

NPYL Rookie Division Rules

Boys 7 & 8 years of Age

Revised January 2017

The governing rules of play will be officially recognized **Cal Ripken** baseball rules with the following exceptions and/or local rules adopted.

1. All players on the official team roster will assume a position on the field during the defensive half of the inning. The infield will consist of 6 players with all other players assuming defensive position on the outfield grass. All outfielders must be positioned as close as possible to the natural outfield positions (LF, LC, C, RC, RF) and must be stationed at relatively the same depth. No 7th infielder (Rover) will be permitted to be positioned at the edge of the dirt.
2. Failure of either or both teams to field and maintain (8) players throughout the game will constitute a “forfeit” for the violating team. In the event of injuries occurring during the game causing a team to have fewer than eight players, then the game may be rescheduled from the point it was stopped. Any attempt to abuse this rule will result in the suspension of the manager. The missing 9th player is an automatic out.
3. Offensive half of the inning will continue until three outs are made or five (5) runs are scored.
4. Games will end if a team is leading by eleven (11) or more runs after four (4) complete innings.
5. Ages- Players shall be 7 or 8 years old. Player age is based on the child’s age on **May 1st** of current year.
6. Base runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit. If the ball is not hit or if the batter strikes out, the base runner must return to the base. No Stealing in the Rookie League.
7. For the safety of the players, helmets must stay on until the batter reaches their dugout. If a player removes their helmet before reaching their dugout, a team warning will be given and the next infraction will be an out.
8. For the safety of players at the “pitchers helper” position, a mask, or helmets with face masks must be worn. Heart protection will also be worn at all times by pitchers helper position.
9. **No T-Ball bats are to be used in Rookie League.**
10. Infield fly rule and dropped third strike will not apply.
11. Lateral call-up players can only be used in 7 year olds. Call-up players will only play in the outfield, and shall be placed at the bottom of the batting order if a team has 8 or fewer players available. For Rookie 8 division, a 7 year old may be called-up or an 8 year old lateral player of

equal or lesser rating may be utilized in exigent circumstances where a call-up player would delay the start of the game. MANAGERS ABUSING THIS RULE MAY BE FORCED TO FOREIT THE GAME IN QUESTION AND OR BE SUSPENDED FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED GAME BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

12. Play shall stop once the defensive player with the ball stops the lead runner or no further play is being made. Umpires have authority to stop play, however coaches should recognize this as well. **For the integrity of the game and instruction of the kids, excessive running will not be permitted. Our intent is to promote proper fundamentals and techniques of the game, base running included, not to take advantage of 7 and 8 year olds who are learning the game. Remember there is a difference in aggressive and excessive.
13. Pitchers may be warmed-up by a manager, coach or player. Players warming the pitcher must wear a facemask. A maximum six (6) pitches shall be allowed prior to any inning.
14. When a player is pitching:
 - a. No base on balls will be awarded. When a four-ball count is reached prior to the batter striking out or hitting a fair-batted ball, the ball and strike count will revert to zero. A member of the offensive coaching staff will replace the pitcher. The batter will be pitched four (4) pitches to achieve a fair-batted ball. Failure to achieve a fair batted ball in four pitches will constitute an out unless the 4th pitch is fouled, then another pitch will be thrown until it is hit fair or the batter strikes out. While the offensive coaching staff is pitching, only pitches that are swung on by the batter will be counted as strikes. Three strikes and the batter is out.
 - b. A player will field the pitching position and bat his turn. He must position himself within five (5) feet of the rubber, but not in front of the rubber. If the adult pitcher intentionally interferes with a batted ball, the batter is out and the ball is dead and no runners can advance. If the adult interferes with a thrown ball, no runs will count that have scored during the play- the ball is dead and the runner nearest home plate shall be declared out. If the ball accidentally hits the adult pitcher and there is an attempt to get out of the way, the ball is still in play. They're part of the playing field just like an umpire.
 - c. A pitcher will be replaced if 2 batters are hit in the same inning.
 - d. WHEN THE COACH IS PITCHING TO HIS TEAM IN A NON-PLAYER PITCH INNING, THE BATTER SHALL RECEIVE FIVE (5) PITCHES TO ACHIEVE A FAIR-BATTED BALL, unless the batter swings and misses at three pitches prior to the five pitch count. Failure to achieve a fair-batted ball will result in an out unless the fifth pitch or subsequent needed pitches are fouled, then another pitch will be thrown until the batter hits the pitch fair or strikes out. A poorly pitched ball that is not swung at will count as a strike in this situation.
15. Pitchers assignments will be (**7 year olds**):
 - a. The entire season, players will pitch the first inning only.

- b. A player removed as a pitcher shall NOT be allowed to return to that position during the same game.

16. Pitchers assignments will be **(8 year olds)**:

- a. The entire season, players will pitch the first two (2) innings only.
- b. A player is allowed to pitch a maximum of one inning per game.
- c. One or more pitches thrown during an inning shall constitute a full inning pitched.
- d. A player removed as a pitcher shall NOT be allowed to return to that position during the same game.

17. During the tournament, it will be played coach pitch only. No player pitching.

18. No bunting or stealing will be permitted in Rookie League.

19. The distance from home plate to pitching rubber will be forty (40) feet.

20. Two defensive coaches may be stationed in the outfield and must remain in the outfield during a live ball. Base coaches and defensive coaches are not permitted to contact any players during a live ball.

21. All weekday games will have a scheduled starting time of 6:00 pm with a grace period of 10 minutes for any team-related delay. For delays not attributable to either team, the appropriate action to be taken will be determined by the league director or his assistant. All games under the lights will have a scheduled starting time of 8:00pm. No game will start after 9:00pm.

22. All Saturday games will be played as stated above except for the scheduled starting time. The starting time will be scheduled by the Scheduling Manager for any games not scheduled prior to the start of the season.

23. Duration of games will be:

- a. Completion of regulation game.
- b. Termination of game by the umpire.

24. No inning may begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the start of the game. The inning begins when the last out of the previous inning.

25. The umpire will give the starting time of the game after the first pitch is made.

26. If still tied at the end of the 6th inning, game will be scored as a tie. When time permits, an additional inning(s) can be played until time expires. There will be no ties during tournament play or play-off games. No inning will start after 8:00 pm during the school year and after 10:00 PM after school is out during the week.

27. One base on an overthrow to first base for all runners at the runner's risk. Base runners may NOT advance beyond the maximum 2 bases even if additional defensive plays are attempted. (Ex- Runner is on First when ball is hit. After the overthrow occurs, the base runner cannot advance beyond third and the batter could not advance beyond second for any reason!) The play ends as usual when the defensive infielder stops the advance of the lead runner. Hash marks are called as usual. Once the play ends the umpire will make sure that each offensive player advanced a no more than the maximum of 2 bases. INTENT: To develop defensive throws to first base. There is no overthrow limit on throws to second, third, or home.
28. With 2 outs, the offensive team may substitute run for the next defensive inning's catcher on base with offensive player who made the last out.
29. Each player will play a minimum of 1 inning in the infield, and 1 inning in the outfield, by the end of the 4th inning. During the tournament this rule will NOT apply.
30. Cal Ripken bat rules: The bat may not exceed 33" in length, and the bat barrel may not exceed 2¼" in diameter. Only 2¼" barrel non-wood bats marked BPF 1.15 will be allowed. Wood 2 ¼" barrel bats are allowed.

Rookie League Player Lateral Call System (7 year olds)

Replacements for absent members may be obtained only through the following procedure: (Note: there will be no call-up from the instructional league)

1. A list of all players from each Rookie League team will be given to the boys League Director. This list will contain the age and rank (A thru D) of each player and will be used by the boys league Player Agent to determine an appropriate lateral substitute player.
2. No player may be used more than once until all other players in the same age/rank category have been offered an opportunity to play. The Division Director will keep the "lateral call up" assignment listing. The opposing coach and Division Director will be notified of call ups. If the Division Director is involved in the game then the Baseball or League Director will handle.
3. A team can only request a lateral player if they have fewer than nine (9) players. Managers may call up to a maximum of nine (9) players.
4. A manager found to be abusing this system for competitive advantage MAY BE FORCED TO FORFEIT THE GAME IN QUESTION AND OR BE SUSPENDED FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED GAME AT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' DISCRETION.
5. All call up players can ONLY play the outfield
6. All call-up players will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.

7. Only players signed-up for NPYL will be allowed to sub in a game.

Rookie League Player Call-Up System (8 year olds)

Replacements for absent members may be obtained only through the following procedure:

1. A listing of players for the boys League Director from names will compile "call up" submitted to him by each team manager in Rookie-7.
2. Rookie 7 Managers will submit the names of three (3) top players on their team to the League Director for: "call-up" to the Rookie-8 League.
3. USE A LATERAL CALL-UP FROM ANOTHER ROOKIE 8 TEAM OF EQUAL OR LESSER RATING WHEN EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES ARISE THAT WOULD DELAY THE START OF THE GAME.
4. No player may be called up more than once until all other players in the call up system have been contacted to have the opportunity to play. The Division Director shall keep the "call up" assignment listing and players already used listed on the bulletin board. The opposing coach and Division Director will be notified of call ups. If the Division Director is involved in the game then the Baseball or League Director will handle.
5. A team can only request a lateral player if they have fewer than nine (9) players. Managers may call up to a maximum of nine (9) players.
6. The opposing manager has the option of correcting a "call up" violation. The opposing manager can correct the violation at any point while the violation is in process. Any runs/outs that were made before the violation was corrected will stand. Once the correction is made the game will resume as normal. There is no protest that can be filed after the conclusion of the game. If they do not correct the violation then the outcome of the game will stand. No protest will be allowed.
7. All call up players can ONLY play the outfield.
8. All call up players will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
9. Only players signed-up for NPYL will be allowed to sub in a game.

Failure to follow the above rules will result in a warning, forfeit, or suspension of Manager, as the board decides.