

**Riverside/Bradford Baseball League
General Rules
(All Divisions)**

1. Our primary goal is to teach baseball and make it fun.
2. Profanity is not allowed by coaches, umpires, parents, or players. Arguing between opposing coaches, umpires, and/or parents may result in removal from the game. The head coach is responsible for his assistants, parents, and players. **Any conduct deemed unsportsmanlike by an umpire (e.g., throwing a bat or helmet, profanity) will result in a warning and/or ejection based upon the severity of the action.** If you have a problem, contact your commissioner. Teach good sportsmanship.
3. There is no smoking on any fields at any time. Spectators and umpires are prohibited from smoking on school property by city permit and strongly discouraged from smoking at all fields. Violations will result in removal from facility/field.
4. Eating is not allowed on the bench or in the playing area.
5. The home team will use the first base bench and the visitors, the third base side.
6. Players must wear full league issued uniforms only, a team cap and socks, where applicable. If additional player(s) is called up from a lower division that player must wear his/her full uniform.
7. All batters and base runners must wear a helmet.
8. All catchers must wear a cup, regardless of gender. **It is recommended that all other players wear a cup.**
9. There will be no batting practice on the playing field one hour or less before game time.
10. Recruit parents to help during games and practices. Two assistants during games allow someone to dress the catcher, warm up pitchers, keep the book and coach the bases with a player when your team is batting. A Manager and two adult coaches are allowed in the dugout area during games. A scorekeeper may sit on the bench or outside the playing area.
11. Two adults may coach the bases with two players, one player in each box. Players in the coaching boxes must wear helmets.
12. An automatic time-out occurs when a player is hurt during the game. Base runners will be placed at the umpire's discretion.
13. Intentional walks are not allowed.
14. Runners cannot leave the base until the ball crosses the plate (except in the **Major A and RB13** division).

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15. A steal is defined as advancing a base without the occurrence of a hit, walk, and/or error (including an overthrow). This definition applies unless otherwise noted in specific divisional rules.
16. A batter will not square to bunt, straighten up and swing away. This is considered slash bunting and, due to safety concerns for the fielders, is not allowed. **The batter will be called out.** A second offense by the same player will result in ejection from the game and/or suspension.
17. **RUNNERS must slide feet first on a close play or avoid collision. There is no headfirst sliding allowed going into a base (including home plate). If a runner slides headfirst, they will be called out. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a runner can go back to a base headfirst.**
18. **Rules pertaining to RB1 Field only:**
 - a. No inning will start after 7:15 PM if a second game is scheduled under the lights. The second game will start 15 minutes after the first game ends.
 - b. There is a 9:45 PM curfew on the lighted field.
19. **For all other fields, there is no set time limit. At the umpire's discretion, games will be called due to darkness for safety reasons.**
20. **On-deck batters are not allowed to hold a bat.**
21. **Base coaches cannot touch runners when the ball is in play. The runner is out.**
22. **A coach may come out twice in one inning to visit with a pitcher, but the third time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher. A coach may come out three times in one game to visit with a pitcher, but the fourth time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher.**
23. **A team may play a game with eight (8) players, but the other team will play nine (9) in the field. No player can sit on the bench more than two innings. Note: If a head coach knows in advance his team will be shorthanded, then he may contact the Divisional Commissioner to add eligible players from the next level down. Any player called up to the next level CANNOT pitch and MUST first be approved by the Divisional Commissioner and/or Player Agent.**
24. **When a game is cancelled, the head coaches have two weeks to play the game during the home team's practice time. The home teams' coach will initiate this process and contact the umpire-in-chief of the makeup date and time. If agreement cannot be reached, the commissioner and umpire-in-chief will be consulted. If the game cannot be made up, both teams take a loss. If it can be shown that one coach would not cooperate, that team will take a loss and the other team a win.**
25. **No breaking balls (curves, sliders, etc.) will be allowed. Umpires will call an illegal pitch and a ball and issued a warning. A second offense by the same pitcher will result in that pitcher being removed from the mound for the remainder of the game.**

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The following pitching rules apply to **ONLY** the Single A, Double A, Triple A, Major A, and the RB13 Divisions.

26. A coach must remove a pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age **division** as noted below, but the player may remain in the game at another position:

RB13	95 pitches per day
Major A & Triple A	85 pitches per day
Double A & Single A	75 pitches per day

When this limit is reached, the pitcher must be removed from the mound. If a pitcher reaches the limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, until that batter reaches base or is put out.

27. Pitchers must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- a. 61 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- b. 41-60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- c. 21-40 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- d. 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest must be observed.

28. A player may not pitch in more than one game in one day.

29. A pitcher who delivers 40 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

30. The manager and/or scorekeeper must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager is responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed. The total pitches for each pitcher must be entered in the scorebook. The scorebook will be used to determine the pitching eligibility in a subsequent game or games. **PITCH COUNTS WILL BE CONFIRMED BY BOTH TEAMS AT THE COMPLETION OF EACH HALF INNING.**

31. The manager and/or scorekeeper should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game. However, the failure by the scorekeeper to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible. Violation of any section of Rules **26** thru **31** can result in protest of the game in which it occurs. Protests shall be made in accordance with LL Playing Rules (see LL rule 4.19).

32. All playoff games consist of six innings (seven innings in the RB13 division) and will be played to their completion.

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Definitions

33. INTERFERENCE:

(a) **Offensive interference is an act by a member of the team at bat which interferes with, obstructs, impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder attempting to make a play.**

If the umpire declares the batter, batter-runner or a runner out for interference, all other runners shall return to the last base that was, in the judgment of the umpire, legally touched at the time of the interference, unless otherwise provided by these rules.

(b) **Defensive interference is an act by a fielder which hinders or prevents a batter from hitting a pitch.**

(e) **On any interference the ball is dead**

34. OBSTRUCTION is the act of a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball, impedes the progress of any runner. A fake tag is considered obstruction. (NOTE: 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.)

35. INFIELD FLY is a fair ball (not including a line drive or an attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied, before two are out. The pitcher, catcher and any outfielder stationed in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule. When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an Infield Fly, the umpire shall immediately declare "Infield Fly" for the benefit of the runners. If the ball is near the baseline, the umpire shall declare "Infield Fly if Fair." The ball is alive and runners may advance at the risk of that ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. If the hit becomes a foul ball, it is treated the same as any foul.

36. A BALK is an illegal act by the pitcher with a runner or runners on base entitling all runners to advance one base. This rule is only applicable to the Major A and RB 13 divisions. For reference, the following is Major League Baseball Rule 8.05 :

If there is a runner, or runners, it is a balk when --

(a) **The pitcher, while touching his plate, makes any motion naturally associated with his pitch and fails to make such delivery;**

Rule 8.05(a) Comment: If a lefthanded or righthanded pitcher swings his free foot past the back edge of the pitcher's rubber, he is required to pitch to the batter except to throw to second base on a pick-off-play. (b) **The pitcher, while touching his plate, feints a throw to first base and fails to complete the throw;**

(c) **The pitcher, while touching his plate, fails to step directly toward a base before throwing to that base;**

Rule 8.05(c) Comment: Requires the pitcher, while touching his plate, to step directly toward a base before throwing to that base. If a pitcher turns or spins off of his free foot without actually stepping or if he turns his body and throws before stepping, it is a balk.

A pitcher is to step directly toward a base before throwing to that base but does not require him to throw (except to first base only) because he steps. It is possible, with runners on first and third, for

the pitcher to step toward third and not throw, merely to bluff the runner back to third; then seeing the runner on first start for second, turn and step toward and throw to first base. This is legal. However, if, with runners on first and third, the pitcher, while in contact with the rubber, steps toward third and then immediately and in practically the same motion “wheels” and throws to first base, it is obviously an attempt to deceive the runner at first base, and in such a move it is practically impossible to step directly toward first base before the throw to first base, and such a move shall be called a balk. Of course, if the pitcher steps off the rubber and then makes such a move, it is not a balk.

(d) The pitcher, while touching his plate, throws, or feints a throw to an unoccupied base, except for the purpose of making a play;

(e) The pitcher makes an illegal pitch;

Rule 8.05(e) Comment: A quick pitch is an illegal pitch. Umpires will judge a quick pitch as one delivered before the batter is reasonably set in the batter’s box. With runners on base the penalty is a balk; with no runners on base, it is a ball. The quick pitch is dangerous and should not be permitted.

(f) The pitcher delivers the ball to the batter while he is not facing the batter;

(g) The pitcher makes any motion naturally associated with his pitch while he is not touching the pitcher’s plate;

(h) The pitcher unnecessarily delays the game;

Rule 8.05(h) Comment: Rule 8.05(h) shall not apply when a warning is given pursuant to Rule 8.02(c) (which prohibits intentional delay of a game by throwing to fielders not in an attempt to put a runner out). If a pitcher is ejected pursuant to Rule 8.02(c) for continuing to delay the game, the penalty in Rule 8.05(h) shall also apply. Rule 8.04 (which sets a time limit for a pitcher to deliver the ball when the bases are unoccupied) applies only when there are no runners on base.

(i) The pitcher, without having the ball, stands on or astride the pitcher’s plate or while off the plate, he feints a pitch;

(j) The pitcher, after coming to a legal pitching position, removes one hand from the ball other than in an actual pitch, or in throwing to a base;

(k) The pitcher, while touching his plate, accidentally or intentionally drops the ball;

(l) The pitcher, while giving an intentional base on balls, pitches when the catcher is not in the catcher’s box; (THIS RULE IS NOT APPLICABLE ACCORDING TO RB RULES)

(m) The pitcher delivers the pitch from Set Position without coming to a stop.

PENALTY: The ball is dead, and each runner shall advance one base without liability to be put out, unless the batter reaches first on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter, or otherwise, and all other runners advance at least one base, in which case the play proceeds without reference to the balk.

APPROVED RULING: In cases where a pitcher balks and throws wild, either to a base or to home plate, a runner or runners may advance beyond the base to which he is entitled at his own risk.

APPROVED RULING: A runner who misses the first base to which he is advancing and who is called out on appeal shall be considered as having advanced one base for the purpose of this rule. *Rule 8.05 Comment: Umpires should bear in mind that the purpose of the balk rule is to prevent the pitcher from deliberately deceiving the base runner. If there is doubt in the umpire’s mind, the “intent” of the pitcher should govern. However, certain specifics should be borne in*

mind:

(a) Straddling the pitcher's rubber without the ball is to be interpreted as intent to deceive and ruled a balk.

(b) With a runner on first base the pitcher may make a complete turn, without hesitating toward first, and throw to second. This is not to be interpreted as throwing to an unoccupied base.

37. PROTESTING GAME; For reference, the following is Little League Baseball Rule 4.19 :

(a) Protest shall be considered only when based on the violation or interpretation of a playing rule, use of an ineligible pitcher or the use of an ineligible player. No protest shall be considered on a decision involving an umpire's judgement. Equipment which does not meet specifications must be removed from the game.

(b) The managers of contesting teams only shall have the right to protest a game (or in their absence, coaches). However, the manager or acting manager may not leave the dugout until receiving permission from an umpire.

(c) Protests shall be made as follows:

(1) The protesting manager shall immediately, and before any succeeding play begins, notify the umpire that the game is being played under protest.

(2) Following such notice the umpire shall consult with the other umpire(s). If the umpire is convinced that the decision is in conflict with the rules, the umpire shall reverse that decision. If, however, after consultation, the umpire is convinced that the decision is not in conflict with the rules, said umpire shall announce that the game is being played under protest. Failure of the umpire to make such an announcement shall not affect the validity of the protest.

(d) Protest made due to use of ineligible pitcher or ineligible player may be considered only if made to the umpire before the umpire(s) leave the field at the end of the game. Whenever it is found that an ineligible pitcher or ineligible player is being used, said pitcher shall be removed from the mound, or said player shall be removed from the game, and the game shall be continued under protest or not as the protesting manager decides.

(e) Any protest for any reason whatsoever must be submitted by the manager first to the umpire on the field of play and then in writing to the Local League president within 24 hours. The umpire-in-chief shall also submit a report immediately.

(f) A committee composed of the president, player agent, league's umpire-in-chief and one or more other officers or directors who are not managers or umpires shall hear and resolve any such protest as above, including playing rules. If the protest is allowed, resume the game from the exact point when the infraction occurred.

NOTE: (1) This rule does not pertain to charges of infractions of regulations such as field decorum or actions of the league personnel or spectators which must be considered and resolved by the Board of Directors.

NOTE: (2) All League officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offenders should be notified immediately.

Example: Should a manager, official scorer, league official or umpire discover that a pitcher is ineligible at beginning of the game, or will become ineligible during the game or at the start of the next inning of play, the fact should be brought to the attention of the manager of the team involved. Such action should not be delayed until the infraction has occurred. However, failure of personnel to notify the manager of the infraction does not affect the validity of the protest.

(g) Minor League: A Local League may adopt a rule that protests must be resolved before the next pitch or play.