

# INTERBORO CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL LEAGUE

## 2017 – Minor Division – 10U Boys Baseball OFFICIAL RULES

*The latest edition of the Cal Ripken Division of Babe Ruth Baseball Rules & Regulations shall be the official playing rules of the INTERBORO CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL LEAGUE subject to certain variations determined by the Directors of the League. When any rule or its interpretation is in conflict, the INTERBORO CAL RIPKEN LEAGUE and their intent will apply.*

### ARTICLE I

#### GENERAL RULES OF PLAY:

- A. A ball that is hit fair and rolls through, bounces over or goes through the fence in any way while in play will be a ground rule double.
- B. A ball that is hit fair and while bouncing in fair territory is touched by a spectator will be declared dead and any runner or runners will be permitted to go to the base to which the runner was advancing when the ball was touched.
- C. A thrown ball which rolls through, bounces over or goes through the fence in any manner will be declared an overthrow. Any runner or runners will be awarded one base in addition to the base to which the runner was advancing when the overthrow was made.
- D. A thrown ball which goes into the dugout area or over the backstop will be declared an overthrow with all runners advancing according to Section C of this Article.
- E. If a ball is overthrown and remains in play, all runners may advance at their own risk without limit to bases they can take.
- F. Baserunners must remain in contact with the base when the pitcher is in contact with the rubber and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball. This action of the pitcher and catcher shall no way nullify a continuous play on the part of the offensive team, which must reach its natural conclusion.
- G. Minors: drop third strike rule is NOT in effect.
- H. There shall be limited stealing in the Minor League.
  - 1. A runner must remain on the base until the ball crosses the plate.

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- a. If the runner leaves early, the team will receive a warning. The runner returns to the base. If a runner leaves early again, the runner will be called out.
  - 2. A runner must slide or veer and avoid malicious contact.
  - 3. No head first sliding, unless it's to return to a base. Runner will be called out.
  - 4. There are no steals on the throw from the catcher to the pitcher.
  - 5. If any team leads by more than six (6) run, that team will no longer be able to steal any bases or advance on any passed balls. If, or when, the lead fall below six (6) runs, the team leading may resume stealing bases and advancing on passed balls.
  - 6. Stealing home is allowed.
- J. The area around the backstop will be kept clear of players, coaches, managers and spectators.
  - K. After the game is started, pitchers will warm up on the sidelines. An adult must be with the pitcher and catcher when they warm-up.
  - L. Team management will consist of a manager and a maximum of three coaches who will be officially recognized by the League and eligible for participation in uniforms and trophies.
  - M. No Fake Bunt & Swing: A batter that gets in the bunting position shall not be allowed to swing away on the pitch that they signaled they were bunting. Any player who does this will be automatically out.
  - N. All players that show up must bat once and play the field at least 2 innings.
  - O. All teams shall be split evenly by talent. Any team found to be “stacked” will be reviewed by the board of directors and possibly be asked to disband or forfeit all games won up to that point.
  - P. Maximum batter is eight (8) per inning or three (3) outs. Whichever comes first.
  - Q. The 6th inning will remain the same until the playoffs and then it becomes uncapped.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **GAME PRELIMINARIES**

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- A. The home team shall have the field for TEN (10) MINUTES prior to the starting time and the visiting team for the preceding TEN (10) MINUTES, if time permits.
- B. The plate umpire, as soon as the rules conference begins at home plate, has sole authority over the game. He now determines when a game shall be called, halted or resumed on account of weather and the condition of the playing field.
- C. All games will begin promptly. There shall be a permissible delay of fifteen (15) minutes if a team does not have the required eight (8) players. The availability of eight (8) players shall compel the start of the game.
- D. If a game cannot be played because of the inability of either team to place eight (8) players on the field before the game begins, this shall be grounds for an automatic forfeiture, but not required if both teams still want to play the game.
- E. If a team is not going to have 9 players for the game and know beforehand, they may bring up a player from the Rookie League. This player may not pitch and must be the 9<sup>th</sup> player. If for some reason, an additional player shows from the team, the "call-up" player will then become the EH.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **OFFICIAL SCORING**

- A. It is the responsibility of the home team to have an Official Scorer at each game and to inform the visiting team of the home team changes as they are made.
- B. The Official Scorer shall record the names of all players available when the game starts so as to check player participation when the game is completed. The managers of both teams shall make this list available by using the Official Scorecard.
- C. If a game is protested, play suspended, or a tie occurs, the Official Scorer shall make note of the exact situation at the time of the protest, suspension, or tie game, including the score, number of outs, the position of the runners, and the balls and strikes on the batter. The plate umpire will assure the accuracy of the information and sign the score sheets.
- D. The Official Scorer shall not make any decisions concerning the official playing rules, an umpire's decision, or a game under protest.

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## ARTICLE IV

### PLAYER PARTICIPATION RULES

- A. If a player arrives late, he/she can play at the manager's discretion.
- B. A player has officially played when he/she has completed two (2) defensive innings six (6) outs and at least one (1) turn at bat.
- C. Exceptions to the above rule:
  - 1. If only 5½ innings are played as a result of the home team leading, any player of the home team who has played one (1) defensive innings will satisfy the playing requirement, if this player is one of the first three scheduled batters in the bottom of the final inning, and this would have been their normal time at bat.
  - 2. Any player on the visiting team who has completed a minimum of at least two (2) defensive inning will have officially played provided that this player would have been at his/her position at the conclusion of the game in the bottom of the final inning. If these rules are not followed, the player will be determined as not having participated.
- D. No player shall be withheld from a game when he/she is physically able to play at the start of the game.
- E. The penalty for failure to observe the player participation rule shall be automatic forfeiture of the game upon electronic protest(email, text, etc.) by the offended manager to the board of directors within twenty-four (24) hours.
- F. The director of the division will review the official score book and verify if a violation has occurred. If a violation has occurred, they will award the win to the protesting team. No meeting of the Board of Directors will be necessary.
- G. Courtesy Runner for the catcher: Can be used with two outs only. You must use the player that recorded the last batted out.

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## **ARTICLE V**

### **REGULATION GAMES AND POSTPONEMENTS**

- A. The regulation shall consist of six (6) innings for the Minor League. However, if the game has been played for One hour forty-five minutes (1:45) that inning is to be completed and no new inning is to begin.
- B. Inclement weather. For Minor League games, the above factors are four (4) full innings and three and one half (3½) innings. Any game not meeting the above inning requirements will be a suspended game. The game will begin at the exact point it was halted including outs and batter count (balls and strikes)
- C. Darkness – Games ending due to darkness – If a game has been played for 1.5 hours the managers will meet to determine if an additional full inning can be played. If not, and official innings have been played, the winner will be declared. If the decision is to continue to play and the inning cannot be completed than it will revert back to the previous inning and winner declared. No games will be suspended due to darkness. If a game is tied than it will be recorded as a tie.
- D. Once the game has been placed in the hands of the umpires, all decisions shall be made by the umpires.
- E. Any postponed game or cancelled game shall be replayed/rescheduled as soon as reasonably possible

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **PITCHING RULES**

- A. One ball pitched constitutes one inning pitched.
- B. 3 innings (Minors) maximum.
- C. A pitcher who is removed from a suspended game may pitch in the regularly scheduled game immediately following the completion of the suspended game, providing the pitcher does not violate any of the above restrictions.
- D. Two (2) time outs or abnormal delays in an inning by a manager or coach for the purpose of conferring with a defensive player shall cause the pitcher's removal from the game.

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- E. Violation of any section of this article shall result in forfeiture of the game in which it occurs, subject to the rules of protesting games. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after he is announced, but before he has pitched, shall not be considered a violation. Officials and managers are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest may arise out of this situation, the potential offender should be notified immediately and any corrective measures should be taken.
- F. The pitcher shall be deemed wild and removed after hitting two (2) batters in an inning or three (3) in a game. This player may play other positions, but may not re-enter at pitcher the rest of the game.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **PROTESTS**

- A. Protests shall be considered only if based upon the violation of a playing rule or the use of ineligible players. No protest will be allowed if based upon a decision involving an umpire's judgment. Equipment which does not meet League specifications must be removed from the game and shall not be the basis of a protest.
- B. The manager of the offended team solely has the right to protest a game.
- C. Protests shall be made as follows:
  1. The protesting manager shall immediately and before any succeeding play begins, notify the plate umpire that he is now playing the game under protest.
  2. If it is discovered that an ineligible player is being used, such player shall be removed from the game and the game shall resume under protest and not depending upon the will or decision of the offended manager. If the ineligible player is recognized at the conclusion of the game, the manager may still submit his protest after having the official scorer concur.
  3. The protesting manager shall have twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of the game to submit his protest in electronic format(email/text) to the Board of Directors of the League.

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- D. The board of directors shall receive all protests.
- E. If a player is discovered to be batting out of turn or has batted out of turn, a protest should be made in compliance with League rules.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **FIELD DECORUM**

- A. The action of players, managers, coaches, umpires and League officials must be above reproach.
- B. Uniformed players, managers, coaches and umpires only shall be permitted within the confines of the playing field prior to and during the games. All players, managers and coaches shall be seated on the bench unless actively participating. One (1) player will be permitted in the on-deck circle at a time. The first infraction results in a bench warning. The second infraction results in the removal of the offending player.
- C. Incessant derisive remarks or behavior directed at the opposing team or the umpires will not be tolerated. Should anyone (player, manager, coach, etc.) continue after a warning by the umpire, president or vice-presidents, to hurl insults at anyone, that person will be removed. If the team participates, forfeiture may result.
- D. No player shall circulate among the spectators or converse with them while the game is in progress.
- E. Managers will be given one (1) warning by the plate umpire to inform any parent of his/her unsportsmanlike conduct. If the parent refuses to cooperate, the game will be an automatic forfeit.
- F. A manager or coach may not come onto the playing field to question a judgment call made by an umpire. The manager or coach may have a player who is in the game request an appeal by the umpire who made the call. However, the decision to request assistance from another umpire is solely at the discretion of the umpire who made the call. A manager or coach who comes onto the playing field to question a judgment call is subject to removal from the game and the dugout area.

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- G. The throwing of helmets, bats or any equipment by a player, manager or coach, whether in disgust or not, will not be tolerated. No warning will be given and that person will be removed from the game.
- H. Smoking/chewing of any tobacco items will not be permitted, by anyone, inside the fenced-in boundaries of the playing field during pre-game preliminaries and games.
- I. Alcohol will not be permitted inside the fenced-in boundaries of the playing field at any time.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **PLAYOFFS**

- A. Playoffs will be scheduled in accordance with the division structure of that year.
- B. Playoffs are random and no records shall be recorded officially.
- C. Playoff structure for Major, Minor and Rookie leagues will be determined before the playoffs of each season by the Board of Directors.
- D. All teams in all divisions will be in the playoffs.
- E. All playoff games must be played to their conclusion. Games stopped due to weather, darkness or any other reason will be rescheduled and resumed from the point at which they were stopped.