

UNION COUNTY CAL RIPKEN LEAGUE

Spring 2024 Local County Rules - Majors Division

General Rules

- **All games will be a maximum of six innings or two hours (2 hrs.) in length**, whichever occurs first. No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 50 minutes, but current inning may be completed (unless home team is ahead and batting). Ten run rule is in effect after (4) innings of play completed (3-1/2 innings, if home team is ahead).
- If the game is tied once the time limit expires, teams will play one more inning starting with the last player out from the previous inning on second and (1) out. If the game is still tied at the end of this extended inning the game will be complete and scored as a tie (regular season only; not EOS Tournament games).
- Four complete innings (3-1/2 innings if the home team is winning) for the game to be official.
- In case of rain or ten run rule, the game must reach at least 3-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead and 4 innings if the visiting team is ahead to be considered a complete game. Incomplete games will resume from the point of interruption the next available day.
- Each half inning shall be complete when three outs are recorded. **THERE ARE NO RUN LIMITS IN MAJOR DIVISION GAMES.**
- **Batting lineup will include entire roster** (League minimum of 8 players to start a game with 9th player able to enter at any time, although if no 9th player is inserted, the at bat is ruled an out). 9 Position players are allowed with free substitution in the field (does not affect batting order).
- The batting rotation shall consist of all players present for the game. Any player who does not come to bat at their regular turn shall be declared **OUT**, unless injured / sick during the current game. Once a player is declared injured/ sick they cannot re-enter the game.
- Late players may be added to the end of the batting rotation before the lineup goes one time through. Players arriving after this point may not be added to lineup, and must be inserted into the game per substitution rules. There will be a continuous batting order.
- No player can sit defensively for 2 consecutive innings. Players cannot sit for more than 2 innings per game. Any coach found in violation of this will be warned. If it happens more than once in a season, the coach may be suspended one game.
- A team must field at least eight (8) players before / during the game or the game will be declared a forfeit. A grace period of fifteen minutes will be allotted from the scheduled game time before declaring a forfeit. The grace period only applies for the first game of the day. The fifteen minutes will be deducted from the game time if the game proceeds. *(All home teams are strongly encouraged to do everything possible to play scheduled games).*
- Teams that cannot field eight (8) players can bring up a Minors player to help them out during a game. This player can play anywhere except pitcher or catcher and must bat last in the batting lineup. Teams are not allowed to pick-up players from the same division or a higher division. Maximum of (2) players can be picked up but cannot go above (10) total players. You can choose to play with (8) players if you only have (8) for that game. Picking up players is optional.
- Only the Local Home Commissioners may rule the field unplayable prior to the start of the game. Once the game starts, the umpire makes all determination on field playability. The decision to cancel due to weather will be made after 4pm.

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Batter / Runner

- The bat MUST be stamped 'USA' and the bat barrel may not exceed 2 5/8" in diameter. Wood 2 ¼" barrel bats are allowed. If any bat in Cal Ripken Baseball, cannot be clearly identified for its make and model to determine the barrel composition, then the bat should be removed from the game.
- No head first sliding into any advancing base. Any base runner that head first slides into a base will be called out. However, runners may go back head first to previous held base only.
- **Fake / Slash Bunting – A batter is out for illegal action when the player fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing,** thus eliminating a player from fake bunting the ball. **Penalty:** Batter is out, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

Contact Rule

- If a runner attempting to reach home plate or a base intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player, he / she will be called out on the play. The objective of this rule is to penalize the offensive team for deliberate, unwarranted, unsportsmanlike action by the runner for the obvious purpose of crashing the defensive player. Obviously, this an umpire's judgment call and cannot not be protested.
- Coaches are encouraged to teach their player's how to slide properly and to avoid contact with the defensive players. At the umpire's discretion, a runner will be called out if they purposely attempt to run over the catcher or generate unnecessarily rough play. Per Cal Ripken rules, player must "avoid contact".

Catcher's

- All catchers must wear a protective cup to be allowed to play this position. This is not optional for any player. If catcher refuses to wear this equipment he shall be removed from the game.
- Catchers **must wear protective head gear which includes a dangling throat protector** unless using a hockey-style mask.
- This equipment must cover both ears and fit the player properly
- To speed up game play, if the catcher gets on or is currently on base when one or two outs occur, he can be replaced by a pinch runner. This runner will be the player that received the last out. This will allow the catcher to get ready before the next inning begins.
- Anyone (Player or Coach) warming up a pitcher at any location shall wear a mask. A throat protector is considered part of the catcher's mask.

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Pitching Rules

- Any violation of these pitching rules is subject to protest. All confirmed pitching rule violations shall result in a forfeit by the offending team.
- Any player on a regular season team may pitch. There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.
- **Players, once removed from the mound may not return in the same game at the pitcher position.**
- Pitcher must pitch in consecutive innings in a game.
- All pitchers must adhere to the pitch count rest requirements before pitching in another game.
- **Official Pitch Count is the last actual pitch thrown. Pitcher can exceed the maximum allowed pitches (75) only to finish an at-bat that started before maximum pitches are thrown**

MAX - (DAY /GAME)	REQUIRED REST DAYS (PITCHES)			
	0 DAYS	1 DAYS	2 DAYS	3 DAYS
75	1-30	31-45	46-60	61+

- Calendar days of rest must be consecutive and do not begin until the following day of the last pitch thrown. Pitchers are cleared to pitch again the day after the last calendar day of rest.
- Pitches delivered in games that are suspended due to weather or stopped before coming official shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility.
- Head Coach must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the pitch count limit for their age group but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position. If a pitcher reaches the max number of pitches allowed while facing a batter the pitcher may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base, batter is put out, or third out is made to complete the half-inning.
- **Intentional Walk Rule** – An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count. The ball shall be declared dead before making the award and the batter will be awarded the base without further pitch thrown.
- In a game suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his/her eligibility.
- Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used, as specified above, shall be declared forfeited. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a preparatory (warm-up) pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation. Tournament Officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests.
- The home team is the official pitch count recorder for each game. Both managers and umpire must sign the scorebook
- The pitch count recorder shall record all pitches as defined in the rule book (Rule 2.00 – A pitch is a ball delivered to the batter by the pitcher.), in addition to any pitches delivered to the batter ruled a “no pitch” by the umpire.
- The pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire.
- The official pitch count recorder should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted above. The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed. However, the failure by the pitch count recorder to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in- chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.
- **The manager has the ultimate responsibility for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed.**

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Other Rules

- **All coaches must have passed their official background check and Abuse Prevention Training through Babe Ruth SportsEngine to be present in the dugout or on the field of play.** All coaches should also have completed and passed Coaching Certification (required for all postseason play).
- **Head Coach is responsible for their assistant coaches, players, and parents.** Coaches are to stay along their dugout fence and cannot wonder up and down the foul lines. No buckets or chairs on the field. In the event, the umpire ejects a coach, that coach will serve a one game suspension for the next game, which they must attend and sit in the stands. They will not be allowed in or around the dugouts and cannot coach at all.
- **Each team is required to have a scorekeeper whose duty is the check with the other scorekeeper after each inning to make sure they agree. Home team will be the official scorebook.** (*GAMECHANGER usage is encouraged for scoring & pitch count*)
- The home team is the official pitch count recorder for each game. Both managers and umpire must sign the scorebook when the game is completed to verify pitching records.
- Although home team is official recorder, All scorekeepers are required to enter pitch counts for both teams in the supplied pitch count forms for each game. This form will be handed in with scorebook at end of season. (*GAMECHANGER usage is encouraged for scoring & pitch count*)
- **Profanity, fighting, and unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated from anyone. Offenders will be asked to leave the park.**
- There shall be no tobacco products used by anyone on the bench or the field during games or practices.
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the park at anytime, anywhere, which includes the parking lots. Offenders will be told to leave the park and proper authorities notified.
- **Decisions of the umpire are final. Any questions directed at umpires regarding rules should be done after asking timeout. Confrontational approaches to the umpire will not be tolerated.**
- Any appeal of pitch counts or pitcher eligibility will be told to umpires, and game will continue to play under appeal. Determination of the appeal will be handled by commissioners after the conclusion of game and proper investigation done.
- Home team is responsible for preparing the field of play before the game begins. Which includes chalking the batters' box, foul line from home plate to the foul poles (if needed) prior to game start.
- **Home team is responsible for providing two game balls.**
- After completion of the game, home team is responsible to take the rake and rake around each base, home plate (batters boxes), and pitchers circle before leaving the field. Make sure all rakes, chalk boxes, string lines, and batter box templates are stored in their proper place. Make sure lights are turned off before leaving.
- **Both teams are responsible for cleaning their dugouts and placing all trash from the dugout, around the dugout, and the stands into the proper trash containers before leaving.**
- All players must be in official uniform; issued jersey, pants, and hat. Rubber or molded cleats are recommended but are optional. **NO** metal cleats allowed by players or coaches.
- ***Unless addressed here within, play shall be by Cal Ripken Rules, then official baseball rules as published by the National Baseball Congress, INC.***

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Majors Division Reference Sheet

Base Distance - 70'

Pitching Mound Distance - (rear of plate to front of rubber) - 50'

Game Length - 6 innings

Time Limit - 2 hours (no new inning to start after 1hr 50min)

Official Game - 4 innings (3-1/2 innings if the home team is winning)

Leads - Yes

Stealing - Yes

Run on Dropped Strike 3 - Yes

Mercy Rule - 10 runs after 4 innings or 15 runs after 3

Balks - Yes

Bats - All bats in Cal Ripken must bear the USA Bat Marking. Maximum diameter is 2-5/8" No BBCOR bats allowed. Wood bats are allowed.

Cleats - Rubber

Bunting - Yes

Infield Fly Rule - Yes

Lineup - Entire roster/free substitution/no player to sit consecutive innings

Courtesy Runner - Runner for Catcher ONLY with one or two outs.

On Deck Batter - Must face batter back

Mound Visits - Pitcher must be removed on second mound visit in the same inning.

Injuries - No penalty for player leaving with injury or sickness

****THE ABOVE LOCAL RULES WILL BE USED AND ENFORCED IN ALL GAMES INVOLVING ANY UCCRL TEAMS AGAINST ANY OTHER LEAGUE ASSOCIATION DURING LOCAL LEAGUE PLAY.**