



# 2018 RULES SUPPLEMENT

## 2018 PEWAUKEE YOUTH BASEBALL RULES (AA)

### ELIGIBILITY/REGISTRATION

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

Boys and Girls who are in the third or fourth 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, Rookie/A (1st and 2nd graders) and Minor/AA (3rd and 4th graders), not what grade level they will be going into next year. For example, a player who is currently in 3rd grade will play in the Minor 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 in.

#### **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 can be called out at the discretion of the home plate umpire 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 home plate umpire.

## **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. Please note that pitchers cannot wear wristbands on their throwing hand or wear any article of clothing or jewelry that can be distracting to a batter. The home plate umpire will ask pitchers to remove clothing or jewelry he deems distracting to a batter.

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

Boys who are playing the catcher's position should wear a protective cup; it is for their safety. This is optional for girls. Parents and coaches are responsible for enforcing this, not the league.

## **"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**



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

## THE UMPIRES

The Minor/AA division PYB will supply the plate umpire. The home team coach will be provided funds to pay the umpire prior to the start of the game. The amount of payment will be detailed by the Rec Coordinator when distributing the funds.

All judgment calls by the umpires are final and no argument will be allowed. If arguing occurs, a warning will be given. If arguing continues, the player or coach is subject to ejection, at the discretion of the umpire.

## THE SCORERS

Each team shall furnish a scorer who should check with the home plate umpire and the scorer from the other team after each inning to ensure they are in agreement. The home plate umpire will settle any dispute relative to the score.

## MOTHER NATURE

Only a PYB representative may postpone a game. 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 home plate umpire.

## STARTING TIME

Games will begin at the exact time designated on the schedule, to be enforced by the home plate umpire. The home plate umpire 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 home plate umpire will declare the game 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 home plate umpire will discuss any ground/field rules and other pertinent information to both head coaches.

## THE LINEUPS

Each team must have 9 roster players, if available. Otherwise, they may play an official game with a minimum of seven 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.



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If a team starts with 9 players or more and goes under 9 players, that spot(s) will be an automatic out(s) each time through the lineup. Only exceptions will be for injury.

Teams must supply a batting order to the opposing team. Players who arrive after the game has begun will be inserted into the bottom of the batting order.

All divisions will use a continuous batting order.

## **“DURING THE GAME”**

### **GAME LENGTH**

- Minor/AA Division: 7 innings or 1 ½ hours

*Unless the game is tied, a new inning will not be started after the time limit for that division.*

### **WHEN A GAME IS OFFICIAL**

If a game is stopped because of inclement weather or darkness, and the game is not yet considered official, the game will resume after the last full inning completed.

If the time limit or maximum number of innings is reached and the game is tied, the game is not considered official and play continues. Games can only end in a tie due to inclement weather or darkness.

If weather or darkness interferes with play so that a game is called by the umpire, it is a regulation game:

- a. If 3 full innings have been played, or if the home team has scored an equal or greater number of runs in 2 or 2 and a fraction turns at bat than the visiting team has scored in 2 turns at bat; or
- b. If 60 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 from 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 home plate umpire has the authority to suspend (stop) a game in progress because of inclement weather, darkness or other conditions as deemed by the home plate umpire. The time during which a game is suspended shall not be considered as part of the time limit.

### **PLAYING TIME & SUBSTITUTIONS**

Each AA 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



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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.

## **PITCHING GUIDELINES**

No player may pitch more than 3 innings per game and a total of 7 innings per week. The total of 7 innings per week applies to all leagues which the player may participate in, not just Pewaukee Youth Baseball. Any one pitch will count as a full inning pitched. Once a pitcher is removed from pitching, he may not pitch again in the same game. For purposes of PYB, a week is defined as Sunday through Saturday.

## **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.

## **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**



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**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. 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.

It is also recommended that any questions or clarifications of calls or situations be made with the umpire at home plate and not from the dugout or base paths. This is a recreational league whose purpose is to teach sportsmanship, among other things, and we must set a good example for the players.

## **PROTESTS**

Protests must be made at the time of the incident by notifying the home plate umpire and the opposing team's head coach. A notation must be made on the game report 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.

## **"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. The 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.

## **PROTESTS**

All protests must be filed to the Division Coordinator or the PYB Rec Coordinator within 24 hours. The PYB Board shall decide the protest unless his/her team is involved in the game protested. Judgment calls are not a proper matter to protest.



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## SPECIAL AA DIVISION RULES

### THE BASICS

- Minimum # players in the field is 7, while the maximum # players in the field is 10
- Maximum # players in the infield area (including the catcher and pitcher) is 6
- Base length is 60 feet and the pitching distance is 46 feet
- There is no infield fly rule, no balk rule, no leading off base or stealing
- No walks – after 4 balls, a coach pitcher will pitch, assuming the current count on the batter

### BASE RUNNING

Base runners may only advance or score on a batted ball hit in fair territory or tag up on any caught fly ball, fair or foul. A base runner attempting to score on anything other than a batted ball must return to their base.

No base runner may lead off or leave a base after the pitcher assumes the legal pitching position (on the rubber with the ball) until the batter hits the pitch. All runners must return to their bases when the pitcher assumes the legal pitching position; otherwise, the runner can be called out at the discretion of the home plate umpire.

Base runners cannot advance past the base they are running to when the ball reaches the infield and an infielder has control of the ball. Any ball hit to the outfield must be thrown to an infielder to be deemed under control. For clarity, the outfielder CANNOT simply run the ball into the infield. It is highly recommended that coaches discuss this rule prior to the start of a game. If a play is made on the infield in an attempt to make an out on a base runner, runners on other bases may advance.

### COURTESY RUNNER

A courtesy runner may be used at any time for the pitcher of record or the catcher or record. A courtesy runner for the catcher is mandatory after 2 outs. The player making the last out *must* be used as the courtesy runner for either the pitcher or catcher, but not for both in the same inning.

### COACH PITCH ON BALL 4

To avoid excessive walks and keep ongoing activity in the field, coach pitch will be used after ball 4. A coach from the batter's team will pitch until either the ball is put in play or the player strikes out. The strike count will be picked up from the last ball pitched by the opposing pitcher. The goal is to pitch such that the player has a good chance of placing the ball in play. Coach pitch should be thrown from the pitching rubber.

After ball four has been delivered and after all play started on that pitch has been completed, the umpire will call 'TIME OUT'. A coaching from the batting team will then take the field to pitch to the batter.

When the coach is ready to pitch, the umpire will call 'TIME IN'. At this time the coach can pitch to the batter. The strike count for the batter will pick up from the last pitch of the game.

If the player reaches strike three from the coach pitch, the player is out.



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If a batter hits a fair ball, normal play will continue

## **BALK RULE**

The balk rule as defined in the high school rulebook will not be enforced as leading off will not be allowed.

Pitchers should continue to make proper and legal contact with the pitching rubber when delivering a pitch, when the condition of the pitching area allows for this. The home plate umpire will warn pitchers who violate this rule, and repeated violations can result in the pitch being ruled a ball at the home plate umpire's discretion.

## **DROPPED THIRD STRIKE**

The batter is automatically out, even if the catcher drops or cannot control a third strike. As there is no base stealing, the play is over and becomes a dead ball situation.

## **AA DIVISION 7 RUN RULE**

The maximum number of runs a team can score in a given at-bat is 7. The ONLY exception to the 7 run limit is a team who enters their last at-bat behind by more than 7 runs. In this specific scenario, the team can score as many runs in order to win the game.. This applies to ONLY the last inning.

## **AA DIVISION 10 RUN RULE**

If a team is behind by 10 or more runs after five innings of play, it shall be considered a completed game.

## **FREQUENTLY MISUNDERSTOOD RULES**

- A batted ball that hits home plate and goes fair is a fair ball.
- The strike zone is the area over home plate that begins at the top of the batters knees and ends halfway between the waist and the shoulders when the batter is in a natural bat swinging position. Any part of the ball that touches the strike zone is a strike.
- 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.
- Coaches can visit the mound only once per inning per pitcher unless the visit is a result of an injury to the pitcher. The second non-injury visit shall require a pitching change
- The pitching distance is measured from the back of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.