

# **VALLEY YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE**

## **RULES**

Revised 4/24/2019

### **Age groups are based on 8/1/2018**

National Federation Rule Book will be used with the following amendments or additions:

**Players participating in additional baseball leagues on recreational teams: Players will be evenly distributed on teams from each town (6 players sign up, town has three teams, teams get two players each).**

**8-12 year old players can play for another baseball league during the Valley Youth League season. All-Star Little League Players, Traveling Team Players, and Tournament Team Players cannot pitch in Valley Youth League games.**

**13-15 year old players can play for another baseball league, as long as they get three regular season games to be eligible for tournament.**

**Six things not to argue with umpires: fair and foul, balls and strikes, safe and out.**

1. Catcher's helmet and batting helmets are mandatory. Catcher's helmet must have a throat protector.
2. Home team furnishes two new balls per game.

3. Incomplete or rain games are called as follows:  
Ages 8 - 12: 3 ½ innings or one full hour is considered a complete game.  
Ages 13 - 15: 4 ½ innings is considered a complete game.

**Incomplete games will be rescheduled and started over.**

4. Umpires to report to scorekeepers official start time to be recorded in scorebook. No full inning will start after time limit unless there is a tie. If there is a tie, and time limit has expired, speed up rule goes into effect.

5. Completed games consist of the following: Time limits do not apply for Tournament Championship games.

8 - 10 yrs.: 5 innings, 1 ½ hour time limit.

The 6 or 3 rule will apply, 10 run mercy rule in effect after 4<sup>th</sup> inning.

11 -12 yrs.: 6 innings, 1 ¾ hour time limit.

The 10 or 3 rule will apply, 15 runs after 4<sup>th</sup> inning, 10 runs after 5<sup>th</sup> inning

13 - 15 yrs.: 7 innings, 2 hour time limit, 15 runs after 4<sup>th</sup> inning, 10 runs after 5<sup>th</sup> inning.

For all age groups, a new inning must be started if there is time remaining.

**Pre-game coaches meeting with umpire, establish when last inning time shall be called. Field schedule may determine game times or duration.**

**6. Field dimensions:**

Age	Pitching	Bases
8 - 10 yrs.	40 feet	60 ft.
11 - 12 yrs.	50 ft.	70 ft.
13 - 18 yrs.	60' 6"	90 ft.

**7. Pitching limitations:**

8 - 12 yrs. must have 2 days rest between pitching assignments, if player pitches 4 or more innings. 9 total innings allowed per calendar week, Monday – Saturday.

13 - 15 yrs. must have 2 days rest between pitching assignments, if player pitches 4 or more innings. 10 total innings allowed per calendar week, Monday - Saturday.

Pitching assignment is any appearance on the mound even if an out is not gained. Total innings will be based on  $1/3$ 's of innings. Pitching limitations will be monitored during tournament games. (i.e.  $3/3$  equals 1 inning pitched)

**8. Special Rules for 8 – 10 yr. old league: Bat entire line up with unlimited re-entry rule (put everyone in by the 3rd inning); all players should be involved in 3 outs and up to bat once during game.** The inning is over when there are 6 runs or 3 outs. (6 or 3 rule). No lead off; no balk will be called; no stealing, **batter is out on dropped third strike;** unlimited substitution.

Special Rules for 11-12 old league: Bat entire lineup with unlimited re-entry rule (put everyone in by the 3rd inning); **all players should be involved in 3 outs and up to bat once during game.** The inning is over when there are 10 runs or 3 outs. (10 or 3 rule). No lead off; no balk will be called. See rule 23 regarding stealing.

**9.** Steel cleats are not allowed for 12 and under.

**10.** Teams should agree on final score before leaving field.

**11.** Re-entry rule 8-10 Baseball: A pitcher may re-enter as a pitcher once if he has not been removed from the game by the umpire, as long as the pitcher remains in the field they can return to pitch. If a pitcher goes to the bench they are not allowed to come back as a pitcher.

Re-entry rule 11-15 Baseball: Any of the nine starting players may withdraw and re-enter once, provided they occupy the same position in the batting order upon re-entry. A substitute who is

withdrawn may not re-enter. A pitcher may re-enter as a pitcher once if he has not been removed from the game by the umpire, as long as the pitcher remains in the field they can return to pitch. If pitcher goes to bench they are not allowed to come back as a pitcher.

**12.** No designated hitter.

**13.** Infield fly rule 11-15 Baseball: An infield fly is a fair fly ball which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when 1st and 2nd or, 1st, 2nd and 3rd bases are occupied, before 2 outs. Infield fly must be called while the ball is in the air. This rule does not apply to a bunt.

**14. Contact avoidance (slide rule): On close plays, it is not mandatory the offensive player slide, but he must make an attempt to avoid malicious contact with the defensive player. Final judgment rests with the umpire. Player will be called out and/or ejected according to umpire.**

**15.** No protests will be accepted during the regular season.

**16.** Bats: 8-12 year old Rule #1-3-5 involving bat weight and length is waived. Any official baseball bat can be used as long as it has not been modified. 13-15 year old 3 oz maximum drop will be allowed.

Player/Team caught with illegal bat, it is an automatic out and bat will be pulled from dugout.

**17. Teams' coaches are responsible for themselves and the behavior of their assistant coaches, players and fans.**

**Player/Coach/Fan/Parent Ejection- Leave facility, miss next playable game, away from team.\***

**\*minimum punishment, VYL and towns may require further disciplinary action.**

**18.** All players must have played in at least three league games in order to play in league tournament.

**19.** Speed of play rule #7-3-1, regarding batter keeping one foot in the batter's box will be emphasized at the 8 - 10 yr. old age level and enforced at 11 - 15 age level.

**20.** Teams can play a game with 8 players from the season's original roster, less than 8 players is a forfeit. The 9<sup>th</sup> player position is an out. The 9<sup>th</sup> player out can be waived if agreed upon prior to game time.

**21.** The only time a player can play on two teams is if a team only has 7 original roster players, then the team can pick up two players to make 9 players. A replacement player cannot play in the pitcher position, must be of the same or lower age group,

and must be from the same town's baseball program. If a player from the original roster team shows up to play, the replacement player(s) leaves the game and the original roster player enters as a legal substitute and the team continues to take the out for the 9th player. If 2 or more original roster players show up the team can go to their original 9 players. Coaches must inform the opposing team and the umpires prior to the game that a replacement player is playing on their team. This rule applies only for regular season games.

**22.** During tournament play, teams can play with 7 original roster players. There will not be replacement players allowed during tournaments. 7 players=2 outs, 8 players=1 out.

**23.** 11 - 12 year olds: **Players may not lead off and can steal once the ball has crossed the front plane of home plate on pitch delivery.** If a base runner leaves base before the ball is released, the runner is out.

**24.** All teams will follow the NFHSA dropped third strike rule. Any movement towards the dugout is an out.

**25.** **Speed up rule. When time or the last inning has expired and the teams are tied, the last batter from previous inning is placed on second base, and an out is issued for the next**

**at bat team. This rule will be in effect during the regular season, not in effect during tournaments.**

- 26.** Coaches and assistant coaches should remain in the field of play, and are not allowed outside fence and behind home plate area. Maximum of 3 coaches in dugout area per game.