

# 2025 RACINE COUNTY YOUTH BASEBALL KICKOFF TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATIONS

Last Updated 2/24/2025

## **Rules:**

The Rookie, Minor, Major, and Pony League **Kickoff Tournament** rules will supersede the "2025 NFHS Rule Book" and the "2025 Racine County Youth Baseball League Rules" for their respective League. The following additions/exceptions apply:

### **Kickoff Tournament Format:**

Kickoff tournaments will be in a pool play/single elimination format. All teams will play two "pool play" games (unless a team has a bye). Opponents for the pool play games will be randomly picked at the annual Coach's meeting. The results of the two pool play games will seed the single elimination bracket. Seeds are determined first by record, then by runs allowed, and finally by a coin flip. Teams receiving a bye in a pool play game will double their runs allowed from the single game when determining seeding.

No game may be forfeited or a team disqualified without authorization of the Tournament Director. If a team forfeits a game or withdraws from the tournament, once the tournament schedule has been set, the sponsoring community for that team will pay RCYB a penalty of \$100 per team that forfeits or withdraws.

GameChanger must be used to score all pool play and bracket games.

### **Kickoff Tournament Roster:**

This is a rostered team tournament. Line-ups must be exchanged before each game.

The Kickoff Tournament is the same as the regular season using 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 purposely (refusing to play, has left, or been removed from the lineup) missing his spot in the lineup 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.

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.

The minimum defensive inning rule will NOT apply in the Tournaments. It is strongly suggested, however, that each child play a minimum of two defensive (2) innings.

The team bench is limited to the team's rostered players, three coaches, and one scorer.

### **Pitching:**

Rookie League – A pitching machine will be used for ALL Kickoff Tournament games

Minor League pitchers are allowed to pitch a maximum of 3 innings per tournament game (includes both "pool play" and bracket games).

Major and Pony League pitchers are allowed to pitch a maximum of 4 innings per tournament game (includes both "pool play" and bracket games).

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### Game Timing:

The Umpire is the Official Timer. No new inning may start after the time limit unless the score is tied. In the event of an injury that delays play for more than a few minutes, the time delay will be added to the game clock.

Rookie games are 4 innings or between 50 minutes and 1 hour. No new innings will start after the game time clock reaches 50 minutes. The game will be stopped (Hard Stop) when the game clock reaches 1hr. Minor games are 6 innings or 1 hour and 30 minutes (no new innings at 1hr 30min – innings already started will be completed unless the home team is batting and winning). Major games are 7 innings or 1 hour and 30 minutes (no new innings at 1hr 30min – innings already started will be completed unless the home team is batting and winning). Pony games are 7 innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes (no new innings at 1hr 45min – innings already started will be completed unless the home team is batting and winning).

Tournament Championship games will play by regular season game timing rules which are:

Rookie – 4 innings with a minimum of 60 minutes of play, with no new innings after 1 hour 30 minutes

Minor – 6 innings with no new innings after 2 hours

Major – 7 innings with no new innings after 2 hours

Pony and Senior – 7 innings with no new innings after 2 hours and 15 minutes

There will be no more than five (5) warm-up pitches between innings or after pitching changes. Teams should anticipate potential pitching changes. In addition, the baseball must be returned directly to the pitcher after an out.

No infield or batting practice is allowed on the playing fields. You may practice in other areas approved by the Tournament Director.

A Manager or Coach may come out once in one inning to talk to a pitcher, but the second time the player must be removed as the pitcher. The Manager or Coach may come out three times in a game to talk to a pitcher, but the fourth time the player must be removed as the pitcher. This rule applies to each pitcher who enters the game.

**Slaughter Run Rules:** Rookies (10) or more runs after three (3) innings. Minors (15) or more runs after (3) innings or (10) or more runs after four (4) innings. Majors (15) or more runs after (3) innings or (10) or more runs after (4) innings. Pony (15) or more runs after (4) innings or (10) or more runs after (5) innings. Slaughter Run rule will apply to both pool play games and bracket games, however not apply in Tournament Championship game.

The five (5) run limit for Rookies WILL apply in the tournament

The seven (7) run limit for Minors WILL apply in the tournament.

Pool Play games - The home team will be determined at random using the pool play tournament matrix.

Bracket Games - The home team will be the team with the better seed.

### Protests:

When a Manager feels that an Umpire decision is in violation of the tournament playing rules, he/she shall make a formal protest with the Umpire and Tournament Director before the next pitch. The Tournament Director and the Umpire(s) shall reach a decision before play is resumed.