests must be settled at the point of infraction and the umpire's decision is final. If it is determined it was a correctable error (misrepresentation of a rule), the oversight committee may elect to hear from the offended party.

- **Game Balls:**

Our league's official/preferred Ball will be Rawlings ROLB-1. Teams may buy them where they wish, but they are available through the NEOBL at \$_____ per dozen. Team may also substitute the ROLB-1 for any competing brand of equivalent quality.

Home team will provide all matching baseballs for each game and will receive their baseballs back at the conclusion of each game.

- **Bats:**

There are no bat restrictions

- **Molded Spikes:**

Players are to wear molded spikes exclusively. Metal cleats are prohibited at this age.

- **Head-First Sliding:**

For the safety of all players at this age, players are not allowed to slide head-first into a base except in the instance of diving back to a base under lead-off/pick-off circumstances. Players sliding head-first are to be called out.



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- **Leadoffs & Stealing:**
Is permitted per typical OHSAA stealing rules.
- **Infield Fly Rule:**
Is in effect for all games.
- **Dropped Third Strike:**
Is in effect with 0, 1 or 2 outs for all batters.
- **Line-Ups & Substitution:**
Lineups may be managed in the following ways, must be announced before the game and remain as such for duration.
 - **Roster Batting:** All present players bat and are allowed to be substituted defensively freely as desired. All batters must remain in the same batting position/order. Any player that shows up late must be placed at the bottom of the order.
 - **10 hitter lineups using "AH" or Additional Hitter:** Teams may bat 10 players using an additional hitter. The additional hitter is considered a defensive position and therefore that player may be substituted into the field freely. Players not in the original lineup are considered substitutes and may be substituted into the game as desired including for the "AH". The original starter/starters may re-enter the game in the same batting position for their substitute, and that substitute is then out of the game and cannot re-enter.
 - **9 hitter lineups:** Same as 10 hitter lineup excluding use of "AH"
 - **If a team is batting all present, uniformed players, with no eligible substitutes listed on the lineup card, and the number of players is 9 or 10, that team is considered to be roster batting for the purposes of defensive substitutions and courtesy runners, unless the coach has specifically declared otherwise at the pregame plate conference. If additional players arrive after the game has started, those players are placed at the end of the batting order. If the coach declares at the pregame plate conference that he is not roster batting, the late players are listed on the lineup as eligible substitutes.**
- **Speed-up Rule:** Teams may use a courtesy runner anytime for the UPCOMING half inning's pitcher and/or catcher. The runner must be a bench player or if none are available, the last batted out. If a bench player is used, this is NOT considered a "substitution" and that player may be used as an official substitution later in the game.
- **Player Injury:**
If a player is injured during a game and there is not a replacement for him due to lack of players or roster batting, that injured player is NOT an out in the batting order. If a player is ejected or leaves a game/the field due to a non-injury and there is no replacement for the player due to lack of bench players or roster batting, that player is an out in the batting order when his turn comes up.
- **Pitching Limits:**
We encourage coaches to keep their kids at or around 70 pitches maximum at this age.
Pitchers will be limited PER DAY by **4 innings (which is equal to 12 outs) or 80 pitches** – whichever threshold is reached first.
For the health of youth arms, the following minimum rest schedule is required to be followed in league play.
 - 0-20 pitches = 0 days rest
 - 21-40 pitches = 1 days rest
 - 41-60 pitches = 2 days rest
 - 61-80 pitches = 3 days rest
- **Resumed Games Pitching Limits:**
In resumed games, the pitching rules pertaining to the original contest are still in effect as are the pitching limits for the day.
- **Pitch/Pitcher Tracking:**
Pitcher eligibility and rest will be based off the home team's Game-Changer box score of the current game. It is highly encouraged that the scorekeepers periodically check on the score and pitch count throughout the game and at the conclusion of the game. The home team's Game-Changer Box score will be the official record.



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- **Curve Balls & Over-Use Statement:**

To protect our youth's arms, throwing traditional curve balls and over-using arms in The Great Eight, at this age, is simply intolerable. Both have been proven to cause severe and even permanent damage to growing and developing arms. Though we have installed safeguards to protect the youth, it comes down to the character of coaches. We expect coaches to take seriously their great responsibility of not only teaching and coaching the game, but cherishing, defending and protecting our youth's long-term health & wellbeing.

- **Balks:**

Each Pitcher should receive 1 warning before a balk is called and bases awarded. This should be mentioned to the Umpire when the Managers review the Ground Rules prior to the Game. Warnings will be eliminated at 13u and beyond.

- **Hit Batter:**

If a pitcher hits 3 batters over the course of a game, the pitcher must be removed. However, should the umpire feel there is a safety issue prior to these thresholds being reached, this rule will NOT supersede the umpire's discretion.

- **Mound Visits:**

A Coach is permitted to visit a Pitcher once an Inning without the Pitcher having to be removed. If a Coach visits a Pitcher twice (not related to an injury) in one inning, the Pitcher must be removed. If a Coach visits a Pitcher for third time overall throughout a Game, the Pitcher must be removed.

- **Schedule & Dates:**

Eight (8) or Nine (9) Team League – all teams will play each other twice, one home & one away.

Ten (10) or more teams will be divided into two random chosen divisions and play each team in division 2 times and each team out of division 1 time.

- Opening Day - April 8th
- Regular Season End - June 23rd
- Playoffs Commence - June 25th
- Championship Game - June 27th
- All-Star Game - June 30th

(all above dates subject to good weather – goal to have all games complete by July 1st)

- **Regular Season Point System:**

- Win = 3 points
- Tie = 2 points
- Loss = 1 point
- Un-played games = 0 points

- **Tie Breakers:**

- Two (2) Teams Tied
 - A.) Head to Head
 - B.) Fewest Runs allowed vs. each other
 - C.) Most runs scored vs. each other (maximum 10/game)
 - D.) Full Season Average Run differential
- Three (3) or more Teams Tied (if equal number of games / revert to average for season if not)
 - A.) Fewest runs allowed vs. each other
 - B.) Most runs scored vs. each other (maximum 10/game)
 - C.) Full Season Average Run differential

- **Playoffs:**

Single Elimination – All league teams seeded on points by division / higher seed is home team – location to be determined.

Ohio Rebels have opted out of the playoff tournament due to the timing of their Cooperstown trip so we will follow the 10 team bracket below. **Have a great time at Cooperstown Rebels!**

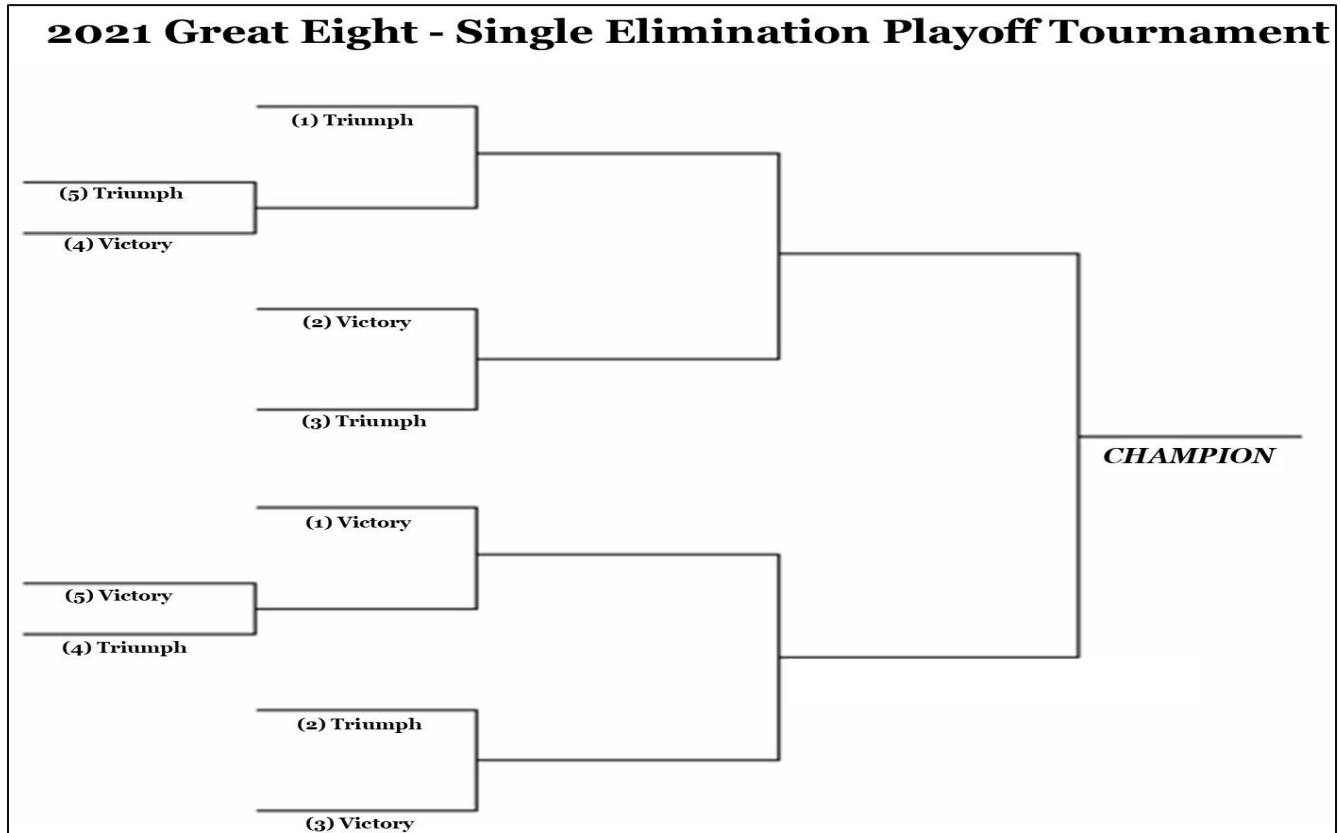
(Should the Rebel's trip be cancelled or moved, we reserve the right to amend playoff bracket to accommodate their inclusion).



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- **Trophies:**

Will be awarded for regular season Best Record in each division.

Will be awarded for League Playoff Champion & Runner up

Cost for trophies will be part of league fees and spread equally over all teams.

- **All-Star Game:**

The league will have an all-star game – will be in Streetsboro or Aurora – under the lights!

Teams will be organized by division.

Each team will select 2 players to represent them. Deadline for submission TBD.

2 rosters will be created, and the teams will play each other.

Players will receive a hat & jersey memento.

Umpire and memento costs will be part of league fees and spread equally over all teams.

- **All-Star Coaches:**

All teams are encouraged to send a coach representative to the all-star game to assist and participate in the All-Star celebration. But lead coaches for each team will be determined on 2021 best record in each division (before playoffs).



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- **Costs:**

BASE COSTS:

- NEOBL League Fee (*includes nations registration*) \$100.00
- Playoff Trophies / Allstar Hat & Jersey / All Star Umps \$250.00

(*trophies check will be made out to EJ Nemet – any unused funds will be disbursed back to the teams*)

SUBTOTAL \$350.00

OPTIONAL COSTS:

- Insurance through NEOBL: Jan 1st – Dec. 31st \$110.00
- Non-League Practice Balls: bucket of 18 \$_____ (TBD)
- Game Balls Rawlings ROLB-1 – Dozen \$_____ (TBD)
- NFHS Rulebook \$15.00
- Scorebooks – one for \$15 / two for \$25 \$25.00

Acknowledgement Form

(*head coach sign & submit to Great Eight Coaches Committee*)

In accepting entry into NEOBL, Great Eight. I, _____ (*name*) as coach of the _____ (*team*), acknowledge receipt of “League Rules & Information” document. In paying our fees and signing below I agree to abide by said rules and structure, participate in league discussion and reviews and assure to the best of my ability that our team will operate with class & respect for the game.

_____ (*signature*) _____ (*date*)

