

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION

Monroe County CYO

B LEVEL BASEBALL RULES/REGULATIONS

I. PLAYING RULES:

- A. Official Rules: The rules of the CYO Baseball League are those of the National Federation. It is imperative that each coach has a working knowledge of the National Federation Rule Book in addition to those rules governing CYO Athletics.
- B. Purpose of these Rules: CYO wishes to stress that scores are not to be run-up by winning teams, and also wishes to emphasize that coaches must make every effort to play as many team members as possible in a given game.
- C. Team Minimum: A team must be able to field the minimum number of players at game time or the game is forfeited. If a player becomes ill or injured and is unable to finish the game, the team may finish the game with one player less than the minimum number of players allowed to start the game. This does not apply to player ejection. If an ejection leads to a team being short of the minimum number of players, the game is forfeited at that time.
 - 1. B Division: B Teams must have 9 of 10 players present to start the game, with the tenth player to be added to the bottom of the line-up upon arrival.
- D. Game Time: Game time is forfeit time. If one team is not present or not ready to play with the minimum number of players at the time that a contest is scheduled to begin, their opponent may accept forfeit victory for that contest. Game officials shall sign the score sheet to verify forfeit. No official is required to wait beyond the scheduled game time for a team.
- E. Game Length: Games shall be of the following length --
 - 1. B Division: Six (6) innings shall constitute a game.
 - 2. ALL Divisions: All double-headers (DHs) will consist of two, 5-inning games unless otherwise notified by league director.

F. Extra Innings:

1. B Division: Tied games will be determined by playing extra innings until a winner is determined; if the game remains tied after eight (8) innings, it shall be declared a tie.

G. Game Time Limit: No inning shall begin after one hour and 30 minutes of play in B Division games unless the score is tied. An inning that begins prior to the applicable game time limit will be completed regardless of time.

H. Mercy Rule: A game will be officially concluded when a team is fifteen (15) or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat in the 4th inning, or is ten (10) or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat in the 5th or subsequent innings. This rule applies in all regular season and Post-Season Tournament games.

(**Exception:** If the time limit expires, the game is concluded regardless of the number of innings that have been completed.)

I. Travesty Rule: The batting team may not score more than five (5) runs in any half inning until after the 3rd inning. After the third (3rd) complete inning, a team behind in the score may score five (5) runs or as many runs as are needed to tie, whichever is greater. Play in an inning automatically ceases upon the scoring of the fifth or tying run, whichever is applicable, and no additional runs that could be scored on the play will be counted. This rule does not apply in the last inning or any extra innings. Regular mercy rule still applies.

II. GAME RULES/REGULATIONS:

A. Playing Field: A diamond or infield shall be 90-foot square. The outfield is the unobstructed area between the two foul lines that extends beyond the infield a minimum of 270 feet. All fields are to be marked accordingly and groomed to ensure safety.

1. Base Distance: B Division – 65 feet (65’).

2. Pitching Distance: B Division – 50 feet (50’).

B. Protective Equipment: Catchers must wear a throat guard on their mask, a helmet, shin guards, and a chest protector. A protective cup is recommended.

C. Helmets: All players batting, on deck, base running or coaching, must wear helmets; face guard is optional. All helmets in use must have the **NOCSAE** stamp of approval. Violation will result in forfeit.

D. Metal Cleats: Metal cleats are prohibited at the B level. Violation will result in forfeit.

- E. Regulation Baseball: Each team will furnish a new ball or a ball deemed by the umpire to be playable for each game. All teams are expected to have more balls available if foul balls are not being shagged.
- F. Uniforms: Each player shall be numbered on the back of the shirt and no players on the same team shall wear identical numbers.
- G. Game Roster: Shall be submitted/exchanged between managers ten (10) minutes prior to start of the game.
- H. Team Benches: The home team has the choice of bench (1st or 3rd baseline). It is recommended that the home team takes the third base bench and the visiting team takes the first base bench. During a DH there is no need to switch benches after the first game.
- I. Pre-Game Warm-up: Where possible, the visiting team will take infield practice thirty (30) minutes prior to game time and the home team will take infield practice fifteen (15) minutes prior to game time. Where there are multiple games scheduled on the same field, if games are running behind, there will be no infield practice after the published time. In such circumstances, teams must come warmed-up and ready to play.
- J. SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS TO NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES:
 - 1. Free Substitution Rule: B Division - To provide the maximum amount of playing time for all individuals the entire dugout must be in the batting order. Players can be changed freely in positions however the batting order will remain the same.
 - a. The batting order of the participants cannot change.
 - b. If a player shows up late they are placed at the end of the order.
 - c. If a vacancy occurs for an ejection of a player an out will be declared when that vacant batter is due at bat. If a vacancy occurs for any other reason there will be no penalty or out.
 - 2. Batter's Starting Count: B Level will use the standard count, starting with 0 balls, 0 strikes. Revised April 2023
 - 3. Intentional Walk: B Division - Intentional walk is not allowed.
 - 4. Pitch Limitation: No curve balls are allowed. A curve ball shall be declared a ball on the batter.
 - 5. Pitching Limitation Rule:
 - B Level - Limited Number of Outs: Pitchers may record a maximum of 9 outs in a game or 12 outs in a calendar day. The pitcher pitching the last inning of a game that goes into extra innings may finish the game. However, those outs count against allowable outs for the rest of the day.

6. **Baseball Bat: Weight and length specifications:**
- a. Must meet the National Federation guidelines or
 - b. Must meet Little League Rule 1.10 (B Level – Minor/Major, A Level Intermediate (50-70) & Junior League) – “The bat must be a baseball bat which meets the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat) as adopted by Little League. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick, and made of wood or of material and color tested and proved acceptable to the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat). **No “Big Barrel” bats in the B Division (barrel may not exceed 2 5/8” (clarified 3/2024)).**

Dropped Third Strike: In the B Division, the ball is dead and no advancement is allowed.

7. Stealing & Leading off the Base: Lead-offs are not permitted in the B Division, but players may advance once the pitch reaches home plate, on passed balls, wild pitches or plays elsewhere on the field (including an attempt to pick-off the runner). In order to reduce running up scores, a limit of one per inning will be placed on a runner advancing home without the bat hitting the ball. (stealing of home)

III. LEAGUE RULES/REGULATIONS:

- A. Umpire Assigning: CYO will assign one (1) registered umpire to all games unless a Parish/School is required to secure their own registered umpires for their home games. Each team is responsible for paying the umpire thirty-five dollars (\$35.00), for a total of seventy dollars (\$70.00) per game. For 5-inning double-headers, each team is responsible for paying the umpire sixty dollars (\$60.00), for a total of one hundred twenty dollars (\$120.00). Corrected March 2024
- B. Umpires Not Present: In the event that the assigned officials are not present to officiate the game(s), the teams will have two (2) options:
1. Play the game with individuals they mutually agree to have officiate the game(s). If a mutual agreement is made to play, the contest(s) results will stand.
 2. Re-schedule the game(s) with the CYO office after mutually agreeing on date(s) and time(s).
- C. Rain-Outs/Postponed Games: The League or the Athletic Director of the home team or the Umpire on site shall have authority to declare a game a rain-out or postponed for other field or weather conditions. Once a game is started, authority for suspending a game is vested in the umpire.

- D. Suspended Games: If a game is called by the umpire due to weather, darkness, or for any reason, the game will continue from the point of suspension at another time agreed upon by both teams. If the game is suspended after the team behind has completed its fifth (5th) inning at bat, the game is considered a complete game, the results will stand, and the remaining innings will not be played. Tournament games, however, will be completed at the point of suspension. The umpire shall retain the fees paid for suspended games.
- E. Re-Scheduled Games: : In the event of games postponed or suspended due to weather conditions, the League, in consultation with the teams involved, will seek to reschedule the game to another mutually convenient date, time and location where possible.
- F. League Standings: The league standings will be completed on the basis of two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie (B Division), and zero (0) points for a loss. Non-league games do not count in division standings.
- G. Roster Limitations: There is no limit as to the number of players that a team may have. Additional players may be similarly registered (as per eligibility rules) at any time during the regular season.
- H. Insurance: Secondary medical insurance is provided for participants for all athletics through the Michigan Catholic Conference. This coverage has some limitations and is secondary to parent's medical coverage. This coverage is in effect if the student has no medical coverage. Information can be obtained through the School Principals or Parish Pastors.

IV. PLAY-OFFS:

- A. Format: A bracket style, single-elimination format will be used. **Only the top four teams will participate. Revised March 2024**
- B. Tie Breaker:
 1. If 2 or 3 teams tie for a division seeding spot, head-to-head game results will determine the breaking of the tie.
 2. If still tied after use of the head-to-head comparison, the run differential (victory margin) between the teams involved will be used to break the tie.
 3. If still tied after use of the run differential, a coin flip or card draw will be utilized under the direction of the League Director.

V. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES:

Violations of CYO rules and regulations shall subject a member Parish/School to any or all, but not limited to, the following: censure, probation with competition, probation without competition, forfeiture, suspension, and expulsion.