

## **Frontier Youth Baseball League Major Division Rules**

- Age Guidelines/Eligibility: Ages 11 to 12 years old. (10 year olds may play majors based on evaluation rating.)
- Player Evaluations: All players in this division will participate in player evaluations in order to ensure proper division placement.
- Team Formation: Teams will be formed via a draft process. Refer to FYBL Rules governing the draft.
- Player Protection: Limited to children of the manager and two (2) coaches only.
- Uniform/Equipment: Players will keep their League-issued hat and jersey.

### **Regular Season Game Rules**

The Official Rules of Baseball and the Babe Ruth League/Cal Ripken Division Rule Book will apply with the following exceptions:

- Time limit / innings: Major Division will play a maximum of 6-innings and no new inning starts after two hours. There shall be a 2 hour and 15 minute “drop dead” time for all games. If the inning is not completed when “drop dead” time occurs, then the score will revert back to the last full completed inning.
- Pool Players: A minimum of nine (9) players are required to start the game. A team may finish the game with (8) players due to injury. If a team does not expect to field a team of nine (9) players, the Player Agent must be contacted before the game and notified which pool player(s) will be used or to request assistance in obtaining pool players.
- The Pool Player shall not pitch in that game, can only play outfield and must bat last in the batting order. In the event a team is unable to field nine players (a minimum of seven players from the team and two pool players) a forfeit is declared.
- Field Preparation: The Home team is responsible for the preparation of the field.
- Pre-Game Paperwork: Prior to the game, managers will provide opposing team and official scorekeeper with lineup listing players first and last name, jersey number, and starting position.
- At all games hosted by Frontier, Managers will also provide the official scorekeeper with their pitching log. The scorekeeper will return the updated log at the end of the game.

Scores / Standings:

Games can end in a tie.

If a minimum of 4 innings has been played, the 10-run “mercy rule” will be followed as long as both teams have had equal times at bat or the home team is leading.

Standings will be kept for Frontier vs. Frontier games only. These standings will determine seeding for the FYBL post-season tournament.

Pitching:

The pitching distance is 50'. The second visit of a manager or coach to the pitcher in the same inning will cause the pitcher's automatic removal from the mound. A pitcher must be removed after hitting three (3) batters in a game. A pitcher once removed from the mound may not return to pitch in that game.

FYBL will be participating in a pitch count program that has been authorized by Babe Ruth League, Inc. The rules for this program are listed below and will be strictly adhered to.

**Maximum Pitch Count per Player**

- 10 years old: 75 pitches max per game
- 11 – 12 years old: 85 pitches max per game

**Required Days of Rest**

- 1 – 20 pitches: 0 days of rest
- 21 – 35 pitches: 1 days of rest
- 36 – 50 pitches: 2 days of rest
- 51 – 65 pitches: 3 days of rest
- 66+ pitches: 4 days of rest

Once a pitcher has reached his/her limit, the scorekeeper will notify the umpire. The umpire will then notify the manager that the pitcher must be removed. *Note: if the pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count limit while facing a batter, he may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out.*

Failure of the scorekeeper to notify the umpire or failure of the umpire to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove the pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible to pitch.

Violation of this rule may result in a protest of the game by the opposing manager.

A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game should not play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

Balks will be enforced by the umpires. During the month of March, each team will get one warning per game. There will be no warnings given beginning April 1st.

**Batting:** For all games, teams will bat the line-up (all players in attendance).

Bunts may be utilized the entire season. However, Babe Ruth League has now prohibited the Fake Bunt-Slash Bunt. A batter will be called out when the player fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing. This eliminates a player from fake bunting and then slap-hitting the ball. The penalty for this action is the batter is out, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

**Sliding:** No collisions at home plate (the league will **always** protect the catcher). The runner must attempt to slide on any close play. If a collision occurs where the runner initiated contact, the runner is called out.

**Injured Player Rule:** If any player becomes injured or sick during a game and is unable to continue, the player will be an automatic out for only the **first time** they come up in the batting lineup. Any remaining plate appearances will simply be skipped without recording an out.

**Late Arrival:** When a player is not at the game at the time of first pitch but is listed on the line up which was submitted to the umpire & the player's at bat is missed, the batter's spot is skipped with no out being recorded. The batter, upon arrival, will hit last in the line-up.

**Pinch Runner Rule:** Pinch runners will be utilized to help keep games moving smoothly. A pinch runner may be inserted in place of an upcoming pitcher/catcher for the next inning and for a batter that is sick or injured only when there are two outs. The pinch runner shall be the last recorded out. Manager asking for a Pinch Runner must declare the position the kid being run for will play next inning (pitcher or catcher). Enforceability will be the opposing Manager's responsibility.

**Player Rotation:** Free substitution will apply for the entire regular season.

No player can sit defensively for consecutive innings.

Any violation of this rule will result in a warning and the second violation will result in a forfeit. Any player that did not meet the minimum play requirement will be required to start and complete their minimum play in the next scheduled game, plus complete that game's minimum play before being removed from the game.

Coaching: Manager Selection will be determined by FYBL Rules and approved by the Board of Directors. All coaches who are on the field during games must have successfully completed the Babe Ruth League online coaching certification. **Only 3 Coaches are allowed in the dugout at any given time.** All adults who are on the field or assisting in the dugout must have successfully cleared the FYBL approved background screening process.

Umpires and Scorekeepers: The league will provide umpires for games. Two game balls should be provided to the umpire by the home team. The official scorekeeper is to be supplied by the home team for all games.

Post Season: At the conclusion of regular season play, there will be a FYBL tournament.

FYBL will also participate in Cal Ripken All Star tournaments.

Post season tournament rules, player selection, and schedules will be published in a separate document.