



Visalia Youth Baseball Inc.

2026 Rookie 6's Ground Rules

Visalia Youth Baseball, 6 Year Old Division Ground Rules will apply to all playing rules and field conditions, superseding all other rules. In all instances not covered by these rules, the Official Babe Ruth, Cal Ripken Division, Rules and Regulations will apply.

The goal of the Rookie 6's division is to provide a baseball skills learning opportunity at a level of play one-step higher than T-Ball. Players are developing the ability to follow instructions more precisely, possess the strength to throw the ball further, etc. With this in mind, while players are taught the rules and fundamentals of baseball, their level of play still calls for modification to the game.

1st Half of the season-

A Batter will get 5 pitches from a coach. If after the 5th pitch, the batter has not put the ball into play, the batter will hit the ball from the tee. If the ball is fouled off on the 5th pitch, the batter will receive an additional pitch. If at any time during the at bat, if both Managers rule that a pitch is unhittable from the coach, the batter will receive another pitch. The batter will get as many swings off the tee as necessary to put the ball in play. The team up to bat will bat their entire lineup before switching to defense. Coaches are to announce the last batter in their lineup as they, and any players on base, will continue until they reach home.

Defensively, attempting to make an out on every play is encouraged, but will not result in the batter being called out. All batters will remain on base regardless of the result of the play.

2nd Half of the season-

A Batter will get 5 pitches from a coach. If after the 5th pitch, the batter has not put the ball into play, the batter will be out. If the ball is fouled off on the 5th pitch, the batter will receive an additional pitch. If at any time during the at bat, if both Managers rule that a pitch is unhittable from the coach, the batter will receive another pitch. When teams are on offense, they should keep track of who made the last out and continue their lineup where they left off in the next inning.

Defensively, three outs will be in effect per regulation baseball rules. Teams will switch from offense to defense after three outs are made. Managers/Coaches are to agree upon out calls and should keep in mind, the players are six years old.

I. Objectives of Game, Playing Field and Equipment

1. The standard Level-5 Flexi-ball baseball will be used.
2. Only players in uniform, Manager, and not more than three adult Coaches will be allowed in the dugout area and on the field during games.
3. All players must be in full, clean uniform. Catchers must wear all protective catching gear, i.e. helmet, face guard, throat guard, chest protector, shin guards and protective cup. Safety equipment and all uniforms must be worn in a regulation manner, unaltered in any manner and league approved. Shirts must be tucked in whenever worn by the player before or after a game and while at the ballpark. All equipment and uniforms must be league approved.
4. Managers, Players and Parents shall be responsible for clean up of bench area and surrounding area after the game.

II. Definition of Terms

1. Regulation Game: Play starts at the designated scheduled time and will run 70 minutes. The 70 minutes will be a “drop dead” time and the game will end then.
2. Suspended games or rain out games will be completed the following Sunday, weather permitting. Schedule and times for suspended games are to be determined by the President and Player Agent.
3. Offense: Teams will bat their entire lineup. (Refer to 1st and 2nd half rules on page 1 for additional details)
4. Defense:
For the first half of the season: Managers/Coaches may choose to implement a 10-player defense or, fit all present players in defensive spots. This will be up to the discretion of the Manager/Coach with the goal of teaching proper positions while giving as many opportunities for participation as possible.
 - a. For example, if a team only has 11 players present, instead of having one player sit the bench each inning, the Manager/Coach may squeeze the additional player into the outfield.
 - b. Conversely, if all rostered players are present and including everyone on defense causes congestion and confusion on the field, the Manager/Coach may elect to only play the standard 10 defensive players.For the second half of the season: Managers/Coaches must play no more than the standard 10 defensive positions (four outfielders).
5. Sliding: Runners are never required to slide. In this division, the necessity to slide should be rare and only allowed if a player has demonstrated the coordination ability to do so safely.

III. Offense:

- Cones will be placed at the home run line. Balls hit over this line are to be considered home runs while balls running or bouncing through this line will be considered ground rule doubles.
- No runner may advance on an overthrow at any base.
- For the first half of the season, batters may only advance to second base if the ball is cleanly hit to the outfield. Otherwise, batters may only advance to first base on all contact in the infield.
- For the second half of the season when outs are in effect, players may run to any base at their own risk.

IV. Administration

In the absence of the Manager and with the Player Agent's approval, a coach may assume the Manager's duties and responsibilities.

Rookie Division teams shall always give the right of way to Major Division teams with regard to practice fields. Please contact the Major Division Manager practicing on the field in question and plan your practices on days and times that do not interfere with the Major Division Team.

V. Umpire

There are no umpires in this division. The Managers/Coaches will make the out and safe calls.

VI. Discipline

1. **Defacing or damaging the playing field or dugout area by a player shall be punishable by ejection from the game. A warning is not required.**

Infractions would include, but not be limited to:

- a. Digging holes with feet in the infield or outfield.
- b. Carving benches or damaging fences.

2. **USA Bat Rule Violations**

Players are to practice and play games with only USA standard bats with the USA bat logo stamp. This rule is for player safety and any players in violation of this rule during an at-bat will be deemed out, and Managers will be IMMEDIATELY EJECTED and subject to SUSPENSION.

It is the Manager's responsibility to see that all players are using legal bats.