

## CVBL Pony League Rules

**THE CVBL IS A RECREATIONAL LEAGUE. ALL TEAMS ARE EXPECTED TO BE AN EVEN SPLIT OF TALENT FROM THEIR HOME CLUB/ORGANIZATION.**

**SELECT TEAMS BASED ON AGE, GRADE, OR ABILITY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED!**

Questions or concerns regarding this issue should be brought to CVBL director.

1. All players present at a game must be in the batting rotation at all times unless an injury prevents that player from taking his/her turn at bat.
    - a) If a player arrives after the start of the game, he/she is to be inserted into the last batting position on the lineup.
    - b) If a player fails to appear at the plate for his/her turn at bat due to an injury or situation beyond control of the manager, no out shall be recorded provided that seven players remain actively in the batting order.
    - d) A game may start with a team that has less than 9 players. No out will be recorded for the 8th or 9th spots in the order if only 7 or 8 players are present.
    - e) A forfeit is declared when a team cannot field 7 eligible players.
  2. All players present at a game must play a minimum of two complete innings on the field of play.
  3. Each team must place nine players in the defensive positions on the field unless fewer than 9 eligible players are in attendance; in which case all players present must play the field.
  4. A regulation game is declared over when:
    - a) The visiting team is ahead after 7 complete innings.
    - b) The home team is ahead any time the visitors have completed their 7th at bat.
    - d) The game is considered a tie after 7 complete innings when the score is tied. There are no extra innings. (This rule does not apply in Championship or tournament games)
- \*\* Games are limited to 2 hours, with no new inning starting after 1 hour and 45 minutes.
5. A game is declared over according to the 10 run rule when:
    - a) The visiting team is behind by 10 or more runs at the conclusion of their 5th or 6th at bat.
    - b) The home team is behind by 10 or more runs at the conclusion of their 5th or 6th at bat.

6. Due to time limitations, the visiting team will not come to bat at the top of a new inning when there is less than 15 minutes remaining prior to the start of the next scheduled game.

a) Players are expected to hustle on and off the field.

b) Coaches are reminded that intentionally stalling or giving outs while at bat to make strategic use of the time limit is not consistent with the spirit of the game.

c) Time loss due to injury, rain delay, or late start of a previous game will be added to the next scheduled game time.

d) There is no time limit for the last game of the day if played by 2 Prep/Pony League teams.

7. When the umpire calls a game due to the time limit, the game is complete and the score stands regardless of the number of innings that have been completed. Note: If the score is tied, the contest will be officially recorded as a tie.

8. The umpire will keep official record of time.

9. If a game is called by the umpire for any reason other than the time limit (weather, darkness etc) it will be a regulation game after 4 and one half innings played if any of the following are true:

a) The visitors have completed their fifth at bat and are trailing at the moment that the game is called (Regardless if they are at bat or not)

b) The home team has had at least five full at bats, was behind when they completed their last full at bat and remains behind regardless if they are now further or less behind.

c) The home team has scored a sufficient number of runs in its half of the inning to tie the game at the moment the game is called. Note: This is a regulation game and it is recorded as a tie.

10. If a game is called by the umpire for any reason other than the time limit (weather, darkness etc) while either the 6th or 7th inning is in progress, the game is a suspended game if:

a) The visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the game and the home team has not yet had its full opportunity to take the lead.

b) The visiting team has score the one or more runs to take the lead and the home run team had not yet taken the lead nor have they tied the game.

11. Bat Restrictions:

a) The biggest length to weight ratio allowed is -8 and the maximum barrel diameter is 2 5/8". For Pony League, both BBCOR and USA Certified bats will be allowed as long as they fit the above listed criteria. No USSSA bats

Effective January 1, 2018, with the exception of the -3 bat (BBCOR certified), all other 2-1/4" and 2-5/8" minus factor bats (-5, -7, -8, etc.) must be certified with the USABat licensing stamp on the bat in order to be used for league and tournament play. 2-1/4" and 2-5/8" minus factor bats (-5, -7, -9, etc.) used in 2017 will be illegal to use.

12. A suspended game is to be continued from the point of suspension at a time agreed upon by the team managers involved and league officials. All pitching limitations, substitutions, etc. are to be as they were at the point where the game is suspended.

Note: The overall result of the rule is that if a game is called when the at bats are not equal between the home and visiting teams, and the visitor's team gained the advantage of tie due to the inequity, the home team is given its full opportunity to win the game or else the game is suspended. In the case where the visitors actually took the lead due to the inequity, the home team must be given its full opportunity to at least salvage a tie or else the game is suspended.

13. Other than a game called due to the time limit, all games which do not reach the regulations four and one half (home team ahead) or five complete innings as outlined previously shall be ruled "no game" are to be made a new game. Innings pitched do not count in any way.

14. Metal cleats are allowed.

- Pitchers may not wear metal cleats at Bloomer and Seymour due to portable mound
- No metal allowed @ Whitehall (turf field)

15. Any player who throws his bat or helmet may be ejected from the game.

16. It is the base runner's responsibility to minimize violent collisions with the fielder at all times and locations along the base paths whether the fielder is in the act of fielding a hit ball, receiving put out throw or awaiting a put out throw by whatever means available (including sliding) when such situations arise. Any base runner who does not attempt to do this will be called out and if flagrant, be ejected from the game. Note: When a fielder, at the umpire's judgment, is obstructing the runners advance (without the ball), the runner is awarded that base which he/she would have advanced to had there been no obstruction. If however the base runner chooses to "steamroll" the fielder rather than minimize the contact, he will be called out.

17. Pitching limitations:

- a) One pitch thrown in any inning is counted as an inning pitched for that particular pitcher.
- b) A pitcher may pitch no more than 5 innings in a single game.
- c) A pitcher may pitch no more than 7 innings in a calendar week, Monday to Sunday.

d) A coach may make only one trip to the mound to talk with his/her pitcher per inning. If a coach makes a second trip to the mound in the same inning, not counting trips due to injuries, the pitcher must be removed from the mound.

e) A pitcher who is removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher in that same game.

18. Re-entry A. Except for the pitcher as it pertains to rule 17(e), re-entry of starters is unrestricted.

19. Balks: A. One warning will be given to each individual pitcher before the balk will be assessed. An assessed balk by the umpire will result in an advancement of 1 base by the baserunners.

20. Leading off and stealing bases is allowed. Base Runner does not have to wait until the ball crosses home plate before taking off.

21. Batter may run on a drop third strike as long as 1st base is not occupied by a runner.

22. Infield fly rule is in effect.

23. If Pony Team A needs a player to fill a roster spot for a game due to any circumstance, they may select a player from a Major division team. No limit on the # of times that can occur. Vertical movement is allowed, not horizontal. Pony Team A cannot fill a spot with a player from Pony Team B.

24. Sportsmanship: Umpires have been directed to insure a game that is fun, and promotes good sportsmanship. To promote these goals, the umpires HAVE THE DISCRETION to remove a player or coach from a game for any (but not limited to) the following reason:

1. Player who deliberately or maliciously throws a bat, helmet, or other object
2. Any member of a team exhibiting behavior that is not in the spirit of fair play and good sportsmanship, especially if he/she has been previously warned about their behavior.
3. Member of a team uses profane or objectionable language while on the field or in the dugout.
4. No use of alcohol or tobacco products while in the dugouts or while on the field during play by managers, players, or coaches.

25. Managers and coaches are responsible for the attitudes and sportsmanship displayed by their team and should lead by example.