

# 2022 RACINE COUNTY YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS FOR MAJOR LEAGUE

Last Updated 3/15/22

The role of managers and coaches is to teach youth baseball. Teaching good sportsmanship and developing youth to become responsible citizens through fair play and teamwork is as important as developing a winning attitude.

All league games will start promptly at 6:00PM and have a time limit of 2 hours (unless otherwise noted on the schedule) Major League games are Tuesdays and Fridays. See THE GAME Rule 1) regarding shortened/incomplete/ tie score games.

## RULES

- 1) The Major League will follow the 2022 NFHS League (High School) rule book except for the changes listed in this Racine County Youth Baseball rules amendment. Any rules or manuals published prior to this edition are null and void.
- 2) League fees are \$250.00 per team, due and payable to the league treasurer on or before May 1, 2022. (Checks will be made out to Racine County Youth Baseball).
- 3) The roster coach and/or assistant coach will attend the Coaches Meeting held before the start of the season or will forfeit the first scheduled game.

## AGE/RESIDENCY ELIGIBILITY

- 1) Age determined by player's age on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 11:59 p.m. of the current season. Regular player's ages for the Major division are 11 and 12 years old. If 10 year olds petition for placement on a Major team only (play up), with community and commission approval, they are on roster as regular players and lose eligibility to play in the Minor division.
- 2) Any roster Minor league player petitioning to 'crossover' to the Major division must be (10) years of age. Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis with said player's community recommendation and final approval by the commission. Crossover players must be noted on the rosters as such. Please be aware that some communities have unique rules regarding using crossover players.
- 3) The player must reside or go to school in Racine County and/or the players parent/parents must pay taxes in Racine County to be eligible to play in Racine County Youth Baseball or be approved by a majority of the commission with the exception of Wind Lake, which would allow Muskego/Norway School District players.

## THE TEAM

- 1) A team roster for all players must be submitted to all commissioners for each community before April 28, 2021.
- 2) Coaches must give a copy of their team roster to the opposing coach before the start of their first game against that team. The penalty for refusing to submit a roster as requested is forfeit of the game.
- 3) Rosters must include the player's name, age, date of birth, phone number, complete address and be readable. Rosters for opposing coaches MUST also include an identifying number.
- 4) Leagues may add players to the team roster after the season starts only with prior approval of the commission. No additions to rosters after June 1<sup>st</sup>. Each commissioner must be notified of the added player prior to the player entering a game. The player must wait 2 days after approval before being eligible to play. Teams will forfeit all games that the added player plays before the 2 day waiting period is complete.
- 5) Teams may start a game with only 8 eligible players. The ninth spot will be an automatic out until another player is present. If you start with 9 players and lost 1 to an injury only, the roster spot will not be an automatic out.
- 6) Team Bench is limited to team's roster players, three coaches and one scorer.

## THE FIELD

Major League fields shall have 70 foot bases and a distance of 50 feet from back corner of home plate to the front of the pitchers rubber. Effort must be made to either completely bury or remove the Minor League rubber.

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## **PLAYERS**

- 1) All Major league games will use a continuous batting lineup and all players submitted on the lineup card will bat. Late arriving players should not be added to the lineup card until they arrive, once they arrive the player will be added to the last spot in the lineup, regardless of where the team is in the batting order. A player missing his spot in the lineup for any reason will be removed from the game, an out will be charged to the team (exception, no out is charged for a player being removed from the game due to an injury), and the player will NOT be allowed to return to the lineup or play defense. A player mistakenly batting out of order does NOT need to be removed from the game but is subject to batting out of order rules.
- 2) Defensive substitutions are open, but all Major league players will play a minimum of 3 defensive innings. The only reason for a player not playing 3 defensive innings is a) disciplinary (you must notify opposing manager prior to the start of the game) b) injury, or c) end of game.
- 3) Minor League players crossing over into the Major League can play anywhere in the field except the positions of Pitcher and Catcher, and will not receive more play time than a roster player of that team.
- 4) In the event that a player is injured, a courtesy runner may run for the injured player. This courtesy runner will be the player that made the last recorded out, even if the last recorded out was the preceding inning. Exception, if the last recorded out is the pitcher or catcher of the next inning, the next recorded out may be used.

## **PITCHERS**

- 1) Starting pitchers, once removed from the mound, may return to the mound only one time. Relief pitchers, once removed from the mound, may not re-enter as a pitcher. Players cannot pitch more than 12 outs per day. All batters pitched to after a pitcher has reached his maximum outs will bat over if the opposing manager chooses to do so.
- 2) Pitchers may not pitch more than two consecutive days, and no more than 36 outs per week Sunday to Saturday (make-up games included).
- 3) There will be no balks. A fake pitch will be considered a ball and runners may not advance.
- 4) \*\*\*\*NEW in 2022 A pitcher who has 3 hit by pitch in one inning or 4 hit by pitch in any game will be removed from pitching the rest of that game.

## **SCORE REPORTING**

- 1) For completed games, winning coach must report game score to score keepers within 48 hours to the designated scorekeeper. Designated scorekeeper information will be available to your commissioners and given to each coach.
- 2) The information needed is from the winning coach and includes: date of game, league of play, teams playing and the score of the game.

## **UMPIRES**

- 1) The home team will furnish a home plate umpire.
- 2) The umpire cannot be an immediate relative (father, mother, brother, sister) of a player on either team. This rule can be overruled if both coaches agree and before the first pitch of the game is thrown. Violation of this rule will result in a forfeit of the offending team.
- 3) Home team score book will be the official score book. The umpire will verify the score, each ½ inning.
- 4) Umpires must be at least 16 years old for Major League games. Violation of umpire age qualification will result in a forfeit for the home team.
- 5) Any compensation for umpires is the responsibility of the local organizations. League appointed umpires (County Tournament, All Star, Playoff, WS) are the responsibility of the RCYB League.

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## EQUIPMENT

- 1) Local organizations are responsible for all of their own equipment and league fees.
- 2) The home team must furnish 2 National approved balls for each game.
- 3) Bats must have a barrel diameter of 2 3/4 or less. The batter will be called out for an illegal bat after one pitch is thrown
- 4) All league players must wear approved batting helmets at all times while at bat or running the bases. The only exception is if the helmet falls off naturally while running the bases. Players removing their helmet on base paths will be called out at the time of infraction. After a play is over, if a player then removes their helmet before leaving the playing area, a team warning will be given and the next violation will result in an out.
- 5) All players must wear a shirt with a unique identifying number and a cap.
- 6) Metal spikes are not allowed.
- 7) All male players must wear a protective cup.

## THE GAME

- 1) Regulation games consist of 7 innings. A complete game will be 4 innings or 3.5 if the home team is ahead and the game is shortened by weather, darkness, etc. No games should end in a tie, games must be continued under any available lights or rescheduled to another date and time when the game can be completed. (Rainout games or games not concluded will be rescheduled within 3 days and played within 14 days of the originally scheduled date).  
**\*\*\*NEW in 2022 Games not rescheduled within the 3 days can be rescheduled by any commissioner at any location.**
- 2) When there is a play at any base, the runner MAY slide to avoid contact with the defensive player. If the player does NOT slide and is deemed to be unsafe by the umpire, they may be called out. This rule does not apply to a batter that has hit and is on his way to 1st base. Base runners may not slide head first when advancing to the next base, but may dive head first to return to a base  
(Reminder – the defensive player may not be in the base path unless he/she has possession of the ball).
- 3) Home team is in charge prior to the umpire's arrival. The home plate umpire is in charge after arriving.
- 4) Teams wishing to take infield practice before a game should be at the field so as not to delay the start of the game. The visiting team has the last 15 minutes before games start to take their infield practice.
- 5) Offensive conferences are limited to one per team per inning.
- 6) A manager that is losing by 15 or more runs after 4 innings may discontinue the game.
- 7) Courtesy runners are allowed (optional) for the catcher/pitcher after two outs have been recorded. The courtesy runner will be the player that made the last recorded out, even if the last recorded out was the preceding inning. Exception, if the last recorded out is the pitcher/catcher of the next inning, the next recorded out may be used. When a courtesy runner is used for a catcher or pitcher, the player he substituted for must be used as the catcher or pitcher in the next inning.
- 8) If a runner leaves a base early or misses a base, the umpire will make the out call at the end of the play with no appeal procedure.
- 9) **Reschedule of Rainouts – All rescheduling of rainouts will be done by the host commissioner. A date and time will be given to each team. Failure to show will result in a forfeit. (Games will be rescheduled within 3 days and played within 14 days of the originally scheduled date) \*\*\*\*NEW in 2022 Games not rescheduled within the 3 days can be rescheduled by any commissioner at any location.**
- 10) Game cancellations other than for weather require a mandatory one week notice to opposing coach. Also they must notify their commissioner. The new date and time will be assigned by the commission.
- 11) All on deck batters **MUST** warm up behind the existing batter.
- 12) If a batter fakes a bunt and then swings away, the batter is out and the ball is dead.
- 13) If a batter squares around to bunt and the pitcher resets, it will be called a ball and the ball is dead at this time.
- 14) In the Major League dropped third strike shall be played as a live ball and infield fly rule applies.
- 15) In the Major league, a runner may attempt to steal after the pitcher has released the ball. A runner is not allowed a lead-off. If a runner leaves a base prior to the release of the pitch, the runner will be called out and the pitch declared a dead ball.

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**PLAYOFF, WORLD SERIES AND ALL STAR GAME**

- 1) Playoff seeds will be determined by Commissioners based on each team's wins/losses. Games not played will be reviewed separately by the Commissioners to determine if a winner should be declared based on each of the "not played" game's circumstances. Once all wins/losses have been applied/reviewed, ties will be broken based on head to head matchups, then by runs allowed throughout the entire season.
- 2) The League Commissioners will direct the best 2 of 3 World Series games between division champs.
- 3) World Series and All Star games will be scheduled annually by the Commissioners. The issuing of trophies will be determined annually by the League Commissioners for championship and all stars.
- 4) Managers will be responsible for organizing All Star Teams from each division of each league game with direction from the League Commissioners – to be determined annually.
- 5) Length of Playoff and World Series games will be the same as regular season play.

**RCYB COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT**

- 1) Coaches will conduct themselves in a manner that displays good sportsmanship and fair play at all times.
- 2) Coaches will not use foul language at any time while conducting a game or practice.
- 3) Coaches will be equally representative of good sportsmanship in winning and losing.
- 4) Coaches are prohibited from arguing an umpire's decision and insure that players remain under control at all times.
- 5) Coaches will insure that umpires are aware of any unique league rules that apply.
- 6) Coaches will make sure that all players treat equipment and uniforms in the proper manner.
- 7) Coaches will know and follow all game rules that apply.
- 8) Do not take advantage of an unknowledgeable coach by changing the rules.
- 9) Do not deliberately run up a score on opponents.
- 10) Coaches are encouraged to give all players a fair chance to participate in games.

\*\*\*As a reminder, NFHS Coaches Code of Ethics also applies, on page 80 of the NFHS rule book.

- 11) Game Officials are the umpire-in-chief and one or more field umpires. **It is important the umpires, managers, and coaches go over the ground rules before the start of the game. (The manager is then responsible for relaying ground rules to the team).** Any umpire has the authority to order a player, coach or team attendant to do or refrain from doing anything that affects the administration of the rules and to enforce prescribed penalties. Umpire jurisdiction begins upon the umpires arriving at the field (within the confines of the field) and ends when the umpires leave the playing field at the conclusion of the game. Any umpire's decision which involves judgment, such as a hit is fair or foul, a pitch is a strike or ball, or a runner if safe or out, is final. If there is reasonable doubt about some decision being in conflict with the rules, the coach or captain may ask that the correct ruling be made. The umpire making the decision may ask another umpire for information before making a final decision. No umpire shall interfere with another umpire's decision unless asked by the one make it. No umpire may be removed from a game unless he/she becomes ill or is injured. His/her right to disqualify players or to remove non-players for objecting to decisions or for unsportsmanlike conduct is absolute. Ejections will be made at the end of playing action.

**Facebook page Racine County Youth Baseball is used for weather/cancelation of games**

	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Who</b>
	Caledonia Commissioner	
	Raymond Commissioner	Rick Paap
	Muskego Commissioner	Mike Schepp
	Union Grove Commissioner	Doug Preston
	Wind Lake Commissioners	Dennis Mueller
	Yorkville Commissioner	Andrew Kaufman
	RCYB Treasurer	Jeff Knutson

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## **GAME PROTESTS**

A protest shall be considered only when based on the violation or interpretation of a playing rule. No protest shall be considered on a decision involving an umpire's judgment. Any umpire's decision which involves judgment, such as if a hit is fair or foul, a pitch is a strike or ball or a runner if safe or out is final. Equipment which does not meet specifications must be removed from the game and shall not be the basis for protest. The managers or acting managers of contesting teams only shall have the right to protest a game. They may not leave the dugout until receiving permission from the umpire.

Protests shall be made as follows:

- a.) The protesting manager shall immediately, before any subsequent play begins, notify the umpire that the game is being played under protest.
- b.) Following such notice the umpire shall consult with the associate umpires. If the umpire determines that the decision is in conflict with the rules, the umpire shall reverse that decision. If, after consultation, the umpire is convinced that the decision is not in conflict with the rules, the umpire shall announce that the game is being played under protest. Failure of the umpire to make such announcement shall not affect the validity of the protest. The managers of both teams will then have the umpire sign their scorebooks at the point of infraction.

Any protest for any reason whatsoever must be submitted by the manager, first to the umpire on the field at the time of the infraction, and then in writing to a League Representative within 48 hours. The umpire-in-chief shall also submit a report (verbally or in writing) immediately.

The League Representative will then form a committee of 3 (three) random commissioners who are not associated with either of the teams involved in the protest. A protest meeting date shall be set and held within 1 week of notification of protest, and both managers will be notified. The committee of 3 (three) shall hear and resolve any such protest as above, including playing rules. If protest is allowed, game will be resumed from point when infraction occurred. The game will be scheduled to be played within one week of protest meeting date. Lineups and batting orders will remain the same as the originally played game.

## **NON PROTESTABLE VIOLATIONS**

- 1) Non protestable violations should be reported to your commissioner as soon as possible. If you are uncomfortable reporting the violation to your commissioner, any other commissioner can be notified. Game protests are for actual playing rules on the field of play, see game protests above. Non protestable violations are instances that are in direct conflict with RCYB playing rules off the field of play that are not easily identified, basically any type of cheating, ie. Illegal rosters, minimum playing rules, illegal players, illegal/doctored bats, etc.
- 2) Non protestable violations can be brought to the commissioners at any time after the violation is identified. It does not need to be done during the game, at the time of the violation like a game protest. Once notified, the commissioners will investigate to see if the instance did in fact happen and if it is in fact a violation. If a violation did in fact occur, the 5 commissioners who are not associated with the team involved will take appropriate action up to and including removal from the league for all coaches and players involved. In addition all games throughout the season in which the violation occurred will be subject to possible penalties up to and including forfeits.