



HERSHEY LITTLE LEAGUE POLICY & PROCEDURES EXHIBIT 06: STANDINGS, PLAYOFFS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Last. Rev. Date: March 14, 2025

1.0 Purpose

This exhibit provides guidance for determining the regular season standings for Majors and Minors divisions, playoff seedings and running the playoff events.

2.0 Regular Season Standings

All Coaches shall upload scores of their games onto the HLL website within 12 hours of completion of a scheduled league game. The home team bears primary responsibility for keeping the official score and uploading game information.

Standings shall be maintained by a standard baseball standings system based on winning percentage and “games back.” Winning percentage shall be determined by dividing the number of wins by the number of games played. A tie shall count as half a win and half a tie.

Example: Team A has a record of 2-1-0 (2 wins, 1 loss, 0 ties); Team B has a record of 1-0-2 (1 win, 0 losses and 2 ties) – they have the same 66% winning percentage and are tied in the standings.

Tiebreakers: In the event that teams are tied in the standings on winning percentage, then the following tiebreakers shall be applied. If more than two teams are tied, then all the teams shall be subject to the tiebreakers together. Teams shall be eliminated until the highest ranked team is decided. Then the remaining teams shall be subject to the tiebreakers again until the next highest ranked team is decided.

- A. Total actual wins (not counting half-win ties)
- B. Head-to-Head record among the tied teams
- C. Total Runs allowed during the season
- D. Run differential between the teams in the head-to-head matchups
- E. Coin flip conducted by League Commissioner with coaches and VP Ops present. If Coaches and/or VP Ops cannot be present, then another member of BB Ops may be present in their place.

Example: Team A, Team B and Team C are all tied with 8-6 records. Team A was 2-0 against Team C, and 1-1 against Team B. Team B and Team C were 1-1 against each other. The head-to-head standings would be: Team A (3-1); Team B (2-2); and Team C (1-3). Team B and Team C would be eliminated in this round and Team A would get the highest seed and Team B and Team C would go through the tiebreakers again. In this case, they would be tied on the first two tie breakers and Total Runs allowed would then be applied to determine which of Team B or Team C is seeded higher.

However, if both Team A and Team B were 2-0 against Team C, but 1-1 against each other, then the head-to-head standings would be: Team A (3-1); Team B (3-1); Team C (0-4). Team C would be eliminated in this round and Team A and Team B would go on to the Total Runs Allowed tiebreaker. The loser of that tiebreaker would then be compared to Team C and would be seeded higher based on the 2-0 head-to-head record.

All make-up games shall be completed by Memorial Day in order to provide for time for the playoffs to be conducted and still allow All Star Teams time to begin practices and get ready for tournament play. Commissioners and Baseball Ops shall coordinate with teams to ensure that makeup games are scheduled and to decide if any games should be cancelled. The primary objective shall be to ensure fairness amongst all teams.

3.0 Playoff Seedings

Final regular season standings and thus playoff seeding shall be based on the system described in section 2.0. In the event that multiple teams are tied in the standings, the above tiebreakers shall be used to break the tie amongst all teams together. The tiebreakers shall be applied, eliminating teams until a final team is left as the higher seed. The tiebreakers shall then be applied again to any remaining teams.

4.0 Playoff Bracket

All teams in the Majors and Minors divisions shall be entitled to participate in the playoffs.

- The main playoff bracket shall be a double elimination style tournament. Meaning that teams shall be eliminated upon receiving their second loss in the tournament. The last remaining team with fewer than two losses shall be the Champion.
- The higher seeded team shall be the Home team in all games until the Championship round.
 - In the Championship round, the team advancing from the winners' bracket shall be the Home team in the first game. Should that team lose the first game, they shall be the Visitor in the second and final game.
- In the event that a division has more than 8 teams, then play-in games between the lowest seeded teams shall determine the teams in the bracket.
 - For example, if there are 9 teams in the division, the 8th and 9th place teams shall play a single game for inclusion in the main bracket. The winner shall be seeded 8th. The loser shall be eliminated. If there are 10 teams in the division, then 10th place shall play 7th place and 9th shall play 8th place; the winners shall advance to the bracket and be seeded according to their regular season standings (i.e. if 7th place team wins, they shall be the 7 seed; if 10th place team wins, they shall be the 8th seed).

5.0 Schedule of Playoff Games

The Board, in conjunction with the League Commissioners and the BBOPs Committee shall provide a playoff bracket to all teams and post the schedule on the Website as soon as is feasible.

- Playoffs shall begin the week after Memorial Day and conclude by the end of the following week.
- All efforts shall be made so as to allow enough off days during the Playoffs to allow for a competitive tournament and not unduly burden teams that play extra games, while still providing an advantage to teams that earn extra days of rest.
- Barring weather issues, all teams playing in the same round of the tournament shall play on the same day, either by use of double-headers or by simultaneous use of North and South Fields.
- Trophy presentations for Champions and Runners-Up on the field at the conclusion of the Championship game by the League Commissioner and/or other Board Member(s).

6.0 Playoff Rules

All regular season rules will apply during the playoffs – including: full lineup batting; call-ups; pitch limits and rest days; and game time limits*.

- *There is no time limit in the Championship round games.
- In the event of a tie at the end of regulation or time limit, then the teams shall another inning under the same rules as the 6th inning of a standard game. The teams shall continue playing additional innings until a winner is determined.
- In the event that a game is suspended due to weather, darkness or other causes, and resumed in the following two days, the pitcher of record may continue pitching, IF THEY DELIVERED 40 OR FEWER PITCHES, subject to the following:
 - If the pitcher delivered 20 or fewer pitches before the game was suspended, that pitcher's pitch count shall reset to 0 for the continuation of the game.
 - If the pitcher delivered between 21 and 40 pitches, their count shall resume from the number of pitches thrown.
 - A pitcher that was previously removed from a suspended game may not re-enter the continued game as a pitcher.
 - A pitcher that was previously removed from a suspended game may re-enter the game as a Catcher, even if they would not have been eligible to do so if the game had finished on the day it was suspended.
- In the event that a game is suspended due to weather, darkness or other causes, and resumed after two or more calendar days (i.e. the game is suspended on Monday and resumes on Thursday or later), then normal pitching rest days shall apply. However, a pitcher who pitched in the earlier game and was removed from the mound may NOT come back and pitch in the continuation game.