ABA Cheat Sheet– Divisional
Season 2026/27

Updated 11 Nov 26

Game Rules	Upper & Lower Divisional	
Innings	**7 innings scheduled (regulation game 4 innings)**	
No New Innings	after 2 hours 20 min (or 2 hours 30 min when scoring is occurring via app)	
Mercy rule	**Upper Divisional -** 15 after 4 or 10 after 5	**Lower Divisional– 10 runs after 5 innings**
Runs per innings (max)	**Upper Divisional – 7 runs max** (the play that scores the 7th run must be played to completion however only 7 runs are counted in the innings) - innings 1 -6 only, 7th inning has no run limit	**Lower Divisional - 5 runs max** (the play that scores the 5th run must be played to completion however only 5 runs are counted in the innings) - innings 1 -6 only, 7th inning has no run limit
Tied game	**No** Tie Breaker – But YES in Championship game	
Double Headers	Rules to be set by Competition Committee if Double Headers are scheduled	
No. of Players	8 min (9th is auto out) – players not physically present at the plate meeting, should NOT be entered on the line-up card. However, late players (once arrived at the park) can be added as the 9th player or to the substitutions list & play.	
Continuous Batting Lineup (Lower Divisional)	In **Lower Divisional** games, each team chooses its own batting format, either: • a continuous batting order, where every player bats in order and the team can make unlimited defensive changes; or • a standard lineup, with substitutions and re-entry as set out in the re-entry rules described below Each team decides which approach for itself (no agreement with the opposition needed), and can't change it during the game. With Lower Divisional being a participation-focused league, we recommend continuous batting with unlimited defensive changes. ABA reserves the right to make one format mandatory for playoffs (e.g. continuous mandatory in the playoffs).	
Dispensations	**NO -** No player under the age of 17 (Based on LL Age Chart) can play Divisional Baseball	
Pitch Smart	Pitch Smart applies to all players aged up to and including the age of 22	
Pitcher minimum	Must pitch to at least 3 consecutive batters – Refer OBR	
Pitcher removed from mound can return as pitcher?	**YES** (only if they remain on the playing field in another fielding position) – if re-entered, they may not pitch)	
Pitcher may become Catcher	**YES** – no pitch count restriction on pitcher becoming catcher.	
Pitch in 2 games a day	**YES –** Pitch Smart applies	
Catcher speed up rule?	**YES**, catcher (runner) may be replaced if two outs (last batter or any bench player not currently in the game)	
Catcher Other	19U and under catchers must have a throat guard. All warm-up catchers including in bullpens must have a mask.	
Visits	Maximum of 5 Visits by any player, manager, or coach. (1 extra free visit per every tie breaker extra innings).	
	Manager or Coach Visits are Trips (as well as Visits), if 2 Trips in 1 innings, then pitcher must be changed.	

Re-entry rule	**YES,** if a starting player, but player can only re-enter **once** per game in his original batting spot and can **NOT** pitch.
Bats	BBCOR, wood, or wood composite bats (composite, with BBCOR stamp). 34" 2 5/8s
DH allowed? (See back page for more)	**YES** (is not restricted to the pitching position and may be used for a positional player. Must be on starting line-up card.
Single day **Loan** rules	a. No player may be loaned between clubs b. No player may be loaned between teams in the same division, including any grading periods where divisions may be combined c. Same day loans of divisional players in an upwards direction (i.e. from a higher-numbered division to a lower-numbered division) are approved under the following specific conditions: i. The receiving team would otherwise have fewer than 9 players. ii. The receiving team's line-up does not exceed 9 players due to the loan. iii. The total number of loan players does not exceed two. iv. Loaned players do not pitch. v. Loaned players do not gain post-season eligibility from such games. d. Same day loans of divisional players in a downwards direction (i.e. from a lower-numbered division to a higher-numbered division) are approved under the following specific conditions: i. The receiving team would otherwise have fewer than 9 players. ii. The receiving team's line-up does not exceed 9 players due to the loan. iii. The total number of loan players does not exceed one. iv. Loaned players play right-field and bat last. v. Loaned players do not gain post-season eligibility from such games. vi. The same player cannot be leant more than twice in a season. vii. The receiving team is only one division below the loaning team e. Every instance of a loan player being used must be logged with divisional management
No Foreign Substances	As per MLB Official Baseball Rules

Approved bat logo

