

PVAA Rookie Division Rules – Updated 01.13.2026

- 1) A spring-loaded Louisville Slugger Portable Pitching Machine will be used for games placed at 46 feet from home plate.
- 2) Ages: Refer to League website.
- 3) Infield positions include a pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second baseman, shortstop and a third baseman. Pitchers will take their place on either side of the pitching machine and must have both feet inside the pitcher's circle and behind the sling until the ball is hit. The catcher will take his/her normal position in full gear if desired and provided by their team, otherwise the catcher will be permitted to stand at the fence behind the batters back with a batting helmet on. The catcher can join the play after the ball is struck. The league will not provide catching equipment for the Rookie League teams.
- 4) Game length is 5 innings or ninety minutes. No new inning shall start after 75 minutes from start time or in other words with 15 minutes to go to the 90 minute mark. An inning started must be completed if either team has the ability to tie or beat their opponent.
 - a) Championship games will complete a full 5 innings
- 5) Field dimensions: Standard Cal Ripken Division base length of 60 ft.
- 6) Dead ball:
 - a) Players can advance bases until play is called dead by calling time out DIRECTLY in front of the LEAD runner. If time is called in front of the lead runner, then any trailing runners may continue to advance until stopped by an occupied base. Play is also stopped when the ball is controlled on the infield and all runners have stopped their attempts at advancing.
 - b) The ball will be declared dead when a player is injured and in the umpire's judgment is unable to continue the play.
 - c) A batted ball hits the pitching machine, the ball will be declared dead and the batter will be awarded 1st base. Base runners will advance one base, only if forced.
 - d) Runners can advance a maximum of one base on a 1st base overthrow. (NL Only).
- 7) There is no infield fly rule.
- 8) Every player at the game shall be put in a batting order. That batting order will stay the same throughout the game unless a player is removed from game due to injury or illness.
- 9) A team on defense may have two coaches stationed in the outfield in foul territory and a coach standing at the dugout. All other coaches must be sitting down along fence or in the dugout. A team on offense may have two base coaches and a coach pitching to his batters using the pitching machine. A coach may stand at backstop to help catcher speed up the game.

- 10) There will be no walks, base stealing or leading off.
- 11) Each player must be given a position in the infield and a position in the outfield for at least one inning each per game. No player can sit a second inning in any game until all players have sat for a minimum of one inning. **CATCHER IS AN INFIELD POSITION.**
 - a) Players may not repeat same infield position in a four-inning game. If a game advances to a fifth-inning, they may repeat an infield position. (NL Only)
- 12) In order to field a team and play a binding game, teams must place eight players in the field. If a team is unable to do so, for whatever reason, then the game will result in a forfeit and a forfeit must be called before the game begins. However, at the discretion of the coaches, the game may be played as a practice game. Teams shall be given a grace period of 10 minutes from the scheduled start of the game within which to produce the required number of players; however, game time begins at scheduled starting time.
- 13) Only registered players are allowed to bat and/or play the field. Only registered coaches are allowed to be in the dugout.
- 14) All batters and base runners shall wear an appropriate batting helmet
- 15) Only **USA BASEBALL** approved bats will be allowed. See guidelines posted on the Home Page of this website. USSSA Bats are not permitted. A player found to be using a USSSA Bat shall have the at-bat called an out and the play reversed to the field position prior to their at bat. If the player continues to use the USSSA Bat the team shall forfeit the game and the player will be removed from the league.
- 16) Ties in the standings going into the playoffs will be broken based on 1) head-to-head, 2) runs against/runs for 3) flip of a coin.
- 17) Shirts are to be tucked in at all times and hats worn properly.
- 18) No Tobacco or alcohol products will be allowed on the field, the dugout area or in the stands. The method of enforcement, including the possibility of exclusion of the attending party, coaches, or forfeiture, shall be determined by the umpire on the field.
- 19) Head coaches or acting head coaches are responsible for the behavior of their fans, players and coaches. See Coaches Code of Conduct and Parents Code of Conduct on the website for more information.
- 20) During Fall Rec season, all teams will follow rules set forth under Spring NL specific rules.

21) Spring Season Specific Rules - American League (AL) Specific Rules

- a) Each batter receives FOUR hittable pitches. The umpire must call “no pitch” after any nonhittable pitch. If the batter strikes out (three strikes), or if the ball has not been hit into play after FOUR hittable pitches, the batter is out. The at-bat will continue as long as the last pitch was hit foul (unless caught). The half inning is over when three outs are made or seven runs have scored.
- b) The speed of the sling shall be 9 for the entire season
- c) Bunting **IS ALLOWED** in the AL. One successful bunt per inning is allowed.
- d) There is no limitation to the number of bases a runner may advance on an overthrow.

22) Spring Season Specific Rules - National League (NL) Specific Rules

- a) Each batter receives FOUR hittable pitches. The umpire must call “no pitch” after any nonhittable pitch. If the batter strikes out (three strikes), or if the ball has not been hit into play after FOUR hittable pitches, the batter is out. The at-bat will continue as long as the last pitch was hit foul (unless caught). The half inning is over when three outs are made or seven runs have scored.
- b) The sling shall be set at **8** for the entire the season
- c) **BUNTING IS NOT ALLOWED** in the NL. **NO FAKE BUNTING IS ALLOWED.** If the batter offers to bunt, the batter will automatically be called out by the umpire.
- d) Runners can advance a maximum of one base on a 1st base overthrow.