

2018 RHAA BASEBALL LEAGUE RULES

I. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. CODE OF CONDUCT

1. All parents **MUST** sign the “Code of Ethics” pledge to RHAA and adhere to “A Bill of Rights for Young Athletes”.
2. All coaches will be NYSCA certified, and **MUST** sign and adhere to the “Code of Ethics” pledge to RHAA. Coaches are required to wear their certification ID card at all times during games. In addition, all coaches will be required to have a background check performed.
3. **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS OUR #1 PRIORITY.** Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated, and will result in a player and/or coach being ejected from the game.
4. **The Home Plate Umpire has complete control of the game.** Judgment calls by the Umpire may not be questioned. *Rule interpretation only, will be handled once a time-out is granted.*
5. There will be absolutely no heckling of players, umpires, or anyone else associated with the game by players, opposing coaches or spectators. If heckling occurs, the umpire will give one team warning. If heckling continues, the game will be forfeited. (Report to be made to the League President and Baseball/Softball Committee).
6. **NO SMOKING OR CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL BY PLAYERS. COACHES OR SPECTATORS WILL BE ALLOWED ANYWHERE ON THE RHAA COMPLEX.**
7. Anyone maliciously damaging equipment and/or property (including fences) will pay for any damage, and will be ejected from the game along with an additional one (1) game suspension.
8. Throwing a bat constitutes a team warning. The next team that throws a bat will receive an automatic out at the umpire’s discretion.
9. **”KEEP THE ATHLETES FIRST, WINNING SECOND”** The purpose of our program is to offer recreational baseball and softball leagues that continue to be a healthy, safe and fun environment for everyone involved, whether you win or lose.

B. RHAA COMPLEX RULES

1. Both teams get to take infield, check on field safety, clean field area before and after the game with each team being responsible for their dugout area.
2. Home team warms up on field ½ hour before game time, and visitors warm up 15 minutes before game time. Before those times, the field is available first come – first serve.
3. The on-deck circle will be outside the fence nearest to the dugout. No players will be allowed to warm up inside the fence.
4. Coaches need to be entirely behind the fence during the game. They are not allowed to coach from the field where the ball can be considered live. **EXCEPTION: T-BALL AND ROOKIE LEAGUES ONLY**

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C. RULES OF PLAY

- 1.** Complete team uniforms (as issued by RHAA) **MUST** be worn at all times including hats. Jerseys and/or T-shirts are tucked in.
- 2.** All leagues use a continuous batting order.
- 3.** All players **MUST** play at least (4) innings of defense.
- 1.** All players must wear a helmet at bat and on the base-paths. Any player(s) “coaching” from the field must wear helmets.
- 4.** Game start time is indicated on schedules: forfeit occurs ten (10) minutes after scheduled start of game if minimum number of players rule is not met.
- 5.** Games may start with 8 players, but cannot continue with less. Less than 8 players is a forfeit, and a practice game may be played. Any player arriving late may be placed in an open defensive position immediately, and must be added to the end of the batting order.
- 6.** Players may be called up from the next lower league to fill a game roster, only if needed to field a complete team. Please refer to the call up policy and procedures.
- 8.** Only players and NYSCA certified coaches can be on the bench. No spectators allowed in the bench area, batting-on-deck, or playing field from dugout to dugout at any time during a game or practice. When needed, the Manager may allow for a team score keeper and parent helper in the dugout.
- 9.** Make-up games will be played, if possible, the same week on Fridays. Some make-up games may be played on Sundays if necessary. RHAA Commissioner may only schedule make-up games.
- 10.** An official game is four (4) innings (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). If a game is stopped due to weather before completing an official game, the game will be suspended and resumed where it was stopped at a later date. If the game is called after four innings, whatever the score was at the completion of the last full inning will be the final score (ex. If the game is called in the bottom of the 5th, who ever was winning after the conclusion of the 4th inning will be declared the winner).
- 11.** Home team score book is official score.
- 12.** All Playoff and Championship Games must be complete games (Mercy rule will remain in effect for these games).

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VIOLATIONS & DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- 1.** A manager or coach may bench a player for disciplinary reasons provided there is a report made to the League President immediately following the situation.
- 2.** The President, Baseball/Softball Player Agent and RHAA Commissioner will review any violation of rules. ***Disciplinary action will be determined, which may include a forfeit of the game in which the infraction occurred.***
- 3.** Any player, manager or coach ejected from a game will be subject to an additional one game suspension as directed by the RHAA Commissioner.
- 4.** Multiple violations by the same player or coach will result in a review by the Board of Directors, which may lead to further disciplinary actions.
- 5.** The RHAA Board of Directors reserves the right to remove any coach (pending review by the Executive Committee) based on teaching skills, knowledge of the game, conduct toward players, coaches, parents, umpires, or RHAA officials.

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II. LEAGUE RULES – T-Ball

C. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

1. All players must be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2017.
2. All players present for a game will play in the field. Normal infield positions will be played, with all extra players on the outfield grass. The player in the pitcher's position must stand even with the pitching rubber with one foot on the dirt.
3. All players must rotate positions. No child can play any one position for more than two innings.

B. GAME RULES

1. All games will be played for a minimum 1 hour and 15 minutes, regardless of how many innings are played. This time does not include extra activities such as, base race and/or snack time. In addition, both teams must have the same amount of at-bats before you conclude the game.
2. All players will bat before switching sides (i.e. offensive to defensive and defensive to offensive).
3. All batters will use the tee only. The batter will continue to swing until the ball is hit. There are no strikeouts.
4. There is no bunting. If the umpire (coaches) determines a full swing was not taken, or the ball was not struck cleanly, the batter will be called to bat again.
5. All infield hits are limited to singles.
6. If the batter hits the ball into the outfield, the batter is allowed to run for additional bases.
7. No advancement on overthrows.
8. There is no stealing. Base runner may not leave base until the ball is batted. No advancement on passed balls.
9. No infield fly rule is in effect.
10. Managers may pitch to those players they feel are ready for coach pitch. Managers may throw ONLY 3 pitches to the batter. If ball is not hit, the tee will be used.
11. All games will be played using the standard base paths of 60 feet.

C. MISC. RULES

1. No official scores or league standings will be kept. Participation awards will be presented to all players.
2. Practices may not be any longer than 1½ hours per day. Once the season begins, no more than two (2) practices may be held each week.

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III. LEAGUE RULES – Rookie

A. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

1. All players must be 7 or 8 years old by on or before August 31, 2016.
2. Ten (10) players are to be fielded - six (6) infielders and four (4) outfielders. Pitchers must be on either side of the mound, even with pitching rubber and one foot on the dirt. Outfielders must be positioned at least 20 feet behind the infield baselines.
3. All players must rotate positions. ***All players must play the infield and outfield positions, a minimum of two (2) innings in outfield and two (2) innings in infield.***
4. All players must sit out at least one (1) inning before any other player sits out two (2) innings. This is carried over to the next game and so on. Therefore, all players would have sat the same number of times at the end of the season.

B. GAME RULES

1. A complete game is six (6) innings. An official game is four (4) innings. No new innings can begin after 8:00 PM or 2 hours into game on Saturdays.
2. One half innings is either three (3) outs, or team batting through the lineup, which ever occurs first.
3. Coaches may pitch to batters or use a pitching machine. There are no walks or base awards for hit by pitch. If a coach chooses to pitch he/she must pitch from one knee. (Or using another method from the same height) ***The number of pitches is limited to five (5) good pitches from the pitching machine or the coach. Good pitches being called by the coach: in the strike zone, swung thru, and/or fouled off. Coach MUST use a batting tee to finish the at bat. If a coach abuses the 5 pitch count, the opposing coach should file a complaint to the RHAA Player Agent and RHAA Commissioner.***
4. If a pitching machine is to be used the home team is responsible to bring the pitching machine.
5. All pitching machine settings will be determined by RHAA prior to the season. Manager or Coaches are not allowed to make any adjustments to this setting without the prior approval of RHAA Baseball Player Agent or Commissioner.
6. All infield hits are limited to singles.
7. If the batter hits the ball into the outfield regardless if hit off the pitching machine or tee will be allowed to run for additional bases.
8. Only one (1) base on overthrows.
9. There is no stealing. Base runner may not leave base until the ball is batted. No advancement on passed balls.
10. No infield fly rule is in effect.
11. If there is a play at Home Plate, runner MUST slide. The first violation of this rule a team warning will be issued. The 2nd offense by the same team and the player will be called out.

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C. MISC. RULES

1. No official scores or league standings will be kept. Participation awards will be presented to all players.

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IV. LEAGUE RULES – Minors

A. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

1. All players must be 9 or 10 years old by on or before August 31, 2017.
2. Ten (10) players are to be fielded - six (6) infielders and four (4) outfielders. Outfielders must be positioned at least 20 feet behind the infield baselines.
3. All players must rotate positions. ***All players must play the infield and outfield positions, a minimum of two (2) innings in outfield and two (2) innings in infield. Catcher is considered an outfield position.***
4. No player can play more than three (3) innings at any one position.
5. All players must sit out at least one (1) inning before any other player sits out two (2) innings. This is carried over to the next game and so on. Therefore, all players would have sat the same number of times at the end of the season.

B. GAME RULES

1. A complete game is six (6) innings. An official game is four (4) innings (3½ if home team is ahead). No new innings can begin after 8:15 PM or 2 1/4 hours into game on Saturdays.
2. A team will not be allowed to score more than five (5) runs per inning, EXCEPT for the last inning which there is no limit.
3. A fifteen (15) run rule will be in effect after the completion of five innings. After a team goes ahead by fifteen runs the game will be concluded. Two (2) examples of this rule are the following:
 - a) If the home team is winning 15-0 after the conclusion of the fifth inning the game is over.
 - b) If the score after the conclusion of five innings is 10-0, you will begin the six inning. If the visiting teams scores 5 runs in the top of the six, the game will be over.
4. When the count reaches four balls, the batter's coach (or another member of the coaching staff) will pitch to the batter (overhand only, no closer to the plate than the front edge of the pitching mound. The strike count will continue with balls and strikes being determined by the umpire after the second game of the season. For the first two (2) games of the season the count will return to zero (0) balls and zero (0) strikes. The coach is expected to pitch to the level of the batter's ability. The batter may strike out by "swinging" or on a called strike. There will be no walks and no free base if hit by the pitch. Any ball that hits the pitching coach will be considered in play. The player in the pitching position must have one foot on the dirt of the pitching mound and even with the pitching coach. This rule will only be effect through the first 8 regular season games. The remaining regular and playoff games will have no coach pitching. Four balls will be considered a walk. NO INTENTIONAL WALKS- all players must be pitched to.

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5. Players will be allowed to steal from 1st to 2nd and 2nd to 3rd bases ONLY if the catcher catches the ball. The definition of “catching” the ball is that the ball remains in front of the umpires feet. If the ball goes by the umpires feet, the player must return back to the base. NO ONE can advance on the throw, including any overthrown ball to the base. Also, runners may not leave the base before the pitch crosses home plate. The umpire will give one (1) warning and, upon a second offense he player will be called out. Once a runner stops forward progress, he/she must return to the base they began at. **No delayed stealing.**
 6. A runner may advance no more than one (1) base at his / her own risk, regardless of the number of overthrows on a play made on a runner.
 7. No infield fly rule.
 8. No balk rule.
 9. If there is a play at Home Plate, runner MUST slide. If player does not slide it is an automatic out.
 10. No headfirst slides are permitted when advancing to the next base. Headfirst slide is permitted when retreating back to the last attained base.
 11. No dropped 3rd strike rule.
- Team standings will be calculated by awarding two (2) points for a win, (1) point for a tie, and no (0) points for a lost.
12. Tie-Breaker rules (for the standings) will be the following:
 - a) Head to Head
 - b) Total runs allowed (least)
 - c) Total runs scored (most)

C. PITCHING RULES

1. Pitching mound will be 46 feet from Home Plate
2. Pitchers are limited by the amount of pitches thrown. See Appendix A for the amount of pitches allowed and calendar days rest they will need.
3. A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.
4. Any player who has played the position of catcher in more than three (3) innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.
5. No re-entry rule. Once pitchers are removed from the pitching position, they may not re-enter as a pitcher.
6. Only five (5) warm up pitches are allowed at the start of an inning, except for the first inning or when changing pitchers, when ten (10) pitches will be allowed.
7. Manager or coach may visit the mound 1 (one) time per inning per pitcher. When the manager or coach visits the mound for the second (2) time for the same pitcher in the inning they must remove the pitcher during that visit.

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D. MISC. RULES

1. Bats used in this league must be those allowed under the RHAA bat policy.
2. Little League rules apply in all other cases.
3. Catchers are required to wear a protective cup at all times, and it is recommended for all others.
4. Manager, Coaches, and Parents will not be allowed to make any comments regarding balls or strikes made by the umpire. One warning per team will be issued. The next individual to violate this rule will be asked to leave the game.
5. If a player has to leave during the game, the player's spot is simply skipped the next time it comes up in the batting order. It is not an out.

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V. LEAGUE RULES – Majors

A. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

1. All players must be 11 or 12 years old by on or before August 31, 2017.
2. Ten (10) players are to be fielded - six (6) infielders and four (4) outfielders. Outfielders must be positioned at least 20 feet behind the infield baselines.
3. All players must rotate positions. ***All players must play the infield and outfield positions, a minimum of two (2) innings in outfield and two (2) innings in infield. Catcher is considered an outfield position.***
4. No player can play more than three (3) innings at any one position.
5. All players must sit out at least one (1) inning before any other player sits out two (2) innings. This is carried over to the next game and so on. Therefore, all players would have sat the same number of times at the end of the season.

B. GAME RULES

1. A complete game is six (6) innings. An official game is four (4) innings (3½ if home team is ahead). No new innings can begin after 8:15 PM or 2 1/4 hours into game on Saturdays.
2. Stealing is allowed. **PLAYERS WILL BE LIMITED TO A THREE (3) STEP LEAD FROM EACH BASE.** The distance of the lead shall be uniform and established by the RHAA Board of Directors. Runners who take a lead beyond the three steps, and advance to the next base via a steal, will be returned to the previous base.
3. No headfirst slides are permitted when advancing to the next base. If this happens, the runner is automatically out. Headfirst slide is permitted when retreating back to the last attained base.
4. Sliding is not required (*however is recommended*) and you must avoid malicious contact with catcher. Also, runner will be out if his feet leaves the ground (i.e. jumping over the catcher).
5. A fifteen (15) run rule will be in effect after the completion of five innings. After a team goes ahead by fifteen runs the game will be concluded. Two (2) examples of this rule are the following:
 - a) If the home team is winning 15-0 after the conclusion of the fifth inning the game is over.
 - b) If the score after the conclusion of five innings is 10-0, you will begin the six inning. If the visiting teams scores 5 runs in the top of the six, the game will be over.
6. Infield fly rule is in effect.
7. If the pitcher steps off the rubber in a pickoff attempt and then throws the ball out of the play the runner is only entitled to advance to the next base. There is no “one plus one” advancement when the pitcher steps off the rubber and throws the ball out of play.

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8. A batter is out when (1) a third strike is legally caught by the catcher; or (2) a third strike is not caught by the catcher when first base is occupied before two outs. The batter becomes a runner when the third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied or (2) first base is occupied with two outs. **Note: A batter forfeits his/her opportunity to advance to first base when he/she “concedes” based on the umpire discretion.**

9. Balk Rule- With a runner or runners on base, it is a balk when-

- a) The pitcher, while touching the plate, makes any motion naturally associated with the pitch and fails to make such delivery.
- b) The pitcher, while touching the plate, feints a throw to first base and fail to complete the throw.
- c) The pitcher, while touching the plate, fails to step directly toward a base before throwing to that base.
- d) The pitcher while touching the plate, throws, or feint a throw to an unoccupied base, except for the purpose of making a play.
- e) The pitcher, without having the ball, stands astride the pitcher’s plate, or while off the pitcher’s plate feints a pitch.
- f) The pitcher, while touching a plate, accidentally or intentionally drops the ball.
- g) The pitcher, while giving an intentional base on balls, pitches when the catcher is not in the catcher’ box.
- h) The pitcher makes any motion naturally associated with the pitch while not touching the pitcher’ plate.
- i) The pitcher, after coming to a legal position, removes one hand from the ball other than in an actual pitch, or in throwing to a base.
- j) The pitcher delivers the pitch from the set position without coming to a stop.
- k) While not in possession of the ball, the pitcher stands with either foot or both feet on any part of the dirt area (circle) of the mound during a hidden-ball –play attempt.

One warning per pitcher per game for the first offense. When a balk is called, the ball is dead, and each runner shall advance one base.

10. Team standings will be calculated by awarding two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie , and no (0) points for a los.

11. Tie-Breaker rules (for the standings) will be following:

- a) Head to Head

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b) Total runs allowed (least)

c) Total runs scored (most)

C. PITCHING RULES

1. Pitching mound will be 50 feet from Home Plate.
2. Pitchers are limited by the amount of pitches thrown. See Appendix A for the amount of pitches allowed and calendar days rest they will need.
3. A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.
4. Any player who has played the position of catcher in more than three (3) innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day.
5. No re-entry rule. Once pitchers are removed from the pitching position, they may not re-enter as a pitcher.
6. Only five (5) warm up pitches are allowed at the start of an inning, except for the first inning or when changing pitchers, when ten (10) pitches will be allowed.

D. MISC. RULES

1. Bats used in this league must be those allowed under the RHAA bat policy.
2. A catcher may catch no more than three (3) innings per game. *Catchers are required to wear a protective cup at all times.*
3. Little League rules apply in all other cases.
4. Manager, Coaches, and Parents will not be allowed to make any comments regarding balls or strikes made by the umpire. One warning per team will be issued. The next individual to violate this rule will be asked to leave the game.
5. If a player has to leave during the game, the player's spot is simply skipped the next time it comes up in the batting order. It is not an out.

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VI. LEAGUE RULES – JUNIORS – Will follow all Little League Rules

A. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

1. All players must be 13 or 14 years old by April 30th.
2. Nine (9) players are to be fielded - six (6) infielders and three (3) outfielders.
3. All players should rotate positions. *Players should be given an opportunity to play both infield and outfield positions when possible.*

B. GAME RULES

1. A complete game is seven (7) innings. An official game is five (5) innings (4½ if home team is ahead). No new innings can begin after 8:15 PM or 2 ¼ hours into game on Saturdays.
2. Infield fly rule is in effect.
3. With a play at Home or any other base, sliding is not required (*however is recommended*). Any malicious contact by the runner will result in an automatic out and ejection from the game.

C. PITCHING RULES

1. Pitchers are limited by the amount of pitches thrown. See Appendix A for the amount of pitches allowed and calendar days rest they will need.
2. A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.
3. Only five (5) warm up pitches are allowed at the start of an inning, except for the first inning or when changing pitchers, when ten (10) pitches will be allowed.

D. MISC. RULES

1. Bats used in this league must meet current Little League requirements.
2. 10 Run Rule in effect after 5 innings (or 4 ½ if the home team is winning)
3. Little League rules apply in all other cases including local Little League Rules. Please make sure you are aware of these rules as well

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VII. LEAGUE RULES – SENIORS – Will follow Little League Rules

A. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

2. All players must be 14, 15 or 16 years old by April 30th.
3. Nine (9) players are to be fielded - six (6) infielders and three (3) outfielders.
4. Players should be given an opportunity to play both infield and outfield positions when possible.

B. GAME RULES

1. A complete game is seven (7) innings. An official game is five (5) innings (4½ if home team is ahead). No new innings can begin after 8:15 PM or 2 1/4 hours into game on Saturdays.
2. Infield fly rule is in effect.
3. With a play at Home or any other base, sliding is not required (*however is recommended*). Any malicious contact by the runner will result in an automatic out and ejection from the game.

C. PITCHING RULES

1. Pitchers are limited by the amount of pitches thrown. See Appendix A for the amount of pitches allowed and calendar days rest they will need.
2. A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.
3. Only five (5) warm up pitches are allowed at the start of an inning, except for the first inning or when changing pitchers, when ten (10) pitches will be allowed.

D. MISC. RULES

1. Bats used in this league must meet current Little League requirements.
2. 10 Run Rule in effect after 5 innings (or 4 ½ if the home team is winning)
3. Little League rules apply in all other cases including local Little League Rules. Please make sure you are aware of these rules as well

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VIII. Playoff Rules for all leagues

Playoff Rules for Minor and Major Leagues. Little League playoffs determine by local Little League district (No playoffs for T-Ball, Rookie, and Junior Softball).

A. All teams make the playoffs.

B. Lower (i.e. #1-Low, #8- High) seed will be home team in the first round. If second and/or first place team have a bye, they will be the home team for their first game. If there is a double elimination playoff system, home team in the Loser's bracket will be based on the format of the bracket. The team coming out of the winner's bracket will be the home team in the championship game (including the 2nd game, if necessary).

2017 REVISOR 2018 RHAABASEBALL RULES

APPENDIX A (PITCHING RULES)

Pitch Count Limits by Little League Age

Age*	Max Pitch Count**
9-10	75
11-12	85
13-16	95

*Actual age as of as of April 30th of the baseball season

**Pitcher may exceed game maximum to complete a batter, however all pitches count against days of rest rule

Full Calendar Days of Rest by Pitch Count

Pitches***	Calendar Days Rest
1-20	0
21-35	1
36-50	2
51-65	3
66+	4

Examples:

Pitcher throws 20 pitches during Tuesday game - requires 0 days rest and could pitch again on Wednesday

Pitcher throws 21 pitches during Tuesday game - requires 1 day rest and could pitch again on Thursday

Pitcher throws 65 pitches during Tuesday game - requires 3 days rest and could pitch again on Saturday

Pitcher throws 66 pitches during Tuesday game - requires 4 days rest and could pitch again on Sunday

***Per LL rules, we will follow “soft count” rules. For instance, if a pitcher is starting a new batter with 34 pitches and it takes 5 pitches to have the batter conclude their at bat and then they are removed from pitching, the pitcher will have need only one days rest.