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## **BASEBALL RULES**

General Rules 1-24 cover Divisions, Eligibility, Fees and Forms, Coaches Responsibility and other regulations for CYO Baseball. Additional information will be available at the pre-season coaches meeting. The National Federation Baseball Rules will govern all games. The following rules and regulations cover exceptions and special rule interpretations:

### **RULE 1 - ELIGIBILITY**

**Section 1: COACHES - A.** All coaches must attend a CYO approved coaches training program every year. No Exceptions! (See General Rule for Coaches Development). Only coaches with designated coaching credentials will be permitted onto the field. Credentials must be worn for all CYO games or coaches will be asked to locate to the spectator area.

**B.** Coaches must comply with diocesan and parish requirements of Virtus Training and criminal background checks.

**C.** The head coach is responsible for his/her spectators.

**Section 2: PLAYERS** - Any player whose summer team qualifies for a post-season tournament may participate in CYO baseball for the duration of their summer season.

### **RULE 2 - UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

**SECTION 1:** The catcher must wear a facemask, chest protector, throat protector and catcher's helmet. A catcher's helmet and mask combination shall meet the NOCSAE standard and have full ear protection (dual earflaps).

**SECTION 2:** No metal spike shoes are permitted. Jersey numbers are mandatory. All equipment must be regulation size. Regulation baseball R 100 is the official baseball and must be used for all games.

**SECTION 3:** Full helmets are mandatory for all batters, base runners and the on-deck batter. All helmets (catcher's and batting) must have a NOCSAE sticker embossed.

**SECTION 4:** The bat must meet National Federation specifications or as modified by each division. Altered bats or bats that are dented are prohibited. Aluminum, wood and magnesium bats are acceptable.

**SECTION 5:** If the umpire discovers that an illegal bat is used or detected in the batter's box, the batter will be declared out and all base-runners will return to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch. This penalty will be applied regardless if the batter makes contact or not.

### **RULE 3- GAME**

**SECTION 1:** If a game is tied after the end of regulation during the regular season and the tournament, the Roy Hobbs Shootout format will be used to determine a winner.

**SECTION 2:** No more than two (2) minutes are to be used in changing field positions between innings. If more than two (2) minutes are used, the pitcher will relinquish his warm-ups. Five (5) warm-up pitches for a pitcher per inning will be allowed.

**SECTION 3:** Coaches may not reschedule games. Any game not approved by the CYO Athletic Staff will be considered an unofficial game.

**SECTION 4:** A field change cannot be made for games without the consent of CYO Director of Athletics.

**SECTION 5: Game Cancellation:** CYO will cancel games due to adverse weather no later than one hour before the game. The home team must contact CYO to determine the condition of their field. If the game is canceled, CYO will notify the home team and the home team will inform the visiting team. Information regarding canceled games will be available by contacting the CYO cancellation number @330.762.2961 ext. 304. CYO will contact the umpires except on Saturdays. If it should rain anytime after game time, the game will continue at the umpire's discretion. The two participating teams must reschedule the game within seven (7) days. The home team will be responsible for informing CYO of the rescheduled game so they can assign an umpire. If both teams do not reschedule within 7 days, CYO will determine it a no game. If the opposing team reports to a field that is not playable due to adverse weather, a forfeit can be declared.

**SECTION 6: Lightning and Inclement Weather:** Occasionally, it may be necessary to interrupt an outdoor athletic game due to lightning in the area. Due to the fact that this natural phenomenon is highly unpredictable, at the first sign of lightning or other threatening weather (thunder), the official and/or the CYO staff representative shall suspend the game until 30 minutes after the last bolt of lightning has been seen or the last sound of thunder has been heard. All games suspended shall be resumed at the point of interruption. (See General Rules for the complete Inclement Weather Policy.)

**SECTION 7:** Teams must clean their bench area after each game. Please dispose of all trash.

**SECTION 8:** There will be 3 defensive conferences a game and one offensive conference per inning including the batter/runner starters and substitutes.

#### **RULE 4 - PARTICIPATION**

**SECTION 1:** Each player must play a minimum of two (2) consecutive defensive innings.

**SECTION 2:** Each player must be treated with dignity regardless of their ability.

**SECTION 3:** If a coach will not play a player because of missed practice, unsportsmanlike conduct, or injury, the coach must inform the opposing coach and scorekeeper before the game begins.

**SECTION 4:** All divisions will follow the continuous batting rule. (See Rule 10 Section 1).

**SECTION 5:** A CYO player may also play on a non-CYO Baseball Team in another league. CYO games take precedence and will not reschedule due to conflicts.

**SECTION 6:** Once the game has begun, if a player is removed from the game due to illness, injury or other causes, that player's position in the batting order will be skipped with no penalty assessed. Exception: If a player is ejected the time at bat is an out.

#### **RULE 5 - SUBSTITUTION**

**SECTION 1:** Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered once. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter.

**SECTION 2:** A pitcher upon leaving the game may re-enter the game, but not as a pitcher. He may be moved to another position without leaving the game and come back to pitch.

**SECTION 3:** In the top of the third inning, substitutes must be placed in the defensive positions. No player may be substituted until he has played two consecutive innings.

**SECTION 4:** No courtesy runners are permitted, unless the runner is removed due to injury. The courtesy runner is selected by coach's choice.

#### **RULE 6 - OFFICIAL SCORER**

Each team is required to have an official scorebook. The home team shall be considered the official scorer for the game. In the event the home team fails to have an official scorebook, the visiting team will automatically become the official scorer. At the completion of each game it shall be the duty of each coach to have the umpire sign the book. The winning team **MUST** report the score online @ [www.akroncyo.org/athletics/generalinformation/reporting](http://www.akroncyo.org/athletics/generalinformation/reporting) your score (please follow the directions) or please call the CYO office @ 330.374.8326 no later than the next business day following each game. (Penalty for violation of this rule - See General Rule #24).

#### **RULE 7 - DUTIES OF THE HOME TEAM**

**SECTION 1:** The team as designated on the schedule is the home team.

**SECTION 2:** Home team shall furnish bases for the games, including regulation home plate. Home team must put down the bases, pitcher's rubber and home plate. All bases must be fastened securely. Home plate should be secured if possible.

**SECTION 3:** The home team shall furnish a new official baseball and a used ball accepted by the umpire for each game.

**SECTION 4 :** Home team shall be responsible for definition of the ground rules. In case of disagreement on ground rules, the decision of the umpire shall be final as long as it is not contrary to league rules.

**SECTION 5:** A team designated as the home team may delegate this authority to the visiting team providing CYO is notified. This means that the designated team must assume all the duties, responsibilities and privileges of a home team herein defined.

#### **RULE 8 - PLAYING FIELD**

Fields can be skinned or grass. CYO recommends teams drag their field and must line their field before each game.

### **RULE 9 - GRACE AND FORFEIT**

All league games shall start promptly as scheduled. A team shall be allowed a 15-minute grace period before a forfeit is allowed if enough players are not present.

### **RULE 10 - SPECIAL RULES**

**SECTION 1:** Continuous Batting: Unless noted on the game schedule, each team must use the continuous batting order (all players bat).

**SECTION 2:** A hit batsman shall be permitted first base. Pitchers must be removed from the game after they have hit four batters and may not return as a pitcher.

**SECTION 3:** Bunting will be allowed for all divisions.

**SECTION 4:** Batter will be called out if the catcher drops the third strike, except Division I.

**SECTION 5:** Sliding is permitted. Intentional knockdowns of infielders will not be tolerated. Violation of this rule will be ejection from the game.

**SECTION 6:** Infield Fly Rule is in effect. A fly ball hit in fair territory that can be easily caught in the umpire's judgment by an infielder, with less than two outs and runners at first and second; or first, second and third, the batter is automatically out and runners can advance at their own risk.

**SECTION 7:** If a team does not have a field, CYO will provide one upon request.

**SECTION 8:** Thirteen (13) is the prescribed number of participants that must constitute a first team, before a second team may be entered on the same level.

**SECTION 9:** Harassment towards opponents is prohibited. Teams are responsible for their fans. Interpretation: Chatter can only include support for your own team. ("Hey batter", "swing", "you can't hit", etc. is illegal. Chatter that is permitted includes "come on Billy, pitch it in there", "nice play", etc.) See General Rule 21 for possible penalties.

**SECTION 10:** No player, spectator, or coach shall be permitted (less than 15 ft.) behind the backstop during the progress of the game.

**SECTION 11:** If a coach, player or parent questions an umpire's decision, the umpire may declare an automatic out to offending team.

**SECTION 12:** Any incomplete game will be completely replayed.

**SECTION 13:** The head coach is responsible for the conduct of his players and spectators.

**SECTION 14:** Infield Warm-up: All fields and bases should be ready to play by at least 30 minutes prior to game time. If you work, designate your assistant or a parent to assist you. The schedule then is as follows: 30 minutes prior to game time - infield practice - home team, twenty minutes prior to game time - infield practice - visiting team, ten minutes prior to game time - exchange line-ups - discuss ground rules, game time - begin game. If your team is not ready then you forfeit your infield time.

**SECTION 15:** A pitcher may pitch five (5) innings in any game. Once five (5) innings are pitched in the game he will be ineligible to pitch any remaining innings scheduled for that game. One (1) inning will be charged to a pitcher that pitches one pitch in an inning.

**SECTION 16:** Roy Hobbs Shootout - If the score is tied when the time limit expires, the game will be completed with the Roy Hobbs Shootout format. There are no ties.

**A.** Play one (1) inning at a time, with the last batted out from the previous inning starting the new inning as a runner at second base.

**B.** Each hitter gets one (1) pitch. If the pitch is a strike (called or swung at, missed or is fouled off, the batter is out; if the pitch is a ball, the batter walks, or the batter hits the ball fair and advances at his own risk.

**C.** Each team gets three (3) outs. If the score remains tied after each team has batted, repeat the process with full innings until one team has scored more runs to win.

Strike is charged to the batter when:

**1)** A pitch enters any part of the strike zone in flight and is not swung at.

**2)** A pitch is struck at and missed (even if the pitch touches the batter).

**3)** A pitch becomes foul when the batter has less than two strikes.

**4)** A pitch becomes a foul tip (even on third strike) or a foul from an attempted bunt.

**5)** A batted ball contacts the batter in the batter's box (foul ball).

#### **RULE 11 - TOURNAMENT AND TOURNAMENT GAMES**

**SECTION 1:** All eligible teams will participate in a single elimination tournament within their divisional levels.

**SECTION 2:** Tournament pairing will be decided by final team standings.

**SECTION 3:** Tournament information will be posted online.

**SECTION 4:** The time limit will be in effect for the tournament except the championship. The run differential rule will be in effect for the entire tournament.

**SECTION 5:** If a tournament game is suspended, the game will be resumed at the point of suspension.

**SECTION 6:** If the Championship game is shortened due to any conditions (rain, lightning, darkness, etc.) the score will go back to the last completed inning.

**SECTION 7:** All rules will be in effect for all tournament games.

**SECTION 8:** If a game is tied at the completion of an official game, the Roy Hobbs shoot-out format (See Rule 10, Section 17) will be used to determine a winner. The format will be explained in detail at the mandatory coaches meeting.

#### **RULE 12 - AWARDS**

**SECTION 1:** All awards will be distributed at the championship game of that division.

**SECTION 2:** The James E. Sovacool championship trophy to the championship team.

**SECTION 3:** Runner-up trophy or plaque of the championship game.

**SECTION 4:** Team trophy to the regular season champion.

**SECTION 5:** CYO Championship Certificates to all players on the championship team, upon request.

**SECTION 6:** CYO Participation Certificates to all participants in the program, upon request.

# ***NOTES***



## **DIVISION I**

**ELIGIBILITY** – Players in grades 7-8, and 14 years of age and under as of October 1.

**EQUIPMENT** – Each bat shall be: in diameter at the thickest part, 2 5/8 inches or less; in length, 36 inches or less; in weight a bat shall not weigh numerically more than three ounces less than the length of the bat.

**GAME** – Nine (9) players are used, positioned in normal baseball positions. If nine players are not available, seven must be used and the game started. A eighth & ninth player may be put in, but must bat in the eighth & ninth spot in the batting order. In case of an injured player, you can finish with seven players but no less or a forfeit will be declared.

**GAME LENGTH** - 7 innings - The game shall end after two full hours of play. When the visiting team has completed 4½ innings and the home team is ahead. No new inning may begin after the time limit has expired. If the time limit has expired and an inning started, the game will be continued until that inning has been completed and a winner has been determined (provided a last inning has been declared). There are no ties in baseball. There will be a run limit of 6 per inning. There will be no limit in the last inning for either team. \*\*The last inning will be the 7th inning. In the event the time limit is to expire, a last inning must be declared. Coaches are responsible for contacting the umpire regarding the last inning rule. A complete explanation will be provided at the mandatory coaches meeting.

**RUN DIFFERENTIAL RULE** – The game shall end if the visiting team is behind ten (10) or more runs after 4½ innings, or after the fifth inning, or either team is behind and both teams have had a equal number of times at bat.

**PLAYING FIELD** - Distance between all bases is 80 feet. Distance from the front of the pitching rubber to the back point of home plate shall be 55 feet. The distance between home plate and second base shall be 113 feet 2 inches.

### **SPECIAL RULES** -

- Stealing and leading off are permitted.
- All balks will be called. There will be **NO warnings** for balks.
- Championship games will be seven (7) innings.
- A pitcher can pitch no more than five (5) innings in a game.

## **DIVISION II**

**ELIGIBILITY** – Players in grades 5-6, and 12 years of age and under as of October 1.

**EQUIPMENT** – Shall use metal baseball bats that are a maximum diameter of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  in diameter at the thickest part and is a maximum (-8) using length to weight ratio. Example: 28 inches – 20 ounces = (-8) length to weight ratio.

**GAME** – Nine (9) players are used, positioned in normal baseball positions. If nine players are not available, seven must be used and the game started. A eighth & ninth player may be put in, but must bat in the eighth & ninth spot in the batting order. In case of an injured player, you can finish with seven players but no less or a forfeit will be declared.

**GAME LENGTH** - 7 innings - The game shall end after two full hours of play. When the visiting team has completed  $4\frac{1}{2}$  innings and the home team is ahead. No new inning may begin after the time limit has expired. If the time limit has expired and an inning started, the game will be continued until that inning has been completed and a winner has been determined (provided a last inning has been declared). There are no ties in baseball. There will be a run limit of six (6) per inning. There will be no limit in the last inning for either team. \*\*The last inning will be the 7th inning. In the event the time limit is to expire, a last inning must be declared. Coaches are responsible for contacting the umpire regarding the last inning rule. A complete explanation will be provided at the mandatory coaches meeting.

**RUN DIFFERENTIAL RULE** – The game shall end if the visiting team is behind 10 or more runs after  $4\frac{1}{2}$  innings, or after the fifth inning, or either team is behind and both teams have had a equal number of times at bat.

**PLAYING FIELD** - Distance between all bases is 70 feet. Distance from the front of the pitching rubber to the back point of home plate shall be 50 feet. The distance between home plate and second base shall be 99 feet.

### **SPECIAL RULES** -

- Stealing and leading off are permitted.
- All balks will be called. There will be one warning for each pitcher.
- Championship games will be seven (7) innings.
- A pitcher can pitch no more than five (5) innings in a game.

## **DIVISION III**

**ELIGIBILITY** - Players in grades 3-4, and 10 years of age and under as of October 1.

**EQUIPMENT** - Only approved Little League bats 2¼ inches diameter or less shall be used.

**GAME** - Ten (10) players are used, positioned on the field using four (4) outfield positions. (If a short center position is used the player must be playing on the grass.) If ten (10) players are not available, a minimum of eight (8) must be used and the game started. A ninth & tenth player may be put in, but must bat in the ninth & tenth spot in the batting order. In case of an injured player, you can finish with eight players but no less or a forfeit will be declared.

**GAME LENGTH** - 6 innings - Two (2) hour time limit will comprise a complete game. Four (4) innings, or 3½ if the home team is ahead, will constitute a legal game. No new inning may begin after the time limit has expired. If the time limit has expired and an inning started, the game will be continued until that inning has been completed and a winner has been determined (provided a last inning has been declared). There are no ties in baseball. There will be a run limit of six (6) per inning. There will be no limit in the last inning for either team. \*\*The last inning will be the 6th inning. In the event the time limit is to expire, a last inning must be declared. Coaches are responsible for contacting the umpire regarding the last inning rule. A complete explanation will be provided at the mandatory coaches meeting.

**RUN DIFFERENTIAL RULE** - The game shall end if the visiting team is behind ten (10) or more runs after 3½ innings, or after the fourth inning, or either team is behind and both teams have had a equal number of times at bat.

**PLAYING FIELD** - Distance between all bases is 60 feet. Distance from the front of the pitching rubber to the back point of home plate shall be 44 feet.

The distance between home plate and second base shall be 84 feet 10¼ inches.

### **SPECIAL RULES**

- No Stealing. The runner may not lead off. The ball is dead if it is not hit. A base runner may advance only if the ball is hit.
- The runner may not leave the base until the ball crosses the plane of the plate. The penalty for this violation will be one (1) warning per team; then each subsequent violation the runner will be called out and there is no pitch.
- There are no balks.
- Championship games will be 6 innings.
- A pitcher can pitch no more than five (5) innings in a game.

# NOTES



## CYO ATHLETIC PRAYERS

### ***Pre-Game Prayer***

Lord God, thank You for bringing us together in Your name.

We know You are with us now  
as You promised.

Please help the players, coaches, and officials to play and be fair. Keep us all safe from injury. Thank You for giving us the chance to teach our faith to others by our actions.

Amen

### ***Post Game Prayer***

Lord, we thank You for the opportunity and challenge of this game.

You call us to compete well, finish the race,  
and grow in our Faith!

Help us to remember we can do all things through You, who gives us strength.

Amen