

# Arapahoe Youth League



## 2025 Baseball Rules

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*2025 General Baseball Rules*

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## **THE MISSION/SCOPE OF THE AYL BASEBALL BOARD**

Arapahoe Youth League (AYL) Baseball is a community-based baseball program that works diligently to provide the best competition, fields and umpires for the development of youth athletes within our AYL Member Club Territories, while maintaining the spirit of community (our neighborhood) teams competing against each other. To support this mission, AYL Baseball offers three (3) levels of competitive baseball; our C-Prep League, our Competitive (AAA/Majors) League as well as our Intermediate (AA) League.

**C-Prep ~ Upper and Lower Divisions of 7th and 8th graders only**

**Competitive ~ AAA and Majors Divisions consisting of ages 8 through 13**

**Intermediate ~ AA program consisting of age groups 6 through 13/14**

~ Ages 6 and 7 are coach pitch

~ Age 8 is modified coach pitch

~ Age 9 and up is kid pitch

The AYL Baseball Board has made and will continue to make efforts to update and amend the AYL Baseball Rules for accuracy and to adapt to current and relevant new rules for each new baseball season.

These AYL Baseball Rules are provided “as is” and to the fullest extent applicable, are the guiding principles for AYL Baseball, however, the AYL Baseball Board retains **BROAD DISCRETION** and does reserve the right to change, amend and/or to make exception to any rule as deemed necessary, and without limitation, by looking at any circumstance that warrants such action. These changes, including change in content, description, terms, etc. may be made at any time without notice by a majority Board vote.

AYL By-Laws and General Principles of Operation, govern over all AYL sports. All non-baseball league rules are addressed in the AYL General Principles of Operation (GP's). All references to the Board in this document will mean the AYL Baseball Board and/or its Delegates.

The current edition of the “National Federation of High School Associations Baseball Rule Book”, with associated modifications by CHSAA, shall govern all situations not addressed by the AYL General and Age Specific Baseball Rules.

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## **OVERALL GENERAL GUIDELINES**

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER PROTOCOL: RAIN/LIGHTING**

- When inclement weather approaches, especially for lighting, please take cover immediately.
- Go to a safe sheltered place or car; All players and coaches must vacate the field and dugouts. **DO NOT** stay on the field or in the dugouts.
- When lighting is in the area, within 10 miles, the umpire shall postpone the game for a time period of not less than 15 minutes. If it is determined, by the umpire, after 15 minutes the danger still exists, another 15-minute delay shall be called, after which if the danger or conditions warrant, or the fields are unplayable, the game will be suspended and may be: 1) resumed at a later date from where the game left off depending on the time left and innings played. Or 2) cancelled without rescheduling. See Rule 16.1
- All coaches and umpires are required to use the “My Lightning Tracker” app to monitor weather at all outdoor activities, including practices and games. Weatherbug, MyRadar and other apps are not preferred, but acceptable.
- Officials, Coaches, and players must not leave as the game will resume once any lighting danger or rain has subsided. The only entities that may suspend/postpone or cancel a game are the field umpires and/or VP of Baseball. Coaches should expect to be notified by the umpire if the game will resume. If the game is suspended, please refer to the following rules. (Rule 16.1) unless (Rule 15.6) applies.

### **TOBACCO & TOBACCO RELATED PRODUCTS GUIDELINES**

The use of ANY tobacco products, dipping products or any electronic smoking devices such as e-cigarettes, vape pens or atomizers shall be prohibited by all participants (including but not limited to players, manager, coaches, umpires, parents and spectators) within the confines of the playing field, dugouts and viewing areas. Local facilities may have stricter policies prohibiting tobacco from facilities and parking areas. These policies, if any, shall be recognized and enforced during AYL events. Any violation of said rules are cause for immediate removal and suspension (see Rule 1)

### **ALCOHOL & ALCOHOL RELATED PRODUCTS GUIDELINES**

The use of or presence of ANY alcohol products of any kind, shall be prohibited by all participants (including but not limited to players, manager, coaches, umpires, parents and spectators) within the confines of the playing field, dugouts and viewing areas. Local facilities may have stricter policies prohibiting alcohol from facilities and parking areas.

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These policies, if any, shall be recognized and enforced during AYL events. Any violation of said rules are cause for immediate removal and suspension (see Rule 1 below)

### **Rule 1 Sportsmanship/Ejections**

The AYL Baseball League is committed to promoting good sportsmanship, responsible behavior, and a positive environment for the youth of our community to play the game of baseball. AYL has a zero-tolerance policy regarding ejections and behavior. All coaches, players, and parents/spectators will be held to this standard.

- 1.1 Each Member Club is ultimately responsible for the conduct and sportsmanship of their coaches, players and parents/spectators. Similarly, each Head Coach is ultimately responsible for the conduct and sportsmanship of their assistant coaches, players, and parents/spectators.
- 1.2 If a Head Coach, assistant coach or parent/spectator is ejected because of their own actions, it will result in that person being given **at a minimum a One (1) league game suspension, potentially increased up to Three (3) games upon AYL Baseball Board review**, played by that team. Upon being suspended, they **may not attend** or **be on the premises** during the entire duration of the games played under suspension.
- 1.3 Player's ejections will result in a one (1) game suspension for that player.
- 1.4 If any person other than the Head Coach associated with said team (coach, player, or parent/ spectator) is ejected for **any** reason; the **Head Coach is also removed** and must leave immediately and for the remainder of that game.  
  
**It is the Head Coach's responsibility to know this rule, therefore, any Head Coach that does not voluntarily leave, will be removed from the next game played, in addition to a Member Club fine of \$100.00.**
- 1.5 Any team who has any person (coach, player, or parent/spectator) ejected from a game but refuses to leave the playing facility within two requests from the umpire is subject to forfeiture of the game.
- 1.6 Any person (coach, player, or parent/spectator) who is ejected twice during the season will not be allowed to attend any more league games during that season without approval from the AYL Baseball Board.
- 1.7 If any coach, player, or parent/spectator is ejected during the final game of the season, the Member Club affiliated with the ejected person shall be subject to a **\$200.00** fine.

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**1.8** The AYL Baseball Board retains broad discretion to impose additional sanctions on Clubs, coaches, players and parents for inappropriate or unsportsmanlike conduct as needed on a case-by-case basis.

**1.9** Umpire incident reports are due within **48 hours** from the Umpire in Charge. If no umpire incident report is received within 48 hours to the VP of Baseball and/or the Club Delegate, then any such suspension **may** be rescinded.

**1.10**      **CONTACT ~ Specifics:** Avoid contact rule and language.

**1.10.1**      ***Avoid contact rule:*** Whenever a tag play is evident, a runner must make every effort to avoid contact with the fielder.  
**Runner may not jump over any player!**

Note: All players are encouraged slide on all close plays to avoid a collision or interference. When contact is made it will be the umpire's judgment whether the runner created rough or deliberate contact. On a close play that the runner did not slide but did try to avoid a tag and or a collision and there was no intent to contact, the runner shall not be called out for not avoiding contact. Runners may not intentionally interfere by veering towards, without sliding, at defensive players who are trying to complete double plays. At the umpires' discretion, both runners may be called out. If the umpire feels that the contact was intentional and/or malicious, then the runner will be declared out and may be ejected from the game (all subsequent at bats will be recorded as outs).

**1.10 LANGUAGE:** If any coach, player, or parent/spectator uses profane or obscene language, the officials may issue a warning or may immediately remove the offender for the remainder of the game.

\* After a warning, if ANY second offense by a **player**, the player shall be immediately removed from the game and not allowed to return.

\* After a warning, if ANY a second offense by a **coach or spectator**, the offending team shall forfeit the game.

**1.11 SHOUTING/TALKING TO OPPONENTS PLAYERS:** If any Coach, player, or spectator openly shouts/talks in a negative or derogatory manner to any of their opponent's players, the team Head Coach will be given an ejection warning. After a second occurrence of this unsportsmanlike behavior, the team Head Coach will be



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ejected, and the entire team/spectator group will be given a final warning that any further reoccurrence will result in the team forfeiting the game involved.

### **Rule 2 Scheduling and Postponing Games**

- 2.1** The date, time and location for all league games will be determined by the AYL Baseball Board.
- 2.2** The AYL Baseball Board is the only entity that may reschedule postponed games.
- 2.3** Games may be postponed, or cancelled, for any reason by an AYL Baseball Board official of the home field Club (or an AYL Baseball Board official of the Club whose field is being used) up to two hours before game time. A game may be postponed by such official due to inclement weather any time before the game commences.
- 2.4** Once a game begins **ONLY** the **On Field Umpire(s)** or the **VP of Baseball** may call the game due to inclement weather.

### **Rule 3 Umpires**

- 3.1** The Board will determine the number of paid umpires that will be supplied for regular season & playoff games.
- 3.2 Scheduled Number of Umpires.**
  - 3.2.1** Competitive (AAA/Majors) League ages 9 – 14 will have two umpires.
  - 3.2.2** Competitive (AAA/Majors) League age 8 will have one umpire.
  - 3.2.3** Intermediate (AA) League ages 10 – 13/14 will have two umpires.
  - 3.2.4** Intermediate (AA) League ages 6 – 9 National will have one umpire while 9 American will have two umpires.
  - 3.2.5** Under some circumstances games in which two umpires are scheduled may be played with only one umpire and games scheduled with one may have two.
  - 3.2.6** Umpire Table

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Age/ Division Level	6 – 9 AA Natl	8 AAA/M	9 AA Amer	10 -13/14 AA	9-13 AAA/M	14 C-Prep AAA/M
Umpires Scheduled	1	1	2	2	2	2

### 3.3 Umpire positioning.

3.3.1 Umpires for the Intermediate League (AA), ages 6 through 7, may either be behind or off to the side of the catcher, out of play, to call balls and strikes or, if desired, they may call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher. For 8 and above the position is to call balls and strikes directly behind the catcher.

3.3.2 Umpires for all other levels and ages of play must call balls and strikes from directly behind the catcher.

3.4 Only official AYL umpires may umpire a game unless approved by the Board. Any game played without AYL certified umpires will be deemed “no contest” and may be rescheduled, or cancelled, by the AYL Baseball Board. Exception: at any age if both teams’ Head coaches agree to play with Volunteer umpire(s) the game will be considered official.

3.5 AYL official umpires are independent contractors; however, they must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with League policies and expectations, must be in full uniform, be familiar with AYL Baseball Rules, exception rules and may be removed at the request of the AYL Baseball Board for non-compliance.

## **Rule 4 Scorekeepers and Pitch Counters**

4.1 Each team must supply one scorekeeper; the home team’s scorekeeper shall be identified prior to the start of the game by the umpire as the official scorekeeper.

4.2 Scorekeepers are required to check with each other at the end of each complete inning to verify the correct score and discuss any other relevant matters.

4.3 Paper scorebooks, *Game Changer* are considered an official scorebook. **Game Changer being the preferred method of scorekeeping.**

4.3.1 AA teams using Game Changer are recommended to set up their team using the following format:

Organization, Team, Color, Coach’s Last Name, Age Group  
I.E. (Warriors Red Smith 12).

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- 4.4** Each team must designate a person as the official Pitch Count Recorder.
- 4.5** The Pitch Count Recorder are required to keep pitch counts for both teams and must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or game official. **Recorders must check with each other at the end of each complete inning to verify the correct score and verify counts are the same.** During post season play the AYL may require a hard copy of the Pitch Count Form be maintained for the duration of the post season.
- 4.6** The official pitch count recorder should inform both the officials and the Managers when the maximum limit for pitches in the game has been reached by a pitcher, however, any failure of notification does not relieve the manager of the responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.
- 4.7** The Head Coach is responsible for knowing the pitch count and will be removed, via ejection, for any violation from the game of occurrence. See Rule 1.2 above.

### **Rule 5 Rosters & Player Eligibility**

- 5.1** Rosters must have a minimum of in-territory players to participate in league play.
- 5.1.1 A total of 5 ~** In-Territory players for Majors teams and C-Prep teams.
- 5.1.2 A total of 6 ~** In-Territory for AAA teams.
- 5.1.3 A total of 7 ~** In-Territory players for AA teams
- 5.1.4 A MINIMUM OF 9 PLAYERS MUST BE ROSTERED FOR ALL DIVISIONS.**
- 5.1.5 A MAXIMUM OF 14 PLAYERS MAY BE ROSTERED** for AAA/Majors/C-Prep.
- 5.1.6 A MAXIMUM OF 14 PLAYERS MAY BE ROSTERED** for AA.
- 5.1.7** In-Territory player numbers and Maximums and Minimums can only be amended by majority vote of the AYL Baseball Board.
- 5.1.8** The area in which the youth is associated (home or in-territory) will be determined by the youth's home address within the Clubs territory boundaries or by the location of the Public/Private or Charter School the youth physically (non-online) attends

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within the Club's territory boundaries. Attendance at on on-line school will not be used and the player's home address will override as the territory definition.

**5.2** All players must adhere to the Roster and Age requirements as outlined in Rules 4 and 18 of the AYL General Principles of Operation.

**5.3 No player will be allowed to participate that is currently in High School.**

**5.4** All team rosters must be submitted on the official AYL Roster Form. Players may be added or dropped (using the ADD/DROP form) until the add/drop deadline with board approval. Releases will be granted on season ending injuries or parents relocating.

**5.5** Players must be on an approved AYL Roster PRIOR to participating in any AYL games.

**5.6** Players may only be rostered on one (1) AYL team and may play on only one (1) AYL baseball team during the season.

**5.7** All players must reside in the State of Colorado.

**5.8 Age cutoff information for all age divisions:** April 30th will be the designated date to determine ages. A player's eligibility of play is determined by their age on April 30th

**5.9** Teams violating Rules 5.4 or 5.5 will be subject to game forfeitures and the Coach removed for the remainder of the season.

**5.10** All teams will be submitted through an AYL Member Club representative for approval and signature by the AYL VP of Baseball.

**5.11** Team Rosters and any add/drop forms **must** be available upon request by the opposing team. Board may impose fines or forfeitures if roster is not presented. The Official Roster on file with the AYL VP of Baseball/Secretary will be the final determination roster, with regard to specific issues with player eligibility.

**5.12** Late In-Season roster additions required because of an unusual loss of players can be added (should said roster be ineligible) with AYL Baseball Board approval. However, players to be added to a specific roster must come from the same Club, the same or lower level of play, as the team needing players.

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### **Rule 6 Uniforms**

**6.1** A player **cannot play in a game** unless in full uniform that matches all teammates **unless team/player has prior approval by the AYL Baseball Board.**

**6.2** Full uniform means matching baseball pants, team jersey with number on back, and matching cap.

**6.2.1** No duplication of numbers is permitted.

**6.2.2** No artificial, taped, penned, or marked numbers are allowed unless granted prior approval by the AYL Baseball Board.

**6.3** Inclement Weather uniform exceptions.

**6.3.1** All Leagues and Divisions, players may wear jackets or sweatshirts over their jerseys during inclement weather. All players wearing jackets over their jerseys must show their jersey number upon request.

**6.4** Players **may not** wear jewelry items (including earrings and watches) during games other than breakaway necklaces. The first offense shall result in a warning when such player hits; the second offense in the same game shall result in an out and the player being ejected.

**6.4.1** **Exception: Medical alert bracelets & necklaces may be worn and be visible provided they are secured (taped) to the individual. Religious medals may be worn but must be secured (taped) to the individual and under the uniform (not visible).**

### **Rule 7 Reporting Game Results**

**7.1** Head coaches for both the **HOME** and **VISITING** teams must report game \*results to the AYL at the online game-reporting page.

\*Results need to be reported within **48 hours** of the completion of the game, **unless the next game is within that time limit, and as such, scores must be entered immediately after the game in question.** **Continued** violation of this requirement may cause the associated Member Clubs involved to each be fined \$50 per occurrence. Further, during the post season tournaments, the game scores must be reported as soon as the game ends to allow the Tournament Brackets to move forward to the next game.

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**Rule 8 Number of Games in a Regular Season**

- 8.1 The number of regular season games scheduled for each team shall be determined by the AYL Baseball Board.
- 8.2 No refunds will be given to Clubs, teams or parents based on the number of games played during the season.
- 8.3 Games that are postponed shall be rescheduled or cancelled only at the AYL Baseball Board's discretion.
- 8.4 AYL does not guarantee a minimum number of games in a season

**Rule 9 Forfeits**

- 9.1 A team that cannot field a minimum of 8 players within 10 minutes after the scheduled game time shall forfeit its game.
  - 9.2 If at any time during the game a team cannot field a minimum of 8 players, the team shall forfeit the game.
  - 9.3 Any game forfeited will be posted as a **10 – 0** score.
  - 9.4 A team that does not show up for a game will forfeit the game and the Member Club will pay all umpires/field fees for such game and will be fined **\$100.00**.
  - 9.5 Any team that cannot field a minimum of 8 players and/or forfeits a game for any reason will be fined **\$100.00**.
  - 9.6 The AYL will fine a Club **\$200.00** for any teams that cannot field at least 8 players for last regular game of the season.
  - 9.7 If a team forfeits a game at any time during the playoffs, that team will be ineligible to continue play in the playoffs and their associated Member Club will be fined **\$500.00**.
- \*\*All forfeits will consist of the fine amount noted above and the Member Club will pay all umpires/field fees for such game**

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### **Rule 10 Equipment**

**10.1 BASEBALLS:** All divisions will play with an approved regulation baseball that is determined by the Board. All Leagues and divisions will play with the **AD Star AD200** or **Wilson 1030 or 1010s** approved baseballs supplied by the AYL.

**10.1.1** The home team must supply one new game ball and one good used game ball to the home plate umpire prior to the start of the game.

**10.1.2** Failure to provide two game balls or providing baseball not sanctioned by the AYL may result in a fine or forfeit as determined by the AYL Baseball Board.

**10.1.3** Coaches are responsible to get their game balls back from the umpire at the end of the game.

**10.2 BATS;** All AYL baseball games and tournament events will allow both USA Baseball and USSSA approved bats, and only if,

- 1) THE 1.15 BPF USSSA MARK ON ITS TAPER (see below)
- 2) A QUALIFIED BBCOR BAT (see below)
- 3) A WOOD BAT.
- 4) USA Baseball approved bat



**10.2.1** AA players of any age (6-14) may use bats from drop 10 (-10) to drop 3 (-3)

**10.2.2** Age 8-12 AAA/M players may use bats from drop 10 (-10) to drop 3 (-3)

**10.2.3** Age 13 AAA/M players may use bats from drop 8 (-8) to drop 3 (-3)

**10.2.4** Age 14, all C-Prep players, may use bats from drop 5 (-5) to drop 3 (-3)

**10.2.5** Any player using an Illegal bat that steps into the batter box will be declared out. Any second violation of any use of an Illegal bat by any player will result in an out and the team's Head Coach and the player being ejected.

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**10.3 HELMETS:** Batters, runners and catchers must wear protective helmets approved by the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) that are always in good condition with full ear coverage when in the field of play.

**10.4 CLEATS:** Replaceable or fixed nylon (plastic) cleats may be worn by players in Divisions 6 to 12. Any player 12 and under that uses metal cleats during any AYL game will be declared out and removed along with the Head Coach for the remainder of the game.

**\*\* Metal Cleats are allowed for ages 13 to 14 and C-Prep ONLY.**

**\*\* Metal cleats are NOT allowed on synthetic fields or portable mounds at any time, regardless of age.**

#### **10.5 CATCHERS EQUIPMENT:**

All catchers must wear NOCSAE standard catcher's head and face protection with full ear and throat protection, a body/chest protector, protector cup (male only), and baseball protective shin guards during games in all divisions.

**10.5.1** Effective January 1, 2024, every chest protector **MUST** have the NOCSAE stamp on it. There are two different options that would meet this requirement.

**10.5.1.1** A new traditional chest protector that protects the heart/cardiac silhouette and meets the NOCSAE performance standard;

**10.5.1.2** A body protector (compression shirt with heart guard built into the shirt) that protects the heart/cardiac silhouette and meets the NOCSAE performance standard under the traditional chest protector.

## **Rule 11 Pitching & Catching**

**11.1** The penalty for any pitching infraction shall be cause for **immediate removal** of the Head Coach for a **minimum of one (1) game** and may include forfeiture of the game or worse if determined by the AYL Baseball Board. The AYL Baseball board may also consider a longer suspension, up to a total of three (3) games, depending on the situation involved and severity of infraction.



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**11.2** Any player on an AYL team shall be allowed to pitch.

**11.3** A player removed from the pitching position (starting pitcher or subsequent relief pitcher) may not return to the pitching position for the remainder of the game. The defensive team may correct this rule infraction at any time by substituting a legal pitcher without penalty. If an illegal pitcher is permitted to pitch, any pitch or play that result is legal. The rule violation should be caught by the Umpire or the offensive team and immediately corrected. If the violating pitcher has legal innings remaining, the violation is deemed an improper substitution and is corrected without penalty. If the violating pitcher has no legal innings remaining, it's deemed a pitching limitations violation pursuant to AYL Rule 11.1.

**11.4** The Coach/Manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher **reaches the per day maximum pitch limit for his/her age group as noted below:**

(The player may remain in the game, but not as a Pitcher or Catcher)

<b>13-14</b>	<b>~ 80 pitches per day</b>
<b>11-12</b>	<b>~ 70 pitches per day</b>
<b>9-10</b>	<b>~ 60 pitches per day</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>~ 50 pitches per day</b>

**Exception:** If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed for his/her age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until one of the following conditions occurs.

1. That batter reaches a base
2. The batter is put out
3. The third out is made to complete the half inning

**11.5** Pitchers, who are the pitchers of record when a game is suspended (See Rule 16.1) , must still adhere to the pitching rest requirements in Rule 11.6 following.

**11.6** Pitchers aged 14 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements: Note of clarification - the day a pitcher pitches is considered day "zero" and if for example a pitcher who throws 45 pitches in one day must have two calendar days of rest before pitching again. That pitcher is eligible to resume pitching on calendar day 3, day "zero" plus two calendar days.

- If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) days of calendar rest must be observed.

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- If a player pitches 51 - 65 pitches in a day, three (3) days of calendar rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 36 - 50 pitches in a day, two (2) days of calendar rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 21 - 35 pitches in a day, one (1) days of calendar rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1 - 20 pitches in a day, zero (0) days of calendar rest must be observed.

**11.7** Pitchers, who are the pitchers of record when a game is suspended (See Rule 16.1) , must still adhere to the pitching rest requirements in Rule 11.6.

**11.8** Pitches recorded during a game that ends in forfeit shall count towards a pitchers' daily pitching limits.

**11.9** Violation of any section of this regulation can result in a protest of the game in which it occurs. Protest shall be made in accordance to AYL protest rules, (See Rule 17)

**11.10** If a pitcher hits 4 batters during the same game, the pitcher must be removed as pitcher for the rest of the game.

**11.11** Balk warnings and rules for AA – Balk warnings are on a per pitcher basis

Age Division AA	6-8, 9 National	9 American	10	11	12	13/14
<b>Balks Called</b>	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>Balk Warning</b>	N/A	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO

**11.12** Balk warnings and rules for Majors/AAA/C-Prep – Balk warnings are per pitcher

Age Division AAA/Majors	8	9	10	11	12	13 & 14 C-Prep
<b>Balks Called</b>	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>Balk Warning</b>	N/A	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO

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**Daily Pitching Limits and Days Rest Chart:**

AGE	DAILY MAX	REQUIRED REST IN CALENDAR DAYS (PITCHES)				
	(PITCHES)	0 Days	1 Days	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
8	50	1 - 20	21 - 35	36 - 50	N/A	N/A
9-10	60	1 - 20	21 - 35	36 - 50	51+	N/A
11-12	70	1 - 20	21 - 35	36 - 50	51 - 65	66+
13 -14	80	1 - 20	21 - 35	36 - 50	51 - 65	66+

**Rule 12 Batting, Substitution & Playing Time**

**12.1 All players present will bat in full rotation at all AA levels of play.** A player must be able to occupy both offensive and defensive roles on the field to be eligible to play. For instance, a player may not exclusively play in the field and not occupy his spot in the batting order.

**12.1.1** At any time, the offensive team may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher of record from the previous inning on defense. The courtesy runner shall be the player making the last batted out. The re-entry status of the courtesy runner, pitcher, and catcher shall not be affected by this rule.

**12.2 All players present will bat in full rotation at all levels of play for ages 8 – 10 AAA/M.** A player must be able to occupy both offensive and defensive roles on the field to be eligible to play. For instance, a player may not exclusively play in the field and not occupy his spot in the batting order.

**12.3 AAA/M teams ages 11 and up and C-Prep;** Teams may bat a nine (9) player line-up, or a nine (9) player line-up with a Designated Hitter (DH) or a continuous line-up of all present, eligible, uniformed players. Such line-up must be declared before the start of the game and used the entire game. (See revised NFHS Rule 3.1.4 regarding the use of a DH.)

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**12.3.1** If a team uses a line-up that contains substitute players, all starting players may be removed and re-enter the game once but must re-enter in their original position in the batting order. Non-starters are not allowed to re-enter. When a starter re-enters, the player in the starter's batting position in the batting order must be removed from the game and is ineligible for the remainder of the game.

**12.3.2** A DH may be used in one of two scenarios (AAA/M only)

1. The DH may be a 10<sup>th</sup> starter hitting for any one of the nine starting defensive players. If the DH is used in this manner the role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when:
  - a) The defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the DH batted, subsequently bats, pinch hits or pinch runs for the DH; or
  - b) The DH or any previous DH assumes a defensive position.
2. The starting DH may be any one of the starting defensive players. In this manner, the starting defensive player has two positions: the defensive player and the DH. The role of the defensive player may be substituted for by any legal substitute. If the defensive player has been substituted for, the original player/DH may reenter one time. The role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when:
  - a. A substitute or former substitute for the defensive role subsequently participates in an offensive role; or
  - b. The starting defensive player/DH is substituted for either as a hitter or a runner

**12.3.3** The DH must be listed next to or under the player he is batting for in lineup.

**12.3.4** The DH and the player he is batting for are both locked into the same batting slot; neither of these two players can ever bat in another batting position.

**12.3.5** If the DH enters the game on defense, the player he was batting for must come out of the game.

**12.3.6** Free substitution is not allowed.

**12.4** Free substitution will be observed at all levels of play in AA and for ages 8 – 10 for AAA/M.

**12.5** The **Minimum Play Rule** shall apply to all **intermediate AA** divisions of play.

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**12.5.1** The **Minimum Play Rule** is that a minimum of 6 (six) of the first 15 (fifteen) defensive outs must be played by all players present.

**12.5.2** The minimum-play rule does not apply to:

**12.5.2.1** Players who are injured, ill or subject to disciplinary measures concerning the members attitude and attendance provided that the names of these players are communicated to the opposing team prior to or during the game.

**12.5.2.2** Players who become unable to finish a game due to illness or injury.

**12.5.2.3** Any games that are called because of inclement weather, darkness or the mercy rule (provided that 15 outs have not been recorded against the opposing team).

**12.5.3** Teams violating the **Minimum Play Rule** shall forfeit the game and the AYL Baseball Board may suspend the Head Coach of such team for one or more games.

**12.6** A team must have a minimum of eight (8) players to start a game.

**12.6.1** If a team plays with eight (8) players the ninth spot in the batting order will be an automatic out when that spot is due to bat. There are no exceptions to this rule.

**12.7** A player who arrives late to a game may be added to the bottom of the line-up provided his team's lead-off hitter has not batted twice in the game. Once the leadoff batter has completed a second at bat the late player is not eligible to participate in the game.

**12.8** If a team starts a game with nine (9) or more players and because of illness, injury, or ejection the lineup drops to 8 players, the team may continue to play with the eight (8) remaining players with a penalty of an out where the removed player is due to bat. The sick, injured, or ejected players may not return to the game. **There are no penalties unless the lineup drops to 8 players.**

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**Rule 13 Dugouts**

13.1 The home team (as listed on the league schedule) will occupy the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout and the visiting team will occupy the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout at all AYL sanctioned games.

**Rule 14 Field Dimensions**

14.1 Age specific field dimensions:

Age Division	6 & 7	8	9 & 10	11 & 12	13/14 AA	13 AAA/M	C-Prep 14
Pitching Distance	40'	40'	46'	50'	54'	54'	60'6"
Base Distance	60'	60'	65'	70'	80'	80'	90'

**Rule 15 Official Game**

Age/Division	6 & 7 AA	8 AA & AAA/M	9 & 10 AA & AAA/M	11 – 13/14 AA, 11-13 AAA/M	14 C-Prep
<b><u>Official Game</u></b>	6 Innings or 1 hr. 30 min. or 4 Innings (3.5 if home team is ahead)	6 Innings or 1 hr. 30 min. or 4 Innings (3.5 if home team is ahead)	6 Innings or 1 hr. 45 min. or 4 Innings (3.5 if home team is ahead)	6 Innings or 1 hr. 45 min. or 4 Innings (3.5 if home team is ahead) –	7 innings or 1 hr 45 mins or 5 innings (4.5 if home team is ahead)

15.1 The table above summarizes an **Official Game** at all levels of play however, the AYL Baseball Board reserves the right to make changes to and of an Official Game.

15.2 At the start of the game, the umpire shall notify both coaches of the official start time. The game start time must be noted in either teams' score books or score reporting software.

15.3 A new inning **starts immediately after the 3rd out is made** in the bottom of the previous inning.

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**15.4 No new inning shall start after the Official Game time limits have expired.**

**15.5** In the event of inclement weather or darkness, an Official game shall consist of the allotted time limits or four innings (5 for C-Prep) , or three and one- half innings (4 and one-half for C-Prep) if the home team is ahead at the time.

**15.6** An official game must be umpired by at least one (1) AYL certified umpire. Any game played without AYL certified umpires will be deemed "no contest" and rescheduled by the Board. Exception: at all ages if both teams' Heads Coaches agree to play the game with Volunteers as umpire(s) the game will be considered official.

**15.7 All Regular season games can end in a tie based on the official game time or inning limit.** Score will be reported as it was at the official end of the game. See Rule 15 above, Official Game, for details on time/innings for an official game.

**15.8** All post season playoff games will determine a winner through an additional inning(s); An AYL Tie Breaker will be used. This will continue until a winner is declared. See Rule 21.2

### **Rule 16 Suspended/Cancelled Games**

**16.1** If a game is suspended **AND IS NOT** an Official game (see RULE 15), at the discretion of the AYL Baseball Board, the game will be noted as suspended and the game will be continued, from the point of suspension, at a later date, if scheduling allows for the game to continue. Both teams should document the game time remaining, the inning, outs, base runners, pitching, and score at the time of suspension.

**16.1.1** If a player on the original lineup is absent when the game is resumed, his position in the lineup can be removed without penalty unless only 8 players are present, then the automatic out for the 9<sup>th</sup> batting order applies.

**16.1.2** If a player was not on the original lineup and is present with the game is resumed, that player shall be added without penalty.

**16.2** If a game is suspended **AND IT IS** an Official game:

**16.2.1** The home team is leading AND is at bat, the game is over.

**16.2.2** For all other situations, the score will revert back to the previously fully completed inning to declare the winner. If the game is tied at the end of the previously fully completed Inning, at the discretion of the AYL Baseball Board,

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the game most likely will be declared a tie but may be continued from the point where the game was suspended, resuming at a later date with the original lineups. Ties will not be declared for any post season playoff game.

### **Rule 17 Protests**

**17.1** Coaches may protest a game if they believe an umpire has misinterpreted a rule or for roster/participation violations. **\*Judgment calls may not be protested.**

**17.2** If a head coach wants to protest another team's roster for having less than the 5 (Majors/C-Prep), 6 (AAA) or 7 (AA) in-territory players per requirement, Illegal player(s), minimum playing time or pitching violation, a protest must be filed with the AYL Baseball Board and a \$100.00 deposit must be made. If the protest is found valid the \$100.00 will be returned and the offending team, once their roster is fully valid, will continue to play out the season, but all prior games where said violation occurred will be forfeited. If the protest is found invalid, the **\$100.00** will not be returned.

**17.2.1** Any in-territory rule offending teams in AA, AAA/Majors or C-Prep will not be eligible for any post-season tournaments sponsored by AYL Baseball.

**17.3** Game Protest Procedures:

**17.3.1** Time must be called, and the game must be stopped before the next pitch.

**17.3.1.1** All protests must be made prior to the conclusion of the game. The only instances where protests will be accepted after the conclusion of the game will be for violations accounted for in rule 11.7 & 17.2.

**17.3.2** After appealing to the Home Plate Umpire, the protesting coach shall inform the Home Plate Umpire that his team is playing the game under protest. **\*Umpires do not determine if the protest is valid**

**17.3.3** Both scorebooks must be marked at the exact point of protest and signed by both head coaches and the Home Plate Umpire with the elapsed game time noted; The home plate umpire must sign the home scorebook or make his own notation on the exact point of protest, provided, that if either team refuses to have their scorebook marked, the protest shall not be invalidated by such reason, and the AYL Baseball Board shall determine the validity of the protest based on the information submitted and its own investigation.



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- 17.3.4** The game shall continue and reach a conclusion.
- 17.3.5** The AYL will ask the umpire-in-charge to report, in writing, the protested situation and his ruling to the Protest Committee, normally within **48** hours of the beginning of the disputed game.
- 17.3.6** The protesting coach shall submit to their delegate within **48** hours, in writing citing the specific rule in question, a detailed explanation of the basis for the protest and any other information. The league requires a \$100.00 deposit and the team's scorebook where it is marked and signed (a copy of the scorebook will suffice).
- 17.3.7** Teams shall be designated as "Team A (protesting) and Team B" with no Club or Team designation. Players shall not be designated by name.
- 17.3.8** If a protest is upheld, the protest fee will be returned, and the teams will be notified of the game result/continuation as determined by the Board.
- 17.3.9** If a protest is denied, the protest fee will be forfeited, and the game result will stand.

### **Rule 18 Unnecessary or Willful Delays**

- 18.1** Teams must appear on the field promptly and any unnecessary or willful delay will result in forfeiture of the game.
- 18.2 Pitching WARMUPS.**
- 18.2.1** Pitchers will receive a maximum of **8** warmup pitches upon entering a game.
- 18.2.2** A pitcher that returns for a subsequent inning will be allowed only **5** warmup pitches
- 18.2.3** Age 8 AA Modified pitchers will receive 6 warmup pitches and 4 when returning
- 18.3 Courtesy runners** are allowed for the pitcher and catcher only. The last batted out will run in the place of any Pitcher or catcher.

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**Rule 19 Tiebreakers (Standings)** *Note: The League Software will show the Standings and will preform all the AYL Tiebreakers!*

**19.1** Record (Winning pct, number Wins)

**19.2** Head-to-Head (Recursive) (Used only when all tied teams have played each other)

**19.3** Points Allowed (An average is used if teams have not played an equal number of games)

**19.4** Points Scored (An average is used if teams have not played an equal number of games)

**19.5** Computer Generated Coin Flip (A system random number generator breaks ties at this stage)

**Note:** *If the system cannot break ties at a particular tiebreaking stage, the system will move to the next tiebreaker and only return or revert back to a previous tiebreaker for head to head recursive.*

**Note about the Head-to-Head tiebreaker:** *Head-to-Head is ignored if all tied teams do not play each other at least once. For example, if three teams are tied, and one team plays the other two, but the other two do not play, this tiebreaker is ignored (regardless of the outcome of the two games played by the first team).*

## **Rule 20 Run Rule Mercy Rule**

**20.1** For ages 9 AA and under, teams may not exceed the maximum number of runs allowed for the first 5 innings. During the final innings, there is no run limit; the fielding team must get 3 outs to retire the side.

**20.2** The game shall end due to mercy rule if either team is losing by an excessive number of runs. If the losing team is losing by the number of mercy rule runs the game is over. Please note that the inning does not need to be complete to invoke the mercy rule.

**20.3** The Mercy rules for 9 AA American & up are as follows:

~ 15 after 3 innings

~ 10 after 4 innings

~ 8 after 5 innings

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The Mercy rules for AAA/M & C-Prep are as shown below.

**20.4 For 6 through 9 AA National, mercy rule are as follows;  
~ 10 after 4 innings**

**RUN AND MERCY RULE TABLE**

Age Division	6, 7, 8, 9 Nat'l	9 Amer	8 – 9	10 – 13/14	11 – 13	14
Level	AA	AA	AAA/M	AA	AAA/M	C-Prep
Max Runs per Inning	7 runs (First 5 innings)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mercy Rule	Rule 20.4	Rule 20.3	Rule 20.3	Rule 20.3	Rule 20.3	Rule 20.3

## **Rule 21 Tie Games**

**21.1** For all Leagues and divisions, regular season games, if at the end of official game (see Rule 15) the game is tied, and then the game will be declared a tie.

**21.2** For all playoff games, The AYL Tiebreaker will be used. Rule 21.2 will continue until a winner can be declared.

### **AYL Tiebreaker:**

The “last recorded out” in the previous at bat is placed on second base and the inning is played starting with one out. Each team will have two outs for their turn at bat. This is continued until a winner is declared.

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**Rule 22 Pre-game**

- 22.1** Line-up sheets shall be exchanged 15 minutes prior to scheduled game time to each team's official scorekeeper. The sheet will include the player's full name and number that is on the AYL Baseball Roster. If requested the team must produce the official AYL Roster, the Roster on file with the AYL VP/S
- 22.2** The home team score book is the official book of record in the event of a dispute.
- 22.3** No Infield practice prior to the start of the game.

**Rule 23 General Play Rules**

- 23.1** Saying "swing" is not allowed. Neither coaches, players nor spectator may shout or verbalize swing to the batter after the time of the pitch.
- 23.2** Saying "Balk" is also not allowed at any time as an attempt to confuse the pitcher.
- 23.3** Walk up music will be allowed as well as music between innings. However, the use of Walk-Up music shall not cause a delay in the game. If, in the opinion of the Umpire(s) the use of Walk-Up music is creating an unusual delay in the game the Umpire(s) can stop both teams from using Walk-Up music for the rest of the game.

**GENERAL PLAY RULE SUMMARY TABLE**

Age/Division	6/7 AA	8 AA	8 AAA	9 AA NAT	9 AA AMER	9 AAA	10 – 13/14 AA	10 – 13 AAA/M	14 C-Prep
Leadoff Allowed	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Walks Allowed	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Stealing Allowed	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Infield Fly Rule	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dropped 3 <sup>rd</sup> strike	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Bunting Allowed	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

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### **Rule 24 Field Use Policy**

**24.1** Fields are closed if snow or standing water is present.

**24.2** Do not **prepare the field in any way.** Local municipalities, unless an exception has been provided, are responsible for field preparation. Do not shovel snow off the field. Do not jump the fence if the gate is locked.

**24.3** Lights are automatic; do not tamper with the lighting controls.

**24.3.1** Any person found tampering with any light controls will be suspended for the remainder of the season and game forfeitures may be handed out.

### **24.4 SUNFLOWER SEEDS ARE PROHIBITED AT ALL TURF FIELDS!**

- This includes any area around the field, up to and including the parking area
- Any violation of this policy will result in the immediate removal of the offending person and may result in the entire team being removed from the premises resulting in a forfeit.
- Please respect our fields and the rules, failure to abide by these rules will result in the loss of use for the fields by our field partners.

### **Rule 25 Concussion Certificate Policy**

**25.1** All Coaches and Assistants on the field at any time during any event, games or practices, are required to have proof of concussion certification.

**25.2** Failure to have or provide concussion certificates will result in immediate removal from the activities until such documentation is provided.

### **Rule 26 Rule Modification and Tracking (2024 - )**

**2/5/2024** Complete Rule clean-up and re-write

**4/10/2024** Rule Bulletins of mandatory pitch count verification and 8AAA, 9AA National and 9AA American base running rules amended

**2/1/2025** Complete Rule clean-up and re-write

**4/29/2025** Rule update in Appendix C and clarification of Rule 11.11 and 11.12

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**APPENDIX A – AGE SPECIFIC DIVISION RULES**  
**AA - AGE DIVISION 6 & 7 - COACH PITCH**

**Rule 1 Pitching & Hitting**

- 1.1 Coaches must pitch overhand to their players and must be in contact with the pitching rubber.
- 1.2 Each batter will receive up to 7 pitches from his coach. A batter who fouls off the 7<sup>th</sup> pitch shall continue to receive pitches until he hits the ball into fair territory or misses the pitch. There are no walks allowed.
- 1.3 A Player will be called out after 3 swinging or combination of foul ball strikes.

**Rule 2 Coaches on the Field**

- 2.1 The fielding team may have 2 coaches in the outfield to provide verbal instructions to players.
- 2.2 At no time may the fielding team's coaches be in the infield during play.
- 2.3 At no time may the fielding team's coaches touch the ball while in play.
- 2.4 The pitching coach shall position themselves to not be an interference to the defensive team on any possible play once the ball has been hit.
  - 2.4.1 Penalty: If a coach violates this rule after the ball is pitched, interference shall be called and the batter is out.

**Rule 3 Defensive Players**

- 3.1 While in the field, a team may play 10 players. The 10th player **must** be used as a 4<sup>th</sup> outfielder. The outfield is defined as 15ft behind the direct base lines.
- 3.2 The fielding team's pitcher, not the coach pitcher, must stay within a radius (**max 5 feet**) of the pitching rubber until the ball is hit.
- 3.3 Each team must have a designated catcher and that player must play at the catcher's position.

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**APPENDIX A – AGE SPECIFIC DIVISION RULES**  
**AA - AGE DIVISION 6 & 7 - COACH PITCH – CONT.**

**Rule 4 Base Running**

**4.1** When a ball is hit into the outfield, the following rules shall apply:

**4.1.1** Runners may advance until the ball is controlled by an infielder. For purposes of this rule, a ball shall be deemed controlled when it is securely in the glove or hand of an infielder who must be in the infield. (However, see Rule 4.2 regarding overthrows from the infield). The outfield is defined as 15ft behind the direct baselines.

**4.1.2** Runners who **are less** than half-way to the next base must return to the previous base once the umpire has determined the ball is controlled by an infielder. Such runners may not be called out while returning to the previous base, however, if the runner continues to the next base it is at their own risk, the fielding team can make a play on the runner (4.1.3).

**4.1.3** Runners who are at least half-way to the next base once the ball is controlled by an infielder may continue to the next base at their own risk. The fielding team may make a play on the runner.

**4.1.4** The decision of whether a runner is half-way to the next base when a ball is controlled by an infielder shall be made by the umpire at his discretion. **This is not an arguable rule.**

**4.2** Runners may advance an extra base on an overthrow from the outfield at their own risk.

**4.3** Runners may not advance an extra base on an overthrow to any base by an infielder.

**4.4** There are no lead-offs. A runner may advance only after the ball is hit. If a runner leaves too soon and the batter hits the ball, there will be no penalty against the runner unless one (1) warning has already been issued to the hitting team. In such instance, the lead runner shall be called out.

**4.5** There is no base stealing allowed, no dropped third strike, no infield fly rule, and no bunting allowed.



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**APPENDIX A – AGE SPECIFIC DIVISION RULES**  
**AA - AGE DIVISION 6 & 7 - COACH PITCH - CONT.**

**Rule 5 Coaching Base Runners**

- 5.1 The adult pitcher may talk or motion to the batter before the ball is pitched,
- 5.2 A base coach who physically assists a runner when a ball is in play the runner shall be declared out.

**Rule 6 Umpires**

- 6.1 The Board determines the number of paid umpires that will normally be supplied for regular season & playoff games.
- 6.1.1 Games for the 6, 7-year-old coach pitch will be played with one (1) umpire.
- 6.2 Only official AYL umpires may umpire a game unless approved by the Board. Any game played without AYL certified umpires will be deemed “no contest” and may be rescheduled by the AYL Baseball Board. Exception: at any age if both teams’ Head Coaches agree to play with Volunteer umpire(s) the game will be considered official.
- 6.3 For umpire positioning see rule 3.3.1 above

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**APPENDIX B - AGE SPECIFIC DIVISION RULES**  
**AA - AGE DIVISION 8 AA NATIONAL AND AMERICAN**  
**DIVISIONS**

**Rule 1 Base Stealing**

1.1 Base stealing will not be allowed in the 8 AA divisions.

**Rule 2 Base Running**

2.1 When a ball is hit into the outfield, the following rules shall apply:

2.1.1 Runners may advance until the ball is controlled by an infielder. For purposes of this rule, a ball shall be deemed controlled when it is securely in the glove or hand of an infielder and who must be in the infield. (However, see Rule 2.2 regarding overthrows from the infield). The outfield is defined as 15ft behind the direct baselines.

2.1.2 Runners who are less than half-way to the next base must return to the previous base once the umpire has determined the ball is controlled by an infielder. Such runners may not be called out while returning to the previous base, however, if the runner continues to the next base, it is at their own risk, the fielding team can make a play on the runner (2.1.3).

2.1.3 Runners who are at least half-way to the next base once the ball is controlled by an infielder may continue to the next base at their own risk. The fielding team may make a play on the runner

2.1.4 The decision of whether a runner is half-way to the next base when a ball is controlled by an infielder shall be made by the umpire at his discretion. **This is not an arguable rule.**

2.2 Runners may advance an extra base on an overthrow to any base by an outfielder.

2.3 Runners may not advance an extra base on an overthrow to any base by an infielder.

2.4 No lead offs are allowed.

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**APPENDIX B - AGE SPECIFIC DIVISION RULES**  
**AA - AGE DIVISION 8 AA NATIONAL AND AMERICAN**  
**DIVISIONS – CONT.**

**Rule 3 Infield Fly Rule**

- 3.1 The infield fly rule will not be enforced at 8 AA National but is enforced for 8 AA American.

**Rule 4 Dropped Third Strike**

- 4.1 The dropped third strike rule does not apply.

**Rule 5 Modified Pitching Rule (8 AA MODIFIED COACH PITCH)**

- 5.1 The following modified pitching rules will exist at the 8AA Modified Coach Pitch Division (both American and National) as follows:

**There will be no walks allowed. If the pitcher reaches four (4) balls on a batter, a coach of the batting team will then have the opportunity to throw (3) pitches to his or her batter. The batter will keep the same strike count and can strike out if batter reaches three strikes before the coach throws the 3 pitches. If batter fouls off the third strike the batter will get an additional pitch, each to be treated as the third pitch.**

- 5.2 Coaches must pitch overhand to their players and must be in contact with the pitching rubber.

- 5.3 The pitching coach shall position themselves to not be an interference to the defensive team on any possible play once the ball has been hit.

**5.3.1 Penalty:** If a coach violates this rule after the ball is pitched, interference shall be called and the batter is out.

- 5.4 The fielding teams' pitcher, not the coach pitcher, must stay within a reasonable radius (max 5 feet) of the pitching rubber until the ball is hit.

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**APPENDIX B - AGE SPECIFIC DIVISION RULES**  
**AA - AGE DIVISION 8 AA NATIONAL AND AMERICAN**  
**DIVISIONS – CONT.**

**Rule 6 Bunting**

6.1 A batter may bunt off a rostered player (**kid pitch**) but may not off of a Coach Pitcher.

**Rule 7 Nine (9) Players in the Field**

7.1 Teams play with a maximum of nine (9) players in the field.

**Rule 8 Coaching Base Runners**

8.1 The adult pitcher may talk or motion to the batter before the ball is pitched.

9.2 A base coach who physically assists a runner when a ball is in play the runner shall be declared out.

**Rule 9 Umpires**

9.1 Games for the 8 year old both, National and American Divisions, will be played with one (1) umpire. Umpire for American Division **must** be behind the pitcher or the plate while the umpire for National may either be behind or off to the side of the catcher, out of play, to call balls and strikes or, if desired, they may call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher (Recommended position).

9.2 In the event that an AYL umpire is unavailable, the game may be delayed, postponed or rescheduled.

9.2.1 Only official AYL umpires may umpire a game unless approved by the Board. Any game played without AYL certified umpires will be deemed “no contest” and may be rescheduled by the AYL Baseball Board. Exception: at any age if both teams’ Head coaches agree to play with Volunteer umpire(s) the game will be considered official.

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## **APPENDIX C - AGE SPECIFIC DIVISION RULES**

### **AAA - AGE DIVISION 8 AAA**

#### **Rule 1 Base Running**

- 1.1 Base runners **ARE NOT** allowed to lead off or leave the base prior to the pitch crossing home plate. 1st Offense = Dead Ball / warning; 2nd Offense = Dead Ball / offending runner is called out, other runners return to previously occupied bases, no ball/strike charged to batter).
- 1.2 Base runners **ARE** allowed stealing of second and third bases only. Runners shall not advance when the pitcher is on the pitching rubber with the ball in his possession and the catcher is in position to receive a pitch.
- 1.3 On a base on balls, the batter may attempt to steal second prior to the pitcher and catcher coming set at his own risk, but if a runner is on third, he may not advance home even if the defense attempts to throw the runner out at second base.
- 1.4 Base runners **ARE** allowed to advance to second or/and third base due to a wild pitch or passed ball.
- 1.5 Base runners on 3rd base **ARE NOT** allowed to advance to home unless the ball is hit or they are forced home by a walk, hit by pitch or dropped third strike with two outs and the bases loaded. The runner on third base cannot advance to score a run on a passed ball or wild pitch. The runner cannot steal home.
- 1.6 A runner starting from 1st or 2nd Base may advance home as a continuation of a play (there is not a mandatory "red light" at 3rd Base for a play in motion). Continuation is defined as a ball batted into play.
- 1.7 Batter **CANNOT** run on dropped 3rd strike and shall be called out immediately.

#### **Rule 2 Defensive Players**

- 2.1 The defense uses 9 players in the field.

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**APPENDIX C - AGE SPECIFIC DIVISION RULES**  
**AAA - AGE DIVISION 8 AAA – CONT.**

**Rule 3 Umpires**

- 3.1** The Board determines the number of paid umpires that will normally be supplied for regular season & playoff games.
- 3.2** In the event that an AYL umpire(s) is (are) not available, the game may be delayed, postponed, rescheduled or cancelled at the AYL Baseball board discretion.
- 3.2.1** Only official AYL umpires may umpire a game unless approved by the Board. Any game played without AYL certified umpires will be deemed “no contest” and may be rescheduled by the AYL Baseball Board. Exception: at any age if both teams’ Head Coaches agree to play with Volunteer umpire(s) the game will be considered official.

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**APPENDIX D - AGE SPECIFIC DIVISION RULES**  
**AA - AGE DIVISION 9 AA NATIONAL AND AMERICAN**  
**DIVISIONS**

**Rule 1 Base Running**

**9 AA NATIONAL DIVISION:**

- 1.1 For 9AA National, base runners **ARE NOT** allowed to lead off any base. The runner may not leave the base until the ball crosses the plate. One (1) team warning before runners are called out for any subsequent infraction.
- 1.2 For 9AA National, base runners **ARE NOT** allowed to steal any base once the ball has crossed the plate.
- 1.3 For 9AA National, base runners **ARE NOT** allowed to advance bases due to a wild pitch or passed ball.
- 1.4 For 9AA National, base runners on 3rd base **ARE NOT** allowed to advance to home unless the ball is hit or they are forced home by a walk or hit by pitch.
- 1.5 For 9AA National, base runners **ARE NOT** allowed to continue to second base on a walk.

**9 AA AMERICAN DIVISION:**

- 1.6 For 9 AA American, base runners **ARE** allowed to lead off.
- 1.7 For 9 AA American, base runners **ARE** allowed stealing of second and third bases only.
- 1.8 For 9 AA American, base runners **ARE** allowed to advance to second or/and third base due to a wild pitch or passed ball.
- 1.9 For 9AA American, base runners on 3rd base **ARE NOT** allowed to advance to home unless the ball is hit or they are forced home by a walk, balk, hit by pitch or dropped third strike with two outs and the bases loaded. The runner on third base cannot advance to score a run on a passed ball or wild pitch. The runner cannot steal home.

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**APPENDIX C - AGE SPECIFIC DIVISION RULES**  
**AA - AGE DIVISION 9 AA NATIONAL AND AMERICAN**  
**DIVISIONS – CONT.**

**Rule 2 Defensive Players**

2.1 The defense uses 9 players in the field.

**Rule 3 Umpires**

3.1 The Board determines the number of paid umpires that will normally be supplied for regular season & playoff games.

3.1.1 Games for the 9 year old AA National Division will be played with one (1) umpire. 9 year old AA American Division will be played with two umpires. See Rule 3.3.1 above for umpire positioning.

3.2 In the event that an AYL umpire(s) is (are) not available in either National or American Divisions, the game may be delayed, postponed, or rescheduled at the AYL Baseball board discretion.

3.2.1 Only official AYL umpires may umpire a game unless approved by the Board. Any game played without AYL certified umpires will be deemed “no contest” and may be rescheduled by the AYL Baseball Board. Exception: at any age if both teams’ Head Coaches agree to play with Volunteer umpire(s) the game will be considered official.



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**APPENDIX E - AGE SPECIFIC DIVISION RULES**  
**AA - AGE DIVISION 13/14**

**Rule 1 Age of Players**

- 1.1 No player will be allowed to participate that is currently in High School.
- 1.2 All players must be **under the age of 15** before May 1st of the current baseball season.
- 1.3 Any team that has a player that is in High School and player participates in a game, that game will result in a forfeit and the Head Coach will be suspended. Reinstatement is by Board Approval only.
- 1.4 Players shall be required to bring a current Middle School ID (or equivalent) for participation. ID's may be checked prior to game. Players without any current Middle School ID may not be allowed to play unless approved by the AYL Baseball Board.
- 1.5 AYL Roster rules apply; see Rule 4 of the General Baseball Rules, Roster and Player Eligibility

**Rule 2 - 13/14 American ~ National designation**

- 2.1 Teams with seven (7) or more players who are 14 years-old on May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season are required to play in the American League.
  - 2.1.1 Teams with seven (7) or more players who are 13 years-old on May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season are allowed to play in either American or National league.
- 2.2 Divisions will be set by the AYL Baseball Board.

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## **APPENDIX F - AGE SPECIFIC DIVISION RULES** **C-PREP LEAGUE (14) UPPER/LOWER**

### **Rule 1 Age of Players**

- 1.1** All players must be in the **7th or 8th grades**. No player will be allowed to participate that is currently in High School.
- 1.2** All players must be **under the age of 15** before May 1st of the current baseball season.
- Any team that has a player that is in High School and player participates in a game, that game will result in a forfeit and the Head Coach will be suspended. Reinstatement is by AYL Baseball Board Approval only.
- 1.3** Players will be required to bring a current Middle School ID (or equivalent) for participation. ID's may be checked prior to game. Players without any current Middle School ID may not be allowed to play.
- 1.3.1** Players that are home schooled or attending online school may bring a school registration or other documentation showing they are in Middle School.
- 1.4** AYL Roster rules apply; see Rule 5 of the General Baseball Rules, Rosters and Player Eligibility.

### **Rule 2 Playing Rules**

- 2.1 Bats:** All Colorado High School rules are in effect with the exception of any AYL rules, in addition, all C-Prep players, may use bats from drop 5 (-5) to drop 3 (-3) All other current AYL bat rules are still in effect, please refer to Rule 10.2 for clarification.

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## **APPENDIX G - TOURNAMENT SPECIFIC RULES**

### **Rule 1 Tournament Format**

#### **1.1 AA Tournament Series**

- 1.1.1** The **Opening Day Challenge** tournament will consist of two “pool play” games on Saturday, then a single elimination bracket on Sunday. All teams will play the bracket.
- 1.1.2** The **Mid-Season Classic** tournament will consist of two “pool play” games on Saturday, then a single elimination bracket on Sunday. All teams will play the bracket.
- 1.1.3** The **World Series Championships** tournament will consist of a two game guarantee. Each team will play the opening round, with game winners advancing toward the championship games. Team who lose the first round will enter into the 3<sup>rd</sup> place consolation bracket.

- 1.2** All age levels of AAA/M and C-Prep will play in a single elimination end-of-season tournament.

### **Rule 2 Tournament Rules Enforcement**

- 2.1** The AYL Baseball board will convene a tournament rules committee, made up by the AYL baseball board members. The Rules committee will hear all protests in real time and make a full determination to the outcome of the protest prior to the start of the next contest.

### **Rule 3 Protests**

- 3.1** Any team wanting to file a protest during the tournament will still need to comply with the protest procedures of rule 17, stop play and file the protest with the umpire at that time. **The UMPIRE DOES NOT HAVE ABILITY TO ADJUDICATE OR RULE ON THE PROTEST, NOR DO THEY HAVE THE ABILITY TO NOT ALLOW THE PROTEST TO BE FILED.**
  - 3.1.1.** After the protest is filed, the game should continue to its natural conclusion. Once the game has concluded, the head coach of the protesting team must contact their AYL club delegate to explain the circumstances of the protest while remaining at the field.

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## **APPENDIX G - TOURNAMENT SPECIFIC RULES -** **CONT.**

- 3.1.2 The head coach of the opposing team and the umpire in charge must also remain at the field. The opposing Head Coach also needs to reach out to his club delegate and the umpire needs to reach out to the head of officiating.
- 3.1.3 The two club delegates and the head of officiating shall then contact the tournament rules committee for immediate adjudication of the protest.
- 3.1.4 Any Protest filed during the tournament will also carry a \$200 protest deposit to file said protest.
- 3.1.5 If the protest is found to be valid and causes a forfeit, the protesting team will have their deposit returned and will be noted by the Rules Committee as the rightful winner of the contest and allowed to continue in the tournament.
- 3.1.6 If the protest has a direct effect on the next game played, that game will be delayed until the protest is completed and the outcome of the protest has been issued by the Rules Committee.

**3.2 Protests may not be filed after the conclusion of the game unless a rostering violation, pitch count violation or a Minimum play rule violation is the cause for the protest. However, all protests must be filed prior to the commencement of the next game of the bracket.**

### **Rule 4 Rosters**

- 4.1 All teams must only use players from their roster from the season to compete in the any AYL Tournament.
  - 4.1.1 End-of-season Tournament roster additions required because of an unusual loss of players can be added (should said roster be ineligible for play - 7 or less players) with AYL Baseball Board approval. However, players to be added to a specific roster must come from the same Club and the same or lower level of play, as the team needing players.

Example: No AA team may pick up a AAA player to complete the roster.  
No AA National team can pick up a AA American player to complete the roster.

- 4.2 Teams may only pick up players to complete a roster to a playable size of 8 players.

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## **APPENDIX G - TOURNAMENT SPECIFIC RULES - CONT.**

### **Rule 5 Home Team Designation**

- 5.1 In AA, all pool play games will have the home team designation decided via coin flip at the pregame meeting by the umpire.
- 5.2 In both AA and AAA bracket play, the higher seed will always be the home team.

### **Rule 6 Baseballs**

- 6.1 For all tournament “pool play” and bracket games, each team shall supply one new game ball for each playoff game. If a team no longer has any new game balls, they shall supply their most gently used game ball they have.
  - 6.1.1 Game balls for championship games of the Opening Day Challenge and Mid Season Classic will be in the same distribution as stated in 6.1.
- 6.2 Game balls for the World Series championships will be provided directly from the AYL.