

# 2025 RACINE COUNTY YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS FOR ROOKIE LEAGUE

Last Updated 2/24/2025

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 either 4:45pm, 6pm, or 6:30pm and have a time limit of 1 hour 30 minutes (unless otherwise noted on the schedule) Rookie League games are Tuesdays and Thursdays.

## RULES

- 1) The Rookie League will follow the 2025 NFHS League (High School) rule book except for the changes listed in this Racine County Youth Baseball rules amendment. Any rules published prior to this edition are null and void.
- 2) League fees are \$500.00 per team, due and payable to the league treasurer on or before May 1, 2025. (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.

## GRADE ELIGIBILITY

- 1) Player's grade is determined to be the player's grade at the time of registration (Jan-March) of the current baseball season year. Regular player's grades for the Rookie division are 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades.
- 2) If a 5k grader petitions for placement on a Rookie team only (play up), with community and commission approval, they are on roster as regular players and lose eligibility to play in the Coach/Pee Wee Pitch division.

## THE TEAM

- 1) All teams must have a roster approved by their commissioner. If required a roster will be provided by the commissioner to settle any disputes.
- 2) Only rostered players may participate in any and all games. Games played with a non-rostered player shall be forfeited.
- 3) Teams 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.
- 4) Teams may start a game with only 6 eligible players. There are no automatic outs for teams batting less than 9 players. If a player leaves the game early for whatever reason, the missing batter in the lineup will NOT be an automatic out.
- 5) Team Bench is limited to the team's roster players, three coaches and one scorer.
- 6) The maximum team roster size is 14 players.

## THE FIELD

- 1) Rookie League fields shall have 60 foot bases and a distance of 40 feet from back corner of home plate to front of pitchers rubber. This pitchers rubber must be removable on diamonds that Minor League games are played.
- 2) This is a developmental league, therefore both offensive and defensive coaches will be allowed on the field during play. Offensive coaches will be allowed to be traditional base coaches and be positioned at both first and third base. Defensive coaches can be in the field of play, but must be positioned behind the base paths at all times.
- 3) Both offensive and defensive coaches are expected to help ALL players on the field with basic playing skills.
- 4) Coaches from either team are NOT allowed to touch any players during a live play, only verbal instructions are allowed during "live play."

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## PITCHING MACHINE RULES

- 1) The RCYB Commission will determine which innings per game, and which tournaments will use pitching machines instead of player pitchers. Please refer to the RCYB Rookie Schedule and RCYB Tournament rules for clarification.
- 2) During a game, the offensive team operates the pitching machine. The offensive team representative operating the machine should not interfere with the play on the field, and should be solely responsible for operating the machine. For example, this representative should not also be trying to coach the bases (runners) or coach the dugout (batting order).
- 3) An umpire will still be used during pitching machine innings and all pitches will be called balls/strikes by the umpire.
- 4) If a batted ball hits the pitching machine or the representative running the pitching machine, the ball is live.
- 5) The pitcher position for the defensive team will be allowed to stand on either side of the pitching machine even with the pitcher's rubber. The pitcher positional player may **NOT** leave the area even with the pitcher's rubber until the pitched ball crosses home plate. This includes both moving towards or away from home plate
- 6) The pitching machine settings will be setup by the home team and should not be changed. Exception, the umpire can direct changes to the pitching machine if strikes are not being consistently thrown or if the pitching machine is somehow moved during the course of a play. The umpire is allowed to use as many practice pitches as needed to "correct" the pitching machine.

## PLAYERS

- 1) All Rookie 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 mistakenly batting out of order is subject to batting out of order rules. Rookie League batting out of order rules are; 1) If the mistake is determined while the batter is still batting, the appropriate batter should take their correct spot in the batter's box with the balls and strikes count as is from the incorrect batter or 2) If the mistake is determined after the batter has left the batter's box (either by making an out or getting on base) the switch in the batting lineup will become a permanent switch for the remainder of the game.
- 2) Defensive substitutions are open, but all Rookie league players will play a minimum of 2 defensive innings. The only reason for a player not playing 2 defensive innings is a) disciplinary (you must notify opposing manager prior to the start of the game) b) injury or illness, or c) end of game.
- 3) Pee Wee League players crossing over into the Rookie League can only play in the outfield and will not receive more playing 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) All pitchers, once removed from the mound, may not re-enter as a pitcher. Players cannot pitch more than 6 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. In the event an inning ends because of the inning run rule limit, the remaining "outs" will be charged to the last pitcher of record.
- 2) Pitchers may not pitch more than two consecutive days, and no more than 12 outs per week Sunday to Saturday (make-up games included).
- 3) There will be no balks. There will be no fake pitches.

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## **GAME SCORING AND GAMECHANGER**

- 1) All games must be scored using GameChanger. Final scores, pitch counts, standings, etc. will all be done via GameChanger. Game schedules and makeup games will be done via GameChanger as well.
- 2) Both teams must score the game via GameChanger. The home team's GameChanger will be the official book. See the GameChanger procedures handout.

## **UMPIRES**

- 1) The home team will furnish a home plate umpire.
- 2) The umpire should not 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) Please verify the score the umpire and other team, each  $\frac{1}{2}$  inning.
- 4) Umpires must be at least 13 years old for Rookie 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 Racine County Youth Baseball League. Possible standard format for umpire pay.

## **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  $2\frac{3}{4}$  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) A written lineup card with legible full player names and uniform numbers must be submitted to the opposing coach at least 10 minutes before the start of the game.
- 2) Regulation games consist of 4 innings or 1hr 30mins. Up to 4 innings will be played until the game clock reaches 1hr 30 minutes, then no additional innings may start. Innings started before the game clock reaches 1hr 30min will be completed unless the home team is batting and winning. EXCEPTION: Rookie league requires a minimum of 60 minutes of play. In the event 4 or more innings are completed in less than an hour, an additional inning is played. A complete game will be 3 innings or 2.5 if the home team is ahead and the game is shortened by weather, darkness, etc. Rookie League regular season games may end in a tie, tournament/playoff games cannot end in a tie.
- 3) 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).
- 4) Home team is in charge prior to the umpire's arrival. The home plate umpire is in charge after arriving.
- 5) Teams wanting to take infield practice before a game should be at the field so as not to delay the start of the game.

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The visiting team has the last 15 minutes before games start to take their infield practice.

- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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). Games not rescheduled within the 3 days can be rescheduled by any commissioner at any location.
- 9) Game cancellations other than for weather require a mandatory one week notice to opposing coach and their commissioner. The new date and time will be assigned by the commission.
- 10) All on deck batters **MUST** warm up behind the existing batter.
- 11) Bunts are NOT allowed.
- 12) The dropped third strike and the infield fly rule do not apply.
- 13) Hidden ball trick is illegal.
- 14) Base runners shall not leave their bases until the pitched ball crosses home plate. The player will be called out if observed leaving early with the ball being dead and the pitch a “no pitch”.
- 15) A total of 5 runs may be scored in an inning, except that additional runs may score on continuation of the last play.
- 16) Stealing of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> is allowed, stealing of home is **NOT** allowed. A player can NOT steal home on any pitch that results in a passed ball, dropped ball, wild pitch, or errant throw back to the pitcher. A player can score and continue to home during a continuation of a play. For example a hit ball or overthrow during an active play including a steal of 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
- 17) If the team on offense currently has a lead of ten (10) or more runs, the coaches will make every effort to maintain field decorum. This specifically includes no stealing except on passed balls. Runners may advance on natural play. See the Coaches Code of Conduct, items 3 and 9.

### 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 Rookie Playoffs which will be a single elimination seeded bracket. ALL teams will qualify for the Rookie Playoffs.
- 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.
- 6) **Pitching rules for the playoff and world series games will be the same as regular season rules.**

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

#### League Commissioners:

Raymond – Alex Zurawski

Union Grove – Doug Preston

Yorkville – Matt Swanson

Wind Lake – Dennis Mueller/Jacob Miller

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## 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) ONLY the head coach or acting head coach may address the umpire in a professional manner. Any other coach, base coach, parent, or player who addresses the coach is subject to ejection at the umpire's discretion.
- 6) Coaches will insure that umpires are aware of any unique league rules that apply.
- 7) Coaches will make sure that all players treat equipment and uniforms in the proper manner.
- 8) Coaches will know and follow all game rules that apply.
- 9) Do not take advantage of a new/less experienced coach by changing the rules.
- 10) Do not deliberately run up a score on opponents.
- 11) 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.
- 12) 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 is safe or out, is final. If there is reasonable doubt about some decision being in conflict with the rules, **ONLY** the head coach (or acting head coach) 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 umpire who made the original ruling. 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.

## GAME PROTESTS

There will be NO game protests in the Rookie League

## 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 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.