

**Table of Contents**

**Article I - League**

A. Name ..... Page 5  
B. Purpose ..... Page 5  
C. Creed ..... Page 5

**Article II – League Rules and By Laws**

A. Rules and By-Laws ..... Page 6  
B. Purpose ..... Page 6  
C. Change and/Or Modifications ..... Page 6

**Article III – League Governing Body**

A. Governing Body ..... Page 7  
B. League of Officers ..... Page 7  
C. Board of Directors ..... Page 9  
D. League Meetings ..... Page 10

**Article IV – League Franchise**

A. Active ..... Page 11  
B. New ..... Page 11  
C. Fees ..... Page 12  
D. Loss of Franchise ..... Page 12

**Article V- League Championship Season**

A. Length ..... Page 13  
B. Scheduling ..... Page 13  
C. Starting Times ..... Page 14  
D. Limitations ..... Page 14  
E. Opening Day ..... Page 15

**Article VI – League Standings**

A. Standings ..... Page 17  
B. Tie Breaking Rules ..... Page 17  
C. Pennant Winner ..... Page 19

**Article VII – League Playoff Series**

A. Playoff Series ..... Page 20  
B. Starting Times ..... Page 21  
C. Playoff Qualifications ..... Page 22  
D. Opening Round Series ..... Page 22  
E. Semi Final Series ..... Page 23  
F. Championship Series ..... Page 24  
G. League Championship ..... Page 25  
H. Expenses and Receipts ..... Page 25

**Article VIII – League Fines and Discipline**

A. League Fines and Discipline ..... Page 26  
B. Franchise Violations ..... Page 26  
C. Forfeit Fines and Discipline ..... Page 27  
D. Non-Player Violations ..... Page 28  
E. Player Violations ..... Page 28  
F. Player/Manager Violations ..... Page 30  
G. Roster Violations ..... Page 30

H. League Playoffs Series Violations .....	Page 30
I. Payment and League Fines .....	Page 30
<b>Article IX – Team Rosters</b>	
A. Rosters .....	Page 32
B. Changes Players and Eligibility .....	Page 32
<b>Article X – Team Pre- and Post- Game Requirements</b>	
A. Playing Fields .....	Page 35
B. Postponement of Games .....	Page 35
C. Pre Game Practice for League Championship Games .....	Page 36
D. Umpire Requirements for League Championship Season...	Page 36
E. Pre- Game Practice for League Playoff Series Games .....	Page 36
F. Umpire Requirements for League Playoff Series Games ...	Page 37
G. Game Records .....	Page 37
<b>Article XI – Miscellaneous</b>	
A. Determination of Majority Votes .....	Page 38
B. Bench Conduct .....	Page 38
C. Passing the Hat .....	Page 38
D. Compensation .....	Page 38
E. Determination of Playoff Qualifications .....	Page 39
<b>Article XII – Modified Official Baseball Rules</b>	
A. General .....	Page 43
B. Runner .....	Page 43
C. Batter .....	Page 44
D. Pitcher .....	Page 45
<b>Notes</b> .....	Page 48

**Article I – League**

**A. Name**

1. The organization will be known as the Delaware County Baseball League
2. The organization will also be known as the Delco Baseball League
3. The official website is [www.delcobaseball.org](http://www.delcobaseball.org)

**B. Purpose**

1. The purpose of the DELCO Baseball League is to provide an organization Whereby the game of baseball, can be played in Delaware County.
2. The League will provide and avenue to both players and fans of the game of baseball, to participate in or to view quality, competitive, semi-professional baseball in Delaware County.
3. The term “semi-professional” will refer to the fact that the quality baseball played In the League approaches the quality of baseball played professional leagues.

**C. Creed**

1. The Creed of the DELCO Baseball League is the Connie Mack Sportsmanship Creed:

“I promise to play the game to the best of my ability at all times. I will always Play to win, but if I lose, I will never look for excuses which would detract from my opponent’s win. I will always abide by the rules of the game on the diamond as well as in the daily life. I will never gloat in victory any pity myself in defeat. I will judge a teammate as an individual and never on the

basis of his race or religion.”

## **Article II – League Rules and By-Laws**

### **A. Rules and By-Laws**

1. The Rules and By-Laws contained herein, in combination with the Official Baseball Rules, published by “The Sporting News”, are complete and entire Rules And By-laws for the Delco Baseball League.

#### 2. Purpose

1. In purpose of the League Rules and By-laws is to act as a basis for equity, fairness, common sense, and prudence in the administration of the Delco Baseball League, a semi-professional baseball league.

2. In the absence of a specific Rule and By-law covering a specific action, event, or situation, of President, in conjunction with the League Officers will use equity, fairness, common sense, and prudence when ruling on such an action, event, or situation. When ruling on such an event, the predominant consideration will be given to the best interests of the Delco Baseball League.

#### D. Change and/or Modifications

1. Any League Officer or any member of the Board of Directors may propose and addition to the League Rules and By-Laws or may propose and addition to the League Rules and By-laws or may propose a modification to any existing Rules or By-laws.

2. In order to adopt a new League Rule or By-law or to modify an existing Rule or By-law, at any league meeting, it will require a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the League Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE U - LEAGUE GOVERNING BODY A GOVERNING BODY**

### **A. The Governing Body**

1. The League will be governed jointly by the league Officers and the Board of Directors.

### **B. League Officers**

1. The League will be administered by three (3) elected officers,

2. An election for the offices of President, Vice president, and Secretary/Treasurer will be held after the League Playoff Series are completed. The conclusion must be held before November 1<sup>st</sup>.

3. The terms of the offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer will be one year. The terms will commence on November 1<sup>st</sup> and terminate on October 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year

4. President will have the following general duties:

a. Will schedule and preside at all League meetings.

b. Will notify the League Officers and the Board of Directors of the time, place, and agenda of all League meetings.

c. Will enforce the League Rules and By-Laws.

d. Will cast tie-breaking votes when required

e. Will co-sign all league checks.

f. Will propose and initiate new activities or business that will enhance the operational procedures of the League improve the quality of play and attract more wide-spread attention from the public.

g. Will select or appoint committee members or league advisors as deems necessary for the proper operation of the League. he may select such individuals from the Board of Directors or from the general public He may assign them to gather information, conduct studies make recommendations or other duties the President deems in the best interests of the League.

h. Will pursue matters of business as directed by the Board of Directors.

i. Will have the authority to rule on all matters not specifically covered in the League Rules and By-Laws.

5. The president will be reimbursed for expenses incurred. This amount is to be determined by the League Officers at their annual end of year business meeting, to be held after the November 1st election and before December 31st each year, and approved by a simply majority vote of the Board of Directors at the first League meeting of the new year.

6. The Vice President will have the following general duties:

a. Will succeed the President in the event of death or incapacity.

b. Will schedule all League games.

c. Will re-schedule all games that have been postponed according to the League Rules and By-Laws.

d. Will enforce the League Rules and By-Laws

e. Will perform general duties delegated to him by the President.

7. The Vice President will be reimbursed for expenses incurred This amount is to be determined by the League Officers at their annual end of year business meeting, to be held

after the November 1st election and before December 31st each year, and approved by a simply majority vote of the Board of Directors at the first League meeting of the new year

8. The Secretary/Treasurer will have the following duties

a. Will succeed the Vice President in the event of death or incapacity.

b. Will record the minutes of each League meeting.

c. Will assist the President and Vice president with all correspondence and publicity.

d. Will be responsible for all League finances.

e. Will co-sign all League checks.

f. Will be prepared to give a financial report at all League meetings.

g. Will keep records of all Team Rosters, Team Roster changes, and League standings

h. Will track individual batting records, pitching records, Team Rosters, and player eligibility as prescribed by the league rules and By-Laws.

i. Will keep permanent League business records including all financial records, financial reports, and meeting minutes.

j. Will enforce the league rules and By-Laws.

k. Will perform general duties delegated to him by the President.

9. The Secretary/Treasurer will be reimbursed for expenses incurred This amount is to be determined by the league Officers at their annual end of year business meeting, to be held after the November 1st election and before December 31st each year, and approved by a simply majority vote of the Board of Directors at the first League meeting of the new year

10. In the event of death or Incapacity of any League Officer, the vacant office will be filled according to the League Rules and By-Laws. The subsequent vacancy will be filled by a person appointed by the League Officers.

11. In the event of the death of the Secretary/Treasurer, the President, in conjunction with the Vice-President, may appoint a new Secretary/Treasurer.

### **C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. The Board of Directors will be composed of the General Managers of each team holding an active franchise in the League.
2. A member of the Board of Directors may elect to appoint a representative to attend a League meeting or function. This representative will have the same authority as the member of the Board for that meeting or function.
3. Each member of the Board of Directors present at a League meeting, will have the authority to cast one (1) vote on any matter that requires a vote at that meeting.
4. It will require a simple majority of the Board of Directors to be present at a League meeting in order to conduct business.
5. At a league meeting that has a simple majority of the Board of Directors present, it will require a simple majority, a two-thirds (2/3) majority or a three-fourths (3/4) majority of those members present, to adopt new policies, to appropriate funds or to vote on other matters of general business as required by the League Rules and By-Law
6. At a League meeting that has a simple majority of the Board of Directors present, it will require a simple majority of those members present to direct a League Officer to perform duties in addition to those general responsibilities listed

### **D. LEAGUE MEET**

1. At his discretion, the President may call a meeting of the League Officers or both the League Officers and the Board of Directors.
2. Seven (7) days written or verbal notice will be given for all League meeting.
3. Fourteen (14) day's written notice will be given for the meeting at which the League Officers are elected
4. Attendance at all League Meetings by the League Officers and by the Board of Directors is mandatory.

#### **PENALTY: Franchise Violation**

5. Only the member of the Board of Directors or in his absence his designated appointee is permitted to address a League meeting.
6. The DELCO Baseball League Board of Directors meetings are meetings of a private organization and therefore are open only to members of the Board of Directors, League Officers and guests invited by the League Officers.

### **Article IV – League Franchise**

#### **A. ACTIVE**

1. Any organization or individual sponsoring a team that completed the previous years League Championship Season in good standing is considered an Active Franchise.
2. An Active Franchise may be reactivated by payment of the League Operating Fee.
3. An Active Franchise may request a refund of its League Operating Fee prior to April 1st. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors will be required for such a refund.

#### **B. NEW**

1. Prior to the start of each League Championship Season, the League Officers will

accept applications for entry into the League from any New Franchise candidates.

2. The League will use some, but not necessarily all of the following criteria when evaluating a new franchise candidate. New Franchise candidate will:

- a. Provide sufficient evidence that there is adequate financial support for the New Franchise.
- b. Provide sufficient evidence that the new Franchise possesses a permit to play on an acceptable field which is available preferably, but not exclusively, in Delaware County, at least two (2) day per week.
- c. Play a minimum of two (2) practice games to demonstrate that the team can play on a competitive basis.
- d. Apply to and petition the League for acceptance with sufficient notice such that the League schedule or other activities of the League are not unduly disrupted.

3. A New Franchise candidate will be granted a franchise upon a three-quarter (3/4) majority vote of the Board of Directors and the payment to the League of the League Operating Fee and a New Franchise Fee. This New Franchise candidate will then be considered an Active Franchise.

a. Any New Franchise candidate which has paid the above fees but fails to gain a three-quarter (3/4) majority vote of the Board of Directors will have the full amount of the fees refunded.

4. A newly approved Active Franchise may request a refund of their League Operating Fee prior to April 1st. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors will be required for such a refund. The New Franchise Fee will not be refunded.

5. Upon the successful completion of its first (1st) League Championship Season, the newly approved Active Franchise will receive a one-half (1/2) refund of its New Franchise Fee.

### **C. FEES**

1. The League Operating Fee, the New Franchise Fee, the Protested Game Fee, and the Umpire's Fee and the due date of these fees will be determined by the League Officers at their annual end of year business meeting, to be held after the November 1st election and before December 31st each year, and approved by the Board of Directors at the first League meeting of the new year.

### **D. LOSS OF FRANCHISE**

1. Any team will lose its Active Franchise and all fees paid to the League upon the forfeiture of three (3) League Championship Season games and/or League Playoff Series games in any one (1) League Championship Season and/or League Playoff Series.

2. For the purpose of this rule, the League Championship Season and the League Playoff Series will be considered one entity.

## **ARTICLE V - LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON LENGTH**

### **A. LENGTH**

1. The number of League Championship Season games will be determined jointly by the League Officers and the Board of Directors prior to the start of a new League Championship Season. In determining the number of League Championship Season games, the League Officers and the Board of Directors will use, but are not limited to, the following criteria:

a. The number of teams with active franchises during the upcoming League Championship Season.

- b. The projected cost of a League Championship Season game.
- c. The projected number of League Championship Season games per week necessary to play the proposed number of games for that League Championship Season.

#### **B. SCHEDULING**

1. The starting date, the final roster date, the ending date and the non-playing dates of the League Championship Season will be determined jointly by the League Officers and the Board of Directors prior to the start of a new League Championship Season. In determining the starting date, the final roster date, the ending date and the non-playing dates of the League Championship Season, the League Officers and the Board of Directors will use, but are not limited to, the following criteria:
  - a. The beginning of Daylight Savings Time.
  - b. The date and day of the week of any holidays that occur during the League Championship Season
  - c. The participation in pre-season, in-season, or post-season MI-Star games or Tournaments.
  - d. The scheduled start of the Playoffs.
2. Each team will be required to play its entire League Championship Season schedule as approved by the League Officers and the Board of Directors at the beginning of the League Championship Season.
  - a. In the event that League Championship Season games need to be canceled, scheduled, or re-Scheduled to facilitate the League Championship Season ranking and/or the qualifications for the League Playoff Series, the Vice president, at his discretion, in conjunction with the League Officers, using equity and fairness, may cancel, play after the start of the Playoffs, or re-schedule at his discretion, League Championship Season games.
3. The League Vice President will render an official copy of the league Championship Season schedule to the League Umpire Assignor prior to the commencement of the League Championship Season.
4. The League Vice president will notify the League Umpire Assignor of each League Championship Season game that has been postponed and/or re-scheduled during the League Championship Season
5. The League Umpire Assignor will arrange to have two (2) umpires present at each League Championship Season game.

#### **C. STARTING TIMES**

1. League Championship Season games will have scheduled starting times as follows:
  - a. Weekday games: 600 pm.
  - b. Saturday games 500 pm.
  - c. Sunday games: 2:00 pm.
  - d. Holiday games 1:00 pm.
  - e. Saturday double-headers: 1:00 pm.
  - f. Sunday double headers: 1:00 pm.
  - g. Holiday double-headers: 1:00 pm.
  - h. All games must begin no later than 6:30 pm.
2. By mutual consent of the two (2) team General managers and approval of the Vice President, in conjunction with the League Officers, the starting times of League Championship Season games on Saturday, Sunday, or weekday holidays may be altered

provided the League Vice President is notified forty-eight (48) hours prior to the proposed new starting time. Approval will be based upon, but not limited to, sufficient time to arrange for umpires to be present at the new starting time.

#### **D. LIMITATIONS**

1. A League Championship Season game that has been postponed or suspended for any reason will be re-scheduled within four (4) days and the re-scheduled League Championship Season game will be played within two (2) weeks of the originally postponed or suspended League Championship Season game.
2. No team will be required to play seven (7) League Championship Season games in six consecutive days.
3. No team will be required to play eight (8) League Championship Season games in ten (10) consecutive days.
4. In the event that there is a scheduling conflict due to, but not limited to,
  - a. The availability of the home team field for a re-scheduled League Championship Season game as in V. D, 1 above,
  - b. The availability of two (2) umpires for a re-scheduled game as in V. D, 1 above, the Vice President, at his discretion in conjunction with the League Officers, using equity and fairness, will re-schedule the League Championship Season game, on a neutral field so as to comply with V, D, 1 above and so as not to conflict with V D, 2 above or V, D, 3 above

#### **F. OPENING DAY**

1. The League will have an Official Opening Day Game that will have as participants the two (2) teams that competed in the previous year's League Playoff Final Series for the League Championship at the home field of the previous year's DELCO Baseball League Champion.
2. The Official Opening Day Game does not necessarily have to be the first (1st) game of the League Championship Season, but it will be designated at the Official Opening Day Game for ceremonial and publicity reasons.
3. The Official Opening Day Game should be a weekend game. The Vice President, however, at his discretion, and in conjunction with the League Officers, will use equity and fairness in scheduling this Opening Day game.
4. In the event that one or both teams that participated in the previous year's League Playoff Final Series are unable or unavailable to participate in the Official Opening Day Game, the Vice President, at his discretion, and in conjunction with the League Officers, using equity and fairness, may use his discretion in selecting the participant or participants for this game.
5. All receipts from the League Opening Day Game, including "passing the hat", will be placed in the league operating fund.

### **ARTICLE VI - LEAGUE STANDINGS**

#### **A. STANDINGS**

1. A team will be awarded points for each League Championship Season game as follows:
  - a. Win: 3 points
  - b. Tie: 1 point
  - c. Loss: 0 points
2. During and at the conclusion of the League Championship Season, the teams will be

ranked in descending order based on the total number of points accumulated. The team that has accumulated the greatest number of points will be ranked first (1st), the team that has accumulated the second greatest number of points will be ranked second (2nd), the team that has accumulated the third greatest number of points will be ranked third (3rd), and so forth.

#### **B. TIE-BREAKING RULED**

1. In the event that two (2) or more teams finish the League Championship Season with an identical number of points, the following tie-breaking sequence will be used to determine which team is considered to be ranked higher in the standings: (exceptions teams tied for either 1st. place or the last playoff position will play one game to determine the winner of the league Championship season and last playoff position.)

a. The team with the better record during the League Championship Season between the two (2) or more teams with an identical number of points will be considered the team to be ranked higher in the standings.

b. The team that has the better record against all the teams that have been ranked higher in the standing, beginning with the team ranked first (1st), then the team ranked second (2nd), then the team ranked third (3rd), and so forth, will be considered the team to be ranked higher in the standings. This tie breaker is meant to be a cumulative record. For example:

- Team #1 25-7
- Team #2 24-8
- Team A 23-9
- Team B 23-9

Team A and Team B are tied for 3rd place. Team A and Team B split their season series 2-2. Team A was 1-3 against Team #1 and 2-2 against Team #2 for a cumulative record of 3-5. Team B was 1-3 against Team #1 and 1-3 against Team #2 for a cumulative record of 2-6. Team A would win this tie breaker and finish in 3rd place

c. The winner of a coin toss conducted by the President will be considered the team to be ranked higher in the standing (exception. the first ranking, a League Playoff Series L ranking or the last League Playoff Series position ranking will not be determined by a coin toss).

2. In the event that two (2) teams finish the league Championship Season with the greatest number of points and are ranked first (1st), the President will arrange a special playoff game (home team to be determined by a coin toss) and will, if possible, schedule this special playoff game in such a manner so as not to conflict with or disrupt the planned League Playoff Series schedule. The winner of this special playoff game will be considered the team to be ranked first (1st) in the standings

3. in the event that two (2) teams finish the League Championship Season with an identical number of points and are ranked in such a manner that both teams qualify for a bye in the League Playoff Series, then the President will arrange a special playoff game (home team to be determined by a coin toss) and will, if possible, schedule this special playoff game in such a manner so as not to conflict with or disrupt the planned League Playoff Series schedule. The winner of this special playoff game will be considered the team to be ranked higher in the standings

4. In the event that two (2) teams finish the League Championship Season with an identical number of points and are ranked in such a manner that both teams qualify for

the last position in the League Playoff Series, the President will arrange a special playoff game (home team to be determined by a coin toss and will, if possible, schedule this special playoff game in such a manner so as not to conflict with or disrupt the planned League Playoff Series schedule. The winner of this special playoff game will be considered the team to be ranked higher in the standings.

5. In the event that a situation or series of situations involving the ranking of teams at the conclusion of the League Championship Season and/or the qualifying of teams for the League Playoff Series occurs that has not be compensated for in the above qualifying and tie-breaking rules, the President, in conjunction with the League Officers will, using equity and fairness, determine the League Championship Season ranking and/or League Playoff Series qualifier(s).

#### **C. PENNANT WINNERS**

1. At the conclusion of the League Championship Series, the ranking procedure and/or the tie-breaking sequence, the team that is ranked first (1<sup>st</sup>) will be declared the DELCO Baseball League Pennant Winner.

### **ARTICLE VII - LEAGUE PLAYOFFS SERIES**

#### **A. PLAYOFFS SERIES**

1. At the conclusion of the League Championship Season and the ranking procedure, the League will conduct the League Playoffs Series to determine the DELCO Baseball League Champion and winner of the Charlie Kress Championship Trophy

2. In conjunction with the League Championship Season, the Vice president in conjunction with the League Officers, will schedule the date and format of the League Playoffs, In the event that the League Playoffs need to be re-scheduled in order to accommodate the completion of the League Championship Season, weather field availability, or permit conflicts, the League Officers and the League Officers alone will have sole jurisdiction as to when and how the League Playoffs are played, This may include the revocation of certain options for scheduling which may no longer be applicable.

3. If at the commencement and the conclusion of the League Championship Season, the League contains six (6) or more teams, the League Champion will be determined by the format that follows, However if the League contains less than six (6) teams at the commencement or the conclusion of the league Championship Season, the League Officers and the Board of Directors will determine a suitable League Playoff Series format.

4. At the conclusion of the League Championship Season, the six (6) teams that have been ranked first (1<sup>st</sup>), second (2<sup>nd</sup>), third (3<sup>rd</sup>), fourth (4<sup>th</sup>), fifth (5<sup>th</sup>), and sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) will be declared League Playoff Series participants.

5. Three (3) League Playoff Series will be played. They are the League Playoff Open the Round Series, the League Playoff Semi Final Series and the League Playoff Championship Series.

6. Each League Playoff Series game will have a League Officer or a representative, appointed by the President, present to preside over each game. His duties will include, but are not limited to, the followings

a. Will be the sole judge of whether the game will be started because of unsuitable weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field.

b. Will be the sole judge of whether and when play will be suspended during a

game because of unsuitable weather conditions, the unfit condition of the playing field, or darkness, of whether and when the play will be resumed after a suspension; and of whether and when a game will be terminated after such suspension. He will not call the game until at least thirty (30) minutes after he has suspended play (except for darkness). He may continue the suspension as long as he believes there is any chance to resume play.

c. Will resolve all protests lodged by either learn that involve the alleged violations of the rules caused by an umpire's decision

7. All league Playoff Series games must be played to completion. League Playoff series games that do not complete seven (7) innings of play will be handled as follows

a. If a League Playoff Series game is halted before it is an official game, the President in conjunction with the League Officers, will, using equity and fairness, determine when that League Playoff series game is to be re-scheduled

b. If a League Playoff Series game is halted and it is an official game but not a complete game, it will be a suspended game and the President in conjunction with the League Officers, will, using equity and fairness, determine when that League Playoff Series game is to continue

### **B. STARTING TIMES**

1. League Playoff Series games will have scheduled starting times as follows:

a. Weekday games: 6:00 pm.

b. Saturday games: 2:00 p.m.

c. Sunday games: 2:00 p.m.

d. Holiday games 1:00 p.m.

e. Saturday double-headers: 1:00 p.m.

f. Sunday double headers; 1:00p.m.

g. Holiday double-headers: 1:00p.m.

2. In the event of unsuitable weather conditions, the unfit condition of the playing field, the unavailability of field permits, or other conditions that may arise that would cause any scheduled League Playoff Series or scheduled League Playoff Series game to be altered, the President, in conjunction with the League Officers, at his discretion, using equity and fairness, will have the authority to revise and re-schedule that League Playoff Series or that League Playoff Series game. The President can elect to supersede any options or choices teams may have to schedule League Playoffs Series. The schedule will not be made so as to place any Playoff Team at an unfair disadvantage.

### **C. PLAYOFF QUALIFICATIONS**

1. To be eligible to play in a League Playoff Series game, a player must have appeared in a minimum of one-quarter (1/4) of his team's League Championship Season games.

2. If a player does not appear in a minimum of one-quarter (1/4) of his team's League Championship Season games, he may be eligible to play in a League Playoff Series game under one (1) of the following exceptions:

a. Players who are serving on active duty with the military will be declared eligible if they appear in at least one (1) League Championship Season game.

b. Upon petition to the League Officers, an injured player who cannot play in a minimum of one-quarter (1/4) of this team's League Championship Season games may be declared eligible if it can be shown to the satisfaction of the League Officers, that the player was an active member of the team and the sole reason for his absence was his

injury.

C. Appearances count as one (1) at bat offensively, or one (1) inning in the field defensively.

#### **D. OPENING ROUND SERIES**

1. The team ranked first (1st) and the team ranked second (2nd) will draw a bye in the League Playoff Opening Round Series.
2. The League Playoff Opening Round Series will be played as a best two (2) out of three (3) series as follows:
  - a. The team ranked third (3rd) will play the team ranked sixth (6th).
  - b. The team ranked fourth (4th) will play the team ranked fifth (5th).
3. If the League Playoff Opening Round Series is to be played as three (3) single games, the team that is ranked higher in the standing will be the home team for game number one (1) and game number three (3). The team ranked lower in the standings will be the home team for the game number two (2).
4. All the League Playoff opening Round Series are originally scheduled to be played in two (2) consecutive days (i.e. Saturday and Sunday), then the team ranked higher in the standings will have the option to choose one of the two (2) League Playoff Opening Round Series formats as follows.
  - a. The team ranked lower in the standings will be the home team for game number one (1) on Saturday. The team ranked higher in the standings will be the home team for game number (2) and game number three (3) to be played on Sunday as a double header.
  - b. The team ranked higher in the standings will be the home team for game number one (1) and game number two (2) to be played on Saturday as a double-header. The team ranked lower in the standings will be the home team for game number three (3) to be played on Sunday.
5. The League Playoff Opening Round Series games may be played on weekdays, as twilight games, or on the weekends, as morning or afternoon games.
6. The League Playoff Opening Round Series will have two (2) umpires officiate each game in the series

#### **E. SEMI FINAL SERIES**

1. The two (2) winners of the League Playoff Opening Round Series will qualify and proceed to be participants in the League Playoff Semi Final Series along with the team that is ranked first (1st) and the team that is ranked second (2nd).
2. The League Playoff Semi Final Series will be played as a best three (3) out of five (5) game series as follows
  - a. The team ranked first (1st) will play the lowest ranked team that was a League Playoff Opening Round Series winner.
  - b. The team ranked second (2nd) will play the other remaining team that was a League Playoff Opening Round Series winner,
3. If the League Playoff Semi Final Series is to be played as five (5) single games, the team that is ranked higher in the standing will be the home team for game number one (1), game number three (3) and game number five (5). The team ranked lower in the standing will be the home team for game number two (2), and game number four (4).
4. If the League Playoff Semi Final Series is originally scheduled to be played in two (2) consecutive days (i.e. Saturday and Sunday), then the team ranked higher in the standings will have the option to choose one of the two (2) League Playoff Semi Final Series

formats as follows.

- a. The team ranked lower in the standings will be the home team for game number one (1) on Saturday. The team ranked higher in the standings will be the home team for game number two (2) and game number three (3) to be played on Sunday as a double header,
  - b. The team ranked higher in the standings will be the home team for game number one (1) and game number two (2) to be played on Saturday as a double-header. The team ranked lower in the standings will be the home team for game number three (3) to be played on Sunday, and game number four (4) to be played on a week night.
5. The League Playoff Semi final Series games may be played during the week, as twilight games, or on the weekends, as morning or afternoon games.
6. The League Playoff Semi Final Series will have two (2) umpires officiate each game in the series.
7. The two (2) winners of the League Playoff Semi Final Series will proceed to be participants in the league Playoff Championship Series.

#### **F. CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES**

1. The League Playoff Championship Series will be played as a best three (3) Out of five (5) series. Games 1, 2, and 3 will be played in the Opening Round/Semi Final format and Games 4 and 5 will be single games.
2. If the League Playoff Championship Series is originally scheduled to begin in two (2) consecutive days (i.e. Saturday and Sunday), then the team ranked higher in the standings will have the option to choose one of the two (2) League Playoff Championship Series formats as follows:
  - a. The team ranked lower in the standing will be the home team for game number one (1) on Saturday. The team ranked higher in the standings will be the home team for game number two (2) and game number three (3) to be played on Sunday as a doubleheader.
  - b. The team ranked higher in the standing will be the home team for game number one (1) and game number two (2) to be played on Saturday as a double-header. The team ranked lower in the standings will be the home team for game number three (3) to be played on Sunday.
  - c. The team ranked lower in the standings will be the home team for game number four (4). The team ranked higher in the standings will be the home team for game number five (5).
3. The League Playoff Championship Series games will be played on weekdays or weekends, as night or afternoon games.
4. The League Playoff Championship Series will have three (3) umpires officiate each game in the series.

#### **G. LEAGUE CHAMPION**

1. At the conclusion of the League Championship Playoff Series, the team that has won three (3) games will be declared the DELCO Baseball League Champion and winner of the Charlie Kress Championship Trophy.

#### **H. EXPENSES AND RECEIPTS**

1. Teams participating in the Opening Round Playoff Series, the Semi Final Playoff Series, and the Championship Playoff Series, will share receipts and expense equally.

#### **ARTICLE VII - LEAGUE FINES AND DISCIPLINE**

## **A. LEAGUE FINES AND DISCIPLINE**

1. The League Officers will use the following principles as guidelines when administering the League Rules and By-Laws:
  - a. When an offense committed by a player, manager, coach, or other team official is specifically covered or generally outlined in the League ruled and By-Laws, such prescribed fines and/or discipline will be uniformly applied in all cases.
  - b. When an offense committed by a player, manager, coach, or other team official is not specifically covered or is not generally outlined in the League Rules and By-Laws, and the President, in conjunction with the League Officers, deems that such an offense is not in the best interest of the League or is detrimental to the operation of or the reputation of the League, the President, in conjunction with the League Officers, using equity and fairness, will prescribe fines and/or discipline that will adhere to the general intent and spirit of the League Rules and By-Laws. Such prescribed fines and/or discipline will be uniformly applied in all cases
2. The President, in conjunction with the League Officers, using equity and fair will be authorized to impose additional fines and/or discipline when initial fines and/or discipline are ignored.
3. All fines are to be paid in cash, check, or money order to any League Officer within the prescribed time limit.
4. All fines will be placed in the League's operating fund. Checks and money orders will be paid to the order of the DELCO Baseball League.

## **B. FRANCHISE VIOLATIONS**

1. A Franchise violation will be defined as a violation of the League Rules and By-Laws that is not committed by an individual but is attributed to the Franchise as a whole.
- 2, Franchise violations include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Failure of the Franchise General Manager to attend a League meeting
  - b. Failure of the Franchise General manager to pay the League operating Fee by its due date.
  - c. Failure of the Franchise General Manager to pay the New Franchise Fee by its due date.
  - d. Failure of the Franchise General Manager to complete and return a League Championship Season game score sheet or a League Playoff Series game score sheet by its respective due date.
  - e. Failure of the Franchise General manager to have the Franchise's home field in proper playing condition for a League Championship Season game or a League Playoff Series game
3. Franchise fines and discipline will be levied as follows:
  - a. Offenses one (1), two (2). and three (3) will be fines or \$ 5.00 each
  - b. Offenses one (4), two (5), and three (6) will be fines or S 10 00 each.
  - c. Offenses one (7), two (8), and three (9) will be fines or \$ 20.00 each.
  - d. Offenses ten (10), eleven (11), and twelve (12) will be the forfeit of a League Championship Season game or league Playoff Series game, as the case may be, for each offense.
  - e. Offense thirteen (13) will be disciplined as follows.
    - (1) The forfeiture of all remaining League Championship Season games or all remaining league Playoff series games, as the case may be,

- (2) The forfeiture of the League Operating Fee and/or the New Franchise Fee.
- (3) The forfeiture of the Franchise for a period of one (1) full League Championship Season.

### **C. FORFEIT FINES AND DISCIPLINE**

1. The fines and discipline for a forfeited League Championship Series game or a League Playoff Series game will be as follows:

- a. The first (1st) forfeited game will result in a fine of \$25.00 and the cost of the umpires' travel fees for that game.
- b. The second (2nd) forfeited game will result in a fine of \$50.00 and the cost of the umpires' travel fees for that game.
- c. The third (3rd) forfeited game will result in a fine of \$ 100.00 and the cost of the umpires' travel fees for that game and the following discipline.

(1) The forfeiture of all remaining League Championship Season games or all remaining League Playoff series games, as the case may be

(2) The forfeiture of the League Operating Fee and/or the New Franchise Fee

(3) The forfeiture of the Franchise for a period of one (1) full League Championship Season.

2. For the purpose of this rule, the fines and discipline for a forfeited game will not apply to games forfeited because of the enforcement of VIII, B, 3, e above.

3. For the purpose of this rule, forfeits are not considered Franchise violations.

### **D. NON-PLAYER VIOLATIONS**

1. Non-player violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Ejection from a League Championship or League Playoff Series game
- b. Other conduct, deemed not in the best interest of the League or detrimental to the operation of or the reputation of the League

2. The fines and discipline for offenses by non-players will be as follows:

a. Offense one (1) will be fined \$ 10.00.

b. Offense two (2) will be fined \$15.00.

c. Offense three (3) will be fined \$25.00.

d. Offenses four (4) and beyond will be disciplined as follows:

(1) The President, using equity and fairness, will, at his discretion, levy such discipline including, but not limited to, fines and suspensions that will result in the prevention of further violations by this non-player.

### **F. PLAYER VIOLATIONS**

I. Player violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Ejection from a League Championship or League Playoff Series game.
- b. Other conduct deemed not in the best interest of the League or detrimental to the operation of or the reputation of the League.

2. The fines and discipline for offenses by players will be as follows:

a. Offense one (1) will be disciplined by a one (1) game suspension.

b. Offense two (2) will be disciplined by a two (2) game suspension.

c. Offense three (3) will be disciplined by a four (4) game suspension.

d. Offenses four (4) and beyond will be disciplined as follows:

(1) The President, using equity and fairness, will, at his discretion, levy such discipline including, but not limited to, fines and suspensions that will result in the prevention of further violations by this player,

3. If player is suspended toward the end of the League Championship Season and the number of League Championship Season games remaining for his team is less than the number of League Championship Season games for which the player has been suspended, the following method will be employed to full fill this player's discipline requirement:

a. If the player is a member of a League Playoff Series team, he may choose to continue to serve the remainder of his suspension during the playoffs or he may choose to pay fines, set forth by the President, that coincide with the number of games for which the player is suspended.

b. If the player is not a member of a League Playoff Series team, he will pay fines, set forth by the President, that coincide with the number of games for which the player is suspended.

c. In either VIII, F, 3, a. orb. above, the amount of the fine, based on the fine level of the player, will be doubled.

4. No player or non-player who is suspended or otherwise under League discipline may be seated on or near the team bench during the game or games for which he is suspended.

**PENALTY: Player Violation and Franchise Violation discipline:**

a. May not participate in a League Championship season Game during the game or games for which he is suspended.

b. May not sit in or near the bench area. It is preferable that the suspended player not be present at his team's game or games during his suspension.

c. May workout and take pre-game practice with his team.

**PENALTY: Player Violation and Franchise Violation**

#### **F. PLAYER/MANAGER VIOLATIONS**

1. If a person who is listed as the manager or general manager of a franchise or is the acting manager is ejected from a League Championship game, his discipline will be as follows

a. If the manager or general manager is in the line-up, the player violations will apply.

b. If the manager or general manager is not in the line-up, the non-player violations will apply.

#### **G. ROSTER VIOLATIONS**

1. The use of any player during a League Championship Season game or a League Playoff Series game, who is ineligible by virtue of not being listed on the current Team's Roster, or under suspension or otherwise under League discipline, will result in the forfeit of all League Championship Season or League Playoff Season games in which the ineligible player appeared. In addition, the franchise will pay a 25.00 fine for each violation,

#### **H. LEAGUE PLAYOFF SERIES VIOLATIONS**

1. Violations during the League Playoff Series will be disciplined as if the violation had occurred during the League Championship Season.

#### **PAYMENT OF LEAGUE FINES**

1. The President, using equity and fairness, will, at his discretion, determine when fines levied during the League Championship Season and the Playoff Series will be paid.

2. All fines incurred during the League Championship Season must be paid before the conclusion of the current League Championship Season

3. All fines incurred during the League Playoff series must be paid before the beginning of the next League Playoff Series game.

#### **J. Uniforms**

1. All players on a team are required to wear complete uniforms This rule will be in effect whether or not the player is in the game or in the dugout

2. Managers and coaches, while on the base lines or in the dugout will be in complete uniform.

Some exceptions to this rule will apply.

a. The exceptions apply to coaches who stay in the dugout during the game b .

Uniforms must be worn in the proper manner. Example shirt tails tucked in, etc.

### **ARTICLES IX - TEAM ROSTERS**

#### **A. TEAM ROSTERS**

1. Each team must submit a Player Registration Card and a Player Registration Fee for each member of its Team Roster to the Secretary/Treasurer at least three (3) days before the starting date of the League Championship Season

a. A maximum of thirty-two (32) players is permitted on the Team Roster at any time.

b. The Player Registration Card must contain the name, address, telephone number and classification of each player.

c. Players may be added or removed from the Team Roster during the period from the end of the League Playoff Series of the previous year until 11:59 pm. EDT of the final roster date of the current League Championship Season. Once 11:59 p.m. EDT of the final roster date of the current League Championship Season has been reached, no further changes may be made to the Team Roster.

d. The General Manager and the Field Manager are eligible to play during any League Championship Season game or League Playoff Series game.

2. There are three (3) player classifications:

a. Class A players are players who were on the Team Roster at the conclusion of the previous League Championship Season or players who have previously been on the Team Roster (and no interim Team Roster) and are returning to that team after a leave of absence,

b. Class B players are new players who have not appeared on any Team Roster in any previous year.

c. Class C players are players who were on another Team Roster during any prior League Championship Season and were not on the Team Roster of the current team at the conclusion of the previous League Championship Season and now wish to change Team Rosters. For each of these Class C players, a DELCO Baseball League Player release Form must be submitted with the Team Roster.

#### **B. TEAM ROSTER CHANGES AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

1. Any player may change from one Team Roster to another Team Roster during the League Championship Season provided the following requirements and procedures for such a transfer are followed

a. The player wishing to change Team Rosters must obtain a DELCO Baseball League Player Release form signed by his current General Manager.

b. The player wishing to change Team Rosters must then sign the DELCO Baseball League Player Release Form and tender this form to the General Manager of the

new team.

c. The General Manager of the player's new team must notify the Secretary/Treasurer immediately of the Team Roster change. When the Secretary/Treasurer has been notified by the General Manager of the player's new team, the player is then eligible to participate in League Championship Season games for that team.

d. The General Manager of the player's new team must deliver to the Secretary/Treasurer a completed DELCO Baseball League Player Release Form on or before the day of the next scheduled League meeting.

2. A maximum of four (4) players may move from Team A's roster to team B's roster in one (1) League Championship Season. The purpose of this Rule and by-law is to protect existing franchises from becoming defunct.

3. When a General Manager refuses to grant a player his release for any reason other than the return of team equipment, the player may obtain his release in the following manner:

a. The President, and the League Officers, will verify, to their satisfaction, that there is no legitimate reason the player's request for written release should not be granted. When satisfied, the President will inform the Secretary/Treasurer in writing that the release is official and effective immediately.

4. A player who is listed on more than one (1) Team Roster at the start of the League Championship Season will be considered a member of the Team for which he plays first (1st).

5. No player will be allowed to participate in a League Championship Season game that is not included on that player's Team Roster submitted to the Secretary/Treasurer prior to the start of the League Championship Season

## **ARTICLE X - TEAM PRE- AND POST-GAME REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. PLAYING FIELDS**

1. Each team will be responsible for maintaining their field in playable condition in such fashion that no unusual feature of the field hinders the normal progress of the game or provides a hazard to the players

2. The following preparation of the playing field is required of the home team for each game.

a. Accurate field geometry and placement of bases.

b. Bases must be anchored and secured as follows with a single pole for Hollywood-type bases.

c. Straight, distinguishable foul lines both in the infield and outfield.

(1) On fields that do not have outfield fences with distinguishable foul poles, the end of the foul line will be clearly marked with a pole, flag, cone or some other distinguishable marking.

d. Out-of-play lines and coaching boxes will also be clearly marked.

PENALTY: Franchise Violation

### **B. POSTPONEMENT OF GAMES**

1. The home team General Manager or Field Manager will be responsible for the inspection of the field to determine if conditions are suitable for play for all League Championship Season games.

a. Every reasonable effort will be made to play all scheduled League Championship Season games.

b. If the field is wet and not playable, or if it is raining and anticipated that by game time the field will not be playable, the home team General Manager or Field Manager will notify the following people ninety (90) minutes before the scheduled starting time of the game and inform them that the game has been postponed:

(1) The opposing team General Manager or Field Manager.

(2) The Umpire Ass (3) The League Vice President,

#### **C. PRE-GAME PRACTICE FOR LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON GAMES**

1. For all League Championship Season games, the following times will be allocated for pre game practice

a. The home team will have use of the field until five (5) minutes before the scheduled starting time of the game.

b. The visiting team will have use of the field for five (5) minutes or until the scheduled starting time of the game.

#### **D. UMPIRE REQUIREMENTS FOR. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON GAMES**

1. The Umpire Assignor will arrange to have two (2) umpires assigned to each League Championship Season game.

a. If only one (1) umpire is present at the scheduled starting time for the game, the game will be played provided the umpire who is present has the proper equipment for his duties

b. A League Championship Season game lacking both umpires will be rescheduled.

#### **E. PRE-GAME PRACTICE FOR LEAGUE PLAYOFF SERIES GAMES**

1. For all League Playoff Series games played as weekday games, the following times will be allocated for pre-game practice.

a. The home team will have use of the field until five (5) minutes before the scheduled starting time of the game,

b. The visiting team will have use of the field for five (5) minutes or until the scheduled starting time of the game.

2. For all League Playoff Series games played as weekend or weekday holiday games, the following times will be allocated for pre-game practice:

a. The home team will have use of the field until forty (40) minutes before the scheduled starting time of the game.

b. The visiting team will have use of the field for thirty (30) minutes or until ten (10) minutes before the scheduled starting time of the game.

c. The home team will have use of the field for an additional ten (10) minutes or until the scheduled starting time of the game.

3. If games of a League Playoff Series are scheduled as a doubleheader, then the time between games will be allocated as follows:

a. The field will be repaired.

b. If there is time remaining before the announced starting time of the second (2nd) game, the teams will equally divide this time.

#### **F. UMPIRE REQUIREMENTS FOR. LEAGUE PLAYOFF SERIES GAMES**

1. The Umpire Assignor will arrange to have the required number of umpires assigned to each League Playoff Series game.

2. League Quarter Final, Semi Final and Final Playoff Series games must have two (2) umpires to start a game, but once the game has begun, it may be completed with only one

(1) umpire if injury or sickness incapacitates an umpire.

**G. GAME RECORDS**

1. The home team's scorebook will be considered the official record of the game.
  - a. At the conclusion of each game, scorebooks will be reviewed so that individual offensive and pitching records are in agreement.
2. The winning team will be responsible for reporting the score and highlights of the game to the newspaper. Both teams will be responsible for forwarding a copy of both pages of the scorebook with the totals completed to the League Statistician. This copy of the scorecard must be received by the League Statistician within three days of the date of the League Championship Game, Example: the game is Sunday May 2nd, the League Statistician should receive the copy of the scorecard from both teams by Wednesday, May 5th.

PENALTY: Franchise Violation

**ARTICLE XI- MISCELLANEOUS**

**A. DETERMINATION OF MAJORITY VOTES**

The following table will be used to determine a simple majority, a two-thirds (2/3) majority or a three-fourths (3/4) majority during all votes of the Board of Directors (or their designated representatives) of the DELCO Baseball League:

**Number Of Franchises Simple Majority Two-Thirds Majority 3/4 Majority**

**4 3 3 3**

**5 3 3 4**

**6 4 4 5**

**7 4 4 5**

**8 5 5 6**

**9 5 6 7**

**10 6 6 8**

**11 6 7 8**

**12 7 8 9**

**13 7 8 10**

**14 8 9 11**

**15 8 10 11**

**16 9 10 12**

**B. BENCH CONDUCT**

1. There will be no smoking of cigars, cigarettes or pipes, drinking of alcoholic beverages or use of illegal drugs by a manager, coach player or any other team official during a league Championship Season game or League Playoff Series game.

PENALTY: Franchise Violation

**C. PASSING THE HAT**

1. During any League Championship Season game, the home team may solicit and keep contributions from spectators.

**D. COMPENSATION**

1. No player in the League may be paid a salary, a fee, or be otherwise compensated for playing during the League Championship Season or the League Playoff Series.

PENALTY: Loss of Franchise

**E. DETERMINATION OF PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY**

1. The following table will be used to determine a player's eligibility for participation in the League Playoff Series.

Championship Season Games Appearances:  
Number of League One-Fourth  
Championship Season Games Appearances

20 5

21 5

22 5

23 5

24 6

25 6

26 6

27 6

28 7

29 7

30 7

31 7

32 8

33 8

34 8

35 8

36 9

37 9

38 9

39 9

40 10

41 10

42 10

43 10

44 10

## **ARTICLE XII - MODIFIED OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES**

The Official Baseball Rules plus these modifications, constitute the DELCO Baseball League Official Rules.

### **A. GENERAL**

1. The League has two official balls

a. Rawlings RO (e.g. RO-N, RO-A, etc.

b. Wilson A-1010

c. no blemishes will be permitted

2. Bats made of wood must meet major league specifications. Bats made of aluminum or other material must meet the following:

a. The entire bat must be round with a constant radius at any point and the finish of the hitting area must be smooth.

b. There must be a direct line from the center of the knob to the center of the large end.

c. The maximum length is 36 inches and the maximum diameter is 2.75 inches.

d. The knob and end plug (if applicable) must be firmly attached.

e. A bat may not weigh, numerically, more than five units less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 35-inch long bat cannot be less than 30 ounces in weight).

f. It is mandatory that all bats have an identification mark 18 inches from the end of the handle.

g. No foreign substance that will in any way discolor the ball may be added to the surface of the bat beyond 18 inches from the end of the handle.

Note 1 - If the bat is not marked 18 inches from the knob, or has pine car or a foreign

substance above the 18-inch mark, the bat must be removed from the game and the player warned. If the practice continues, the player is to be removed from the game. If a bat's handle should become loose and the bat removed from the game, the same practice is to be followed. Neither of these infractions is cause for calling the batter out.

Note 2 - All other bats are illegal or, in the umpire's judgment or upon appeal of the opposing team, has been altered or tampered with in such a way as to improve the distance factor or cause an unusual reaction on the baseball must be removed from the game and the batter, either after he takes his position in the batter's box or after he hits, will be declared out and no advancement of the base runners will be allowed

3. It is mandatory that all players use an approved major league specification single earflap

helmet (or at the player's option, a double ear-flap helmet) while at bat and on the bases

4. To begin the game, the umpire will receive from the home team four (4) new, League approved baseballs. The home team will continue to supply the umpire with 'game condition' baseballs, acceptable to his judgment, for the duration of the game.

5. When creating the ground rules for his home field, the home manager will restrict his duties to the definition of the boundary lines of the field. The manager will define where the playing field begins and ends and any obstacles that may be on the field of play.

6. A regulation game consists of seven (7) innings

a. If a game is called, it is a regulation game:

(1) if four (4) innings have been completed.

(2) If the home team has scored more runs in three (3) or three (3) and a fraction half-innings than the visiting team has scored in four (4) complete half-innings.

(3) If the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fourth (4th) inning to tie the score.

7. No team will "stall" nor unduly delay the progress of the game in any manner. if, in the judgment of the umpire or umpires, after a team has been warned of its attempt to "stall" and unduly delay the game, the team continues in "stalling" and unduly delaying the game, the umpire or umpires will declare such a game a suspended game.

8. The League will allow protests when a manager claims that an umpire's decision is in violation of DELCO Baseball League Official Rules.

a. Method of Protest

(1) A team manager may specifically request that the umpire-in-chief play the remainder of the game under protest. the umpire-in-chief will honor his such requests.

(a) Even if the umpire believes that the request for protest involves a "judgment" call, the umpire will honor such a request.

(2) The umpire-in-chief will publicly announce that the game is being played under protest and will note in both teams' scorebook exactly where the protest was declared.

(3) The manager of the team requesting the game be played under protest will remit a written account of the protest, including the Protested Game Fee, to the league Officers by 11:59 p.m. EDT of the second day following the day the protested game was played (e.g., the protested game was played on My 1st; the protest must be filed by 11:59 p.m. EDT on May 3rd), The report must include a description of the complete circumstances of the disputed ruling, citing the DELCO Baseball League Official Rule or Rules which is the basis for the protest.

(4) The umpire whose decision was protested will remit a written account of the protest to the League Officers by 11:59 p.m. EDT of the second day following the day the protested game was played (e.g., the protested game was played on May 1st, the protest must be filed by 11:59 p.m. EDT on May 3rd). The report must include a description of the complete circumstances of the disputed ruling, citing the DELCO Baseball League Official Rule or Rules which is the basis for the protest.

(5) The President, in conjunction with the League Officers, at their discretion, using equity and fairness, may gather additional information, from the opposing manager, players or spectators as necessary to rule on this dispute.

**b. Protest Ruling**

(1) A committee comprised of the League Officers and the Umpire Assignor or an unbiased man who has reputable knowledge of the DELCO Baseball League Official Rules will be formed to evaluate each protest.

(2) The President will issue a ruling within seven (7) days of receiving each protest.

9. Unless the home team has given previous notice that the game has been postponed or will be delayed in starting, the umpire or umpires will enter the playing field five (5) minutes before the hour set for the game to begin and proceed directly to home base where they will be met by the managers of the opposing teams. In sequence

a. Review with the managers of the opposing teams the ground rules for the field.

b. Instruct the managers of the opposing teams that the batting orders of their respective teams should be finalized and the batting orders will become official when the first pitch of the game is thrown

c. Receive a supply of four (4) new baseballs from the home team manager

d. Receive the Umpire's Game Fee from the home team manager.

10. The defensive team is permitted one (1) throw "around the horn" after an out. The second (2nd) throw must return the ball to the pitcher. This rule does not apply to the start of an inning (e.g., after a strike out, the catcher is permitted to throw the ball to the third baseman; he must immediately return it to the pitcher).

PENALTY: The umpire will declare a "ball" on the batter.

**B. RUNNER**

1. Any time the pitcher or catcher reaches base, the offensive team can substitute a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher, it is mandatory with two (2) outs, to substitute a runner for the pitcher or catcher, This substitution pertains to the final inning of the game as well.

a. The "courtesy" runner may not be a player currently in his team's batting order or any player previously removed from the game. The "courtesy" runner must be a player eligible to be a substitute player.

b. It is not mandatory for players who are in uniform, but claim injury, to become the "courtesy" runner. However, this refusal to act as a "courtesy" runner will preclude use of this player as a substitute for the remainder of the game.

(1) In order to avoid a forfeit, such a player (in 11, 1, b above) may enter the game if another player is injured or ejected, if he is the only available substitute and if his substitution will prevent a forfeit,

c. It is not mandatory for any coach, manager or general manager to become the "courtesy" runner.

2. Runners may slide hard into any base.

- a. However, in the interest of safety, roll blocks will not be permitted.
- b. In the case where a runner will be out by a large and discernible margin, he may not deliberately run into any defensive player, including the catcher.  
PENALTY, The runner will be declared out, rule 7.09 (1) of The Official Baseball Rules, as written, will be enforced and the runner will be ejected from the game.

### **C. BATTER**

1. The home plate umpire will honor all requests for the appeal of a check swing to the base urn p ire.
2. The barter may receive a intentional base on balls, when the manager of the defensive team or any player on the defensive team requests such. Time will be called and the barter will be awarded first base. No pitches need to be thrown.
3. The batter will take his position in the batter's box promptly when it is his time at bat.
  - a. If the batter is to be the first (1st) batter in the inning, then the batter will take his position within one (1) minute from the time the last Out of the prior half inning is made. If he is not the first (1st) batter, he will take his position in the batter's box within twenty (20) seconds from the time the previous batter's turn is complete.  
PENALTY: The umpire will declare a "strike" on the batter.
  - b. Once the batter has taken his position in the batter's box, he may not leave his position in the batter's box for the duration of his time at bat, except in the following cases:
    - (1) He requests "time" from the umpire and it is granted.
      - (a) In granting "time", the umpire will use his best judgment as to the batter's intent or requesting such "time". The umpire will use, but is not limited to, as a guideline, the following.
        - (1) The barter has dirt in his eyes.
        - (2) There are bugs, bees or other flying objects causing a distraction to the batter.
        - (2) He is eluding a pitch that is thrown close to him
        - (3) After a wild pitch or passed ball.
        - (4) After an attempted drag bunt
        - (5) During a defensive conference,
        - (6) He requests "time" from the umpire and it is granted for the purpose of an offensive conference. The offensive ream will be limited to one (1) offensive conference per game, This conference will not be more that forty-five (45) seconds.
4. The League will adopt the Designated Hitter Rule as written

### **D. PITCHER**

1. The pitcher may use any ball in the umpire's possession. if the umpire deems a ball unsuitable for play, he will remove from the game and from his possession.
2. The League shall waive the rule regarding pitchers "going to their mouth". However, the League will not allow doctoring of the baseball,
3. Pitchers will be allowed preparatory pitches as follows:
  - a. Eight (8) preparatory pitches when he first (1st) enters the game.
  - b. Each additional inning, the pitcher will be allowed five (5) preparatory pitches.
4. If the defensive team wishes to intentionally walk the batter, it will inform the umpire

the umpire will declare "Time" and the batter will be awarded first base, No pitches need to be thrown.

5. The League will adopt the following rules, in addition to the Official Baseball Rules regarding "trips" or "visits" to the pitcher.

- a. Any time any player, manager, or coach delays the game and confers with the pitcher, it will be considered an official "trip" to the pitcher.
- b. A second (2nd) trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause this pitcher to be removed as a pitcher and ineligible to pitch for the remainder of the game. This pitcher does not have to be removed from the game.
- c. After pitcher has entered the game and completed his preparatory pitches, the catcher may visit the mound to confer with the pitcher. This trip by the catcher will not be considered or counted as an official trip.
- d. Each team will be allowed one (1) "free" trip to the pitcher by any defensive player. Any subsequent trip to the pitcher by a defensive player will be considered an official trip.

NOTE: The intent of these "trip" rules is to prevent unnecessary delay during the game. One easy way to remember the rules are as follows:

- If anyone visits the mound, it is an official trip.
- Any time the manager goes to the mound, it is an official trip (for the purpose of this rule, a player-manager is considered a player).

**Exceptions:**

- When the pitcher is new and before he throws a pitch, the catcher visits him to "get the signs straight", this is not an official trip.
- The first (1st) time any defensive player (not someone from the bench) this is not an official trip. The defensive team may take a "free" trip during an offense conference provided it does not last longer than the offense conference.