



Official FVBL Playing Rules  
MINOR LEAGUE

AGES 9 & 10 (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grades)

**PURPOSE:** This is an early learning competitive league with the emphasis on teaching skills and sportsmanship.

1. GENERAL GAME RULES:

- A. Umpires will have complete control and authority of all games. Prior to the game, the home team or host organization shall rule on field conditions. Once the game starts, the umpire governs delays or whether the playing field is safe. Exception: at facilities equipped with lightning detection systems, the guidelines for the detection system must be followed.
- B. A minimum of eight (8) players and a maximum of nine (9) must be fielded at all times. A team can begin the game and play with eight (8) players.
- C. No player will sit out for two (2) consecutive innings, nor will a player sit out a 2<sup>nd</sup> inning before all the other players have sat out for one (1) inning.
- D. **A game is considered official upon reaching the designated time limit, or when the umpire ends the game early due to daylight or weather conditions.**
- E. **If the game is stopped by the umpire for any reason, & the home team is losing, the score will revert back to the score at the last complete inning. If the home team is ahead, home team wins. If the score is tied, the game ends in a tie.**
- F. Games will be 6 innings. An inning consists of 5 runs or 3 outs (whichever occurs first) in the first 4 innings. **No additional runs will be scored after 5 runs.**
- G. The 5th, 6th and extra innings have no run limits.
- H. Metal spikes are not allowed. Plastic cleats, turf or gym shoes are allowed based on the playing surface.
- I. No **NEW** inning will start 1 hour & 45 mins after the start of the game. Attempts shall be made to play as many innings per game as possible. A new inning begins when the third out of the previous inning is made.
- J. Game times are to be respected, but traffic may cause game delays due to travel between towns. Forfeits due to travel delays are discouraged and are only approved by the FVBL Commissioner.
- K. The pitching rubber shall be 44 feet from the furthest point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber. Bases 60 feet apart (dictated by field used).
- L. Players are required to play at least 2 innings in the infield and 1 inning in the outfield within the first 4 innings.
- M. Players cannot play the same position more than 3 innings, except during extra innings.
- N. Pitchers cannot pitch more than their 3 inning limit.



- O. **No Leadoffs allowed.**
- P. Base stealing of 2nd base only is allowed. No stealing of 3rd Base or home, & players stealing 2nd base cannot advance on an overthrow during the steal. Ball must be put in play for runners to advance from 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
- Q. Players must maintain contact with the base until the pitched ball reaches the plate.
- R. Baserunners may advance 1 base on an overthrow while the ball is in play. Players cannot advance home on an overthrow.
- S. If the ball is overthrown from catcher to Pitcher after pitch is released, runners may not advance on that overthrow.
- T. Any player who intentionally removes a safety helmet while in the field of play will be called out. The play treated as hit baserunner.
- U. Dropped third strike & infield fly rules are not in effect.
- V. Play considered “dead” when the ball reaches the infield AND is in control by a fielder. Emphasis is on teaching fundamental base running to prohibit additional bases taken, when common sense would dictate that, with older players, no attempt would be made.
- W. 15-run mercy rule is in effect after 4 innings (3.5 if home team is winning) and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat.
- X. **BAT RESTRICTIONS:** Bats must be stamped BPF 1.15, USSSA, USA, BBCOR, or made of wood with a maximum diameter allowed is 2 3/4. If a player uses an illegal bat, they will be called out and bat removed from the dugout.
- Y. **No protests allowed.**
- Z. Playoff Rules:
  - i **No time limit for playoff games, but umpire can call game early due to daylight/weather issues.**
  - ii If the game is tied at the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, California Rules will be in effect for extra innings (Runner starts on 2nd base with a 1-1 count on the batter, last player to make an out the inning before will be the runner at 2nd base).



## 2. PITCHING RULES:

- A. A pitcher can pitch no more than 3 innings per game. A single pitch thrown counts as 1 inning pitched regarding their pitch limitation.
- B. **A 1st year (lower grade) player must pitch 2 COMPLETE innings out of the first 4 total innings. These complete innings require 5 runs scored, or 3 outs, whichever comes first.**
- C. **Any attempt to use a 1<sup>st</sup> year player for only 1 pitch before being removed will be considered Unsportsmanlike Conduct, & the game may be subject to forfeiture.**