

ATWATER BOMBERS FALL BASEBALL

2025 MAJOR DIVISION GROUND RULES

- 1) **FIELDING PLAYERS:** Teams may field nine (9) defensive players. A team may start and end a game with eight (8) players.
- 2) **MANDATORY PLAY:** Each player present on the game lineup card will participate in a minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs.
- 3) **BATTING:** Teams will use a “Continuous Batting Order” (CBO). Players must have at least one (1) at bat.
- 4) **SUBSTITUTIONS:** Players may enter and re-enter defensively in the game anytime, provided they meet the requirements of Mandatory Play. ***EXCEPTION: If a pitcher completes three (3) full innings, they cannot move to the position of catcher. If a pitcher throws one pitch in the third inning, it will be counted as a full inning. If a catcher completes three (3) full innings, they cannot move to the position of pitcher. If a catcher catches one pitch in the third inning, it will count as a full inning.***
- 5) **BASE STEALING** is allowed. Leading off a base is not allowed. The pitch must cross the home plate before a runner can leave the base.
- 6) **SLIDING:** Feet first sliding is allowed at any base except first base. If the batter/runner slides into first base they will be called out. Head-first sliding is not allowed except when diving back to a base previously occupied (including first base).
- 7) **RELIEF PITCHER:** A player is allowed to warm up on the inside of the fence only, in a safe area for the pitcher and catcher so that no one gets hit by a foul ball; it must also be a safe area for bystanders and fans. Coaches are permitted to warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bullpen or elsewhere at any time including in-game warm-up, pre-game warm-up, and in other instances.

ATWATER BOMBERS FALL BASEBALL

2025 MAJOR DIVISION GROUND RULES

Coaches may also stand by to observe a pitcher during warm-up in the bullpen. A player warming up a pitcher must wear a catcher's mask.

- 8) **TIME LIMIT:** Maximum play time is two (2) hours for regular season games. No new inning may start if there are only five (5) minutes left in the game.
- 9) **OPEN INNING:** It is not mandatory that games have an open inning, and an open inning will be called when there is ten (10) minutes remaining in the game. Open innings have no limit on runs scored.
- 10) **PLAYOFFS OR CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES:** There is no time limit rule to any playoff or championship game. The Mercy Rule (see rule 14 below) applies to all games. Playoff or Championship games may not end with a tie score and the International Tie Breaker Rule applies.

COURTESY RUNNER: The Courtesy Runner Rule is in effect for the catcher. The offensive coach may elect to utilize a courtesy runner for the catcher whenever there are at least two (2) outs. The runner who comes into the game must be the player who made the last out.

- 11) **MERCY RULE:** applies as follows:

- a) 8 runs after 5 innings (4 ½) if the home team is ahead
- b) 10 runs after 4 innings (3 ½) if the home team is ahead
- c) 15 runs after 3 innings (2 ½) if the home team is ahead

- 12) **STEALING OR RELAYING SIGNS** to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or locations is unsportsmanlike behavior, and if in the judgement of the umpire the behavior is occurring the following penalties will apply:

ATWATER BOMBERS FALL BASEBALL

2025 MAJOR DIVISION GROUND RULES

- a) *1st offense: Offending person or player and Head Coach will receive a warning.*
- b) *2nd offense: Offending person or player and Head Coach will be immediately ejected, and subject to additional sanctions deemed necessary by the Atwater Bombers Board of Directors.*

- 13) **THROWN BAT:** Batter/runner who throws the bat will receive a one-time warning about the danger of throwing the bat. If the same batter/runner throws the bat a second time, the batter will be called out and the ball is dead.
- 14) **BUNTING** is allowed.
- 15) **DROPPED THIRD STRIKE AND INFIELD FLY RULES** are in effect. When there are two (2) outs and if the catcher drops the third called strike, the batter may advance, at their own risk, so long as first base is unoccupied.

- 1) The **infield fly rule** in baseball is as follows:

The batter must hit a fly ball or popup over fair territory and in the vicinity of the infield.

There must be less than 2 outs and runners on first and second OR first, second, and third.

The fly ball cannot be a bunt or a line drive.

An infielder must be able to catch the ball with ordinary effort.

The umpire's declaration of an infield fly means that the batter is out, regardless of whether the ball is caught.

ATWATER BOMBERS FALL BASEBALL

2025 MAJOR DIVISION GROUND RULES

- 2) **BATS:** Only USA/USSSA bats with a 10/8 drop, and a barrel diameter that does not exceed 2 3/4 inches may be used for Major Division games.
- 3) **FIVE (5) RUN RULE:** Teams can score no more than five (5) runs each half inning, Exception: open innings.
- 4) **PITCHING:** Maximum pitches allowed per game.
- a) 9-10 yr olds 75 pitches per game
 - b) 11-12 yr olds 85 pitches per game

Required Rest:

- a) 1-20 pitches 0 days rest
 - b) 21-35 pitches 1 days rest
 - c) 36-50 pitches 2 days rest
 - d) 51-65 pitches 3 days rest
 - e) 66-85 pitches 4 days rest
- 20) **HIT BY PITCH:** Any pitcher who hits three (3) batters in one inning must be removed as a pitcher and may not return to the game as a pitcher but may play another defensive position.

Major Division Ground Rules of the Atwater Bombers Fall Baseball
Adopted May 14, 2025 by the Atwater Bombers Board of Directors
Additional rules may apply, see Atwater Bombers Baseball Bylaws

ATWATER BOMBERS FALL BASEBALL 2025 MAJOR DIVISION GROUND RULES