

# **Suburban Travel Baseball League Inc.**

Bucks County, PA

Amended 3/5/15

## **Rules and Regulations**

[www.leaguelineup.com/suburbantravel](http://www.leaguelineup.com/suburbantravel)

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## **Overall Rules of Play:**

The following Suburban Travel Baseball League Inc. rules will be accepted and followed by all organizations and umpiring services. Little League, Cal Ripken, and/or Babe Ruth rules are not applicable. With the exception of the following, normal baseball rules are to be followed.

## **General Information:**

- A. The Suburban Travel League will be governed by the Board of Directors and a duly elected Executive Board consisting of the President, Vice President and Treasurer, Secretary, and Commissioner Coordinator.
- B. All matters concerning policy, rules and regulations, and fundraising for the Suburban Travel League will be decided by the Board of Directors.
- C. The currently seated Suburban Travel League Board of Directors will nominate and approve any new Executive Board members.
- D. The Suburban Travel League Board of Directors will consist of representatives of approved participating organizations. The decision to go beyond forty organizations participating in Suburban Travel will be based on a majority vote of the existing Board membership.
- E. Elections will be held in October of each year for the Executive Board positions.
- F. If an opening occurs on the Executive Board, a member may submit to the Suburban Travel Board an application with his or her credentials that may qualify them for a position on the Board.
- G. All voting will be done and passed or declined by a simple majority.
- H. All Executive Board members, including the President, Vice-President and Treasurer, Secretary, and Commissioner Coordinator will have a vote on all matters except in situations where their own home organization is involved.

## **Age Groups:**

- A. Eight (8) year old age group. No player should turn nine (9) before May 1.
- B. Nine (9) year old age group. No player should turn ten (10) before May 1.
- C. Ten (10) year old age group. No player should turn eleven (11) before May 1.
- D. Eleven (11) year old age group. No player should turn twelve (12) before May 1.
- E. Twelve (12) year old age group. No player should turn thirteen (13) before May 1.

- F. Thirteen (13) year old age group. No player should turn fourteen (14) before May 1
- G. Fourteen (14) year old age group. No player should turn fifteen (15) before May 1.
- I. Fifteen (15) year old age group. No player should turn sixteen (16) before May 1.
- J. Seven\*\* (7) year old age group. No player should turn eight (8) before May 1.

\*\*Note - this age group is being listed in the Rules & Regulations of the STBL to officially recognize the program's existence and make sure all organizations are aware of the opportunity. This age group is **very** low key and not meant to be competitive, rather it is to be instructional and introduce younger children to the STBL program and philosophy. There is no cost for participating in this age group. There will be no All Stars, no play-offs, no commissioner, and is totally voluntary. If no STBL director volunteers to oversee the program, or if not enough teams are rostered during any given year, it may be suspended for that year. The rules for this age group can change season-to-season and will not be published in this document. The executive board will not get involved in issues with the 7 year old age group unless there is a problem with a coach, parent, or organization not understanding the basic philosophy of this being a totally instructional program. The executive board reserves the right to disband this program at anytime without notice.

### **Awards:**

- A. Trophies will be awarded to the champion and the runner-up in each age group division.

### **Base Distances:**

- A. Eights (8) up to and including ten (10) year olds the distance between the bases is sixty (60) feet. Distance from the back point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber is forty-six (46) feet. For the eleven (11) and twelve (12) year olds, the distance between the bases is seventy (70) feet. Distance from the back point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber is fifty (50) feet.
- B. For the thirteen (13) years and up the distance between the bases is ninety (90) feet, distance from the back point of the plate to the front of the pitcher rubber is sixty (60) feet six (6) inches.

### **Baseballs:**

- A. Only Cal Ripken, Babe Ruth, or Little League sanctioned baseballs will be allowed to be used during League games.
- B. The home team will supply at least two (2) new baseballs for every game.

## **Base Running (For all games played on 60 foot dimension fields):**

- A. When a pitcher is in contact with the pitching rubber and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball, base runners shall not leave their base until the ball crosses the plate. There will be no delayed steals of home or any base in the 8, 9 or 10-year old age groups. Specifically, once the catcher has the ball and is returning it to the pitcher who is in contact with the pitching rubber area, all base runners must return to their respective bases.
- B. When a base runner leaves the base before the ball crosses the plate and the batter does not hit the ball, the runner must return to that previous base. If a play is made on that runner and he is called out, the out stands.
- C. When a base runner leaves the base before the ball crosses the plate and the batter hits the ball, the runners are permitted to continue. If a play is made on the runner or runners and they are put out, the out or outs will stand. If not put out the runner or runners must return to their original base or bases or to the nearest unoccupied base that is nearest the one they left. In no event shall a batter advance beyond first base on a single or error, second base on a double, or third base on a triple. The umpire shall determine the base value of the hit ball.
- D. The Suburban Travel League does not condone the use of head first sliding—individual organizations should follow the rules on head first sliding that are promulgated by their national sanctioning body.
- E. When any base runner leaves the base before the ball crosses the plate and the batter bunts or hits the ball within the infield, no run shall be allowed to score. If three runners were on the bases and the batter reaches first safely, each runner shall advance to the base beyond the one they occupied at the start of the play except the runner who occupied third base, which runner shall be removed from the base without a run being scored.
- F. When a base runner is approaching a base or home plate and the defensive player is in possession (or about to be in possession) of the ball, then the runner must slide or avoid the tag. If in the umpire's judgment the runner does not slide or avoid the tag and makes contact with the defensive player then the runner is called out and the ball would be declared dead. If a runner attempting to reach home plate (or any base) intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player, he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. The objective of this rule is to penalize the offensive team for causing a possible injury to a defensive player. (This is an umpire's judgment call.) However, in accordance with Major League Baseball rules, a defensive player is not permitted to block a base or home plate when not in possession (or about to be in possession) of the ball—umpire would apply the obstruction rule in this case.
- G. No courtesy runners are allowed for the catcher or pitcher in any circumstance.

## **Base Running (For all games played on 50/70 and 90 foot dimension fields):**

- A. Base running will be in accordance with major league baseball rules. However, rules F and G from above also apply to these age groups.

## **Batting:**

- A. Managers can use either nine or ten batters as a part of the original batting line-up. The manager also has the option to bat all players in uniform sequentially; however, if this option is chosen and a player is unable to complete his or her turn at bat because of injury or some other reason, then an automatic out must be taken at that spot in the line up.
- B. Managers can pre-slot all players before the game begins. The batting line-up card must clearly reflect whether they are “A” or “B” slotted players. Players who are pre-slotted, must alternate at bats each and every time through the line-up in a fashion such that player A bats the first time through the line-up, player B bats the second time through, player A bats the third time, and so on. If either player A or B is injured, then the other non-injured player could bat for the injured player when the turn comes up in the line-up.
- C. If a Manager does not either pre-slot the entire batting line-up or bat the entire line-up, substitutes can be entered into the original batting line-up for another player (who was originally in the batting line-up) as the game is being played as long as all substitutes are reported to the opposing team manager BEFORE he/she enters the line-up. Once the substitute batter is entered into the line-up, he/she must stay in that slot the remainder of the game. If a player is injured, then and only then can a substitute be moved to a different slot in the line-up. With this option C, the Manager has the option in this scenario to alternate the original member of the line-up and any subsequent substitute in any manner that is desired as the game progresses as long as it is reported to the opposing Manager before the entry into the line-up takes place.
- D. For the 8, 9, 10, and 11 year old age groups playing on 60 foot base paths, the batter is out when a third strike is caught or dropped by the catcher.
- E. For the 12 and older age groups, the dropped third strike rule will be in effect for both 60 foot and 70 foot bases. The dropped third strike rule will also be in effect for the 11 year old age group playing the 50/70 dimensions.
- F. For the 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 year old age groups, swinging or “slap bunts” are not allowed. In addition, a batter can not show a bunt stance and then swing away. This rule is intended for the safety of the infielders. On the first infraction of this rule, the offensive team is given a warning and the pitch is called a strike and the ball is dead. Any subsequent infractions in the game will result in the batter called out and the ball declared dead.

- G. When a bat is thrown by a batter (regardless of whether the batter makes contact with the ball or not), the offending team will be issued a warning by the umpire. Any subsequent thrown bat by any batter on that team will result in that batter being declared out, the ball being declared dead, and any runner or runners returned to their original base. If, in the opinion of the umpire, a batter maliciously throws a bat, then the batter is declared out and is ejected from the game.
- H. Remember, the Manager can make defensive substitutions at any time with the exception of the pitcher (see rules for pitching). Offense and defensive play are not tied together in any way, shape, or form.

## **Boundaries:**

- A. All Suburban Travel League teams must have specific boundaries that conform to the boundaries as approved by their national affiliation. No team shall be permitted to enter Suburban Travel without specified boundaries and every organization playing in Suburban Travel must have a National Affiliation that designates reasonable geographical boundaries for the age groups that are competing. Rostered players **must** reside, i.e., their permanent residence **must** be in, the defined territory of the organization. **The President of Suburban Travel Baseball can only grant exceptions to this rule, normally based on a child and his family moving to a permanent residence in another organization's territory, but where the child and parents wish for him/her to play with the original organization.** Should a member organization seek approval of an exception, they must present to the President, in writing, just cause, including a duly approved waiver as granted by that organization's national affiliation. Exceptions must be presented to the President prior to the start of the regular season. At no time shall a player be rostered on, or allowed to compete for, more than one organization. Violations of these rules will result in the forfeiture of those games in which the improperly rostered player competed and could result in forfeiture of that organization's right to participate in the Suburban Travel League.
- B. All organizations playing in Suburban Travel Baseball League are strictly forbidden from recruitment of a player or players from any other organization. Such an act will mean instant forfeit of that organization's right to play in the Suburban Travel Baseball League.

## **Commissioners:**

- A. Each age group division will have one Commissioner. There will be a Commissioner Coordinator who will be responsible for helping guide the individual Commissioners.
- B. The Commissioners will be responsible for making sure un-played games are rescheduled, and that weekly scores are reported to the local newspapers.
- C. The Commissioners, with appropriate input from the STBL Executive Board, will be responsible for mediation due to disputes during a scheduled game.

- D. The Commissioners, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Board are always open to suggestions and comments, please do not hesitate to call or write.

### **Discipline:**

- A. The Suburban Travel Executive Board shall have the authority to suspend any player, coach, and/or manager for willing misconduct, with the intent to harm or to be detrimental to another person or to this Suburban Travel League. This decision will be based on votes by the sitting Executive Board Members.
- B. If the Suburban Travel Executive Board is forced to suspend a player, coach, or manager the suspension will be for a minimum of two (2) consecutive games after the infraction(s) occurs.
- C. The Suburban Travel Executive Board will notify the suspended player, coach, or manager within twenty-four hours of the Board's decision.
- D. The Suburban Travel Executive Board has full authority to suspend, fine, or revoke any organization's future participation.
- E. Any player, coach, manager or organization can appeal any fine or suspension levied by the Suburban Travel Board. All appeals must be in writing and sent to the Suburban Travel Executive Board within seven (7) days of the fine or suspension notice.

### **Drop Outs:**

- A. Any team that drops out of a division without prior notification to the STBL and once the schedules have been prepared for the upcoming season, will be fined one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) to be paid by their league or organization.

### **Field Times:**

- A. The away team must be given the field twenty (20) minutes immediately preceding the start of the game to allow for sufficient warm up time.

### **Financial:**

- A. The Suburban Travel Board of Directors shall decide all matters pertaining to the Finances of this League and it shall deposit all monies into the League account.

### **Forfeits:**

- A. In the event of a forfeit, the team causing the forfeit will be fined twenty five (25) dollars for the first offense, fifty (50) dollars for a second offence, and one hundred (100) dollars for the third. After the third forfeit the team will be suspended for the

rest of the season. If both of the opposing teams forfeit the game then each team is charged with a loss. All monies are due to Suburban Travel League within fourteen (14) days. If the monies are not received in this period the team will be suspended until the monies are paid.

## **Home Fields:**

- A. Home team must supply the following:
  - (1) Three (3) bases – bases must be anchored.
  - (2) Pitchers rubber-should be white rubber to League specifications and anchored.
  - (3) Home plate-should be white rubber to League specifications and anchored.
  - (4) All fields must be lined or the game may be protested, a protest must be made before first pitch is thrown.
- B. It is strongly suggested that all backstops (behind the plate area) be covered by a wind/sun screen by the first week of the season.

## **Insurance:**

- A. All organizations must submit a copy of proper insurance coverage to the League by the day of registration.
- B. All organizations' insurance must include a rider naming Suburban Travel League as additional Insured unless covered by an umbrella insurance policy.
- C. Leagues also must sign with the Suburban Travel League a “no harm agreement.”

## **Managers:**

- A. Managers of all teams are responsible to their Organization and Suburban Travel Baseball for the conduct of their players, their coaches, their parents, their spectators/fans, as well as themselves.
- B. All visiting team Managers will contact the opposing manager for each game at least forty-eight (48) hours before game time to check on any last minute changes, check directions, etc.
- C. During games, no more than four (4) adults will be permitted in each of the dugouts consisting of three (3) manager/coaches and one (1) scorekeeper.

## **Meetings:**

- A. The Suburban Travel Board of Directors will hold meetings during the months of January, February, March, May, October, and November. The S.T.B.L. secretary will notify all Board members of the date, time, and place of the forthcoming meeting.

- B. In the Fall of each year, The Suburban Travel Board will discuss (and approve) any rules changes necessary for the next baseball season.
- C. Any member organization that does not have a representative in attendance at these important meetings will have no recourse as to any decisions that are made for the upcoming year(s). In addition, organizations will be fined a sum of **\$25** for each meeting that is missed during the calendar year.

## **Pitching Limitations and Rules:**

- A. No player may pitch more than six innings in a week (Monday through Sunday). This includes both in-house games as well as travel games. Managers are on the honor system in adhering to this rule. In addition, for the 8, 9, and 10 year old age groups, no one player can pitch more than 4 innings in any one game or in any one calendar day (this rule is in addition to the limit of 6 innings per week). **(Note: the innings per week rule is suspended for the opening weekend of the play-offs—all other pitching rules remain in place for the play-offs).**
- B. For the 50/70 foot (11 and 12 year olds) and 90 foot fields (13 year olds), there will be one balk warning per team per game. Balks that occur after the one warning will result in the standard penalty according to Major League Baseball rules.
- C. One pitch to a batter is considered as having pitched an inning.
- D. A pitcher must be removed from the mound on the second visit from a coach/manager during the same inning. A player removed from the mound in any circumstance cannot return as a pitcher in the same game. **For the eights division only**, all innings pitched by a pitcher must be continuous and uninterrupted, such that a pitcher may not be reinserted into this position later in the game after being removed as a pitcher in any circumstance.

## **Playing Equipment:**

- A. Rubber-cleated spikes are allowed in all age groups. However, metal-cleated spikes are strictly forbidden in the eight (8), nine (9), ten (10) eleven (11) and the twelve (12) year old divisions. Metal spikes are allowed for 90-foot baseball only.
- B. All batters, catchers, and base runners must wear League sanctioned safety equipment including helmets, (throat guard, heavy duty cup for catchers only). However, it is recommended that all players wear a cup for their personal protection.
- C. For the 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 year old age groups, the maximum barrel diameter for a metal or wood bat is 2 ¼ inches. Bats with a barrel diameter greater than 2 ¼ inches are not allowed in the 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 year old age groups. Composite barrel bats are allowed in the 8s through 12 year olds divisions.

For the 13 year old age group and above, the maximum allowable barrel diameter for metal bats is 2 5/8 inches and the weight differential can be no more than a minus (-3). In addition, only metal/composite bats certified and marked BBCOR .50 are allowed. Wood barrel bats conforming to the specifications of Official Baseball Rule 1.10 are allowed.

### **Players:**

- A. Free substitution on defense is allowed at any time in the game. Any player except the pitcher may be removed and reinstated at any time or position as long as he or she remains in the proper batting position.

### **Protests:**

- A. Protests must be submitted in writing to the age group Commissioner within forty-eight (48) hours from the completion of the game in which the protest occurred.
- B. When a manager decides to lodge a protest he or she must also notify the opposing manager and the official league plate umpire immediately. Once the next pitch has been thrown, no protest can be made.
- C. No protest will be valid unless the umpire-in-chief has made a record of such a protest in the scorebooks. At the time of the protest, the umpire must sign both home and away scorebooks and write in the protester's scorebook his or her version of the play in question.
- D. The age group Commissioner will present any protest to the Suburban Travel Executive Board for the ruling.

### **Rainouts, Ties, or Postponed Games:**

- A. In the event of a rainout or unplayable field conditions the home team manager must notify the age group Commissioner and the visiting team manager no later than three (3) hours prior to the scheduled game time.
- B. All rainouts and postponements must be rescheduled within five (5) days from the date of the originally scheduled game. Failure to do this will result in a loss or possibly a fine.
- C. The rescheduled game will be arranged by both team managers, and when a decision has been made, the age group Commissioner should be notified.
- D. The age group Commissioner has full authority to reschedule the games if the team managers reach an impasse, and the Commissioner has the authority to give each team a forfeit loss if he or she believes that both teams are not putting forth a good-faith effort to schedule the make-up game.

- E. Any regular season legal game called because of rain or darkness will be declared a legal game even if it ends in a tie.
- F. No game can be postponed unless the age group commissioner and the opposing manager are notified no later than forty-eight (48) hours before the game. If for some reason the opposing manager does not want to postpone the game, that opposing manager has the option to insist on playing that game. If the manager attempting to postpone the game is unable to play, for whatever reason, this game will be considered a forfeit for the team attempting to postpone.

## **Registration:**

- A. All organizations must commit the number of teams that will participate in each age group no later than March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- B. At the time of registration, all organizations must submit to the Suburban Travel League a typed or neatly printed form that signifies each team entered, field locations, when those fields are available, and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all coaches and the team manager.
- C. Any organization falsifying any team information will be not permitted to play in the Suburban Travel League.
- D. As noted previously, any organization that withdraws a team after it has been committed will be fined \$150.00 dollars.
- E. The registration deadline for players is by April 1<sup>st</sup>; at that time each team may register up to eighteen (18) players, but no less than eleven (11) players.
- F. The cutoff date for additional players or other roster changes is by May 1. Any manager who wishes to roster additional players must do so before May 1st and must notify in writing the President of Suburban Travel Baseball prior to including any additional player(s) in any league game(s). Failure to properly comply with this rule will result in the forfeiture of the game(s) where the un-rostered players participated. In addition, any rostered player as of April 1<sup>st</sup> is **not allowed** to shift to another organization either prior to or after the May 1<sup>st</sup> roster cut-off.

## **Regulation of the Organization:**

- A. The Suburban Travel League Board of Directors is comprised of all volunteers.
- B. The Suburban Travel League Board of Directors shall appoint age group Commissioners to oversee his or her age group pertaining to problems that may arise throughout the season.
- C. The Suburban Travel League Board of Directors gives administrative authority to their Commissioners to run their respective age group divisions. Commissioners **must** be

treated with respect. **Disrespectful treatment of commissioners will result in disciplinary action to be meted out by the Suburban Travel President.**

- D. The Suburban Travel Executive Board members and the Commissioners have the authority to police the use of safety equipment and to maintain acceptable behavior of all adults and teams during any given game.
- E. The Suburban Travel League Board does not assign individual team managers, coaches, or other organizational officials. That responsibility is solely the province of the individual Suburban organizations. However, it is incumbent on all organizations that participate in the Suburban Travel Baseball League to ensure that their managers, coaches, and any related staff are in compliance with all of the rules and regulations of their national sanctioning bodies with regarding to background checks. Furthermore, each organization must comply with any and all local, state, or federal laws that may apply to the background checks of their managers, coaches, and any related staff.

## **Rules for the Eight (8) Year Old Division:**

The 8-year old age group follows the specified rules and regulations for the 9-year old age group except for the following:

### Batting

- No bunting is permitted. If a bunt is attempted by the batter, a strike will be called by the umpire and no advancement of base runners will occur. The infield fly rule is **not** enforced in the 8s division.

### Base Running

- No stealing is permitted. No advancement of base runners can occur unless by batter action (the ball is put into play by the batter, or the batter is walked or hit by pitch). Further, given that no stealing is possible, catchers and pitchers are prohibited from attempting to “pick-off” baserunners.

### Pitching

- All innings pitched by a pitcher must be continuous and uninterrupted. A pitcher may not be reinserted into this position later in the game after being removed as a pitcher in any circumstance.

## **Safety**

- A. The Suburban Travel League Board of Directors expects all participating organizations to practice and follow basic safety measures. All organizations are expected to have available, at a minimum, at all fields or complexes basic safety

devices such as cold packs/ice, a first aid kit, and phone numbers for local emergency contacts.

## **Schedules:**

- A. The schedule of games for the regular season shall be prepared by the Schedule Developer(s).
- B. The schedule shall normally provide for a maximum of two (2) games to be played each week unless fields are not available. Organizations and individual teams should NOT be scheduling to host or play in tournaments during the Suburban Travel regular season and the play-offs.
- C. In order to ensure an equal number of home and away games for its teams, each organization must have the following field availability in the eight to twelve year old age groups:

**One or two teams registered** -- one field available Friday nights and one field available for two time slots on Sunday afternoons.

**Three or Four teams registered** -- two fields available Friday nights and two fields available for two time slots on Sunday afternoons.

**Five, six, or seven teams registered** -- three fields available Friday nights and three fields available for two time slots on Sunday afternoons.

## **Scorebooks and Roster Sheets:**

- A. Scorebooks must contain all **last names** and numbers of players in the game to be played.
- B. In playoff games, roster line up sheets must be used, and filled out neatly and correctly. The scorebooks and line up sheets must be filled out before the game. The completed line up sheets must be exchanged before the start of the game to each of the managers.
- C. If a team is using an ineligible player, that team will forfeit that game.
- D. The umpire at the end of each game must sign both scorebooks.

## **Standings:**

- A. Each team's record will determine standings for Division winners, playoff positions, and home field advantage at end of the season.
- B. Number of wins divided by games played is the formula used to determine the standings in a Division. Ties count as one-half win and one-half loss. Should the

situation arise where two teams jointly choose to not play a scheduled or a re-scheduled game, or if they jointly choose to not re-schedule a postponed game, then each team will be given a loss for that game. This rule is intended to ensure that all games that are meaningful to the standings are actually played.

- C. If two or more teams are tied in the standings and there is no winner in the case of head to head competition during the regular season, then that spot or spots in the standings is/are determined by winning percentage against the opponents that those teams commonly played. When this tie-breaking mechanism does not produce a clear ranking in the standings, then that spot or spots in the standings is/are determined by the lowest Runs Against total. When these tie-breaking mechanisms do not produce a clear ranking in the standings, then a flip of the coin or a draw of the cards will be used, with the team located closest to the Bensalem Community Center calling the flip or pulling the card.
- C. The team managers are solely responsible for reporting their team's game scores (wins only) to their age group Commissioner by Sunday evening no later than 7:00 pm for their Friday and Sunday games.

### **Starting Times and/or Suspended Games:**

- A. All teams must have nine (9) players in place to start a game. If there are not nine (9) players from one particular team, that team will forfeit that game.
- B. All teams will have a fifteen (15) minute grace period so that those teams that have to travel a far distance or through heavy traffic have the opportunity to arrive for the game.
- C. Friday games will have a standard starting time of six o'clock (6:00 P.M.) or eight-thirty (8:30 P.M.), unless otherwise adjusted by the schedule commissioner. Sunday games will have a standard starting time of one o'clock (1:00 P.M.) or three-thirty (3:30 P.M.), unless otherwise adjusted by the schedule commissioner.
- D. The 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 year old age groups play (6) inning games, and no new inning may start after two (2) hours from the scheduled start time of the game. The 13 year old age group and above play (7) inning games, and no new inning may start after two hours and 15 minutes from the scheduled start time of the game. Games stopped because of the time limit will be considered a regulation game, regardless of the number of innings played. However, in the play-offs, **tie games** that reach the time limit should be continued to a conclusion.
- E. If a game is suspended, it is regulation if:
  - 1. Four (4) innings have been played.
  - 2. The home team has scored more runs in the three and a half innings than visiting team has scored in four innings.

3. The home team scores enough runs in its half of the fourth inning to tie the score or go ahead.
- F. Mercy Rule: Within the 8 through 12 year olds divisions, after four innings of play if one team is behind by fifteen (15) runs or more and has completed its time at bat, the game is automatically surrendered to the leading team. Within the 13 and 14/15 age groups, after four innings of play if one team is behind by fifteen (15) runs or more and has completed its time at bat, the game is automatically surrendered to the leading team. After five innings of play if one team is behind by ten (10) runs or more and has completed its time at bat, the game is automatically surrendered to the leading team.
  - G. The umpire will determine if an inning shall be started or completed, according to Suburban Travel Rules and Regulations.
  - H. A game will be stopped immediately at the first flash of lighting. The umpires and the team managers will discuss whether to continue to play. The umpires have the responsibility to make the decision on a continuance.
  - I. Games that are suspended (and which are not yet regulation) due to weather or darkness will be completed at another date in accordance with STBL rules from the exact point in the game where it was suspended. These games will **NOT** be restarted from the beginning.

## **Umpires:**

- A. Organizations participating in Suburban Travel must use a professional and independent umpiring service. Organizations are **not** to use “in-house” umpires for any games either for the regular season or the play-offs. All umpires must be certified by a recognized body, must be at least 18 years of age, must be “professionally attired” for all games, and should conduct themselves in accordance with the rules and regulations of Major League Baseball. All umpires **must** adhere to, abide by, and enforce the rules as stated in this document. Suburban Travel strongly encourages organizations to use two umpires per game for their home games in the 8 to 12 year old divisions, they have that option. However, two umpires must be supplied for all games played on a (90) foot field and for all playoff games in every age group.
- B. In the event that an umpire or umpires fail to show up for a scheduled game, then the opposing managers are expected to reach a joint decision on finding a parent volunteer or volunteers to umpire the game. The mutually-selected individual(s) should have knowledge of baseball rules and preferably have experience umpiring games. It is preferable to have the home plate umpire positioned behind the catcher, but if this is not possible, then calling balls and strikes from behind the pitcher is acceptable. One possible standard outcome of this situation is to have the away team nominate the balls-and-strikes umpire and the home team nominate a person to call the bases. However, if (or when) the regularly scheduled umpire(s) show up, then they should relieve the volunteers.

## **Uniforms:**

- A. Uniforms are essential to a team's character and Suburban Travel League insists that all players dress accordingly. Your own organization's matching hats, pants, socks, and shirts must be worn at every travel game. Numbers must be on the back of the tee shirt or jersey. Each player must wear a unique and distinct number.
- B. The uniform code will be strictly enforced. No player is permitted on the playing field unless these requirements are met. A player will be disqualified by the umpire if not in full uniform, based on Suburban Travel League standards.

## **Website:**

[WWW.LEAGUELINEUP.COM/SUBURBANTRAVEL](http://WWW.LEAGUELINEUP.COM/SUBURBANTRAVEL)