

Vantis Life Baseball League

2019 Administrative Rules

An Asterisk (*) denotes a change to the rule from the 2018 season.

Sportsmanship first

I believe you can do your best to win and still show good sportsmanship. Winning at all cost probably means you either treated others disrespectfully or bent the rules a little. I don't know any competitor to go out and lose on purpose. Competitors will give their best each contest but the ones with character/sportsmanship will compete with class. Practicing Good Sportsmanship is a practice that all coaches and players must endorse while participating in the Vantis Life Baseball League.

RULE I: ORGANIZATION:

The Vantis Life Baseball League ("The League") has been organized so that young persons up to age 20 may play baseball during the summer and have the benefit of regularly scheduled opposition. The League is comprised of three Divisions: Prep, Junior, and Senior.

RULE II: ROSTERS, PLAYER ELIGIBILITY, AND TEAM COMPOSITION:

1. Determination as to which Division a player is eligible to participate is determined by that player's age as of May 1.
 - a. The Prep Division age limit is 13 years old. A player may become 14 on or after May 1 and still play in the Prep Division for that season.
 - b. The Junior Division age range is 14 to 15 years old. A player must be 14 as of May 1; a player may become 16 on or after May 1 and still play in the Junior Division for that season. No 13-year old may play on a Junior team without permission of the League. Players who are on a Prep or Junior American Legion team may request a waiver to participate from the Vantis Life Baseball League.
 - c. A player in the Senior Division must not turn 20 before May 1. The minimum age for a player participating in the Senior Division is 15. No fourteen-year-old may play in the Senior Division without permission from the league.
 - d. Players who are on a Greater Hartford Twilight League or Senior American Legion roster are ineligible to participate on a Senior Division team. Players who are on a Prep or Junior American Legion roster may request a waiver to participate from the Vantis Life Baseball League.
 - e. Up to five Junior Division players may be double-rostered on a Senior Division team.
 - f. Up to five Prep players may be double-rostered on a Junior Division team.
2. All players must submit a copy of their birth certificate to their coaches to support their age qualification listed on their team roster.
3. Penalty for ineligible player participating in any League game based upon age: League Director shall declare a Forfeit.
4. Players should be organized into teams with at least 13 names on the roster. Teams will not be permitted to have more than 16 players including double-rostered players. Only one team or group of players will be allowed to represent each team. Two separate teams are not allowed to play using one team name.
5. A player may represent one team per division in the League. Once the season starts, a player may not quit a team and join another team.

6. The deadline to add players to the team roster is July 1. After this date, players may be added because of injury or extenuating circumstances upon approval from the League.
7. A player must participate in half of the team's regular season games in order to be eligible to play in the playoffs. Where an odd number of games is played, round down to determine eligibility. (For example, if a team plays 15 out of 16 games, players must participate in 7 games to qualify for the playoffs.) A Junior player double-rostered on a Senior team must participate in half of the Senior team's games in order to qualify for the Senior playoffs.
8. Each team must have an adult manager or coach who is not a player. The manager or coach must be present during all games.
9. When preparing the master schedule, the League will try and accommodate teams that will also be participating in the Babe Ruth and or Senior Little League Playoffs. Those teams impacted by these potential scheduling conflicts shall have enough players on their roster to complete their Vantis Life Baseball League schedule.
10. All players shall wear uniforms bearing the Vantis Life Baseball League logo on the right arm two inches up from the bottom of the sleeve. On a vest, the logo is worn on the right side opposite the heart. A jpg file is available on the League Website to supply to uniform vendors. If a team wishes to use the sew-on patch, it is available at no cost while supplies last. Contact the League Director for more information.

Rule III: REGISTRATION, INSURANCE, SCHEDULING MEETING, AND BACKGROUND CHECKS

1. *The cost of team registration is:
Prep: with insurance \$1600, without insurance \$1350
Junior: with insurance \$1625, without insurance \$1375
Senior: with insurance \$1735, without insurance \$1435

Insurance is mandatory for all teams, you may purchase it yourself or through the League.

The registration fee covers umpires, insurance (if purchased through the League), three coaches' shirts, and 15 tickets to Vantis Life Baseball Night at the Bees.

A \$100 discount is available to teams that register before January 31, 2019.

2. *A \$200 deposit will be required of all teams, payable by the Organizational Meeting on April 3, 2019. Payment of the team registration fee is due by May 8, 2019. **If a team withdraws before the preliminary schedule is released (approximately April 15), any registration fees paid will be refunded. If a team withdraws after the preliminary schedule is released, the team will receive a refund of registration fees paid less \$200. After June 3, there are no refunds.** Teams registering by January 31 may not use the \$100 discount to offset the deposit.
3. The Vantis Life Baseball League reserves the right to refuse a team registration.
4. All teams should complete player registration prior to beginning practice to ensure that all players are covered by insurance.
5. A team representative must attend the annual League Scheduling Meeting. If a team misses that meeting and still wants to participate in the league, a fine of \$200 will be assessed.
6. Team rosters, registration cards, birth certificates, and certificates of insurance must be submitted to the League Director before the first game is played. There will not be any transfer of registrations from one team to another. Participation in a game by an unregistered player will result in the forfeiture of the game(s) in which the player has participated.
7. Registration of teams and players will be accomplished in the following manner:

- a. Prior to the beginning of the season, each coach must submit a registration form, a roster, and a copy of each player's birth certificate.
 - b. A medical release form is available on the website to keep in your First Aid kit in case of emergency.
 - c. All forms are available on the League website under Documents.
8. In the event of an injury requiring treatment from a doctor or physical therapist, an Injury Report must be filed with the League Director. An accident insurance claim form will be sent to the player or parent to be completed and returned to the insurance company. The toll-free number for claim information is on the claim form.
9. Background checks for anyone coming in contact with players are mandatory. Anyone failing the check or anyone who refuses to participate in the program will be suspended from the League and may not participate in any game or practice. See the League website to submit a Background Check.
 - a. Background Check Disqualifying Criteria: A record or disclosure from a background check containing one or more of any of the following disqualifying offenses will lead to a determination of "reject" indicating that individual is prohibited to serve as a Manager, Coach, or any other position that comes in contact with players:
 1. Conviction of a felony
 2. Conviction of a crime involving a minor, regardless of the offense
 3. Conviction of a crime involving force or threat of force against a person
 4. Conviction of a crime in which sexual behavior is an element; including "victimless" crimes of a sexual nature (including pornography)
 5. Conviction of a crime involving controlled substances (not paraphernalia or alcohol)
 6. Conviction of a crime involving cruelty to animals
 7. Any sex offender registrant
 8. Refusal to undergo background screening
 - b. If a Designated Individual is charged with or has a case pending that involves any the disqualifying criteria above, that individual will not be allowed to volunteer until legal adjudication has been made.
 - c. If the League becomes aware of information that a youth program volunteer may have sustained one of the disqualifying criteria in the interim after a required background screening has been conducted, that individual will be prohibited from having contact with players until accuracy of the information has been validated by the League Director, or his designee, via our Background Check service provider. If the disqualifying criteria are validated, that individual will immediately be removed and prohibited participating in games and practices. The individual is responsible for reporting a potential incident to the League Director.
 - d. The League may reserve the right to prohibit any individual from participating in games and practices if at any time the Organization in its opinion deems the individual unfit to work with minors.
 - e. Findings: The League Director, or his designee, will receive email notification from the service provider when a background check screening has been completed. The League Director, or his designee, will then log on to obtain background check findings. The background check findings generated by the service provider will reflect an "accept" or "reject" designator. An "accept" designator means the background check of an individual does not contain disqualifying criteria previously set forth and may serve as staff on a team. A "reject" designator means the background check of an individual contains disqualifying criteria and that individual is prohibited from serving as staff on a team. This system of reporting eliminates the need to disclose specific criminal history details. The League Director, or his designee, will follow-up with each individual to advise the outcome of either an "accept" or "reject" designator.

- f. Appeals: If an individual has concern with the outcome of their background check report, they should contact the service provider directly to dispute. The League will not disclose or discuss specific report results other than “accept” or “reject” and will only disclose those results to parties deemed by the League as having a “need to know”.

Rule IV: LEAGUE SCHEDULE AND STANDINGS

1. Teams in each division shall play 16 regular season games.
2. Any conflicts regarding the scheduling of games must be given to the League Director prior to the final posting of the schedule. The schedule should be completed at the scheduling meeting. Following the meeting coaches will have until Monday, May 14, to resolve conflicts and return the final schedule to their respective supervisor. Once the schedule is completed, no games shall be rescheduled except for weather or unplayable field conditions.
3. Teams unable to complete the schedule will be penalized two standings points.
4. **If a team forfeits more than one game during the season, that team will be excluded from playing the remainder of its schedule from the date of the game forfeited.** Additionally, this team will be ineligible from participating in the League the following season without paying a \$200 bond. The bond will be returned if the season is completed. Registration fees will not be refunded.
5. *The League shall provide two umpires from the Hartford Board of Approved Baseball Umpires for each game. Teams may not hire their own umpires. If the Hartford Board does not cover games in your town, the registration fee is \$375, not including insurance. Umpires will be then be arranged by the League through another chapter of the Connecticut Board of Approved Baseball Umpires. In this case, the Home team is responsible for paying the umpires on the field, including playoff games. Team paying this reduced fee are not eligible for the \$100 January discount.
6. *The League will use a point system for purposes of maintaining standings. Two points will be awarded for each game won and one point for a tie. Tie games will not be replayed. The team ending the regular season with the most points will be declared the regular season champion and the first seed in the playoffs. If a game is not played by mutual agreement, no points will be awarded. If a game is forfeited, two points will be awarded to the winner and no points to the loser. Suspended games that are not completed shall be considered a no contest and no points will be awarded.

Tiebreakers for the League standings will be determined in the following order:

- a. Points
 - b. Wins
 - c. Head to head competition
 - d. Wins each team has against the other tied teams
 - e. 2 teams: coin flip, 3 or more teams: by lot
7. The manager of the winning team is responsible for reporting scores to the League and the Hartford Courant. Regular season scores must be reported by 8:30 PM or upon game completion. Playoff scores must be reported immediately upon conclusion of the game. Report the score to your Supervisor who will enter the game score in the League website. Games scores must be reported no later than 9:45 p.m. to the Hartford Courant at (860) 241-6435, 800-524-4242, ext. 6435, or e-mail scores to localsports@courant.com. In the event the game ends in a tie, the Home team shall report the score. Teams are encouraged to report scores to their local newspaper as well.

Rule V: POSTPONEMENTS

1. Postponements shall be made for weather or field conditions only. The home coach shall decide on the postponement. Home team coach will contact visiting coach and umpires 1½ hours prior to the scheduled game time. Once the umpires and coaches meet at the field for the pregame conference

(exchange of lineup cards, if used), the final decision to postpone the game rests with the judgment of the umpires. Your Division Supervisor must be notified of the postponement.

2. If a team postpones a game less than 24 hours before game time, except for weather or field conditions, a forfeit will be declared.
3. Coaches are not to contact the Summer Commissioner for the Hartford Board of Approved Baseball Umpires to postpone or reschedule games. ALL games MUST be scheduled or rescheduled through the appropriate Division Supervisor.
4. If a game is postponed, both teams should be prepared to make up this game within seven (7) days. The home team is responsible for contacting the visiting team and reporting the date, location and time of the new date to their Division Supervisor. If the home field is not available within the seven-day (7) period, the make-up game will be played at the visiting team's home field with the originally scheduled home team retaining its home team batting position. Games that are not made up within the seven days (7) will not be allowed to be played unless they are approved first by the Division Supervisor. If coaches cannot agree on the make-up date, coaches involved shall report this to their Division Supervisor who will decide the date within the seven-day (7) period that the make-up game will be played. If after this determination has been made one of the teams cannot commit to playing the make-up game, a forfeit will be declared.

Rule VI: PROTESTS

All protests must be emailed to the Division Supervisor and to the Division Director no later than 24 hours after the protested game. The manager disputing the play must inform the umpire that he/she is "playing the game under protest" before the ball is put back in play. The scorebook shall be documented as to exactly when and why the game was protested and the status as to outs, runners, count on batter, etc. Protests will only be allowed on interpretation of the rules and not on judgment calls rendered by the umpire(s). The Protest Committee will judge all protests. The decision of the Committee is final. The team that files a protest will pay a \$50 protest fee that will be returned if the protest committee rules in favor of the protest.

Rule VII: CONDUCT

General - The responsibility of the conduct of the team rests with the coaching staff. Any conduct by coaches or players deemed unacceptable will be subject the disciplinary action by the League including but not limited to suspension and or expulsion from the League. Any coaches, players and team personnel involved in fighting will be subject to the penalties below. Coaches are not to use or permit profanity by players and team personnel.

1. The following are specific penalties to be imposed to players, coaches, managers and bench personnel:

Major Infractions

- Physical contact with an umpire – Suspension for the season
- Spitting on a umpire – Suspension for the season
- Fighting – Aggressor is Suspended for the remainder of the season, victim is subject to a lesser penalty, if necessary, according to the report submitted by the Umpires. There will be no appeal.
- Second Ejection – Up to suspension for the season
- Verbal Abuse – Up to suspension for the season
- Kicking dirt on an umpire – 3 game suspension

- Chanting – If the chanting is an attempt to disrupt the pitcher when the pitcher is about to make a pitch, it will be considered “Unsportsmanlike,” The manager shall be warned. If the chanting continues, the manager will be ejected. If the chanting still continues, the game will be declared a forfeit.
2. All game ejections require the player, coach, manager, or bench personnel to sit out, at a minimum, the next scheduled game (See Rule VII, paragraph 8). The coach or manager is required to report the incident to their next opponent and to their Division Supervisor before the next scheduled game.
 3. The penalties detailed in 1 above apply to both the regular season and playoff games.
 4. Suspensions will continue into the next season if the suspension cannot be completed during the regular season or playoffs.
 5. A player, manager or coach suspended a second time during the season for a major infraction will be suspended for the remainder of the regular season and playoffs.
 6. Team personnel shall not use tobacco or tobacco-like products within the confines of the playing field. Penalty: ejection.
 7. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team and their fans. Games can be suspended if teams and fans are out of control and do not heed warning.
 8. The League determines the length of a suspension and reserves the right to add to the length of a suspension up to and including expulsion from the League.
 9. Multiple suspensions by players or coaches over multiple games may result in suspension of the Manager at the discretion of League Administration.
 10. There is no appeals process for suspensions/expulsions. The decision of the League is final.

VIOLATIONS-PENALTIES

VIOLATION	FIRST OFFENSE	SECOND OFFENSE
Taunting, ridiculing or arguing with an umpire, coach, player or fan	Warning or ejection from game or program (depending on the severity of conduct)	Ejection from game or suspension/ejection from the program
Using abusive or vulgar language	Warning or ejection from the game or program (depending on severity of conduct)	Ejection from game or suspension/ejection from the program
Throwing equipment or any other object	Warning or ejection from game or program (depending on severity of conduct)	Ejection from game or suspension/ejection from the program
Engaging in disruptive or inappropriate behavior	Warning or ejection from game or program (depending on severity of conduct)	Ejection from game or suspension/ejection from the program
Conduct that endangers others	Ejection from game or program (depending on severity of conduct)	Ejection from game or suspension/ejection from the program