



# Visalia Youth Baseball, Inc.

## 2026 AA Ground Rules

AA Ground Rules will apply to all playing rules and field conditions, superseding all other rules. In all instances not covered by these rules, the Official Babe Ruth (OBR), Cal Ripken Division, Rules and Regulations will apply. This season VYB will continue to utilize rules pertaining to 60' bases and 46' pitcher's mound, and play by the official rules.

**There is NO leading off, No delayed-stealing, NO dropped third strike and No balk rules in the AA Division. Home plate is "HOT" for the duration of the season. This means that a runner from third base may score on a wild pitch or passed ball.**

Within the regulations of this League and of Babe Ruth Baseball, Cal Ripken Division, Managers are required to play each player the minimum number of at-bats, one (1), and six (6) consecutive defensive outs in a six-inning game. A player who starts the game may not be removed from a game until the *required one (1) at bat and six (6) consecutive defensive outs* have been completed unless he is injured and unable to continue playing. Once the injured player is removed from the game, he will be scratched from the batting order, and not be counted as an out. Should the game be called with less than six (6) innings and a player has less than the defensive outs, that player **must** start the following game and complete the mandatory requirements before being removed. Failure to follow these rules will result in a one game suspension of the manager and an automatic forfeit of the next consecutive game in which the player did not start. **All teams will bat the entire line up.**

In the absence of the manager and with the Player Agent's approval, a Coach may assume the Manager's duties and responsibilities. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit.

All scores, pitchers used and corresponding pitch counts must be filled out on the score sheet provided by VYB and sent via email and/or picture text by the Home Team to the Player Agent. Managers, Home and Visiting, will sign off on the score, pitchers used and pitch counts that were incurred at the conclusion of each game. Home team will have until 12:00 midnight the day of the game that has been played. If the Home team fails to do so, this will result in a forfeit of your next game.

All Divisions will be responsible for the upkeep of their primary field on which they routinely play. Each team will be responsible for one Sunday workday during the season. Each team **must** have **four** adults representing their team on their assigned workday to complete assigned fieldwork duties. The following divisions will be responsible for: Majors Division - Field 1, AAA Division - Field 3, AA Division – Fields 2,3 & 4 (One Adult per field), Minor 9's - Field 2, Minor 8's - Field 4. All field duties will be from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. every Sunday unless there is a cancellation from the Board President. In addition to one field day during the season, the AA Division will do one workday before the start of the baseball season. The Board will decide on a workday to get the fields ready for play before Baseball Day. Each AA team will provide two individuals to complete necessary tasks to get the ballpark ready to start the season. Failure to show up with the aforementioned adults per team on your assigned workday(s) **will result** in a forfeit for the next game on the schedule.

## I. Uniform and Playing Field

- A. Only players in uniform, Manager, and no more than three adult Coaches will be allowed in the dugout during games. The one exception to this rule is in case medical attention is required in the dugout; a doctor or a credited nurse may be present as long as such medical attention is required. Penalty for violation will be a warning for the first offense with an ejection of the Manager for the remainder of that game if rule is broken again.
- B. All players must be in full, clean uniform. Shirts must be tucked in whenever worn by the player before or after a game and while at the ballpark. White, long-sleeved undershirts may not be worn by the pitcher under the regulation uniform at any time during the game.
- C. There will be no batting practice on the game diamond before the game. The coach may warm up their team in the outfield only if time allows. First base dugout goes to the visitor.
- D. Managers, Players and Parents shall be responsible for cleanup of dugouts and surrounding area after the game.
- E. Managers are responsible for prepping of base lines, raking home plate, base areas, pitcher's mound, and putting away bases and field equipment before and after games.

## II. Game Preliminaries

- A. Managers and Coaches must manage from behind the fence line in the dugout.
- B. The "Home Team" will provide a scorekeeper who will act as "Official Scorekeeper." The Official Scorekeeper will sit on the announcing bench and be responsible to the plate umpire. The "Visiting Team" will also provide a scorekeeper who will also sit with the "Official Scorekeeper" to ensure the correct call is made.
- C. Line-up cards shall be completed and copies must be provided to Home Plate Umpire, official Scorekeeper and the opposing Manager at least fifteen minutes before game time. **The line-up card must list ALL players by first and last names, uniform numbers, along with batting order, and defensive positions.** Line-up card must also include the names of the Manager and (3) coaches.
- D. All line-up changes will be made with the Official Scorer. The Home Plate Umpire will maintain the official time, along with the Official Scorer. It is the manager's responsibility to notify the Official Scorer of any and all changes as soon as they are made.

## III. Rules of the Game

- A. **Due to VYB scheduling/time constraints...** If a team consisting of at least 8 players does not appear for a scheduled game at least ten (10) minutes past official game time, forfeiture may be declared by the plate umpire after consultation with the Player Agent or duty director. Games may begin with 8 players per team but must be completed with a minimum of 8 players per team or a forfeiture will occur for that team failing to field 8 players for their team's 3 final **defensive** outs.

- B. A regulation game consists of six (6) innings, or four (4) innings if the home team has scored more runs in 3 1/2 innings than the visiting team has scored in four complete innings. There is a 15-run mercy rule after 2 ½ or 3 innings or 10 after 3 ½ or 4 innings. The instant a third out is made a new inning begins. If after 6 innings of play the score is still tied and still under the no new inning rule, providing in the Umpire’s judgment it is safe to do so, tie games can be continued, and if it is still tied, the game will be finish in a tie...no new inning will begin after 90 minutes. There is a drop dead of 105 minutes (1hour 45 min) at which point the score will revert back to the last completed inning. Ties are ties.
- C. Suspended or postponed Games: Suspended games must be completed by the next available Sunday in order. Scheduling and times for suspended games are to be determined by the President, Vice President and Player Agent. No team will be required to complete more than one suspended game on any given Sunday, unless doing so is agreeable to the manager of the team who would be participating in multiple games.
- D. If a courtesy runner is required as a result of any injury, the last player ruled out will be the courtesy runner.
- E. If a player steps into the batter’s box (**With Both Feet**) with an illegal bat, Player is immediately called out and the Manager is ejected from the game. If Player puts the ball in play before the illegal bat is discovered, OBR 1.10 penalty rules apply AND Manager is ejected.
- F. A maximum of 6 runs per inning will be enforced in the first four innings of any game. The 5th and 6th are “open innings” as well as the 4th inning when declared the final inning by the umpire.

**IV. Protest Guidelines**

- A. Manager must show the rule (in writing) they wish to protest to the umpire and state reason for protest.
- B. Umpire will have official scorekeeper note the protest, time and details pertaining to the protest and the game will continue.
- C. Protesting Manager and Umpire will submit in writing to the player agent by 10 p.m. that night the reason for the protest and the Executive Board will make determination of said protest and get back to the Manager by noon the following day.

**V. Pitch Count – Regular Season and Playoffs**

AGE	DAILY MAX (PITCHES IN A GAME)	REQUIRED REST (PITCHES)			
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days
8	50	1-20	21-30	31-40	41+
9	60	1-30	31-40	41-50	51+
10	75	1-40	41-50	51-60	61+
11-12	85	1-40	41-55	56-70	71+

\*Managers are subject to suspension for violating pitch count at the discretion of the VYB board.

\*\*Once a pitcher has thrown at least one (1) pitch and is then removed from the pitching spot in the lineup, they may not subsequently re-enter into the pitching spot in the lineup.

## **VI. Runners**

- A. Lead offs are not permitted.
- B. Runners may steal second base, third base, or home ONLY after a pitched ball reaches home plate.

## **VII. Discipline**

- A. Managers will be subject to ejection for the following:
  - 1. Illegal bat use – see Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations. Illegal bat use is termed once the batter steps into the batter's box.
  - 2. Manager or Assistant Coach inappropriate conduct. A warning is not required.
  - 3. Fan misconduct.
    - \* more than one occurrence of the above may result in Manager Suspension at discretion of the VYB board.
- B. Should a Manager, Coach, Player or Fan be ejected from a game, the Manager and ejecting Umpire must submit a written report explaining the events leading to the ejection to the Player Agent. Both must meet with the Player Agent and President or Vice-President to provide an explanation for this action. Manager, Coach, Player may not return to future games until written report has been submitted.
  - 1. The Duty Director should be alerted immediately when a situation arises that could become uncontrollable.
  - 2. The manager and coaches will assist the Duty Director in enforcing the VYB Parent/ Spectator Code of Conduct.
  - 3. A Manager, Coach or Player ejected will be subject to the VYB Code of Conduct.
- C. Defacing or damaging the playing field or dugout area by a player shall be punishable by ejection from the game. A warning is not required.
- D. For all VYB Divisions, if a Manager breaks any VYB and/or Cal Ripken Ground Rule they will be subject to a one game suspension and/or forfeit.

## **VIII. AA Playoffs**

A. At the conclusion of the regular season all teams will be seeded. Seeding will be determined by regular season standings. Winning percentage shall be used to determine the team standings and playoff seedings. Top six AA teams will make the playoffs. The team with the best record will be the #1 seed and so on. The #1 and #2 seeds will be granted first round byes for the AA Division. If in the event there is a tie, tie-breaker rules will determine the proper seeding. The team with the higher seed will have the opportunity to choose if they would like to be the Home team or the Visiting team. The only time that will not occur is if the higher seed loses the first game of the Championship Series. Subsequently a coin flip will follow to determine the Home team or Visiting team.

### **Tie Breaker: Two Teams**

1. Head to head
2. Runs allowed head to head
3. Runs scored head to head
4. Coin flip

### **Tie Breaker: 3 Teams or More**

1. Head to Head with only the Tied Teams: The team with the best combined record between only the tied teams, wins the tie-breaker.
2. Runs Allowed head to head: The team that has allowed the least amount of runs in games played between only the tied teams, wins the tie-breaker.
3. Runs scored head to head: The team that has scored the most runs in games played only between the tied teams, wins the tie-breaker.
4. Coin flip

\***Playoffs**: #6 seed will play #3 seed and the #4 seed plays the #5 seed. These will be single elimination games and the losers are eliminated. From that point on, the playoffs will be a single elimination format. Following the completion of those games, the Player Agent will then re-seed so that the #1 seed will play the lowest remaining seed in the playoff tournament.

Example: In a standard playoff tournament the #6 vs #3 winner would play the #2 seed and the #5 vs #4 winner would play the #1 seed. However, in the event the #6 seed defeats the #3 seed then the #1 seed would face the #6 seed instead of the winner of the #5 vs #4 winner because they are a lower seed.

### **Playoffs & Championship Games**

There will be a time limit for no new inning, but no “drop dead” time. For the AAA and AA Divisions, there will be no new inning after 90 minutes.