

Rookies **FALL** 2021 Playing Rules

Lehigh Valley Cal Ripken League

(08/15/21)

This league will seek to implant in the youth of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and reverence so they may be finer, stronger and happier youths who will grow to be good, clean, healthy adults.

These rules do not take the place of any official Babe Ruth or Cal Ripken rules as published in the official baseball rulebook. These rules pertain to local league play only.

General Rules

- Players' ages are six to **eight**, as of May 1st of the current season. *(5/1/22 for Fall 2021)*
- Prior to the game, coaches should inspect the bats of both teams to insure they are all in compliance with the USABat Standard. ****See additional information on the next page****
- The official Ball is the Rawlings ROTB 5-Level 5
- Game Play is with at least 2 official balls supplied by the home team.
- Standard games are SIX innings and will end at the completion of SIX innings, except no inning shall start after 1 hr 45 min.
- A half inning will consist of 3 outs or (10) TEN batters
- A minimum of one umpire (coach/parent) is required at this level. To be supplied by the home team and to be same umpire thru the whole game (when Possible)
- 10 (Ten) players are allowed on the field on defense (Four Outfielders can be used). The pitcher shall be allowed to stand beside the coach who is pitching, but not in front of the coach. Outfielders must be stationed a minimum 15 feet behind the bases at all times.
- No player should sit on the bench for more than one consecutive inning. Free Substitution and running batting order will be used.
- Catcher must wear full protective gear, including a protective cup.
- All Outfield Players should be instructed to throw all balls hit to the outfield to the cut-off man and not first base. (i.e. the Right Fielder is not allowed to throw out a runner at first base)

Field Layout

- Baselines: 60 feet
- Pitching Distance: 40 feet *(pitchers shall not be allowed to "move up" closer to home plate, if they are not capable of throwing 40 feet.)*

Pitching

- An official coach, from the offensive team will pitch, OVERHAND (not under hand) at a minimum 40-foot distance. The coach is discouraged from coaching the batter from the mound.
- Starting on **September 18th**, players will be allowed to pitch - But no more than 3 pitches per batter with a max 1 inning per game or (24) pitches. After 3 pitches a coach will throw 3 pitches to the batter. If Batter still has not hit the ball he is taken off field and the next batter in the lineup is brought up. This does not result in an out for the team batting. *NOTE: You do not need to have a player pitch every inning if the kids are not ready.*
- A pitched ball shall be a pitch that is swung on and missed or a pitch that is taken by the batter but determined to be within the strike zone by the umpire/coach. There are no walks due to balls called by the umpire, however: once a batter has 6 total pitches he/she will be sent to bench area - This does not result in an out charged to the team. *On the last (aka 6th) pitch, coaches should remind batters that this is the last pitch, and they should emphasize the concept of swinging if the*

pitch is close. If they don't swing, and it's close to a strike, sit them down.

- OPTION – at the coach's discretion, they may bring a tee out instead of throwing the 6th pitch.
- Coaches on each squad should make sure their pitchers can throw in the strike zone from the 40' distance. *It is highly recommended that the coaches work with the 7-year-old kids preparing them for Pitching at the 8U level next year.*

Batting

- All Batters must wear a protective batting helmet when batting or while running on the bases.
- Bunting is PROHIBITED.
- Batters Discretion- Once the kids begin to pitch, a batter can make the decision that he/she would rather have the coach pitch to them.
- Any batter throwing his/her bat shall be warned by the umpire at the first offence and called out with subsequent occurrences.

Baserunning

- In general, this is considered a station-to-station level of baseball. *Coaches are reminded that we should be teaching sound baseball. Overly aggressive base running should be discouraged*
- There is ONLY one scenario where a baserunner will advance more than one base after a pitch.
 1. A fly ball to the outfield that is not caught will result in no more than 2 bases for the batter and runners. If the batter is tagged out at 2nd base he is out and must leave the playing field. The ball hit to the outfield is a live ball and can be thrown into the bases to force a play at the base.
- All other scenarios will result in no more than one base of advancement after the pitch, including:
 - a) any ground ball, even if it goes into the outfield... or even if it gets past the outfield
 - b) overthrown balls that do not go out of play
 - c) overthrown balls that go out of play
 - d) hits or throws that are misplayed or mishandled
 - e) plays where a fielder holds the ball too long
- Leading off a base, stealing, and advancing on a passed ball are all PROHIBITED.
- Sliding is allowed; however, NO headfirst sliding is allowed unless diving back to the base.
- The runner shall NOT deliberately initiate contact with the Defensive player to avoid a tag or dodge the ball. If in the discretion of the umpire, the runner violated this rule, the umpire shall call the runner out.

****CAL RIPKEN BAT RULES (from www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx)**

CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL DIVISION

All non-wood bats must have the USABat Marking. The Barrel Maximum is 2 5/8". No BBCOR Bats are permitted in the Cal Ripken Division.

If a player steps in the batter box with an illegal bat, the player will be ejected with an out being counted every time they would have come to the plate. Additionally, the coach will be suspended for 2 games and a \$250 fine will be levied to the organization.