BIG NINE BASEBALL
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

1. SCHEDULES

A. A twenty (20) game league schedule consisting of two double-header games between each school shall be played each year. (6/02)

2. POSTPONED, CANCELLED, OR SUSPENDED GAMES

A. In the event that games are postponed, canceled, or suspended they must be made up. The game(s) will be made up on the first playing date both teams have available. If it is a spring vacation game(s), it will be made up on the first available date following spring break.

B. If weather of darkness interfere with play so that the game is called (ended), by the umpire, it is a complete game if:

1. five full-innings have been played, or if the home team has scored an equal of greater number of runs in four or four and a fraction turns at bat that the visiting team has scored in five turns at bat; or
2. play has gone beyond five full innings. If the game is called when the teams have not had an equal number of complete at bats, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last complete inning; except if the home team in its half of the incomplete inning scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, the final score shall be recorded when the game is called. (This is the National Federation Rule.)

C. In the case of a suspended game, the game will start from the point at which the game was terminated. The pitcher limitation rule is in effect for all who pitched on the day of the suspended game (6/4/93).

D. Tie games will follow National Federation rules.

E. FOR CLARIFICATION- A Suspended game will be considered any game which is stopped for any reason prior to completion or before enough innings have been played for it to be considered a complete game.

3. UMPIRES- Local association umpires are to be used for all league games.

4. TEN (10) RUN RULE- At the end of five complete innings, in both games of a league doubleheader, if either team is ahead by ten runs, that team shall be the winner. (2nd game can be finished if agreed beforehand by both coaches- official game ends after 5 innings.) The ten-run rule will not be used in all District and Regional games. (6/01) but will be used in playoff games prior to the District Tournament.
5. **STATE ASSOCIATION RULES** - All State Association rules pertaining to pitching, coaching, substituting, etc., are to be followed.

6. **PRE-GAME WARM-UPS**

   A. Proposed-schedule for pre-game warm-ups: (Assuming a 1:00 PM Saturday game)

   1. Hitting for home team: before 12:15
   2. Hitting for visiting team: 12:15 to 12:35
   3. Infield for home team: 12:35 to 12:45
   4. Infield for visiting team: 12:45 to 12:55
   5. Fixing batter box, mound 12:55 to 1:00

   B. No hitting practice will be allowed for any weekday games including playoff and District games (this includes seeded teams playing the second games). (6/01) The use of whiffle balls is permitted.

7. **LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP- REPRESENTATIVES TO REGIONALS**

   A. The first Tuesday after the end of the regular season will be used to play off any ties for positions 1-6 in the final league standings. League tie procedure will be used for these playoffs.

   B. On the Friday and Saturday prior to the Region IV Tournament, the League District Playoffs will be held using the 6-team format.

   C. Three umpires will be used for District Tournament games. Umpires will be provided from local associations of the participating teams with coach’s approval.

8. **LEAGUE TIES** - League standings will determine teams 1-6. In case of ties, the procedure for determining places is as follows:

   A. Ties for a seeded position or a tie that involves the sixth place team in the final league standings must be played.

   B. Ties for third, fourth and fifth places, which cannot be determined by head to head play, will be resolved by the league draw numbers for spring sports.

   C. Two way ties for first, second or sixth places will be played off on the Tuesday following the end of the regular season. Playoffs involving three or more teams will be played off on the first Monday and Tuesday following the end off the regular season.

   D. Ties involving more than two teams will follow the established league guidelines for resolving leagues ties. Playoff site will be at the team with the lowest draw number. If a bye is involved, it will go to the team with the lowest draw number.
E. Neutral sites will be used for all playoff games. The team with the lowest draw number will choose a neutral site.

F. Split officiating crews will be used for all playoff games.

9. **OTHER POINTS (6/01)**

A. All games shall be **scheduled for** seven (7) innings.

B. Highest seeded team will be the home team and get choice of dugout.

C. Head to head advantage is defined as "an undefeated record against all teams involved in a tie."

D. Site of playoff games will be:
   1) Winner of head-to-head competition
   2) Team with lowest draw number.

E. The schools involved in the play-off are responsible for all arrangements.

F. COURTESY RUNNER - -For league games the use of the courtesy runner is optional. Each team will make the choice each time the courtesy runner situation occurs. The courtesy runner will only be used for the pitcher or catcher. For District Tournament play the use of the courtesy runner is also optional in any situation in which it applies.

10. **ALL CONFERENCE TEAM**- Immediately following the end of the league season, the baseball coaches will meet to determine the ALL CONFERENCE TEAM.