**NPYL Rookie Division Rules**

**Boys 7 & 8 years of Age**

**Revised January 2021**

The governing rules of play will be officially recognized **Cal Ripken baseball rules** (available to purchase online). Below are highlighted rules and exceptions to the official rules. This document supersedes the rule book when the 2 are in conflict.

**Game Preliminaries**

1. 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. The pledge will be 5 minutes before each game. No formal infield practice will occur before any game. For delays not attributable to either team, the appropriate action to be taken will be determined by the league director. His assistant or the officer of the day will determine action if it is not possible to contact league director. All games under the lights will have a scheduled starting time of 8:00pm.
2. No games will start after 9:00pm.
3. All Saturday games will start at scheduled time with no grace period.
4. Offensive half of the inning will continue until three (3) outs are made or five (5) runs are scored, including last inning.
5. No inning may begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the start of the game. The inning begins with the last out (or 5th run scoring) of the previous inning. If the home team is batting and winning when time expires, the game ends immediately. Otherwise, an inning started will be completed. Umpire will give start time when game begins.
6. If still tied at the end of the 6th inning (or time limit), game will be scored as a tie. When time permits, additional inning(s) will be played. There will be no ties during tournament play. No inning will start after 8:00 pm during the school year and after 10:00 PM on weekdays when school is out.
7. Games will end if a team is leading by ten (10) or more runs after four (4) or more complete innings. Games will also end when one team cannot mathematically come back given the run limit (5) per inning. Examples:
	1. A team is up by 6 runs after the 5th inning
	2. The home team is up by 6 runs when time expires (even if visiting team is batting)
8. Home teams prepare the field for play, such as lining the diamonds. Home team will also be responsible for the official scorebook. Home team will be in the third base dugout. The visiting team is responsible for raking the field after play.
9. The distance from home plate to pitching rubber will be forty (40) feet.
10. Two defensive coaches may be stationed in the outfield and must remain in the outfield during a live ball. Failure to stay in outfield could result in umpire removing coach from the field to the dugout. Base coaches and defensive coaches are not permitted to contact any players during a live ball.

**Participation Rules**

1. Ages- Players shall be 7 or 8 years old. Player age is based on the child’s age on **May 1st** of current year unless exception approved by league.
2. All players on the official team roster will assume a position in the batting order and bat the entire game
3. 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. **Catcher does not apply to this rule**. During the tournament this rule will NOT apply
4. 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.
5. Failure of either or both teams to field and maintain (8) players throughout the game will constitute a “forfeit” for the violating team. If injuries occur during the game which causes a team to have fewer than eight players, the game shall 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. Players who arrive late must be inserted at bottom of lineup.
6. If a player leaves the game due to injury, his spot in the lineup will be skipped without penalty (assuming team still has 9 or more players). The injured player can return later in the game assuming his spot in the lineup. If a player leaves due to an ejection, that spot in the lineup will be considered an out when passed.
7. Pitchers assignments will be (**7 year olds**):
	1. The entire season, players will pitch the first inning only.
	2. A player removed as a pitcher shall NOT be allowed to return to that position during the same game.
8. Pitchers assignments will be (**8 year olds**):
	1. The entire season, players will pitch the first two (2) innings only.
	2. A player is allowed to pitch a maximum of one inning per game.
	3. **Three outs or five runs allowed** during an inning shall constitute a full inning pitched.
	4. A player removed as a pitcher shall NOT be allowed to return to that position during the same game.
9. During the tournament, it will be played coach pitch only. No player pitching.
10. A pitcher will be required to be replaced if he hits two (2) batters. He cannot return to pitching in the same game.

**On-Field Rules**

1. Runners are not allowed to lead off, steal or advance on passed balls/wild pitches. Rules covering base runner obligations in terms of leading off are listed on page 12 under “Special Base Running Rules” A summary is as follows:
	1. Runners cannot leave their base until the ball reaches the plate
	2. If a runner leaves early and the batter hits the ball in the infield, no run will score. If the batter reaches, then all runners can only advance one base. If the bases were loaded, the runner on third leaves the base WITH NO RUN SCORED. If the runner who left early is put out on the play, the out stands
	3. If the runner leaves early and the batter hits the ball to the OF. After play is over, the umpire will place the runner(s) back on their original base if possible. If that base is occupied they will move to the next base. Any outs on the play stand
	4. In all circumstances, when a runner leaves early, the ball remains alive until all action stops.
	5. In all circumstances, the runner is not out merely for leaving the base early
	6. Courtesy runners will be allowed with 2 outs for the pitcher and catcher. For purposes of this rule, the pitcher and catcher are the players who played in the last defensive inning at that position (or in the 1st inning, the starter). The last batted out will be the replacement
	7. In order to maintain speed of the game coach should be placed along the fence to grab past balls and throw back to the pitcher.
2. The batter will not be permitted to advance on an uncaught third strike
3. No bunting or fake bunting – batter will be out, ball will be dead, no runners can advance
4. No infield fly rule
5. For player safety, no head first slides unless returning to a base. A team warning will be issued on first offense with the runner immediately called out on subsequent violations. The play will continue so the defense has the opportunity to record more outs
6. For the safety of players at the “pitchers helper” position (when coach is pitching), a mask, or helmets with face masks must be worn along with heart protection. Heart protection must also be worn by the player when pitching.
7. Play will stop when an infielder has the ball in the infield, is making no other play, and is facing the lead runner AND/OR the lead runner has stopped running. At that point, time will be called and no further advancement will be made on the bases. If a runner has stopped or not made a reasonable distance towards his next base (1/4 or less), he will be forced to return to the last occupied base. This is umpire judgement not subject to protest or argument. Umpires will be trained to aggressively call time to limit unwanted advancement. Example plays:
	1. Runner on 2nd base and a ground ball hit to SS. As the SS throws to first, the runner is rounding 3rd and heading home. The 1B catches the ball and looks for the base. By the time he makes the out, the runner is half way home. THE RUN STANDS. EVEN THOUGH BALL NEVER LEFT INFIELD, THE FIELDER NEVER STOPPED THE RUNNER.
	2. Runner on 1st as the batter hits the ball to the OF. OF throws the ball to the SS who runs ball into infield. Runner had stopped at 3rd and now heads home when SS throws ball to pitcher. RUNNER WILL RETURN TO 3RD. SS HAD BALL IN INFIELD AND RUNNER HAD STOPPED.
	3. Runners on 1st and 3rd and ball hit to SS. He throws to the **Catcher** attempting to get runner and the ball goes to backstop. Catcher cannot find the ball and runner from 1st makes it all the way to 3rd. RUNNER STAYS. RUNNER WOULD ONLY STOP IF C SECURED BALL AND RETUNRED BACK TO THE INFIELD BEFORE RUNNER STARTED FOR THIRD.
8. When an infielder overthrows first base on an attempt to retire a BATTER and the ball stays in play, all baserunners (including batter) are permitted ONLY ONE ADDITIONAL base at their own risk. This is designed to limit “Little League Home Runs”. Any balls thrown out of play will be governed by the appropriate rule.
9. The following table covers the various pitching scenarios:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Situation | Player Pitching | Coach Pitching |
| Number of Pitches | N/A | 5 – Extra pitches for foul balls on final pitch |
| Swinging Strike | Counts as a strike | Counts as a strike |
| Ball Thrown | Add ball to count | Counts against 5 pitch limit |
| Ball 4 | Coach comes into pitch. Batter starts with a new count. | N/A |
| Hit Batter | Coach comes into pitch. Batter starts with a new count. | N/A |
| Third strike | Batter is out | Batter is out |
| Does not swing at coaches 5th pitch | N/A | Batter is out |
| Catcher’s Interference | Batter gets 1st | Batter gets 1st |
| Foul Ball | Strike – unless 3rd strike | Strike – unless 3rd strike or final pitch. Batter who fouls off 5th (and subsequent) pitch(es) remains at bat |

1. When a coach is pitching:
	1. 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.
	2. If the coach unintentionally touches a batted ball, the ball remains alive and in play. They are part of the field.
	3. If a coach intentionally interferes with a batted ball, the umpire will determine whatever resolution they feel resolves the interference up to and including calling outs. The ball is dead immediately.
	4. If the coach accidentally catches a hard, line drive, the batter will remain at bat with no extra pitch added to his count. This is a do-over.
	5. If the coach touches a thrown ball (either unintentionally or intentionally), the ball is dead. The runner being played on is out. If the runner being played on is not obvious, then the runner closest to home is out.
	6. Pitch from a legal pitching position.
		1. Penalty – 1st offense warning. 2nd offense dead ball, Pitcher must be replaced, Pitcher will be prohibited to return for the game.
2. T-ball bats are not permitted. They will be replaced when noticed with no additional penalty.
The bat may not exceed 33"in length, and the bat barrel may not exceed 2 5/8 " in diameter. The bat must be marked with the “USA Baseball” logo. Solid one-piece wood barrel bats up to 2 5/8" do not require the USA baseball logo stamp.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Material | Barrel Size | USA Stamp | BPF 1.15 | Status |
| Wood |  Up to 2 5/8 | No | No | Legal |
| Wood  | 2 ¾ | No | No | Illegal |
| Metal | 2 ¾ | Yes | No  | Illegal |
| Metal | 2 ¾ | No | Yes | Illegal |
| Metal | Up to 2 5/8 | Yes | No  | Legal |
| Metal | Up to 2 5/8 | No | Yes | Illegal |
| Metal | Up to 2 5/8 | No | No | Illegal |
| Metal |  Up to 2 ¼ | No | Yes | Illegal |
| Metal  | Up to 2 ¼ | No | No | Illegal |

1. Protested games:
	1. Judgment calls by the umpire(s) cannot be protested.
	2. If, in the opinion of the team manager, a rule has been interpreted incorrectly, he must inform the umpire that the game will continue under protest. This notification of intent to protest must be made and recorded in the official score book (HOME TEAM) prior to delivery of the “pitch”, following the said infraction. The official email protest must be delivered to the League and Baseball Directors not more than 24 hours after the game being protested. The specific rule must be stated in the protest. Board decisions on protests are final.

**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 players called up must play a minimum of two complete innings.
7. All call-up players will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
8. Only players signed-up for NPYL will be allowed to sub in a game.
9. In the event four or more players must be called up to fill in for one team, the board will review and make final decision.

**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 will be eligible for call-ups when the number of players is 8 or fewer. The team may be brought up to a maximum of 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 players called up must play a minimum of two complete innings.
9. All call up players will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
10. Only players signed-up for NPYL will be allowed to sub in a game.
11. In the event four or more players must be called up to fill in for one team, the board will review and make final decision.

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