

2018 Tri-Valley Baseball

Statement of Philosophy, Rules and Regulations



In order to develop and maintain consistency in the operation of Tri-Valley Baseball, a statement of League Philosophy, Rules and Regulations has been put together based upon a consensus of representatives from the participating towns.

A. PHILOSOPHY

(Total Participation Rule) The policy of the league is to permit and encourage any child meeting the age requirements to participate in league play. Tri-Valley Baseball is not an organization of all-star teams. Every child who wishes and is able to commit to play for the season will have a place on a team roster. Announcements will be made via available means from each town baseball organization through email, spring and high school coaches and posted to the local baseball organization website. These announcements will outline the league philosophy regarding total participation. The objective is to have all towns comply with policies established by the League.

B. ROSTER

Each participating team must submit to the Tri-Valley Babe Ruth administrator assigned by Medway Youth Baseball (MYB) a completed team roster. MYB will input the roster onto the leagues Web page on the MYB site. Failure to do so will be cause for forfeiture. Tri-Valley Babe Ruth will set a due date for rosters. Tri-Valley Babe Ruth must approve any roster addition or subtraction, except as noted in Section I-9 for temporary needs.

C. TEAM COMPOSITION

In order for a player to participate in the 13-year-old Minor Division, he or she must be baseball age 13 according to the Little League Baseball age chart. In order for a player to participate in the 14 -16-year-old Major Division, he or must be of appropriate age according to the Little League Baseball age chart. Younger players may be allowed to play up to fill a roster at the discretion of the participating town and with approval from Tri-Valley Babe Ruth. All players must be residents of the participating team's town or be a student in that town's school system as part of the statewide school choice program. If a town does not have a Babe Ruth TVL team players may play for another town. Players who participate under the school choice program must provide documentation (i.e. report card) to the player agent to substantiate their enrollment. Any exception to this rule must be approved by Tri-Valley Babe Ruth.

D. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Any player not on an official roster held by the league, not on the Web Team Roster, not of the correct age, or not a resident of the Team's Town shall cause the offending team to forfeit.

E. PITCHING LIMITATIONS

- 1) The pitching week runs from Sunday through Saturday.
- 2) A pitcher can pitch a maximum of 7 innings a week.
 - a) The starting pitcher can pitch one additional inning (8 innings total) as long as the starting pitcher has not pitched any other innings in the pitching week and is not in violation of the days of rest rules.
 - b) All innings pitched (including partial games) count toward the weekly total.
 - c) An inning pitched is defined as one or more pitches thrown by a pitcher in an inning.

3) Any pitcher who pitches greater than 3 innings in a game must rest for 2 days.

Example: If a pitcher pitches more than 3 innings on Monday, he cannot pitch again until Thursday. That pitcher is then eligible for 7 innings minus the number of innings pitched in Monday's game.

4) Violation of this rule is considered "Illegal Participation" and will result in the ejection of the head coach and pitcher.

- a) If a pitcher's eligibility cannot be determined during the game by the head coaches, the game may be played under protest.
- b) If a pitcher's ineligibility is discovered after the allowed protest time, the head coach will be suspended for one (1) game.

F. PROTEST

All protests must be submitted in writing (email) to the Tri-Valley Babe Ruth Administrator assigned by Medway Youth Baseball (Trivalleybr@gmail.com) by 12 Noon following the protested game. Any hearing will be arranged by and through e-mail. The Tri-Valley Babe Ruth Administrator will respond to the protest based on these Rules. If the protesting party does not agree with the ruling, additional town coordinators and officials will be engaged on the Dispute Committee to ensure impartiality and completeness. As issues arise, the Dispute Committee will be contacted and decisions by a majority of the applicable Dispute Committee shall be final.

G. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Tri-Valley Babe Ruth Administrator shall preside over any and all matters regarding code of conduct for directors, coaches, umpires and players. Any member, player, or umpire may appeal to or bring a complaint to the MYB Summer Committee, but first must, in writing, notify the league at trivalleybr@gmail.com. If the MYB Summer Committee is unable to rule or if an additional appeal is required, the notification will be forwarded to the Dispute Committee. In case of an emergency, or matter of a serious nature, the Tri-Valley Babe Ruth Administrator may call an immediate meeting. A minimum of three Dispute Committee members must be available to make any ruling or judgment.

All Members in Tri-Valley Baseball shall accept the following code of conduct.

- 1.) It is the duty of all coaches to be in control of his players at all times.
- 2.) Coaches are expected to comply with the intent and spirit of the rules.
- 3.) Coaches should teach their players to respect the dignity of the game, officials, opponents and the institutions they represent.
- 4.) Coaches will confine their discussions with game officials to the interpretation of the rules and not challenge umpire judgment calls.
- 5.) Cursing, obscene language or gestures, malicious or personal remarks to or between opponents, spectators, officials or coaches will not be tolerated.
- 6.) Directors, coaches, umpires and players shall refrain from any actions that might arouse unsportsmanlike behavior between spectators or any of the aforementioned.

- 7) Umpires shall incorporate the Tri-Valley Baseball Code of Conduct in their code of conduct.
- 8.) Improper use or deliberate damage to equipment or facilities by any member or associate of this league will not be tolerated.
- 9.) Altercations, verbal and/or physical will not be tolerated, nor will any intentional attempt to injure any player, official or participant in any league game or function.
- 10) Players, coaches and umpires shall not possess or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs during Tri-Valley baseball games.

H. PENALTIES

A descriptive report is to be forwarded to trivalleybr@gmail.com if any of the following penalties are issued during any game or any infractions of the preceding Code of Conduct rules are broken. The report is to be sent by both coaches and the umpires. Upon receipt of the report, it will be forwarded to the MYB Summer Committee for its disposition. Additional town coordinators and officials will be engaged on the Dispute Committee to ensure impartiality and completeness, as necessary. As issues arise, the Dispute Committee will be contacted and decisions by a majority of the applicable Dispute Committee shall be final.

- 1) Any player, coach or director who throws or misuses any equipment during the course of a game shall be warned the first time; if a second offense occurs, he will be ejected.
- 2) Any player, coach or director in violation of Code G-5, G-9 or G-10 will be immediately ejected.
- 3) Any player, coach or director in violation of Code G-6 will receive a warning for the first offense. A second offense will mean immediate ejection.
- 4) If an umpire violates any of the codes of conduct, a written complaint shall be presented to the MYB Summer Committee. If said umpires actions become intolerable during the course of the game, both coaches can agree to suspend said game at that point, remove all players from the field and make immediate report to the Umpire-in-Chief – Jim McGuinness (see section N for contact info)
- 5) In the event one or more spectators become unruly and refuse an umpire's request to leave the playing field area, the game can be suspended at that point. Either the fan(s) will be removed by the police, or the game will remain suspended.
- 6) In the case of ejection for any of the above reasons, the following minimum penalties will be automatically imposed for players and coaches during the course of the season.

First offense:	1 Game Suspension
Second offense:	2 Game Suspension
Third offense:	Remainder of Present Year Plus 1 Year Suspension

- 7) As a result of disciplinary action for any of the above reasons, the following minimum penalties will automatically be imposed for umpires and officials during the course of the season.

First offense:	1 week suspension
Second offense:	Minimum 1 month suspension
Third offense:	1 year suspension.

8) Any player, coach or director ejected during the course of a game who refuses (after being ejected and notified twice that he has been ejected) refuses to leave the field of play, shall cause the head umpire to declare a win for the opposing team. The head umpire will, immediately following the game, file a written report to Medway Youth Baseball. After review by the MYB Summer Committee, the offending coach will be suspended for 1 year.

I. GAME RULES

- 1) The 12 run mercy rule is in effect for both divisions. If after 5 innings (or 4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead) one team has scored 12 or more runs more than the other team, the game is over. (No penalty for failure to enter all subs.) If the 12 run mercy rule is reached mid-inning, the game will be immediately stopped (assuming the necessary 5 or 4.5 innings have been fully played).
- 2) Playing rules as specified in the official baseball rule book will govern the conduct of all games, except as noted herein, and will be used to settle all disputes and protests.
- 3) A Player in the starting line-up who has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game once, in any position in the batting order, except E.H., provided the starter's substitute has
 - a) Completed one time at bat and
 - b) Played defensively for a minimum of six (6) consecutive outs.
 - c) A player must be on the bench by the first pitch of the top of the 4th inning in order to participate in the game and will not get credit for participating in the game. This is to protect the 6 consecutive outs/one at bat rules.
- 4) No pitcher will be allowed to take the mound for a 2nd time within the same baseball game once removed from the game as a pitcher.
- 5) This league allows for the use of an extra hitter (E.H.). They may be used anywhere in the batting order and stays in that spot, for the entire game. The E.H. is optional and may not be substituted for during the course of the game (except for injury).

The E.H. may be used as a player on the field to allow for on-field playing time (except as pitcher). This is not a substitution but merely a way for the E.H. to get some on-field play. Also, the batting order must remain the same. Alternating innings and field positions are allowed.

- a) Once the coach declares a player as the EH and the game begins, they are the EH regardless of whether they play 6 outs in the game or not. If this is their 4th game, it is a forfeit. (unless pre-approved by the MYB Summer Committee due to an extenuating situation)
- b) Once the EH is in a spot in the order, they stay in that spot and cannot be subbed out of the lineup.
- c) An EH can play the field at any time and does not have to play 6 outs.
- d) If an EH goes to a spot in the field, the person who was playing that spot still continues to hit in their spot (not the EH's spot)
- e) If Player A leaves the field for the EH in the 2nd inning, that time on the bench does not count for Player A's 6 outs in the field, so they must return to the field at some point. So if Jones plays 2nd base in the 1st inning and then the EH played 2nd base in the 2nd inning and the Jones went to the bench, then the Jones still needs to play 3 more outs to complete his 2 inning requirement. (note: 6 consecutive outs only applies for starters that are completely removed from the game and not for sitting for the EH)

7) A pitcher must be removed from the mound upon the coach's second trip to the mound in the same inning to the same pitcher. Remember, a trip to the mound may be called any time a coach delays a game significantly with a conversation to the pitcher regardless if he walks out onto the playing field or not.

8) For the 13 year old Minor Division (regular season games only), there is a one balk warning per team per game. Specifically, when this is called by the umpire, the ball is DEAD. The umpire and coach will explain to the pitcher what is wrong with the pitcher's delivery. The runner/s cannot advance nor is there a change in the batter's count. Consequently, if an additional balk occurs during the game by the same team, normal balk procedures will be enforced.

9) Team Composition

A. A team must field at least eight players in order to start a game. Any less than eight will constitute a forfeit. A grace period of 15 minutes is allowed in the event a team is short of players at game time. A team with eight players present at game time can elect to wait the 15 minute period for a ninth player to arrive. If, after the 15 minute grace period, a team cannot field at least eight players, the game shall be declared a forfeit. In no case shall a team play with less than eight players or shall a team wait for specific players, if they have eight or more present after the 15 minute grace period has elapsed.

If a team starts a game with eight players, the ninth spot in the batting order will be designated as an automatic out when its turn comes around. If a ninth player arrives after the game starts, that player would fill the ninth spot in the batting order and the automatic out is negated.

B. In the event a game is forfeited, all players on the winning team will get credit for participating in that game. The only players who get credit from the team that forfeited the game are the players that actually go to the field. If a team does not go to the field then no players from that team will get credit for participating in that game

C. Call up players who are less than 13 years old are ineligible to pitch in the league.

***Note:** After first notifying Tri-Valley Babe Ruth (trivalleybr@gmail.com) of the temporary need for supplementing a team's roster, a town can avoid a forfeit for lack of players by the methods outlined below. When a Major Division team lacks sufficient players, the team may use players under 14 years of age from the Town's league to bring the total available players to 10. When a Minor Division team lacks sufficient players, the team must use players under age 13 from the Town's League to bring the total available players to 10. Prior to the game, the manager should inform the opposing coach that they are using call-up players. Failure to inform the opposing coach of the use of Call-Ups will result in forfeit. Furthermore, you must the Call-Up to your games note on the website.

10) If a player is ejected during the course of a game, and the offending team has no substitutes, the game will be declared a forfeit. In the case of an injury and no legally available players available due to substitutions, the last batted out from the pool of unavailable players, shall take the place of the injured player. If there are no available players, the E.H. may be used. If there are only 8 players, the teams may finish the game, but this may only be allowed in the case of an injury. If this occurs, the injured player's spot in the batting order then becomes an out when that team is at bat. *At no time in a game may a team play with less than eight players.*

11) All Tri-Valley baseball games are 7 (seven) inning games with extra innings required if playing conditions allow. No full inning will begin after 8:30 P.M. (unless the field has lights), determined by the umpire's watch and, at that time, will be considered a complete game. Umpires will make the final decision on games that need to be ended due to darkness or weather. The only exception is for games played under the lights. If a game ends in a tie, it will remain a tie.

12) Metal spikes are allowed in both the Minor and Major Divisions.

13) The intent in this league is to prevent unnecessary injury. An attempt must be made to avoid hard contact at all bases and home plate. Runners must slide or avoid contact with the defender on a force play. The runner can't use a head-first slide or leave their feet (jump) when sliding into Home Plate. Head-first slides are permitted at the other bases. The umpire's judgment is final.

14) Forfeit Penalty –Any team that forfeits a game without 24 hour notice of cancellation will be required to pay both the umpire's fees for that game (versus normally each team splits the cost).

15) Make-up Games: A game which has been cancelled will be rescheduled by Tri-Valley Babe Ruth for the next available weekend day. The two opposing managers and Tri-Valley Babe Ruth can agree to adjust that date to a weekday game as long as it is within the next 7 days. If the cancellation has occurred in the last week of the regular season, it must be rescheduled prior to the end of regular season. When a change of schedule occurs, please notify the umpire coordinator and Tri-Valley Babe Ruth Administrator.

If the managers cannot agree upon a reschedule date, Tri-Valley Babe Ruth Administrator may award a "Win by Forfeit" to the team, in Tri-Valley Babe Ruth Administrator's judgment, which has made the best effort to reschedule.

J. GENERAL RULES

1) Home teams are responsible for balls. This league requires that all teams use "Diamond DBR" or an equivalent ball. Home teams shall also keep the playing fields in a safe, playable condition.

3) Roster integrity is the responsibility of the coaches and the town representatives and it should be noted that any attempt to misrepresent will be dealt with by the MYB Summer Committee.

4) Players must be on the roster and have played in at least 50% or more of the games to be eligible for post-season play. (If 1/2 of the games would result in a whole number and a fraction, the number will be rounded up to the next higher whole number.) 50% play will be determined through the game stats entered to the website the day after the game and not the team's scorebook. Post-season play waiver request of the 50% rule will only be accepted for injured players and High School players participating in the state tournament. If a player plays in a league sanctioned pre-season game that will count toward the game played. (Smith plays in 1 league sanctioned preseason game. His team has 12 regular season games. He plays in 5 regular season games. Smith is still eligible because he "gets credit" for the pre-season game to get to his required 6 games)

5) All players must play in the field for at least two innings and must bat at least once during regulation play. The only exception is the E.H.

Note: If a player is benched for disciplinary reasons or an injury, the opposing coach must be notified before the game begins and that player's name must be listed on the lineup card as not playing. This will be noted when reporting the game information on the league's web site.

6) Each manager must keep a single written scorebook or electronic equivalent up to date and be available to the opposing coach and MYB Summer Committee any time upon request.

7) Regarding aluminum bats, the League requires the following:

Minors Division

The bat may not exceed 34" in length and the bat barrel may not exceed 2 5/8" in diameter. All aluminum/alloy barrel bats and all composite handle (only) aluminum/alloy barrels are allowed. Bats certified and marked BBCOR 0.50 will be allowed. Wood barrel bats conforming to the specifications of Official MLB Baseball Rule 1.10 are allowed.

Majors Division

The bat must be 2 5/8" in diameter and be a Drop -3 length to weight ratio. Only bats certified and marked BBCOR 0.50 are allowed. Wood barrel bats conforming to the specifications of Official MLB Baseball Rule 1.10 are allowed. (If exception to the drop-3 are required due to the size/strength of the player, the opposing manager must agree)

K. MAJOR LEAGUE RULE BOOK

On the web – A Copy of the Official Baseball Rules from Major League Baseball.

http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official_info/official_rules/official_rules.jsp

L. PLAYOFFS

- 1) Regular season records will determine the seeding as follows:
 - a) Winning Percentage
 - b) Head-to-Head record
 - c) Fewest runs allowed in games of teams involved in the tie-breaker
 - d) A coin flip.
- 2) All League rules are in effect except the changes found herein. The Schedules will be posted to the league webpage. Scores and stats are to be input on web page by noon the day after the game.
- 3) During the playoffs, the highest seeded will play the lowest seeded team, the 2nd highest plays the 2nd lowest for the first round and a full bracket will be published. There will be no-reseeding throughout the playoffs.
- 4) Field availability:
 - a) The highest ranking team is the home team in each bracket.
 - b) If a game is rained out, the game will be scheduled the next day.
 - c) If the higher seeded team can't host the playoff game, then the game will be played at the lower seeded team's field or a neutral site at the discretion of the higher seeded team.

- 5) The highest ranking team supplies the field and MYB will schedule the umpires. The cost of the umpires is split between the teams. Medway will invoice the towns based on number of games played after the playoffs are complete
- 6) Both teams supply baseballs for each game.
- 7) All teams will make the playoffs. There may be ‘play-in’ games to get down to an even number of teams. The Playoffs format will be announced in the first week of the season. The Championship series is the best of three games.
 - a) If there are two divisions in each group
 - i. The home team for the first and third game will be the highest remaining seed.
 - ii. The First Game's Visitors become the Second Game's Home Team and Field.
- 8) Pitching
 - a) The Days Rest rules, our regular rules, are required including between the season to the Playoff and the Playoff to the Championship Series.
 - b) The Pitching Week continues to be Sunday to Saturday. (7 Innings)
 - i. All pitchers may pitch except Days Rest Rules still apply. Innings pitched between regular season to playoffs during week are NOT waived.
 - ii. Championship Series constitutes the Pitching week; In the Championship Series a pitcher can pitch a maximum of 7 innings. Days Rest Rules still required.

Note) It should be noted that there are NO BALK warnings for either Minors and Majors during the Divisional Playoffs and the League Championship Series.
- 9) MYB Summer Committee and Jim McGuinness will be responsible for assigning all umpires for both leagues Championship Series. (see section N for contact info)

M. RECORD KEEPING STANDARDS

1. All game scores/stats will be transmitted to the league by entering the information onto the League’s Web Site (<http://medwayyouthbaseball.com>) prior to noon the following day. *Failure to report twice will result in the loss of two points, and each succeeding failure to report will result in an additional similar penalty.* YOU MUST NOTIFY YOUR TOWN COPRDINATOR AND THE TRI-VALLEY BABE RUTH ADMINISTRATOR **ASAP** IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO POST YOUR SCORE/STATS. Any changes after noon on the following day to a player’s playing status in a game must be approved by the Tri-Valley Babe Ruth Administrator and the opposing manager. A change to participation will be considered a failure to report
2. During the playoffs, the final score must be posted by the winning team **four hours** after completion of the game. Game statistics must be posted no later than noon the following day. If a team is unable to meet this commitment, they must call their division vice-president immediately after the game. If the scores and stats are not posted as above, the team may be disqualified from the series
3. It is the responsibility of each Head Coach to assure that the score information is accurate and complete.
4. Standings are updated immediately upon completion of the game information. Thus, the information is available to the coaches and other interested parties (e.g., players, parents,) on the League’s Web Site.

N. Umpires

It is a requirement that two (2) **MBUA** certified umpires be scheduled to officiate games. This is the responsibility of MYB and Jim McGuinness. The game can be played with only one (1) certified umpire should the second not be in attendance.

Comments or complaints (positive and negative) about an umpire should be sent to the MYB Summer Committee. Should an umpire continuously underperform, MYB empowered to ban said umpire from officiating in this League. All umpires must dress in conformance with the dress code established by the umpire-in-chief, Jim McGuinness.

It is the responsibility of Jim McGuinness to give all umpires he uses a copy of this document.

Jim McGuinness

Cell: (774)291-6181

Jim McGuinness jimmcguinness3@gmail.com

O. Facilities

The League's philosophy is that fields should meet the following criteria:

Fields shall meet the requirements contained in the "Official Baseball Rules"; Fields shall be well maintained including grass no higher than 1.5 inches and pitchers mound, home plate, and base paths raked smooth; Pitcher's mound rubber in good condition; Home plate and bases well anchored and in good condition; Player's bench in good condition and large enough for 15 players and two coaches; Back stop fence with no openings large enough for a ball to pass through; Foul lines and other playing lines such as batter's box and on deck circle clearly marked;

Implementation:

Each member is responsible for the availability and maintenance of sufficient fields to play League games. If a proper field is unavailable for a specific game, the host member is responsible for finding an adequate replacement field or will forfeit that game.

A visiting member who is dissatisfied with field conditions should inform the host member and the League. If a visiting member believes that the conditions are so poor that player injury could result, the visiting member should inform the host member of the intention to not play and report it to the League for review to determine the need for a rematch or a forfeit by the host member.

Reports of field conditions will be reported to MYB for follow up by league officials. Continued substandard conditions will result in corrective action ranging from censure to removal depending upon number of violations and duration of substandard conditions.

Playoffs:

Good field conditions are especially important for playoff competition. If the visiting member feels the field is unacceptable, the game should be played under protest for later determination by the MYB Summer Committee.

P. POLICY FOR TEAM ROSTERS AND ROTATION OF PLAYERS

All players on a team's roster are active players, and in no case may players be rotated or not allowed to attend games.

When 18 to 23 players have signed up to play, every effort must be made to find additional players to field two teams. Some alternatives include calling other potential players within town, using players from neighboring towns within the League (assuming that the neighboring town(s) are in agreement), and allowing younger players to play up.

Every effort must be made to find a place to play for every player. Some alternatives include allowing them to play with another town within the League or carrying a larger team roster.

The league is predicated on the philosophy that all players who wish to do so may play. It is not an "All Star" league in which teams are chosen through a try out process **or any other method which does not result in an even distribution of talent throughout a town's participating teams.** Any means of determining team composition that does not result in reasonable balance of player talent among participants contradicts the philosophy of the League.

While the League cannot be in the business of examining all the rosters and all the team selection processes, the League will not permit any practices that bring into question the League's credibility.

During the season, MYB will monitor the performance of all teams to ensure that the League rules and philosophy are being complied with. In the event that there is a drastic disparity between the records of teams within the same age bracket from the same town, the League reserves the right to require an explanation from the coaches and town coordinators. If the League determines that there has been a violation of the League's philosophy on team balance, the League reserves the right to redistribute players. If that remedy is not possible, the League reserves the right to suspend the coach(s) and/or teams involved.

Q. MEDWAY YOUTH BASEBALL SUMMER COMMITTEE

The MYB Summer Committee will monitor adherence to league rules, regulations and philosophy. This committee will handle all complaints and should be advised of all violations of league philosophy, rules and regulations.

Violations will be dealt with directly with the town coordinator. An initial warning may or may not be given considering the nature and severity of the violation, which decision is entirely in the discretion of MYB. If the situation is not corrected in a timely fashion, the MYB Summer Committee will consider eliminating the offending town from the season or league.

Violation of the 'Total Participation' rule will be dealt with most severely.

R. TRI-VALLEY BASEBALL SIGN-UP APPLICATION FORM STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The following statement should be incorporated into each Town's Sign-up Sheet for Tri-Valley Baseball:

It is the unconditional policy of Tri-Valley Baseball to permit and encourage any child meeting the age requirements to play Summer Baseball. The League is not an organization of all-star teams. Every

child who wishes and is able to commit to play for the season will have a place on a team roster. Anyone with questions or who needs to report a violation of this policy should contact any member of the MYB Summer at trivalleyb@gmail.com

All participating towns will provide to MYB proof of insurance, which names MYB as a named insured.

MYB strongly suggests that each town check all of its coaches through the CORI program and that each team has at least 2 coaches who have, this year, gone through the Heads Up Concussion Training program or other equivalent program.