ARTICLE 21

BASEBALL
(CO-EDUCATIONAL)

21.1 RULES

21.1.1 Official rules for baseball shall be those published in the current edition of the National Federation Baseball Rules Book.

21.1.2 School athletic programs at all levels are subject to disciplinary action when a school team is removed from the floor or field prior to the completion of a contest.

21.1.3 Regulation Game, Completed Game, Suspended Game

21.1.3.1 Regulation Game – A legal game is a game that fulfils the requirements outlined in the National Federation Baseball Rule Book. (4 ½ or 5 innings).

21.1.3.2 Completed Game – A completed game is a game that meets regulation game status and meets one of the following criteria:

21.1.3.2.1 Has played out the required number of innings (7)

21.1.3.2.2 Has been **called** (ended) by the umpires following a "game under suspension"

21.1.3.3 Suspension – A game under suspension is a game that has been delayed due to weather or field conditions that will be completed at a later time.
NOTE: A regular season varsity contest may not result in a tie, even if it went 5 innings. It must be played to a concluding contest win for one of the competing teams following the "**suspended**" game protocol.

21.1.3.4 Suspended Game Protocol

21.1.3.4.1 Games suspended shall be resumed at the point of interruption and played until satisfying a regulation game criterion. All lineups, substitutions, and score shall be continued from the suspended contest. Pitch count guidelines shall be in effect and apply at the time when the game is resumed. Suspended games shall be replayed on the first available agreed upon date for both teams.

21.1.3.4.2 A game that has gone beyond 4 ½ or 5 innings and after suspension leaves the contest in a tie, shall be resumed at point of interruption, and played until satisfying a completed game criterion. All lineups, substitutions, and score shall be continued from the suspended contest. Pitch count guidelines shall be in effect and apply at the time when the game is resumed.

21.1.4 Speed-up Rules

21.1.4.1 Runners – The National Federation speed-up rules, outlined in the current rules book, will be adopted.

21.1.4.2 10-Run Rule – A baseball game shall end any time after five innings, or after four and one-half (4-1/2) innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.

21.1.4.3 15-Run Rule – With the agreement of both schools participating, a baseball game shall end any time after four innings or after three and one-half (3-1/2) innings when a team is fifteen or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.

21.1.4.4 Time Limit – no new inning shall begin after 2 hours for a non-varsity game and if necessary, the home team can complete their at bat.

(Section 21.1 cont'd on next page)

21.1.5 No pitcher shall exceed the daily maximum number of pitches per the Arizona Pitch Smart Guidelines limit and required rest recommendations. (***Emergency Legislation 12/5/16***) Coaches at all team levels are required to follow the Arizona Pitch Smart Guidelines protocol.

YEAR	MAX PITCHES	REQUIRED REST BASED ON PITCHES THROWN				
		0 DAYS	1 DAY	2 DAYS	3 DAYS	4 DAYS
FRESHMAN	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
SOPHOMORE	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
JUNIOR	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+
SENIOR	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+

21.1.6 By mutual consent of the school/teams involved, sub-varsity baseball games may have a time limit of no new inning being allowed to start after the conclusion of one hour and 45 minutes. A game shall be considered regulation, no matter how many innings have been played, after one hour and 45 minutes have been played and the inning in progress when the time expires is completed or immediately when time expires if the team last at bat is batting and is ahead in score. If the game is tied when time expires and the inning in progress is completed, it will remain a tie score. If the game is tied at the end of seven (7) innings and time has not expired, the game will continue into extra innings until a winner is decided or time expires - whichever comes first. If the game is still tied when time expires in extra innings, and the inning in progress is completed, it will remain a tie score. Time shall begin at the end of the pre-game conference at home plate between coaches, captains, and umpires.

21.2 SEASON OF SPORT

21.2.1 The AIA Standardized Calendar shall be used to identify the starting week for practice, competition and the conclusion of post-season competition.

21.2.2 The season of competition for a school shall conclude with the school's last AIA sanctioned competition.

21.2.3	Spring Season	Practice	no sooner than the	32nd week
		Season of Competition	begins Wednesday of the	34th week
		Championship	to be concluded by Tuesday of the	46th week

21.3 PRESEASON INTERSCHOOL VARSITY SCRIMMAGE

21.3.1 One preseason interschool varsity scrimmage may be held; this scrimmage is considered a practice and shall not count toward the allowable number of games.

21.3.1.1 The varsity scrimmage shall be scheduled the week prior to the AIA date of competition; individual players must have participated in at least eight practice sessions.

21.3.1.2 The following guidelines shall be used:

- Scrimmage is open to the public, charging admission is at the discretion of the host school;
- Scoreboards shall not be used;
- No official score may be kept (recorded) or reported;
- Game uniforms may be worn; numbered jerseys may be used;
- There shall be at least two (2) AIA officials on the field;
- Unlimited substitution and re-entry of players;
- Coaching is permitted during play;
- Timeouts are unlimited;
- Other adjustments mutually agreed upon by coaches and officials before the scrimmage begins; adjustments cannot be less restrictive than the guidelines or sport policy.

21.3.1.3 Limits:

21.3.1.3.1 Scrimmage shall consist of no more than seven innings;
21.3.1.3.2 Offense and defense may switch when five runs are scored in one inning;
21.3.1.3.3 Pitchers shall throw no more than six (6) outs or 45 pitches

21.3.1.4 Schools may hold multi-school scrimmages with adhering to Article 21.3.

21.4 SCHEDULES

21.4.1 The AIA will provide the minimum schedule to school varsity teams through the approved computerized scheduling process. The remainder of the schedule, within the parameter of the bylaw 21.5.1, may be scheduled through school to school agreement.

21.4.2 If scheduling difficulties occur, schedules may be increased by one game. The additional game shall be approved by the AIA Executive Board.

21.5 NUMBER OF GAMES IN SEASON

21.5.1 No school shall schedule more than 20 varsity games, including two invitationals, which shall count as one game each.

21.5.2 No school shall schedule more than 19 junior varsity or freshman games per team.

21.5.3 No player shall participate in more than 20 baseball games per season, excluding post-season tournaments.

21.5.3.1 EXCEPTION: 3A, 2A and 1A schools, because of their limited enrollment, may permit a player to participate in 50% more matches or games than the regularly scheduled matches or games per season, excluding qualifying and post-season tournaments.
Example: If a school scheduled 20 games or matches, each player could participate in 50% more games or matches for a total of 30.

21.6 CONTEST PARTICIPATION

21.6.1 When a student enters an interscholastic contest, regardless of the length of time, it shall be considered participation in the interscholastic contest.

21.7 COACHES / COACHING

21.7.1 A coach in the coach's box must wear a helmet.

21.7.2 The AIA shall not have regulations concerning coaches coaching their own school teams outside of the AIA defined season of sport.

21.7.3 Coaches / Players - Game participation outside the season of sport between coaches and players of a single school for fund raising or entertainment purposes will not jeopardize the eligibility of any high school player.

21.7.4 Attendance shall be voluntary and no student athlete shall be prohibited from participating on the team for failing to attend the out-of-season activity.

21.8 SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

21.8.1 School Transportation – School provided transportation for activities is a local option.

21.8.2 School equipment outside the season of sport is a local option.

21.9 INTERSCHOOL COMPETITION

21.9.1 AIA rated umpires shall be used in all varsity games.

21.9.2 A student may represent his high school in baseball while playing outside softball during the same season, since regulation baseball and softball are different sports.

21.10 RECRUITING BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL – Any AIA member school whose employees or official encourages or collaborates in conducting negotiations for a professional baseball contract for a player not yet graduated from high school may be subject to suspension from the AIA and/or suffer such penalty as the AIA Executive Board may impose. (*See Article 16, Section 1*).

21.11 POST-SEASON TOURNAMENTS

21.11.1 Post-Season Tournaments

21.11.1.1 Dates and Sites

21.11.1.1.1 The AIA Executive Board shall determine the dates and sites of post-season tournaments.

21.11.1.2 There shall be individual and/or team post-season tournaments as determined by the AIA Executive Board.

21.11.1.2.1 Schools must play a minimum of twelve (12) games in order to qualify for post season play.

21.11.1.3 Single or double elimination tournaments may be used to determine each championship as determined by the AIA Executive Board.

21.11.1.4 Post-season tournament bracketing shall be determined by the AIA.

21.11.1.5 No more than **25** players shall suit up, participate, or be listed on the roster of a school team for a post-season tournament.

21.11.1.6 The post-season tournaments shall be considered as a separate tournament.

21.11.2 Awards – The AIA shall be responsible for the purchase and standardization of all post-season tournament awards. *(See Article 13, Section 13.1)*.

21.11.3 Practice on Site – A practice or competition on the site of the post-season Championship Tournament, except for a regularly schedule contest, is not permitted for seven calendar days prior to the post-season Championship, except in the case of the host school.

DETERMINATION: The host school may practice at the site only if that is their regular practice site. (Ex. Bd. 10/77)

21.11.4 Protests

21.11.4.1 In the event of a question or a protest during a qualifying tournament or post-season tournament, the decision of the AIA Sports Administrator, Tournament Coordinator and AIA Commissioner of Officials shall be final.

21.11.4.2 Regular season protests, if any, will be handled as indicated in the current edition of the National Federation Baseball Rules Book.

21.11.5 Unmanned aerial systems at AIA post season events

21.11.5.1 The use of unmanned aerial systems, often referred to as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at all AIA post season events. This policy includes not only restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium/field/arena structure. For the purposes of this policy, an unmanned aerial system is any aircraft without a human pilot on board.