



“12U” Baseball Rules

***Official as of March 2023**

Any rules not specifically covered by these below rules defers to Major League baseball rules and regulations. With respect to any incident, question or rules interpretation, the decision of the League commissioner, Association President, and/or tournament director shall be considered final.

The Game (Rule 1)

1-1. A regulation game shall consist of six (6) innings and begin promptly at the designated start time. Teams will be given a fifteen (15) minute grace period from the stated starting time. After fifteen minutes, the game is considered forfeited. Teams are encouraged only to request a change in the event of an emergency. Changes are not promised nor guaranteed. In the case of game cancellations, the home team managers must give the opposing manager three (3) dates which are available for both teams to play a make up game (these dates must be open for both teams). In the event of a rainout the home team will reschedule and notify the league via email as to the date and location of the makeup. All games should be rescheduled within one week of the original game date (does not need to be played within a week just rescheduled within a week).

1-2. If there is rain or a rain delay, you will be contacted by League Commissioner or appropriate representative as soon as possible. If there is a rain delay after the start of a game you may not take your team home until official notification from the League Commissioner or appropriate representative(s).

1-3. A new inning cannot start fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled start time of the next game. No inning shall start after 10:15 pm. Regulation games shall be six (6) innings. Official game – A game is official after 4 1/2 innings. If the game is tied after 4 1/2 innings and the game is stopped due to inclement weather, darkness, or time constraints, the game will finish as a tie. If a game is tied after 6 innings the game will remain a tie. It is the League Commissioner's decision to start the game and the umpire's decision to stop a game.

1-4. In the event of a tie score after six (6) complete innings, up to two (2) extra innings may be played if there is not a game following the game that is being played. No game shall extend past eight (8) complete innings. After eight (8) innings, if the score is still tied, the game will be ruled a tie. If there is a game following, the game will be ruled a tie.

1-5. Five (5) innings shall constitute a complete game in the event of inclement weather or darkness. In the event the umpire calls a **regular season game** after less than five (5) innings (four and a half (4 1/2) innings if the home team is winning), the game must be replayed from the start as a new game. In the event the umpire calls a **playoff game** after less than five (5) innings (four and a half (4 1/2) innings if the home team is winning), the game will resume from the point that the game left off in accordance with MLB playoff rules.

1-6. The infield fly rule shall apply.

1-7. The 10 Run Rule is in effect for all games. When a team is up by 10 or more runs and the team behind has batted through 4 1/2 innings the game is over, with the team 10 or more runs ahead considered the winner.

1-8. EXCESSIVE RUN RULE:

From time to time during 12U games the run total can become very lopsided in favor of one team. This situation does not benefit either team. It is the desire of the League in these situations to continue the game using the following modified rules:

If at any time the score is out of hand and the losing manager believes that he cannot reasonably compete, the losing manager may discuss with the other manager completing the rest of the game using a 5 run per inning limit.

The rule will speed up the game and encourage continuation of play so that extra repetitions can be gained by all players.

1-9. Caught third strike rule does NOT apply.

Base Running, Batting & Pitching (Rule 2)

2-1. Bunting is allowed. No swinging bunts. If the batter shows bunt, they must bunt or pull back.

2-2. Stealing will be permitted and includes stealing home plate. When a runner is stealing, they may not leave the base until a pitched ball is across the plate. One warning per team, the next offense will result in an out. The umpire must see it and make the call. If in the opinion of the umpire a runner leaves the base before the ball is batted, a "no play" will be ruled. A second infraction by said team would result in the runner being called out.

2-3. Base runners must be on the base and ready when the pitcher is on the rubber and ready to pitch. The runner has either 2 seconds to advance or return to base. Umpire will call time if no advancement is made within 2 seconds. The 2 second clock will begin as soon as the pitch crosses home plate and either the catcher catches the ball or drops it. No delayed steals will be permitted from the throw from the catcher back to the pitcher. If the pitcher drops the ball or if there is an overthrow back to the pitcher, the ball will be treated as a live ball and runners can advance at their own discretion.

Rosters & Players (Rule 3)

3-1. A team roster must be presented with the name, shirt number, date of birth and age before the first game, and may not be altered for any reason after the first game has begun.

3-2. All players must play within their own School District.

A player may petition the league to play outside their School District and must meet three criteria.

- 1.) The request must be in writing stating the reason why they are not playing within their School District.
- 2.) If the player resides in the Chartiers Valley; Keystone Oaks School; West Allegheny or Carnegie Districts the player must receive a release from the parent organization.
- 3.) All organizations must agree that the player can play for a different organization.

3-3. All call ups must come from the community needing a call up. (Example STAA can only call up STAA players.)

3-4. Rosters must be set before the first game of the season. No late sign-ups.

3-5. A maximum of fourteen (14) players may be named on the roster. In addition one (1) manager, three (3) coaches and one (1) scorekeeper will be permitted in or near the bench area. Only adult coaches (18 years or older) are permitted to coach bases.

3-6. All players are required to wear full uniforms, consisting of same color and type of hat, the same color and type of uniform shirt, the same color and type of baseball pants. All shirts must be tucked in. All shoes must be tied and no metal spikes are permitted.

3-7. The official playing age is that player's age as of August 31, 2023. All rostered players must be no more than 12 years old on this date. Birth certificates must be available upon request. If a certificate cannot be produced at time of request said team must produce the document before its next game. If a birth certificate (or photo copy) cannot be produced, the player in question will not be eligible for subsequent games, and the game in which the age of the player was challenged, shall be considered forfeited.

3-8. All players should remain in the bench area at all times during a game except when involved in play on the field. Only one (1) on-deck batter is permitted. No other player shall be permitted to swing/hold a bat. The umpire shall strictly enforce these restrictions.

3-9. A team must field nine (9) players but may not play with less than eight (8) fielders. If at any time this rule is not met, the game is over and the team with enough players to play, eight (8) or more wins. However the game will still be played as an exhibition, the team with not enough players will borrow the "last out (s)" from the other team to play right field.

3-10. With nine (9) players, three (3) players must be placed in the outfield at outfielders' depth. If fielding nine (9) players, three (3) players must be placed in the outfield at outfielders' depth. In all cases, the fielding team must field a pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second baseman, third baseman and shortstop in their normal baseball positions. Each player will field at least three (3) innings, unless an injury occurs.

3-11. There shall be a continuous batting order that includes all players present at the start of the game. This batting order cannot be changed or modified during the course of a game. There shall be unlimited free substitution during the game at all positions. Should a player be removed due to injury or illness, the manager shall notify the opposing manager. No out assessed if a child leaves the game due to sickness or injury. The opposing team's manager will be notified before the start of the game if a boy/girl will not be playing due to disciplinary or sickness reasons. A player may return to the game if removed for injury or illness. A manager is obligated to play a player if he comes late or when the game is in progress. That player will be placed at the end of the lineup.

3-12. Players cannot be switched from one defensive position to another during the course of the defensive half inning unless due to injury and the injured player must be removed from the field until the start of the next inning or due to a pitching change.

3-13 There will be no borrowing from another 12U team to fill a team. Call ups from 10U are permitted; the call up will be an outfielder, bat last in the batting order and must wear his roster uniform.

3-14 Call up rule for playoffs. A call up can only play one game during the playoffs.

When a team is utilizing a call up in any playoff game the call up can only play a maximum of 3 innings if the team utilizing the call up has 10 rostered players playing in said game. (ex. Playoff team is expecting to only have 9 rostered players attend the playoff game. The manager is using a call up to secure 10 players for the game. The manager's 10th rostered player shows up to the game giving him a total of 11 players, without the knowledge of the manager. In said example, the call up is permitted to play a maximum of 3 innings in the playoff game.)

Pitching (Rule 4)

4-1. Pitching regulations are in accordance with CV/KO Rules:

4-2. Any player on the team may pitch but no more than 3 innings. Pitching in other leagues during our season counts towards the pitchers eligibility (safety for the child's arm is paramount). Managers use your best judgment to prevent injury.

4-3. Before the end of the 4th inning an 11 year old or younger and/or combination of 11 year olds must pitch one complete inning to its finish. This player(s) must be 11 or younger on August 31, 2023. It is NOT the player's age on game day, it is the player's age on August 31, 2023.

4-4. A player may pitch in a maximum of six (6) innings in a calendar week (8 innings during playoffs). Sunday through Saturday. Delivery of a single pitch to a batter constitutes having pitched an inning. This rule is for pitching eligibility purposes only. A player once removed, as a pitcher may NOT pitch again in the same game. No restrictions on the number pitchers that can pitch in a game (Managers use your best judgment to prevent injury).

4-5. Only three (3) hit batters per pitcher, per game. Then on the third hit batter of the game the pitcher must be removed. If the same pitcher hits two (2) batters in the same inning, then that pitcher must be removed.

4-6. Only 1 trip to the mound by the coach, per pitcher. The second trip will be to pull the pitcher. Crossing the foul line is considered a "trip to the mound".

4-7. A pitcher is not permitted to wear a batting glove or wrist bands while pitching. A pitcher may not wear white sleeves under the uniform. A pitcher may only throw a fast ball, knuckle ball or change up, nothing else.

Equipment and field set up (Rule 5)

5-1. Effective January 1, 2018 all bats must be USABat certified and must have the USABat licensing stamp on the bat in order to be used in league play.

There is a zero tolerance on the use of illegal bats. The following will be the penalties for the use of an illegal bat:

- 1st offense - Game forfeited and official warning given to manager of said team. Player using bat is suspended that game, plus the next game.
- 2nd offense – Game forfeited and Manager ejected, Player using bat is suspended that game, plus the next 2 games.
- 3rd offense - Manager ejected and suspended next game and Player is suspended that game plus 3 additional games.

5-2. The bases are to be located at a distance of sixty (60) feet from the point of home plate to the center of first and third bases and from the foul lines to the center of second base. Pitching rubber will be 46 feet from home plate.

Safety (Rule 6)

6-1. All catchers must wear full protective gear including a protective cup. All batters, on-deck batters and base runners must wear protective helmets. It is strongly recommended that all players wear both athletic cup and mouth protection.

6-2. No metal cleats or street shoes are permitted to be worn during a game. Molded rubber cleats or sneakers are the only allowable shoes.

6-3. It is the responsibility of the defensive player to avoid contact with the base runner. Defensive players are not permitted to position themselves in the baseline except in the act of fielding a batted ball.

6-4. All base runners shall avoid intentional collisions and a runner who in the judgment of the umpire has caused an intentional collision shall be called out and the ball shall be called dead. Shoving or pushing will not be tolerated. The umpire will determine the consequences of such an act (a flagrant act will result in ejection). Obstruction shall be called on a defensive player who blocks off a base, base line or home plate from a base runner while not in possession of the ball, whether it was intentional or not. If a runner has to go around a player who does not have the ball, it is obstruction. One or more bases may be awarded to the runner by the umpire if the umpire believes he would have reached that base safely without the obstruction.

6-5. No runner advancing to a base shall slide headfirst. The first violation will result in a warning to the offending team. The base runner will be called out on the second occurrence by the same team.

6-6. No fake tags.

6-7. Managers and coaches are not permitted to smoke, vape, chew tobacco, consume alcoholic beverages or use profane language on the playing field.

General Conduct Policies (Rule 7)

7-1. Each community will host a mandatory Recreational Baseball awareness program that speaks directly to good sportsmanship, respect for players, coaches and umpires. Hold this during the coach's clinic and make it mandatory for parents who are interested in managing and/or coaching. If they don't attend, they don't manage/coach.

7-2. If a player throws a bat, batting helmet, glove or any other equipment, both he and his or her team will be issued a warning. Any subsequent incident by the same team in the same game will result in an out.

7-3. All umpiring decisions regarding judgment calls are final and cannot be appealed. Any decision regarding a rule violation or rule interpretation can be appealed to 2nd umpire, the League commissioner or appropriate representative before play is continued. No further appeals are possible. Umpires will call what he/she sees.

7-4. Only the manager will have a dialog with umpire, coaches and other volunteer help may not comment, or question the umpires calls (technical or not). Comments from the Manager will be conducted in a civil manner as the umpire can eject anyone (manager or coach) for misconduct or aggressive tone towards them.

7-5. At no time shall any player, manager, coach, umpire or fan harass any other player, coach, manager, umpire or fan. Both managers and umpires are responsible for the conduct of all players, coaches and fans. At any time, the umpire may ask a fan to leave the area for the good of the game. If said fan refuses to leave, then the umpire or manager will call the police for assistance.

7-6. Should a player be injured, play shall cease immediately. Runners shall be entitled to the base they are going to at the time of the injury.

7-7. Ground rules are to be reviewed between the umpire and two managers at the start of the game.

7-8. The home team is responsible for an umpire. The umpire should try to call the game behind the plate. If no umpire shows up for the game then a coach or parent from both teams should handle the umpiring. Do not cancel the game because of not having an umpire.

7-9. All communities agree to respect and abide by each other's internal disciplinary policies. If a manager, coach or parent is disciplined by a community, that sanction will be honored by all communities in the League. This will include issues resulting in up to a 1 year suspension or any other internal punitive actions that may occur:

Examples are as follows:

- a) Parent is disciplined for 3 games. The away community will support the sanction and it will not allow their attendance once notified,
- b) Manager or coach is suspended for a period of time. The individual cannot manage or coach in another community within the League once notified.

Record Reporting & Playoff seeding (Rule 8)

8-1. Winning team reports stats; date, location, teams, scores and pitchers to the email cvscores2019@gmail.com within 24 hours of the game. If the Manger Fails to report the score within the specified time the game will be recorded as a forfeit and the seeding for playoffs will be adjusted.

8-2. In the event of a rain out the home team will report the rain out on the email cvscores2019@gmail.com and fill out the information on the form and omit score and pitchers. The home team will enter "rainout" in the notes section.

8-3. In the event of a rainout home team will reschedule the notify the league via email within 72 Hours as to the date and location of the makeup.

8-4. For playoff seeding: Points will be awarded for games: 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss. The next tie breaker will be head to head. The third will be least amount of runs allowed in games. The first 16 recorded and completed games will count towards your total points. A team may schedule more games than 16 (that is at the manager and community discretion), but only the first 16 games will earn points.

8-5. Teams should schedule at least the league minimum amount of game as determined by the league at the beginning of the season (This number may vary based on the number of teams in the league.) All teams must play a minimum of 75% of the games to qualify for the playoffs. If you do not play the minimum amount of game your team will be excluded from participating in the league playoffs. If an extraordinary situation occurs and a team is short of the threshold of games, it will be at the CV/KO board discretion to permit that team into the playoffs.

Teams must schedule the league minimum amount of games. Teams will be penalized 1 point in the total standings for each game not scheduled.

Forfeit – Winning team gets 2 points and forfeiting team loses a point. (This also does not count as a game played for forfeiting team)

8-6. If your team cannot play for any reason in the playoffs; your team will be dropped from the playoffs and the next place team (based on the final regular season) will take your slot. Call-up rules will apply. Regular season rules will apply for the playoffs.