



NORTHWEST BASEBALL ROOKIE LEAGUE RULES

Please remember why we are out here. We are out here for the benefit of our kids. We, as coaches, are responsible to teach fundamental baseball, good sportsmanship and the joy of competing.

RULES TO FOLLOW

- Local Northwest Bakersfield Baseball rules apply first. If not listed below then Cal Ripken Division Rules and Regulations apply followed by the current Official Baseball Rules as published by the National Baseball Congress.

PRE-GAME MEETING

- Each team's manager will meet with the umpire(s) at home plate for game preliminaries, including any field specific rules in play for that game.
- Managers must provide a copy of their lineup to the opposing team at this time if not already provided.
- Umpire to give home team the pitch log sheet.
- Umpire to give to both teams the official start time.

GAME TIME

- Games are 6 innings or 1 hour and 30 minutes (both coaches must confirm start time)
- Games shall have a time limit of 1 hour and 30 minutes. No game shall last longer than this duration.
- No new inning after 1 hour and 30 minutes. Coaches should get together before each game and make sure that the start time is agreed upon. Both coaches may agree to end the game prior to the time limit due to extenuating circumstances, such as exceptionally adverse weather conditions or a severe player injury.
- Intentionally delaying games can/may lead to the loss of points in standings. If a team is not willing to start a game by five minutes after the scheduled start time, the game will be played to the nearest full inning within the remaining time limit. The team who intentionally delayed the game may incur a loss of points in the standings such as the league rep or league board member ("responsible league officials") shall determine.
- Please have your team run on and off the field.
- End of game: the game shall be officially over and no further scoring will be recorded or posted at the earlier of the following:
 - The game has completed 6 full innings (or 5.5 innings in the case where the home team is ahead).

- The home team is or has gone ahead in the bottom of the last inning – the last inning being either the 6th inning or the last inning allowed due to the time limitation.
- The point in the game after which the trailing team has had at least 4 at bats and no longer has the possibility due to the run limitation of catching the leading team (at the option of both teams play may still continue during non-tournament games up to, but not beyond, the time limit except in the case where the actual starting time of the game was 5 or more minutes later than the scheduled starting time; no further runs will be recorded or posted, however).
- The completion of the inning during which the time limit has been reached.
- If a game is called early due to weather or darkness (such as from daylight), the game will be considered official and completed after **3.5 innings** of play.

TEAM COMPOSITION AND PLAYING TIME

- Eight (8) minimum players are required to play a league game. If a team has 5 or less roster players available at game time, it's a forfeit. If both teams agree to start the game with 1 team having less than 6 knowing a player is on the way than that is allowed. If the player has not made it by his/her first at bat, then the game is stopped and declared a forfeit. If a team has 6 rostered players available, they can select 2 players from another A or lower team necessary to reach the minimum level of players, up to a team maximum of 8 players. Such substitute players will still be responsible for playing in their own league game and their team will take priority. Substitute player(s) must bat at the end of the batting order and play in the outfield.
- Everyone bats.
- An out will **not** be given if a player must leave the game because of injury or sickness and is not able to take his/her at bat. Once a player misses his/her at bat they may **not** return to the game.
- Forfeits of any kind will be recorded as 6-0.

HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- The home team is responsible for providing the official scorekeeper.
- Both team names and all other information must be completed and both coaches acknowledged.
- Home team is responsible for inputting the final score as promptly as possible.
- Home team is in 3rd base dugout.

BOTH TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- Coaches use the field drag to smooth the field prior to each game if possible.
- Both teams share the responsibility of setting up the field (water, paint, bases, etc). When applying paint be sure the location is wet. Damp soil will not take the paint and you will be wasting it.
- The teams playing the last game of the day on each field are responsible for placing equipment in the storage cages and placing the inserts into the base pegs. If it looks like rain could arrive please place tarps over the mound and plate. Tarps should be in the equipment storage.
- Please pick up left behind equipment and take to lost and found at the snack bar. Each team is responsible for cleaning up their dugout and bleacher areas, including trash.
- The away team is responsible for the scoreboard (if any) and if they want to.

COACH AND PLAYER CONDUCT

- Only 4 coaches – (1) head coach and (3) assistant coaches – may be on the field (including the dugout) during the course of the game, each of whom shall have fulfilled such requirements of the background screening and child safety act as the league may require.
- If a coach or player is ejected from a game, the coach or player must leave the Northwest Bakersfield Baseball facility. Should the coach or player choose not to leave, the league may call the game a forfeit in favor of the other team. A coach or player that is ejected from a game will not be allowed to coach or play until the NWBB Board has reviewed the situation and released the coach or player to return.
- If a coach or player is ejected for profanity or aggressive contact to another coach, player or umpire, there will be an automatic 1 game suspension (could be more). Coach or player cannot be in or near the dugout or on the field at the next game. League President must give the ok for coach or player to return.
- Each coach and assistant coach will wear appropriate attire including team caps or Northwest apparel (caps to be worn with the bill forward; no tank-tops)
- Anyone showing poor sportsmanship at any point before, during or after the game may be suspended and/or removed from the league.

A PLAYING RULES

- Everyone plays the whole game. No player shall spend any defense innings on the bench, unless they are injured, ill or simply unwilling to take the field. **Players are only allowed 2 innings per infield position.**
- **Each player must play at least 2 innings in the infield, and 2 innings in the outfield before the end of the 4th inning.** (Coaches may rotate players every inning, or every two innings, at their choosing.) If you're found to violate the rotation rule, you will have 3 points taken away from your season standings. **Please make sure you are making every attempt to be compliant with the rule as early as possible.**
- Defense must be set up, so the team only has a pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second baseman, third baseman and shortstop. Everyone else must be in the outfield and cannot be any closer than the edge of the outfield grass until a batter puts a ball into play. Outfielders may not come into the infield to tag out runners or make a force play. Pitchers may not position themselves between the front of the pitching machine and home plate until after the ball is pitched.
- No base runner may advance except on a ball batted into fair territory. A batter whose batted ball clearly lands on the outfield grass in fair territory may advance at his own risk as far as second base and any base runners may advance at their own risk for a maximum of two bases from the base they started from when the ball was put into play. Otherwise, no base runner may advance farther on a batted ball than the next base from where they started when the ball was put into play (for the batter this means 1st base) even when there are one or more fielding errors.
- Sliding – Runners must slide at home plate if a play is made on them. Running over or into the catcher is an automatic out.
- There will be a maximum of 3 runs allowed per team per inning with no catch-up rule.
- The 10-run mercy rule is in effect after 4.5 innings.
- No infield fly rule.
- Fielders must run on and off the field in between innings.
- Shoes with metal cleats or spikes are not permitted to be worn by any player, coach or manager.

PITCHING MACHINE

- A person from the batting team will act as pitching machine operator and as umpire-in-chief for that half inning. This person must be a head or assistant coach who is fingerprinted. There shall be no coaching from this person at the machine once the ball is dropped in the machine, as they are the umpire-in-chief. (The person at the machine may help the batters with their positioning in the batter's box, but should not coach the base runners.) The pitching machine operator will pitch **5 hittable pitches**. He will determine whether the pitch is hittable or not without outside help. No more than three strikes per batter (**all swings, whether the ball was hittable or not, shall constitute a strike except that foul balls shall not constitute a third strike or a 5th pitch**).
- The pitching machine will be set at **35-37 mph**, whatever speed is most hittable.
- No adjustments are to be made to the pitching machine until the top of each inning unless both coaches agree
- A ball is considered "dead" if a batted ball hits the pitching machine or the pitching machine operator, the batter will be awarded 1st base. Base runner(s) will only advance if forced.

BAT REQUIREMENTS

- Cal Ripken Bat Rule- All non-wood bats must have the USABat Marking. Barrel Maximum – 2 5/8". No BBCOR bats are permitted in the Cal Ripken Division. PENALTY: If the illegal bat is discovered prior to a batter completing his/her "at bat" the bat is simply removed from play and the "at bat" continues. For T-Ball Division, bats must be marked with the USABat T-Ball Stamp.
- Rookie players can use a T-Ball bat and it must be an approved bat as above states.
- Wood bats are allowed in all divisions with a barrel maximum of 2 5/8
- A player who uses an illegal bat or non-conforming barrel dimension and hits a fair ball will be ruled out. No advancement on the bases will be allowed, and any outs during the play shall stand. This is an appeal play. The "at bat" will be considered legal once a pitch is thrown to the next batter.
- Any bat discovered prior to the game that does not conform to the above rule shall be directed to be removed immediately and not be allowed for use during the game.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

- League Standings will be kept during the season to help determine the league champion (or in the case in which a league has been divided into National and American sub-leagues, the National and American sub- league champion for that league). 2 points will be awarded for a win; 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. The team with the most points at the end of the season will be the champion. In case of a tie in the point standings at season's end, the following tiebreaker rules will apply:
 1. The tiebreaker will first be determined by head to head competition in all games played against each other during the regular season. This tiebreaker only applies in a two-team tie or in multi-team ties when only one team owns the advantage in head to head competition against all other tied teams.
 2. In the event the teams still remain tied, the tiebreaker will be determined by the fewest cumulative runs allowed by a team versus all opponents during the regular season.
 3. In the event the teams still remain tied, the greatest cumulative runs scored by a team versus all opponents during the regular season will determine the tiebreaker.

4. In the unlikely event the teams still remain tied; the tiebreaker will be determined by a coin flip.
- After your final game please return equipment to the board/umpire's room. Be sure all checked out equipment is enclosed. We understand not all baseballs get returned.

BABE RUTH LEAGUE RULES - HIGHLIGHTS

(page 18 of the Babe Ruth Rulebook) – Chrome Batting Helmets are not permitted in Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Leagues and tournament play. (All Divisions)

(page 18) – Jewelry is prohibited. Medical alert and religious bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If these are worn, they must be taped to the body so as to remain invisible. Wireless communication devices are not allowed. (All Divisions)

(page 68) – Baserunning. When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's rubber and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball, base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and has reached home. Once the catcher has secured the ball and the runner has stopped his/her forward progress, the runner must immediately return to the base.

(page 20) – Alcohol/Tobacco. Babe Ruth League, Inc. prohibits the use of all alcohol and tobacco products on all fields and dugouts for both local league and tournament competition. These products include smokeless tobacco, e-cigarettes, vapors, and all alcohol related products. This rule applies to all field personnel, which includes managers, coaches and umpires. (All Divisions)

(page 19 & 64) – Contact Rule. If a runner attempting to reach home plate or a base intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player, he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. (All Divisions)

(page 27) – Intentional Walk Rule. **NOT ALLOWED IN ROOKIE**

GAME DAY FIELD STATUS

- Coaches should check the league web page (www.nwbaseball.org) for rainouts or other weather-related problems. The league will attempt to post weather cancellations 2 hours before game time.
- Please do not try to contact a board member. Status will be posted if there has been a change.

PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

We must all constantly support and encourage fair play, player safety and sportsmanship. Parents are required to follow the Northwest Bakersfield Baseball (NWBB) Code of Conduct.

- I will always be supportive of my child, their teammates and coaches.
- I will remember that every player on the team is a contributing player.
- I will spread my encouragement equitably amongst the team.
- I will allow all coaching during the games to be done by the coaches and not by parents, in the stands or behind the backstop.
- I will convey coaching suggestions and complaints privately to the coaches before or after games.
- I will never badger the other team or argue with their supporters.
- I will not question the umpires' judgment.

- I will demand a sport's environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all NWBB events. (Smoking is not allowed on fields or surrounding areas. Smoking is only permitted in the parking lot)
- I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from my child's sporting activities. Physical violence, taunting, or any action that may provoke physical violence, by anyone during a NWBB function, will be sufficient cause for the Board to exclude that person(s) from future participation or attendance at any NWBB game or activity.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and umpires at every game, practice, or other NWBB events.
- I will be responsible for the actions of my guests.
- I will stay out of the dugout.
- I will support the team and League by volunteering my services.
- Parents who violate these rules may be disciplined at the game (told to leave) and/or required to appear before the NWBB Board of Directors. Violations may result in a variety of consequences, including parental bans from games or other league activities. Managers are responsible for their players and for controlling their stands. Disruptive parents who do not follow coaches, umpires or Board Members instructions may cause the Manager to be suspended or the umpire may cancel the game.