

ossaa baseball rules

ossaa baseball rules govern the organization and conduct of high school baseball competitions within the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association. These rules provide a comprehensive framework that ensures fair play, safety, and consistency across all participating schools. Understanding ossaa baseball rules is essential for coaches, players, officials, and fans to appreciate the standards upheld during games. This article provides an in-depth overview of the key components of ossaa baseball rules, including game regulations, player eligibility, equipment standards, and officiating guidelines. Additionally, it explores the unique adaptations made by OSSAA to the national baseball standards to suit high school sports in Oklahoma. The following sections will offer a detailed breakdown of these rules, highlighting important aspects such as game format, conduct, and safety protocols.

- Game Format and Duration
- Player Eligibility and Participation
- Equipment Standards and Uniforms
- Rules of Play and Conduct
- Officiating and Enforcement

Game Format and Duration

The ossaa baseball rules specify the structure and timing of games to maintain uniformity across all high school baseball matches in Oklahoma. These regulations are designed to balance competitive integrity with the physical demands on student-athletes.

Inning Structure

OSSAA baseball games typically consist of seven innings, which is shorter than professional baseball's nine innings. This adjustment is intended to accommodate the academic schedule and physical endurance of high school players. In the event of a tie after seven innings, extra innings may be played to determine the winner, following specific OSSAA tie-breaking procedures.

Game Duration and Time Limits

While there is no strict time limit on games, ossaa baseball rules include provisions for curfew or weather-related suspensions. Games may be called after five innings if conditions make continuation impossible. Additionally, mercy rules may apply to end games early if one team leads by a significant margin, promoting sportsmanship and player safety.

Substitution and Re-entry

Substitution rules under ossaa baseball regulations allow for flexibility, but re-entry is generally limited to maintain fairness. Players removed from the game cannot re-enter except under specific conditions defined by the OSSAA, such as injury replacement. This encourages strategic management of the roster throughout the game.

Player Eligibility and Participation

Ensuring that all participants meet eligibility criteria is fundamental to maintaining fairness in OSSAA competitions. The ossaa baseball rules outline detailed standards regarding academic standing, age, and enrollment status.

Academic and Age Requirements

Student-athletes must be enrolled full-time in a member school and meet minimum academic standards to participate. Age limits typically restrict players to those under 19 years old at the start of the school year. These requirements ensure that athletes compete against peers of comparable development and commitment.

Transfer and Residency Rules

The OSSAA enforces strict transfer regulations to prevent recruitment abuses. Players transferring between schools may be subject to a waiting period before becoming eligible to compete. Residency must be consistent with the student's school attendance zone unless exceptions are granted under special circumstances.

Participation Limits

ossaa baseball rules also govern the number of games and seasons a player may participate in to protect student-athletes from overuse injuries and burnout. Limits on practice durations and off-season activities are

also enforced to balance sports with education and personal development.

Equipment Standards and Uniforms

Proper equipment is critical for safety and fairness in high school baseball. The ossaa baseball rules prescribe standards for bats, balls, protective gear, and uniforms used during play.

Bats and Balls

OSSAA mandates the use of bats that comply with established NCAA or NFHS standards, focusing on size, weight, and performance to ensure safety and competitive balance. Baseballs used in OSSAA games must meet official specifications regarding size, weight, and material composition.

Protective Equipment

Players are required to wear helmets with face guards during batting and base running to reduce the risk of injury. Catchers must use full protective gear, including masks, chest protectors, and shin guards. The ossaa rules emphasize equipment maintenance and proper fit as vital safety measures.

Uniform Guidelines

Uniforms must adhere to OSSAA's dress code, which includes matching team colors, numbered jerseys for identification, and appropriate footwear. The rules prohibit the use of jewelry or items that could pose a hazard during play. Uniform compliance is checked before each game.

Rules of Play and Conduct

The ossaa baseball rules include comprehensive regulations governing gameplay, sportsmanship, and conduct to ensure orderly and respectful competition.

Gameplay Regulations

OSSAA follows standard baseball rules with some high school-specific adaptations. These include pitching restrictions to protect young arms, base stealing rules, and balk enforcement. The rules clarify procedures for calls such as strikes, balls, outs, and scoring.

Sportsmanship and Conduct

Players, coaches, and spectators are expected to maintain high standards of sportsmanship. The OSSAA has a strict code of conduct that prohibits unsportsmanlike behavior, including taunting, fighting, and verbal abuse. Penalties for violations range from warnings to ejections and suspensions.

Disciplinary Actions

OSSAA baseball rules provide clear guidelines for disciplinary measures in case of misconduct. Officials have the authority to enforce penalties during games, and the OSSAA may impose further sanctions after review. Maintaining discipline is critical to the integrity of the sport.

Officiating and Enforcement

Effective officiating is essential to the fair application of OSSAA baseball rules. OSSAA provides training and certification for umpires to ensure consistent and knowledgeable game management.

Umpire Responsibilities

Umpires enforce all OSSAA baseball rules, including judgment calls on plays, rule interpretations, and game management. Their role includes maintaining the pace of the game, handling disputes, and ensuring safety protocols are followed.

Training and Certification

The OSSAA requires umpires to undergo regular training programs and certification exams. This process ensures that officials are current with rule changes and best practices. Certified umpires are assigned to games based on experience and game level.

Appeals and Protests

While umpires' judgment calls are generally final, OSSAA baseball rules allow for formal protests on matters of rule interpretation or eligibility. Procedures for filing protests are clearly defined, and OSSAA reviews such cases to make binding decisions. This system reinforces accountability in officiating.

- Seven innings per game with provisions for extra innings and mercy rules

- Strict academic and age eligibility requirements for players
- Use of approved bats, balls, and protective equipment for safety
- Emphasis on sportsmanship and disciplinary enforcement
- Certified umpires with authority to enforce rules and manage games

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the maximum number of innings in an OSSAA baseball game?

An OSSAA baseball game consists of seven innings.

How many players are on the field for each team in OSSAA baseball?

Each team fields nine players during an OSSAA baseball game.

What is the pitch count limit for pitchers in OSSAA baseball?

The OSSAA enforces pitch count limits based on age divisions to protect pitchers' arms, typically ranging from 85 to 105 pitches per game; exact limits vary by grade level.

Are metal bats allowed in OSSAA high school baseball games?

Yes, OSSAA baseball allows the use of metal bats that meet specified BBCOR standards.

What happens if a game is tied after seven innings in OSSAA baseball?

If a game is tied after seven innings, OSSAA rules generally allow for extra innings to determine a winner, following standard baseball extra inning procedures.

How is a run scored according to OSSAA baseball rules?

A run is scored when a player legally rounds all the bases and touches home plate before the third out is made in an inning.

What are the OSSAA rules regarding player substitutions during a game?

Players may be substituted at any time, but once removed, a player cannot re-enter the same game, except

for a designated hitter or as specified by OSSAA rules.

Does OSSAA baseball use a mercy rule? If so, what is it?

Yes, OSSAA uses a mercy rule where a game may be ended early if a team is ahead by 10 or more runs after five innings.

What is the strike zone definition in OSSAA baseball?

The strike zone in OSSAA baseball matches standard baseball rules: the area over home plate between the midpoint of the batter's shoulders and knees when in their natural stance.

Are there any specific OSSAA rules about base stealing?

Base stealing is allowed in OSSAA baseball games following standard baseball rules, with runners permitted to steal any base once the pitch is released.

Additional Resources

1. OSSAA Baseball Rules Explained: A Comprehensive Guide

This book offers a detailed breakdown of the OSSAA baseball rules, making it accessible for coaches, players, and officials. It covers everything from game play regulations to equipment standards. The guide is designed to clarify common rule misunderstandings and provide practical examples for real-game scenarios.

2. Mastering OSSAA Baseball: Rules and Strategies

Focused on both the rules and tactical aspects of OSSAA baseball, this book helps readers understand how to apply regulations strategically. It includes case studies and situational analyses that illustrate how rules impact game decisions. Coaches and players will find it useful for improving game management.

3. The Official OSSAA Baseball Rulebook Annotated

An annotated version of the official OSSAA baseball rulebook, this edition provides explanations and interpretations alongside each rule. It is intended for umpires, coaches, and serious players seeking a deeper understanding of the rulebook. The annotations help clarify ambiguous rules and provide historical context.

4. Coaching OSSAA Baseball: Rules and Best Practices

This book combines OSSAA baseball rules with coaching methodologies to enhance team performance and compliance. It emphasizes how to teach rules effectively to players and how to prepare for rule enforcement during games. The text is supplemented with drills and practice plans aligned with OSSAA regulations.

5. OSSAA Baseball Umpiring: Rules and Mechanics

Designed specifically for umpires, this book covers the OSSAA baseball rules along with umpiring

positioning and mechanics. It provides guidance on making accurate calls and handling disputes on the field. The book includes tips on maintaining professionalism and consistency during OSSAA-sanctioned games.

6. Understanding OSSAA Baseball Regulations for High School Players

A player-friendly guide to the OSSAA baseball rules, this book explains the regulations in simple language. It aims to help high school athletes grasp the rules to enhance their gameplay and sportsmanship. The book also includes quizzes and scenarios to test readers' knowledge.

7. OSSAA Baseball Rules Updates and Interpretations

This book focuses on recent changes and interpretations to the OSSAA baseball rules, keeping readers up-to-date. It discusses the rationale behind rule modifications and how they affect gameplay. Coaches, officials, and players will benefit from understanding these updates before the season starts.

8. Baseball Safety and OSSAA Rules Compliance

Highlighting the importance of safety, this book integrates OSSAA baseball rules with best safety practices on the field. It covers equipment standards, injury prevention, and emergency protocols. The text is essential for coaches and athletic trainers aiming to create a safe playing environment.

9. Teaching OSSAA Baseball Rules to Youth Players

This guide is tailored for youth coaches and parents who want to introduce young players to OSSAA baseball rules. It breaks down complex rules into easy-to-understand concepts and includes fun activities to reinforce learning. The book encourages fair play and respect for the game from an early age.

Ossaa Baseball Rules

OSSAA Baseball Rules: A Comprehensive Guide for Players, Coaches, and Umpires

This ebook provides a thorough understanding of the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA) baseball rules, crucial for ensuring fair play, consistent officiating, and a positive experience for all involved in high school baseball within Oklahoma. Understanding these rules is vital for players, coaches, umpires, and even spectators seeking a deeper appreciation of the game at this level.

Ebook Title: Mastering OSSAA Baseball Rules: A Player's, Coach's, and Umpire's Guide

Outline:

Introduction: The Significance of OSSAA Baseball Rules and Their Impact on Gameplay

Chapter 1: Gameplay Mechanics: Key Rules Governing the Flow of the Game (e.g., innings, outs,

base running)

Chapter 2: Batting and Bunting: Specific Regulations Regarding Batting, Bunting, and Batting Order

Chapter 3: Pitching and Fielding: Rules Pertaining to Pitching (including pitch counts), Fielding, and Defensive Plays

Chapter 4: Base Running and Stealing: Comprehensive Rules on Base Running, Stealing Bases, and Interference

Chapter 5: Officiating and Disputes: The Role of Umpires, Handling Disputes, and Protest Procedures

Chapter 6: Equipment and Uniforms: Regulations on Approved Equipment and Uniforms for Players and Coaches

Chapter 7: Sportsmanship and Conduct: OSSAA's Expectations for Ethical Conduct and Fair Play

Chapter 8: Recent Rule Changes and Interpretations: Updates to the Rulebook and Clarifications on Commonly Misunderstood Rules

Conclusion: Recap of Key Rules and Resources for Further Learning

Detailed Explanation of Outline Points:

Introduction: This section establishes the importance of understanding OSSAA baseball rules, highlighting their role in ensuring fair play, consistency, and a positive sporting environment within Oklahoma high school baseball. It sets the stage for the detailed explanations to follow.

Chapter 1: Gameplay Mechanics: This chapter dissects the fundamental rules governing the flow of the game, including the structure of an inning, methods of getting an out, base running fundamentals, and the sequence of play. It provides a basic framework for understanding the game's mechanics.

Chapter 2: Batting and Bunting: This section delves into specific rules related to batting, including legal bats, batting order regulations, the mechanics of bunting, and situations involving fair and foul balls. It addresses common scenarios encountered at the plate.

Chapter 3: Pitching and Fielding: Here, the rules concerning pitching, including pitch counts (crucial for player safety), legal pitches, fielding positions, and various defensive plays are explored. This chapter emphasizes the strategic aspects of pitching and fielding.

Chapter 4: Base Running and Stealing: This chapter offers a detailed examination of base running rules, including leading off, stealing bases, base path interference, and situations involving force outs and tags. It covers the nuances of aggressive base running.

Chapter 5: Officiating and Disputes: This section explains the role of umpires in enforcing the rules, the process for handling disputes on the field, and the procedure for submitting official protests if needed. It clarifies the authority of the officiating crew.

Chapter 6: Equipment and Uniforms: This chapter outlines the OSSAA's specifications for approved baseball equipment (bats, helmets, etc.) and player uniforms, ensuring consistency and safety across all games. It ensures players are complying with regulations.

Chapter 7: Sportsmanship and Conduct: This section stresses the importance of ethical conduct and good sportsmanship among players, coaches, and spectators. It details the consequences of violating OSSAA's code of conduct. This fosters a positive environment for the sport.

Chapter 8: Recent Rule Changes and Interpretations: This chapter provides an update on any recent changes to the OSSAA baseball rulebook, clarifying any ambiguities or commonly misunderstood aspects of the rules. It keeps the information current and relevant.

Conclusion: This section summarizes the key rules discussed throughout the ebook and provides helpful resources for continued learning and clarification on any remaining questions. It serves as a final reference point.

(Content of the ebook would follow here, expanding on each chapter outlined above. Due to the length restriction, the full content cannot be provided. Each chapter would need a minimum of 100-200 words of detailed explanation, referencing official OSSAA rulebooks and potentially including diagrams or illustrations.)

FAQs

1. What is the OSSAA pitch count rule? The OSSAA implements a pitch count limit to protect young pitchers from overuse injuries. Specific limits vary depending on age group and game duration. Refer to the current OSSAA rulebook for exact details.
2. What constitutes interference in OSSAA baseball? Interference occurs when a batter, runner, or fielder impedes the progress of the play in a manner that violates the rules. Specific examples include obstructing a fielder's attempt to make a play or a runner intentionally impeding the progress of a play.
3. How are protests handled under OSSAA rules? Protests must be submitted promptly and according to the specified OSSAA procedures, typically within a defined timeframe after the game. The protest must clearly detail the rule violation and be supported by evidence.
4. What are the consequences of violating OSSAA sportsmanship rules? Violations can range from warnings and ejections to suspensions for players and coaches, depending on the severity of the infraction. Repeated offenses can result in team penalties.
5. Where can I find the official OSSAA baseball rulebook? The most up-to-date version of the rulebook can typically be found on the official OSSAA website.
6. Are there specific rules regarding equipment approval in OSSAA baseball? Yes, OSSAA has specifications for approved bats, helmets, and other protective gear. Using non-approved equipment can lead to penalties.
7. What is the process for appealing an OSSAA ruling? Appeal procedures are outlined in the OSSAA rulebook and typically involve submitting a written appeal detailing the grounds for the appeal.
8. How are ties handled in OSSAA baseball games? Tie-breaking procedures may vary depending on the level of play and the stage of the tournament (regular season, playoffs). Consult the specific tournament rules for clarification.

9. What are the rules regarding the use of technology (e.g., replay) in OSSAA baseball games? Currently, OSSAA high school baseball games generally do not use replay technology for resolving disputed calls. However, this may evolve.

Related Articles:

1. Understanding OSSAA Baseball Eligibility Requirements: This article details the rules and regulations players must meet to participate in OSSAA-sanctioned games.
2. Navigating OSSAA Baseball Transfer Rules: A guide outlining the rules and procedures for transferring schools and maintaining eligibility.
3. OSSAA Baseball Tournament Procedures: An explanation of the tournament structure, seeding, and scheduling processes.
4. Coaching Strategies in OSSAA Baseball: This article explores effective coaching techniques within the framework of OSSAA regulations.
5. Common OSSAA Baseball Umpiring Challenges: This article helps umpires understand and overcome typical challenges encountered during OSSAA games.
6. Player Safety and Injury Prevention in OSSAA Baseball: This focuses on rules and practices designed to minimize risk of injuries.
7. The Impact of Pitch Counts on OSSAA Baseball Players: A discussion of the benefits and considerations surrounding pitch count regulations.
8. OSSAA Baseball and Concussion Management: An examination of the rules and protocols concerning concussion awareness and management in OSSAA baseball.
9. Developing a Winning OSSAA Baseball Program: This article offers strategies and advice for building a successful and competitive baseball program within the OSSAA framework.

ossaa baseball rules: Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: December 1, 2018 Government Publishing Office, 2019-02-08 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure December 1, 2018

ossaa baseball rules: Sports-Related Concussions in Youth National Research Council, Institute of Medicine, Board on Children, Youth, and Families, Committee on Sports-Related Concussions in Youth, 2014-02-04 In the past decade, few subjects at the intersection of medicine and sports have generated as much public interest as sports-related concussions - especially among youth. Despite growing awareness of sports-related concussions and campaigns to educate athletes, coaches, physicians, and parents of young athletes about concussion recognition and management, confusion and controversy persist in many areas. Currently, diagnosis is based primarily on the symptoms reported by the individual rather than on objective diagnostic markers, and there is little empirical evidence for the optimal degree and duration of physical rest needed to promote recovery or the best timing and approach for returning to full physical activity. Sports-Related Concussions in Youth: Improving the Science, Changing the Culture reviews the science of sports-related

concussions in youth from elementary school through young adulthood, as well as in military personnel and their dependents. This report recommends actions that can be taken by a range of audiences - including research funding agencies, legislatures, state and school superintendents and athletic directors, military organizations, and equipment manufacturers, as well as youth who participate in sports and their parents - to improve what is known about concussions and to reduce their occurrence. Sports-Related Concussions in Youth finds that while some studies provide useful information, much remains unknown about the extent of concussions in youth; how to diagnose, manage, and prevent concussions; and the short- and long-term consequences of concussions as well as repetitive head impacts that do not result in concussion symptoms. The culture of sports negatively influences athletes' self-reporting of concussion symptoms and their adherence to return-to-play guidance. Athletes, their teammates, and, in some cases, coaches and parents may not fully appreciate the health threats posed by concussions. Similarly, military recruits are immersed in a culture that includes devotion to duty and service before self, and the critical nature of concussions may often go unheeded. According to Sports-Related Concussions in Youth, if the youth sports community can adopt the belief that concussions are serious injuries and emphasize care for players with concussions until they are fully recovered, then the culture in which these athletes perform and compete will become much safer. Improving understanding of the extent, causes, effects, and prevention of sports-related concussions is vitally important for the health and well-being of youth athletes. The findings and recommendations in this report set a direction for research to reach this goal.

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ossaa baseball rules: Essentials of Amateur Sports Law Glenn M. Wong, 1994-07-30 In this thoroughly revised Second Edition, Glenn Wong updates and adds to his already highly successful First Edition. He addresses the significant changes that have come about in amateur sports law and administrative practice over the last several years. These changes impact amateur athletic associations; athletes' rights; administrative procedures; and the liability of sponsoring organizations. Issues of special topicality and importance, including women's sports, drug testing,

and the issues involved in the change of status to professional, are closely examined. Amateur sports have expanded rapidly, as have legal issues and ramifications concerning them. Wong's careful, detailed, and clear exposition and analysis both organizes and clarifies fundamental principles affecting athletes, associations, and management in the category of amateur sports. This is an indispensable text, resource and guide.

ossaa baseball rules: Bobby BlueJacket Michael P. Daley, 2018 'Bobby BlueJacket' illuminates a neglected history of American crime, identity, and politics in the 20th century. This is the extraordinary true story of a man who went from career thief and convicted killer to celebrated prison journalist-ultimately becoming a respected Eastern Shawnee activist and orator. 'Bobby BlueJacket' draws upon 5 years of interviews with the subject, long-buried law enforcement and trial records, prison archives, news accounts, and interviews with others such as photographer Larry Clark and veteran reporters of Tulsa's crime beat. More than just an underworld tale-'Bobby BlueJacket' is an in-depth exploration of one man's experience in a brutal post-war world.--

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can answer. The easy-to-browse Q&A format includes chapters on: Student Discipline; Student Activities; Health and Safety; Parent-School Connection; Curriculum and Instruction; Athletics; Supervision and Evaluation; Special Education; and Transportation. This handbook is unique because it contains questions that have been designed by practicing administrators who are actively involved in the daily work of school leadership. As a result, the questions in this handbook have come from a cross section of administrators, including principals, assistant principals, CSE chairpeople, and athletic directors. Our writers who developed the answers to the questions have extensive experience as school administrators and/or working with school districts through BOCES. School leaders are encouraged to review local policies, and when legal interpretations are involved, they are urged to work with the superintendent, school attorney, and professional association to obtain appropriate legal counsel. This is especially important relative to the principal and teacher evaluation (APPR) laws and regulations, which continue to evolve.

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ossaa baseball rules: *Writing* James A. W. Heffernan, James A. W. Heffernan, John E. Lincoln, 1994 *Writing: A College Workbook, Fourth Edition*, is a sure guide to writing effective sentences and managing punctuation, sentence mechanics, and spelling. It parallels and supplements Part 2, 'Writing Sentences, ' and Part 3, 'Punctuation and Mechanics, ' of *Writing: A College Handbook, Fourth Edition*. The Workbooks positive and supportive approach and its easily understood explanations and examples help build sentence power, while the exercises ensure that power is retained.

ossaa baseball rules: *The Art of Tough* Barbara Boxer, 2016-05-31 One goal of this memoir is to inspire people to fight for change. It takes what I call the Art of Tough and I've had to do it all my life. -- Senator Barbara Boxer Barbara Boxer has made her mark, combining compassionate advocacy with scrappiness in a political career spanning more than three decades. Now, retiring from the Senate, she continues the work to which she's dedicated 30 years in Congress. Her memoir, *The Art of Tough*, shares her provocative and touching recollections of service, and cements her commitment to the fight for women, families, quality, environmental protection, all in a peaceful world. Sometimes lauded, sometimes vilified, but always standing tough, Boxer has fought for what is right even when her personal convictions conflicted with her party or the majority rule.

ossaa baseball rules: *Female Gladiators* Sarah K. Fields, 2010-10-01 *Female Gladiators* is the first book to examine legal and social battles over the right of women to participate with men in contact sports. The impetus to begin legal proceedings was the 1972 enactment of Title IX, which prohibited discrimination in educational settings, but it was the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution and the equal rights amendments of state constitutions that ultimately opened doors. Despite court rulings, however, many in American society resisted—and continue to resist—allowing girls in dugouts and other spaces traditionally defined as male territories. Inspired, women and girls began to demand access to the contact sports which society had previously deemed too strenuous or violent for them to play. When the leagues continued to bar girls simply because they were not boys, the girls went to court. Sarah K. Fields's *Female Gladiators* is the only book to examine the legal and social battles over gender and contact sport that continue to rage today.

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Daniel H. Honemann, Thomas J. Balch, 2020-08-25 The only current authorized edition of the classic work on parliamentary procedure--now in a new updated edition Robert's Rules of Order is the recognized guide to smooth, orderly, and fairly conducted meetings. This 12th edition is the only current manual to have been maintained and updated since 1876 under the continuing program established by General Henry M. Robert himself. As indispensable now as the original edition was more than a century ago, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised is the acknowledged gold standard for meeting rules. New and enhanced features of this edition include: Section-based paragraph numbering to facilitate cross-references and e-book compatibility Expanded appendix of charts, tables, and lists Helpful summary explanations about postponing a motion, reconsidering a vote, making and enforcing points of order and appeals, and newly expanded procedures for filling blanks New provisions regarding debate on nominations, reopening nominations, and completing an election after its scheduled time Dozens more clarifications, additions, and refinements to improve the presentation of existing rules, incorporate new interpretations, and address common inquiries Coinciding with publication of the 12th edition, the authors of this manual have once again published an updated (3rd) edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief, a simple and concise introductory guide cross-referenced to it.

ossaa baseball rules: United States Code Annotated United States, 2003

ossaa baseball rules: Baseball Before We Knew It David Block, 2006-03-01 It may be America's game, but no one seems to know how or when baseball really started. Theories abound, myths proliferate, but reliable information has been in short supply?until now, when *Baseball before We Knew It* brings fresh new evidence of baseball's origins into play. David Block looks into the early history of the game and of the 150-year-old debate about its beginnings. He tackles one stubborn misconception after another, debunking the enduring belief that baseball descended from the English game of rounders and revealing a surprising new explanation for the most notorious myth of all?the Abner Doubleday?Cooperstown story. ø Block's book takes readers on an exhilarating journey through the centuries in search of clues to the evolution of our modern National Pastime. Among his startling discoveries is a set of long-forgotten baseball rules from the 1700s. Block evaluates the originality and historical significance of the Knickerbocker rules of 1845, revisits European studies on the ancestry of baseball which indicate that the game dates back hundreds, if not thousands of years, and assembles a detailed history of games and pastimes from the Middle Ages onward that contributed to baseball's development. In its thoroughness and reach, and its extensive descriptive bibliography of early baseball sources, this book is a unique and invaluable resource?a comprehensive, reliable, and readable account of baseball before it was America's game.

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