

FAIRFIELD YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION 2017 MINOR/MAJOR FALL BALL RULES

There are 2 divisions in the 2017 FYBA Fall Ball: Major (11 & 12) and Minor (9 & 10). The rules which shall govern game play are the Official Baseball Rules (OBR) as used by Major League Baseball, the Cal Ripken OBR Exceptions (found in the Babe Ruth Handbook), and the Local League Rules listed below. Local League rules will supersede rules as found in the OBR. Please keep in mind; this is FALL baseball!! There are no standings, there are no posted results, there are no trophies awarded. The kids are playing in the age group they will be in next year to prepare themselves.....or they're just playing for fun!!!

PRE-GAME –

Infield Practice: There will be no infield practice prior to games. Teams will be permitted to warm up in foul territory along the baselines.

Ground Rules: Each manager will meet with the umpire at home plate 5 minutes prior to game time.

EQUIPMENT –

Baseballs: Umpires will have baseballs.

Bats: Any bat deemed legal and safe per the Babe Ruth League will be permitted for fall ball. (www.baberuthleague.org).

GAME PLAY –

Continuous Batting: Minor and Major League teams will use a continuous batting lineup during game play. If a player is ejected from a game, their time at bat will be recorded as an out. If a player is sick/injured during the game, their time at bat will be skipped with no penalty. However, the player will not be permitted to return to the game. Any player arriving after first pitch of game shall be added at the end of the batting order.

Mandatory Play: FYBA teams will be expected to evenly play all the players on their team. Those who are independent will have no requirements.

Game Length: Games are scheduled as double headers, at the conclusion game 1 teams will have 15 minutes to start game 2. If the teams are not ready in 15 minutes the game clock will be started anyway. Games will be played for 5 innings. Games will stop at 1:30 minutes, regardless of the score of the game. The current at bat will be concluded, then the game will be complete. No extra innings. Games suspended due to inclement weather, that have reached an official status will not be rescheduled. After 4 innings (3 ½ if home team leads) if a team is leading by 10 or more runs they will be declared the winner and the game will be over. If a team is leading by 12 runs after 2 ½ or 3 innings the game will be considered official and the leading team will be declared the winner. Minors only - Max runs scored per inning is 6 in the first 4 innings. There will be no limit on runs per inning for the 5th inning.

Forfeits: There will be no forfeits. Teams can pull players from any team they wish (as long as they are not playing down in an age group) so that a game can be played.

Game Delays: Any time a game is delayed due to adverse weather the umpire shall wait a minimum of 30 minutes prior to calling the game. During this time the umpire shall check with both managers to determine if playing conditions are safe and estimated time to resume play. Once an umpire determines that a game cannot be continued due to weather, field conditions, etc both teams will be informed with the rationale for calling the game and then do so. While a game is under suspension, the game clock will be paused.

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Base Runners: Once the catcher has secured the pitched ball and the runner has stopped forward progress, the runner must return to the base previously occupied. If the catcher attempts to throw to a base, or overthrows the pitcher the runner may advance at their own risk. (Minor League Only). A runner is out if he does not attempt to get around – “avoid contact with” – a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make a tag, or if he intentionally (maliciously) runs into a fielder. For intentionally running into a fielder; the umpire shall eject the offender from the game. With 2 outs; if the catcher is on base, he must be replaced by a courtesy runner (no exceptions). The courtesy runner will be the last batted out. The same courtesy runner can only be used once in an inning. Note – while optional, it is permitted and recommended that a courtesy runner or the pitcher be used with 2 outs as well.

Batter’s Box: Each batter must keep at least one foot in the batter’s box throughout their time at bat. If the batter’s box is not visible, the umpire’s judgement shall prevail as to its intended location. The following exceptions to this policy apply:

The batter swings at a pitch.

The batter is forced out of the box by the pitch.

The batter attempts to drag bunt.

The defensive team feints or attempts a play at any base.

The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher’s plate after receiving the ball.

A member of either team request and is granted “time.”

The catcher leaves the catcher’s box area to adjust equipment or give defensive signals.

The catcher does not catch the pitched ball. If the batter leaves the batter’s box and none of the exceptions apply the umpire shall charge a strike to the batter. The pitcher need not throw a pitch, and the ball remains live.

Teams will have one minute to switch sides between innings. It is the responsibility of the managers to ensure their players, especially their catchers are ready for the next inning.

Fielder’s: Minor League teams will use 4 outfielders.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT – Any unsportsmanlike conduct of any nature by managers, coaches, players, fans, parents, relatives, or anyone else in attendance at a game may result in suspension for an indeterminate amount of time.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS–The use of all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco and ecigarettes is prohibited by all participating personnel (coaches, players, etc.) Tobacco products such as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc are prohibited from use within Fairfield Waterwork’s Park by participating personnel and spectators.

BLOOD RULE – A player or coach who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment can be administered in a timely manner per the umpire’s judgement, the individual would not have to leave the game. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform it must be changed before that individual can participate in the game.

PITCHING – Pitching max is 3 innings per day. One inning thrown in an inning constitutes an inning pitched. Starting pitchers only; once removed as a pitcher are permitted to return to the game as a pitcher as long as they still have remaining innings available to pitch and as long as they were not removed on a second mound visit.