



Northfield Youth Baseball Association (NYBA)

In-House League Rules

Futures/Coach Pitch - Grades K/1

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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.

Player Behavioral Concerns

- A player will be benched immediately for the remainder of the game for:
 - Throwing equipment (bat or helmet)
 - Swearing
- If a player verbally or physically abuses an Umpire, Coach or other Players the following will take place:
 - 1st offense - Player is removed from the game by the coach for remainder of game (must remain on bench),
 - 2nd 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.
 - These offenses are cumulative throughout the entire baseball season.
 - Depending on the severity of the improper behavior, steps may be omitted.



Coach Behavioral Concerns

- Coaches are expected to maintain a good example for both players and adults. Verbal abuse of Umpires, other Coaches, or Players will not be tolerated.
- If a coach has concerns regarding Umpires, they should first speak with either the Umpire Supervisor at the field or the Umpire Coordinator.
- If a Coach demonstrates inappropriate behavior toward Umpires, other Coaches, Players or fans the following will take place:
 - 1st offense – NYBA Field Supervisor will speak to the Coach about the inappropriate behavior.
 - 2nd offense – The Coach is removed from the Coaching position until he/she meets with the NYBA Board or NYBA President and board designated representative to discuss further involvement.
 - These offenses are cumulative throughout the entire baseball season.
 - Depending on the severity of the behavior, steps may be omitted.

Fan Behavioral Concerns

- If a fan demonstrates unsportsmanlike behavior directed toward Umpires, Coaches, or Players the following will take place:
 - 1st offense – The Umpire will stop the game and notify both Coaches of the problem. Coaches are expected to take appropriate action, which may include speaking with the fan about the issue.
 - 2nd offense – The Umpire or Coach will stop game and notify the NYBA Field Supervisor of the issue. The Field Supervisor will notify the In-House President or Travel President or another Board member who will inform the fan that if another incident occurs, they will be asked to leave the grounds. This step will be eliminated if the fan behavior is deemed excessive.
 - 3rd offense - The Umpire or Coach will stop the game and notify the NYBA Field Supervisor, In-House President, Travel President or other Board member. A League President or Board member will ask the fan to leave the grounds. The game will not continue until the fan leaves the grounds.
 - These offenses are cumulative throughout the entire baseball season.
 - Depending on the severity of the behavior, steps may be omitted.



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 3rd 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.**
- Metal cleats are not allowed.
- 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.
- 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

- Scores and standings will not be kept.
- An inning shall consist of both teams batting through their complete roster once.
- Practice/Games will be 60 minutes in length.
- Teams will line up and shake hands at the conclusion of every game.



Pitching

- Coaches will pitch to the Players.
 - Coaches may pitch underhand or overhand.
 - If pitching overhand, Coaches are encouraged to pitch from a kneeling position.
 - Coach should try to keep the pitch as level as possible (avoid looping the pitch which may cause batters to swing upwards and create bad habits). This is sometimes easier done when pitching underhand.

Fielding

- The catcher position is staffed by one of the batting team's coaches. Keep the game going to allow as many at bats as possible.
- 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.).
- Positions will be played according to regulation, except in the outfield – once the infield positions are filled (1st, 2nd, 3rd, SS, P), the balance of the team plays in the outfield.
- Coaches are encouraged to be on the field with the players to provide direction and speed up play.

Batting

- Bat size: All bats must be 2 ¼", unlimited weight differential (No barrels > 2 1/4").
- Each Player will be given six (6) swings. After six (6) swings the coach will put the ball on a tee for the batter. This is encouraged to keep the game moving and provide all players as many at bats as possible.
- **There are no strikeouts.**
- No bunting.



Bases and Base running

- Base length shall be 45 feet.
- No stealing of any base.
- Runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit.
- Runners should advance one base at a time.
- Runners are allowed to advance one base on an overthrow, even if ball stays in the field of play.
- There are no official outs. If the defense gets the base runner out, the runner may continue to run the bases.
- At the direction of the Level Coordinator, toward the end of summer season the coaches will introduce outs and running more than one base at a time to the games.
 - Please keep base running in perspective. The goal is not to "run until you get home" but rather to advance to the base you can safely get to before the ball does. At this age level with shortened bases and uncoordinated fielding it can be difficult to get an out.
 - Runners will return to the bench if they are put out by the defense. They will not continue running.

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.) Players should be current NYBA players on a Futures roster.

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.