



## Official FVBL Playing Rules

### MAJOR LEAGUE

#### 5th & 6th Grades

**PURPOSE: This is a competitive league with emphasis on full skill development and good sportsmanship.**

#### 1. GENERAL GAME RULES:

- A. Umpires will have complete control and authority of all games. Prior to the game, the home team or host organization shall rule on field conditions. Once the game starts, the Umpire governs delays or whether the playing field is safe. Exception: at facilities equipped with lightning detection systems, the guidelines for the detection system must be followed.
- B. A minimum of eight (8) players and a maximum of nine (9) must be fielded at all times. A team can begin the game and play with eight (8) players.
- C. No player will sit out for two (2) consecutive innings nor will a player sit out a 2nd inning before all other players have sat out for one (1) inning.
- D. No player can play any position more than three (3) innings in a game. (4 inning max for Pitchers)
- E. All players must play a minimum of one (1) inning in the outfield during the first five (5) innings.
- F. Dropped third strike & infield fly rules are in effect.
- G. Metal spikes are not allowed. Plastic cleats, turf or gym shoes are allowed based on the playing surface.
- H. Unlimited defensive substitutions are allowed.
- I. **Game times are to be respected, but traffic may cause game delays due to travel between towns. Forfeits for game delays are discouraged and are only approved by the FVBL Commissioner.**
- J. Games will be seven (7) innings unless the time limit comes into effect.
- K. **A game is considered official upon reaching the designated time limit, or when the umpire ends the game early due to daylight or weather conditions.**
- L. **If the game is stopped by the umpire for any reason, & the home team is losing, the score will revert back to the score at the last complete inning. If the home team is ahead, home team wins. If the score is tied, the game ends in a tie.**
- M. No **NEW** inning will be started after the actual game time has reached the 1 hour & 45 min time limit. The game will end once that inning has ended. A new inning begins when the third out in the previous inning is made.



- N. A 12-run mercy rule is in effect after five (5) innings (four and a half innings if the home team is winning) or 10 runs after six innings (five and a half innings if the home team is winning). **12 after 5, 10 after 6**
- O. The first 4 innings will have a 5 run max rule. \*The only exception to this rule is that the last play of the half inning shall be allowed to finish. If additional runs are scored on the final play, those runs shall count. Final play **MUST** be initiated with ball in play via a “hit”. For example, if a team has scored four (4) runs and has the bases loaded and hits a three (3) run triple all three (3) runs shall count for that team which would make their inning count seven (7) runs. The spirit of this rule is to reward the hitter that put the ball in play. Any runs scored due to errant throws for dropped 3rd strike or pickoff throws would not be counted after 5 run max has been reached for the inning. Innings 5,6,7 will be unlimited and will revert to the Mercy Rule.
- P. Jewelry shall not be worn, except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped down and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped down but may be visible.
- Q. Unsportsmanlike conduct is behavior that is unethical or dishonorable. It includes, but is not limited to, disrespectfully addressing an official, any flagrant behavior, intentional contact, taunting, criticizing, or using profanity directed toward any other individual. Ejections and/or disciplinary actions are at the umpire’s discretion, & subject to FVBL review.
- R. Only adults are allowed to coach the bases and must begin the play in the coach’s area (the coach’s box or an area where one would normally be if unmarked) when on the field of play. Coaches are not allowed to touch a player or move into fair territory while a ball is in play.
- S. **No protests allowed.**
- T. Official League Standings will be maintained by FVBL and decided through (1) Winning Percentage (2) Head to Head (only if two teams) (3) Run differential (4) Runs allowed (5) Total Runs Scored.
- U. Playoff Rules:
- No time limit for playoff games, but umpire can call game early due to daylight/weather issues.**
  - If the game is tied at the end of the 7th inning, California Rules will be in effect for extra innings (Runner starts on 2nd base with a 1-1 count on the batter, last player to make an out the inning before will be the runner at 2nd base).

## 2. PITCHING:

- A. No player may pitch more than four (4) innings in one game. A single pitch thrown during an inning constitutes one (1) inning pitched towards this pitch limitation.
- B. **A 1st year player (younger grade), must pitch 2 COMPLETE innings out of the first 4 innings. A complete inning consists of 5 runs or 3 outs, whichever comes first.**
- C. No other pitch rest rules.
- D. The pitching rubber shall be dictated by the home team or field restrictions, either 48’ or 50’ from the furthest point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.



- E. A pitcher will receive one warning when a balk is committed. After subsequent infractions, all base runners will be awarded a base.
- F. A pitcher is limited to six (6) warm-up pitches between innings and up to eight (8) warm-up pitches following a pitching change either during an inning or between innings. No breaking pitches. If a pitcher is removed as a result of an injury, the relieving pitcher will be allowed an unlimited amount of warm-up pitches.
- G. Once a player has been removed from the pitcher position, that player may not pitch again for the remainder of the game.
- H. If a pitcher hits two (2) batters in an inning or three (3) in a game, that pitcher shall be removed from the pitching position for that game.

### 3. HITTING:

- A. All bats -5 or greater must be stamped "BPF 1.15 USSSA" or "USA Baseball". No restriction on weight or length as long as the bat has the "BPF 1.15" stamp. All -3 bats must be stamped "BBCOR". Wood bats are allowed. The bat's barrel cannot exceed 2 3/4".
- B. Dropped third strike is in effect.
- C. Slashing is not allowed (show bunt then swing away on same pitch). The batter will be immediately called out and the ball is ruled dead.
- D. Bunting is allowed.
- E. Batting helmets must be worn at all times while the hitter or base runner is on the field of play.
- F. Continuous batting lineups shall be used and submitted prior to the game. No designated hitters are allowed. Late arrivals will be placed at the end of the batting order. Teams will not be penalized with an out if a player is removed from the lineup due to an injury or other circumstances. If player is ejected from the game, his at bat will be considered an out.

### 4. BASE RUNNING:

- A. Base paths to be set at seventy feet (70') apart with chalked foul lines.
- B. No headfirst sliding (except when returning to a base): If a runner slides head first they will be called out, as this is done for the safety of the players.
- C. If a play is made at a base, a player must attempt to avoid contact by sliding on plays at any base (except first base). A player may not run out of the baseline, or jump (leave the ground) over the catcher to avoid contact with the catcher. If it is determined by the umpire that the player jumped over a catcher to avoid contact that player will be called out and the ball is dead. If unintentional contact is made, the runner may be called out and the ball would be dead (umpire's discretion). If the act is determined to be flagrant, the offender shall be ejected. The umpire's decision on the sliding rules is final and is not subject to protest.



- D. Catchers and pitchers may have an optional courtesy runner if they reach base with less than two outs. A courtesy runner is required with there are two outs for purposes of moving the game along. The courtesy runner must be the player who recorded the most recent out. If for some reason that player is also a catcher or a pitcher, then the next player who recorded the next most recent out will be the courtesy runner.
- E. No hidden ball tricks.
- F. Stealing and leadoffs are allowed.
- G. If safety base is present, it can only be used defensively on a drop third strike, to avoid contact on a ball to first base side, otherwise it is for the baserunner only.