



# Northfield Youth Baseball Association (NYBA)

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## *In-House League Rules*

### *Rookies/Machine Pitch - Grades 2-3*

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## **NYBA Behavioral Guidelines**

All players, coaches, and spectators are expected to act responsibly and demonstrate sportsmanlike behavior at all NYBA games, practices, or other activities. A primary goal of the NYBA is to help our children grow and mature through participation in baseball. Winning and losing, and learning to deal with each, can be an important part of this goal, but wins and losses cannot be allowed to override our more important purposes. At all activities we want players to have fun, to get as much playing time as possible, to be put in positions where he or she can improve and experience success, and to learn and exhibit good sportsmanship. The NYBA reserves the right to remove any spectator who is in violation of these behavior guidelines.

The use of ANY tobacco product shall be prohibited by all participants (including but not limited to players, managers, coaches) within the confines of the playing field and dugouts.

## **NYBA Player Code of Conduct**

1. Players shall practice good sportsmanship at all times, to win without boasting, lose without excuse and never quit.
2. Players shall attend and participate in all scheduled games and practices when reasonably possible.
3. Players shall never throw a bat or equipment in anger and to be aware of safety and follow team and league rules to ensure safe play.
4. Players shall agree to their coach's authority and will participate and communicate positively with their coach and teammates.
5. Players shall treat fellow players, opponents, fans and umpires with respect.
6. Players shall exercise self-control at all times, refraining from foul language and setting a positive example for others to follow.
7. Players shall support and encourage teammates and always try their best to keep a positive attitude.
8. A player will be benched immediately by the Coach for the remainder of the game for:
  - a. Throwing equipment (bat or helmet)
  - b. Swearing
  - c. Any other unsportsmanlike conduct that, in the Coach's discretion, warrants the player be benched.
9. Penalty If a player verbally or physically abuses an Umpire, Coach or other Players:
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> offense - Player is ejected for remainder of game (must remain on bench),
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> offense - Player is not allowed to participate further until the player, his/her parents, and coach meets with the NYBA President and board



designated representative to discuss past behavior and future involvement.

- c. These offenses are cumulative throughout the entire baseball season.
- d. Depending on the severity of the improper behavior, steps may be omitted.

## **NYBA Coach Code of Conduct**

At all NYBA Events

1. The Coaches will be responsible for their players and not allow unsportsmanlike acts toward opponents, officials, or anyone associated with the game.
2. Coaches will know and comply too the intent and spirit of the rules.
3. Coaches will teach their players to respect the dignity of the game, rules, officials, opponents, and the Associations they represent.
4. Coaches will confine their discussion with game officials to the rules and not challenge umpire decisions involving judgment.
5. Coaches will prohibit comments from the bench which would include personal and malicious remarks, cursing, and obscene language toward opponents, umpires, coaches, or spectators.
6. Coaches will refrain from any personal action that might arouse players or spectators to unsportsmanlike behavior.
7. Coaches should demonstrate and expect an umpire's courteous and dignified attitude toward players and each other.
8. NYBA may consider all relevant conduct in determining whether disciplinary action is appropriate. Conduct includes but is not limited to NYBA events. Conduct at non-NYBA baseball events and acts outside of baseball may be considered.

### **Penalty**

Any violation of the above Code of Conduct should be reported to the NYBA and may result in sanctions, or temporary or permanent banishment from any or all NYBA events

## **NYBA Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct**

At all NYBA Events

1. Parents/Spectators will encourage good sportsmanship by showing positive support for all players, coaches, administrators, and officials.
2. Parents/Spectators will remember that physical and emotional health of the players is more important than winning a game.
3. NYBA events will be for the kids to play a game, not for adult interference.
4. Parents/Spectators will make events a positive and fun experience for the players.



5. Parents/Spectators will treat all players, coaches, volunteers, fans, and officials with respect.
6. Parents/Spectators will not undermine or question the coach's instructions, directions, or decisions.
7. Parents/Spectators will not use or tolerate the use of profanity.
8. Parents/Spectators will show the utmost respect for all umpires and their decisions.

### Penalty

Any violation of the above Code of Conduct should be reported to the NYBA and may result in sanctions, or temporary or permanent banishment from any or all NYBA events.

## Game Rules

### Safety

- Player safety is the number one concern. Please do your best as coaches to put players in positions to be successful while keeping in mind the player's skill level. Do not put a player in a position you feel he or she does not have the skill level to handle or may be put in danger (example: Player does not have the skills to handle a well hit ground ball, then do not put this player at 3<sup>rd</sup> base).
- Only one player on deck – The rest of the team must remain in the dugout or on the bench.
- Players are not allowed to be Base Coaches.

### Equipment

- Players must wear the complete numbered team uniform as provided by the NYBA. Uniforms may not be altered.
- No metal cleats.
- Bats with one-piece rubber grip and knob combination are illegal.
- Players **MUST** wear a proper batting helmet in games and practices when batting, running the bases, or on deck.
- Catchers must wear a protective cup for every game.
- All players are encouraged to wear a protective cup for every game.
- All cast, splints and braces must be padded with at least ½" of closed-cell, slow recovery rubber or other material of the same minimum thickness and having similar physical properties.
- No protective equipment shall have exposed metal or other hard material.



## Games

- National Federation of High School rules shall govern play, except where modified in this document.
- **Scores and standings will not be kept during regular season.**
- **Coaches will act as the umpires from behind the pitcher's mound.**
- Games will be six (6) innings or 80 minute time limit, whichever comes first.
- No new innings shall begin after 70 minutes.
  - **Once the time limit is reached during the regular season, the game is over.**
- A half inning shall consist of three (3) outs **OR** the team at bat batting through their roster once.
- Teams will line up and shake hands at the conclusion of every game.

### NYBA IN-HOUSE CLASSIC RULES (differ from regular season rules in BOLD above):

- During NYBA In-House Classic tournament games scores is kept.
- During the NYBA In-House Classic games will have umpires to make safe/out calls on the bases.
- If during the NYBA In-House Classic the score is tied at the end of six (6) innings and the time limit has not expired the game can continue. If the game remains tied at the end of 80 minutes the top of the next inning starts with a visiting player on 2<sup>nd</sup> base. If the visiting team does not score, the home team starts the bottom half of the inning with a player on 2<sup>nd</sup> base. Play continues until a winner can be declared.

If a game is called due to rain, weather, light failure or other acts of Nature and cannot be resumed it is a regulation game if in Bracket Play a game is tied after 4 or more innings, the score will revert back to the previous inning. If still tied, the game will be a suspended game. A suspended game when resumed, shall resume from the exact point of suspension.

- For the NYBA In-House Classic a team will remain at bat until three (3) outs are achieved.

## Pitching

- A pitching machine will be used for pitching.
  - Four (4) swinging strikes will be an out.
  - There are no called strikes. ○ There are no walks.
- Pitching machine distance: 46 ft



## Fielding

- **During the regular season coaches should play ten (10) players (4 outfielders) if they have ten (10) or more players on their bench. This would be true even if the other team only has nine (9) players. If at the beginning of the game, one team has 10+ players and the other has eight (8) or less coaches should agree whether the larger team should field nine (9) or ten (10) players.**
- No player should sit out for more than one defensive inning per game.
- Free substitution at all positions.
- Equal Play: Coaches should do their best to play all players equally in the infield and outfield, keeping in mind player safety.
  - Exceptions to this rule: The game is shortened for any reason (rain out, mercy rule, time limit, etc.).
- The player playing the pitcher position must have BOTH feet on the pitcher's mound when the ball leaves the machine.
- Defensive shifts are not legal. You cannot have more than two infielders on one side of second base (not including the pitchers).
- Infielders must be on the dirt to start each play and outfielders must be on the outfield grass before each play.
- Coaches are encouraged to allow as many players to catch as possible.
- **During the regular season coaches will be allowed and encouraged to be on the field to provide direction and speed up play.**

**NYBA IN-HOUSE CLASSIC RULES** (differ from regular season rules in BOLD above):

- **During the NYBA In-House Classic teams should field a maximum of nine (9) players in the field.**
- **During the NYBA In-House Classic coaches will NOT be allowed on the field of play.**

## Courtesy Runners

- No courtesy runners are allowed, with the exception of an injury.

## Batting

- Bat sizes: Bats must be 2 ¼", unlimited weight differential. (No barrels > 2 ¼").
- Wood bats are allowed.
- Continuous batting. All players will bat in the batting order whether they are in the game defensively or not.
- No bunting.



- Pitching machine.
  - Four (4) swinging strikes will be an out.
  - There are no called strikes.
  - Foul balls are strikes, cannot strike out on a foul ball.
  - There are no walks.
- No dropped third strike.
  - Runners may not advance on a dropped third strike.

### Bases and Base running

- Base length shall be 60 feet.
- No stealing of any base.
- Runners may not leave the base **until the ball crosses home plate.**
- Runner is allowed to advance only one (1) base on an overthrow.
- Runners must always attempt to avoid collision. The best way to avoid collision is to slide. When a collision occurs and the Coach feels that danger could have been avoided with a slide, the runner will be called out.

### Substitute Players

- The NYBA tries to keep the In-house team rosters to a minimum number to allow each player as much playing time as possible. Thus there will be times where a team needs to pick up a player or two to field a complete team (players gone on vacation, sick, etc.). In an effort to keep the league as fair and balanced as possible, the substitute players must play in the outfield and they must bat at the bottom of the order behind all rostered players. The substitute player must also be a current NYBA player on current Rookies or Futures roster.
- Teams may add substitute players to make that games roster up to nine (9). Therefore if a rostered player arrives late and joins the game, making the substitute player the tenth player, the substitute players will be replaced by the rostered player in the game.

### Coaches

Every coach that is part of the team will need to complete the Trusted Coaches training or an equivalent as determined by the NYBA Board of Directors. All levels of training must be complete. The level coordinator will be responsible for checking a copy of the certificates from every coach on a team prior to the team's first game.