



# 2018 RULES SUPPLEMENT

## 2018 PEWAUKEE YOUTH BASEBALL RULES (A)

### ELIGIBILITY/REGISTRATION

#### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

Boys and Girls who are in K5, first or second grade at the time of spring registration.

#### **DO I HAVE TO BE A PEWAUKEE RESIDENT?**

Everyone is welcome, including non-Pewaukee residents! Please note that priority is given to Pewaukee residents.

#### **ARE EXCEPTIONS MADE**

Any requests to waive the eligibility requirements must be approved by the Pewaukee Youth Baseball Board of Directors prior to registration. Requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis. All decisions made by the board are binding and final.

#### **DO I NEED TO REGISTER BEFORE I CAN PLAY?**

Yes. Please also note that once teams are filled to capacity, no more registrations will be accepted and a waiting list will be started in the event players drop out.

#### **WHAT TEAM WILL I BE ON?**

Players will be assigned to teams within a specific division based on their grade level at time of spring registration, not what grade level they will be going into next year. For example, a player who is currently in 2nd grade will play in the A/Rookie division.

#### **CAN I PLAY WITH MY OLDER BROTHER IN HIS DIVISION?**

No. However, with the approval of the Pewaukee Youth Baseball Board of Directors, a player may be assigned to a different division if exceptional or unusual circumstances warrant such an assignment. Requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis. All decisions made by the board are binding and final.

#### **WHAT HAPPENS IF MY TEAM PLAYS WITH AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER?**

Teams will forfeit all games in which this ineligible player participated.

#### **CAN MY COACH KICK ME OFF THE TEAM IF I MISBEHAVE?**

No, unless the coach gets prior approval from the Pewaukee Youth Baseball Board of Directors.

### EQUIPMENT

#### **TELL ME ABOUT THE CATCHER'S GEAR**

Teams will be furnished with shin guards and straps, chest protector, catcher's face mask and a catcher's glove. No player may play the catcher's position without the use of all this equipment, however, a player or team may substitute its own catching equipment for the equipment supplied by the league. If any equipment is needed during the game, it needs to be borrowed from the other team. It is highly recommended that all players playing the catcher's position wear all necessary protective gear.



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## **TELL ME ABOUT THE BALLS AND BATS**

Teams will be furnished with practice and game balls. Each team needs to supply a new game ball for each game. Bats are not supplied by PYB and need to be supplied by players. Bats should follow these rules:

- NO cracked, splintered or altered bats may be used
- NO softball bats are allowed
- NO wooden bats are allowed

In addition, players are asked not to throw bats during a game. Players may be called out at the discretion of the umpires for excessive or deliberate bat throwing.

## **TELL ME ABOUT THE HELMETS**

Teams will be furnished with a supply of helmets. During games, batters, on-deck batters and base runners are required to wear a helmet. Players who intentionally remove their helmet during base running can be called out at the discretion of the umpires.

## **TELL ME ABOUT THE UNIFORM**

Players will be supplied with a team uniform, which typically includes a shirt, hat and socks. Players must wear the uniform as provided by the league at each game. Please note that for those parts of the uniform not provided by the league such as baseball pants, players are free to wear whatever they'd like; however, we do recommend players wear white baseball pants.

## **CAN I WEAR BASEBALL SHORTS INSTEAD OF PANTS?**

Yes, however the league highly recommends players wear plain white or gray baseball pants and not baseball shorts.

## **CAN I WEAR SHOES WITH METAL SPIKES?**

No. Players who are found or identified wearing shoes with metal spikes will not be allowed to play. Players who deliberately wear these types of shoes can be ejected from a game at the discretion of the home plate umpire.

## **CAN I WEAR WRISTBANDS?**

Yes.

## **DO I HAVE TO WEAR A CUP?**

No. In older divisions, boys who are playing the catcher's position should wear a protective cup; it is for their safety. This is optional for girls. Players do not play the catcher's position in the A/Rookie Division. Instead, a coach or parent volunteer does the catching

## **"BEFORE THE GAME"**

### **THE RULES**

All league games will follow the current National Federation of High Schools rulebook with the exceptions as listed in this rulebook <http://www.nfhs.org>.

### **THE COACHES**

Head coaches must be 18 years of age or older, and a **minimum of 2 unrelated coaches must be present at all practices or activities**. See application for assistant coaches between the ages



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of 16-18. Coaches are not allowed to use tobacco related products or alcoholic beverages during practices or games.

## **THE UMPIRES**

In the A division, coaches and parent volunteers serve as the umpires. As discussed below, coaches and parent volunteers also act as infield/outfield coaches when their team is in the field. These infield/outfield coaches will also be the umpires while their team is in the field. All judgment calls by the umpires are final; however, the umpires are encouraged to keep principles of good sportsmanship in mind. No arguing will be tolerated. If a head coach has a serious concern about the manner in which a game was handled by umpires, the issue should be discussed with Division Liaisons so that future issues and problems may be avoided.

## **THE SCORERS**

Each team shall furnish a scorer who should check with the scorer from the other team after each inning to ensure they are in agreement.

## **MOTHER NATURE**

Only a PYB representative may postpone a game before it starts. Please note that games will not be postponed due to shortages of players. In the event a game is postponed, an announcement will be made via the PYB Website at least one and one-half hours before the scheduled start of the game (i.e. 4:30 pm for a 6:00 pm start). In the absence of such an announcement, it shall be assumed that all games will be played as scheduled.

In the event of adverse playing conditions at game time or after the game has begun, the decision to play or continue playing will be made by the coaches.

## **STARTING TIME**

Games will begin at the exact time designated on the schedule. The home team's coach is the official timekeeper for each game. If a team does not show up or does not have enough players to play within 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time, this team will forfeit the game. If for some reason, both teams do not show up for a game or do not have enough players, the game will be declared a no-contest, no wins, no losses, no ties, and the game will not be made up.

Before the official start of each game, the coaches will discuss any ground/field rules, identify the designated scorer for each team, and share any other pertinent information.

## **THE LINEUPS**

Each team must have 9 roster players, if available, for an official game. Otherwise, they may play with a minimum of six players. Use of non-roster players will constitute a forfeit. If both coaches choose to play an unofficial game due to one/both teams not having the minimum number of players, this is allowed but the official winner will be the team who had the minimum number of players at the start of the game.

All teams will use a continuous batting order.

## **"DURING THE GAME"**



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## **GAME LENGTH**

- A Division: 5 innings or 1 hour

*A new inning will not be started after the time limit for that division.*

## **WHEN A GAME IS OFFICIAL**

By agreement of the head coaches, a game may be stopped because of inclement weather or darkness. If a game is stopped because of inclement weather or darkness, and the game is not yet considered official, the game will continue on a makeup date (subject to make up game rule below) from the end of the last full inning.

Games may end in a tie due to inclement weather, darkness or the expiration of time limits.

If weather or darkness interferes with play so that a game is called by the coaches, it is a regulation game if either of the following conditions is met:

- a. If 2 full innings have been played, or if the home team has scored an equal or greater number of runs in 1 or 1 and a fraction turns at bat than the visiting team has scored in 1 turn at bat: or
- b. If 40 minutes have been played.
- c. Note - If a game is stopped because of inclement weather or darkness, and the game is not yet considered official, the game will continue play from the end of the last full inning.
- d. Note - If the time limit or maximum number of innings is reached and the game is tied, it will be considered a tied game.

## **WHEN A GAME IS SUSPENDED**

The coaches have the authority to suspend (stop) a game in progress because of inclement weather, darkness or other conditions as deemed necessary by the coaches. The time during which a game is suspended shall not be considered as part of the time limit.

## **PLAYING TIME & SUBSTITUTIONS**

Each A player is required to play at least one position in the infield during the game. Discretion can be used in playing at first base or pitcher where fielding skills are more important for player safety.

Defensively, a player must not be on the bench for more than one continuous inning in a row except for disciplinary reasons. In the case of disciplinary reasons, the opposing coach must be notified first.

Free substitution during play will be allowed, however, players must bat in their assigned batting position. We ask that coaches not abuse this rule and utilize it in a fair and responsible manner.

## **ON DECK AREA**

An on deck area may only be inside the fenced area of the ball diamond. Players should not swing bats on the fan side of the fence. Coaches and umpires should designate on deck areas prior to the game beginning. A team cannot have more than one player in the on-deck area at a time. A player who is on deck must wear a batting helmet. All other players should remain in dugout for their own safety.



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## **FIRST BASE DOUBLE BAGS**

PYB uses two (2) bags at first base for the stated purpose of the player's safety. On plays at first base, the runner must only use the outside or orange base while the fielder must only use the inside base closest to second base. If the base runner is rounding first base, then he/she may touch either base. Players failing to follow this rule will be warned one time. The next violation by that player will result in an out being called. A player that advances to first base can turn and walk back to first base on the left or right side of the baseline safely. If a runner makes a deliberate attempt in the judgment of an umpire to advance to second base he may be tagged out.

## **CALLING TIMEOUT**

Any player on the field or any coach may request time out from an umpire; however, only an umpire may grant time out (by calling "TIME OUT" or "TIME") and play shall continue until an umpire grants time out.

## **BAT THROWING**

Any batter in any level who throws a bat when leaving the batter's box will get one warning per game. Thereafter, if the player continues to throw their bat, the batter will be called out.

## **PLAYS AT HOME PLATE & OTHER BASES**

The player covering home plate cannot block home plate without having a play. If the player covering home plate has a play, runners who intentionally ram the player covering home plate will be called out. This call is at the discretion of the umpire. Contact made while sliding into home plate is permissible. It is highly recommended that coaches and umpires discuss plays at the plate prior to the game. This rule is in place to protect a catcher from being run over as well as to discourage home plate collisions. A player that, in the opinion of the umpire, intentionally collides with the catcher will be called out. A fielder that does not have a play must not be blocking the plate/base or standing on the plate/base if no play is going to take place. **No player shall be forced to slide, including home plate. However, the runner must avoid contact with the fielder at any base. If there is contact, the runner will be called out. If the umpire deems the contact to be malicious, the player will be called out and ejected from the game.**

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Umpires have final say on ALL game situations. Arguing, yelling or swearing at umpires will not be tolerated. The umpire may eject any player, coach or fan for conduct they consider to be extreme. An ejected player will not be allowed to play in the next game. Ejected coaches will not be allowed to attend another game until their conduct has been reviewed by the PYB Board of Directors. Multiple ejections may result in a complete ban from PYB activities.

This is a recreational league whose purpose is to teach sportsmanship, among other things, and we must set a good example for the players.

## **MAKING A PROTEST DURING THE GAME**

Protests must be made at the time of the incident by notifying the opposing team's head coach. A notation must be made on indicating the inning the protest was made, the batter, the base runners, the number of outs, grounds for the protest and all circumstances relevant to the protest, indicating any differences of opinion between the opposing managers and/or umpires. As discussed below,



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the details of the protest shall be provided to the PYB Board of Directors within 24 hours of completion of the game.

## “AFTER THE GAME”

### **GAME REPORTS**

The winning team’s coach (or both coaches in case of a tie) are required to report the final score of the game by the end of the day on which the game was played. Division Coordinator or the PYB Rec Coordinator will provide information on who to contact for game reports.

### **RESCHEDULING A CALLED GAME**

For games that are called before they are official the home team's head coach must notify the Division Coordinator or the PYB Rec Coordinator within 24 hours. The league shall reschedule said game subject to the following guidelines:

- PYB will attempt to provide a field for a makeup game. Field scheduling may not be able to accommodate all games. Only one date/time will be given for a makeup game.
- Both coaches are required to notify PYB of their team’s availability at least 48 hours prior to the makeup game. If BOTH coaches do not notify PYB of their team’s availability, the game is cancelled. This is to avoid late notification to parents and umpires of a cancelled game.
- If both coaches have confirmed their availability within 48 hours, the game will proceed as scheduled. Cancellation by a team within 48 hours will result in a forfeit.

### **REPORTING OF PROTESTS**

All protests must be filed to the Division Coordinator or the PYB Rec Coordinator within 24 hours of the game’s completion. The PYB Board members will decide the protest, except that a Board member shall not participate in the decision if his/her team was involved in the game protested

Judgment calls are not a proper matter to protest.

## **SPECIAL “A” DIVISION RULES CONCERNING GAME PLAY**

### **THE BASICS**

All players will be allowed to play the field. There will be one player assuming the position of pitcher (considered an infielder) and 5 other players assuming positions on the infield. There will be a catcher located behind home plate. There can be no infielder positioned directly at or behind 2<sup>nd</sup> base. All other fielders will assume outfield positions. Outfielders may not start in the infield area (on most fields, they must be in the grass area of the outfield). Should a team be short players, a player should assume the catchers position before being put in the outfield. Again, only one player may play the pitcher’s position. This player should stand about 2 feet either side of the coach pitcher.

Base length is 60 feet and the pitching distance is approximately 35 feet, no closer than 20 feet.

There is no infield fly rule, no base lead-offs or stealing, no hit-by-pitches, no bunting or slap hitting, no balks or walks. Players stay at the plate until they can put the ball in play.



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Any batter that throws the bat while trying to run to first base after hitting the ball will get one warning on the first game of the season. Thereafter, they will be called OUT!! The fielding team does not record an out on a play where a batter is called out for throwing a bat.

All batters must wear helmets when batting.

## THE COACH PITCHER

Each team will provide a coach/parent to act as the pitcher for his/her team. Overhand is recommended but underhand is allowed. By the latter part of the season, the coach pitcher is encouraged to pitch overhand to all players if possible.

The coach pitcher is part of the field and if accidentally hit by a ball the ball is alive. It is strongly suggested that the coach pitcher pitch from a position on one knee, if possible. This allows the Rookie player to swing at a pitch arriving on a more level plane.

After **10** Pitches, a Coach will place the Batting Tee in the Batter's Box for the batter to use.

## THE COACH CATCHER/HOME PLATE UMPIRE

Each team will provide a coach/parent home plate umpire in order to keep play moving. The coach home plate umpire is asked to stand far enough in back of home plate to allow the pitched ball to bounce before receiving it.

## INFIELD/OUTFIELD COACHES

Each team will provide coaches/parents to serve as infield and outfield coaches. A team may have as many infield and outfield coaches as it deems necessary. These Coaches will act as umpires as well.

## BASE RUNNING

Players are not allowed to lead off. They must remain on base until the batter makes contact with the ball. These base running rules do NOT change when the team's last player of an inning is up to bat. Base runners cannot advance past the base they are running to once the ball reaches the infield and an infielder has control of the ball. No extra bases will be taken on an overthrow to any base, including home plate. We ask our base coaches to be familiar with and strictly abide by these rules.

## DOUBLE PLAYS

If a fielder catches the ball on a fly, he or she may attempt to double off a runner that left his/her base after contact. This rule does NOT change when the team's last player of an inning bats.

## FIELDING POSITIONS

The Coaches **must rotate** each player to a different position every inning. The exceptions to this are the positions of first base and pitcher. We realize that our A players have significantly varying levels of ability at this young age. Hence, a coach may play the same player at first base or pitcher multiple times during a game. We don't want "targets" playing the first base position. However, to the greatest extent possible, we encourage coaches to allow all of their players to rotate between all infield and outfield positions, unless the safety of the player is a concern in the judgment of the coach.



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## **SCORING**

In the A Division we stress the most basic of baseball fundamentals – defense. Therefore, score is kept by how many outs are made in each inning, not by runners passing home plate. The team in the field is the team that gets the opportunity to score each inning. For instance, if 12 players come to bat in an inning and the fielding team records 4 outs, the fielding team scores 4 for that inning. The team at bat does not record any runs in an inning. A final score might be Yankees-8 outs / Brewers-9 outs.

## **INNINGS**

An inning consists of all players present batting once. In the case of one team having more players than another, the team with fewer players will have additional hitters bat a second time so the same number of hitters bats on each team. After all batters have batted, the inning is over.

## **PUTTING THE BALL IN PLAY**

Batters receive up to 10 pitches to hit the ball. The coach/pitcher will make it as easy as possible for the batter to hit. The coach pitcher can move up to 20 feet from the plate,. It is strongly suggested that the coach pitcher pitch from a position on one knee. This allows the Rookie player to swing at a pitch arriving on a more level plane. After 10 pitches the player should hit off of the Tee to keep the game going. If the ball is then not put into play after 2 swings off the tee, the batter is out.

## **INFIELD FLY RULE**

In the A Division, there is no infield fly rule.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Please always keep in mind that while all sports are, and should be competitive, at this level we stress learning and fun above winning and losing. Your players will learn from you. Keep perspective and set a good example for your young players.

## **FREQUENTLY MISUNDERSTOOD RULES**

- A batted ball that hits home plate and goes fair is a fair ball.
- Any base runner that interferes with a fielder that is attempting to make a play on a batted ball is automatically out.
- Any fielder that is not making a play on a batted ball must not interfere with a base runner in anyway. This is obstruction. The obstructed runner must be awarded at least one base beyond the last one that was legally touched.
- A ball that starts foul and then goes fair before reaching first or third base is a fair ball.
- If a base runner is hit by a batted ball in the field of play, the base runner is out; the batter is NOT out if he/she is touching a base at the time he/she is hit by the batted ball