

# **NYBL LEAGUE OPERATIONS GUIDE**

Voted 1/16/25; Amended 2/7/2025

## **AGE REQUIREMENTS**

**T-Ball:** The recommended ages for this league are 5 to 6. Players of age four (4) can participate if: 1) a liability waiver form from NYBL has been signed, 2) the player has an active adult mentor on the coaching staff, and 3) the player has the necessary skill set as determined by the coaches and the VP of the league. A player cannot have reached age seven (7) as determined by the Cal Ripken birth chart.

**Rookie League:** The recommended ages for this league are 7 to 8. Younger players can participate if: 1) they have played at least one (1) year in an organized league, 2) the player has the necessary skill set as determined by the coaches and the VP of the league. A player cannot have reached age nine (9) as determined by the Cal Ripken birth chart.

**Minor League:** The recommended ages for this league are 9 to 11. Younger players can participate if: 1) they have played at least one (1) year in Rookie league, 2) the player has the necessary skill set as determined by the coaches and the VP of the league. A player cannot have reached age twelve (12) as determined by the Cal Ripken birth chart.

**Major League:** The age shall be 9 to 12 according to the Cal Ripken birth chart. If a player under the age of 12 is not drafted or is not approved by the managers, he will return to the Minor League team he played on during the previous year or will be assigned a Minor League team if the player is new to the league.

## **DEFINITION OF TEAMS**

With the exclusion of T-Ball, all teams will start each season with a minimum of ten (10) players, but no more than thirteen (13) players, a manager, and three coaches on the roster. The start of the season is defined as the first scheduled league game played. Every effort will be made to have teams consisting of 11-12 players, however final numbers will be dependent upon registration numbers.

## **TRYOUTS AND DRAFT GUIDELINES**

### **Section 1**

- A. The Directors of the League will set the date for tryouts and draft no later than the November meeting.
- B. Major League Draft must be held prior to the Minor League Draft in the event that a player is not selected who would then be included in the Minor League Draft.
- C. All prospective players who are not returning to the team they played on the prior year need to attend tryouts. Failure to attend tryouts will not exempt the player from being included in the draft, however, for Major League specifically, failure to attend tryouts could result in a player not being chosen to a Major League team and being returned to their previous minor league team or be placed into the Minor League Draft if they are new to the league.
- D. If a parent of a player on a Rookie/Minor/Major League team wishes to put their child back into the draft of the league that they played for the prior year, a written notification must be submitted to the League President prior to or at Registration. The fate of the child will be determined by the Directors in a secret ballot majority vote.

### **Section 2**

- E. The child of the team manager will automatically be placed on that manager's team. A manager cannot trade their son or daughter to another team. Siblings of existing players in the same league will automatically be placed on the same team, and are not required to attend tryouts.
- F. Player relationship to manager and/or siblings can be defined as existing in the same household, and may not require biological relations. In the event of a dispute related to this item, final determination will be at the discretion of and voted on by the board of directors.

### Section 3

- A. Drafting in the Major League will be as follows:
- Manager of the last place team through the first-place team and continuing each round until all teams have filled their rosters.
  - Managers who take more than 11 players must do so at the draft.
  - Any player not selected in the Major League portion of the draft will return to the Minor league team which they played for the prior year. If they are new to the league, they will be placed into the Minor League draft.
- B. Drafting in the Minor/Rookie League is as follows:
- Manager of the last place team through the first-place team and continuing until all players have been selected.
- C. There will be no trades.
- D. If a parent of a player of a Rookie/Minor/Major League team wishes to put their child back into the draft, he/she must submit a written notification to the League President prior to or at Registration. The fate of the child will be determined by the League Officers in a secret ballot majority vote. Should the player be released, the team will be compensated with a player at the end of the round wherein the released player is selected. Any released player cannot be a coaches' option.
- E. Any player who moves into the area during the season will be selected by the next Minor or Rookie League team with the next draft choice.
- F. No Major League team may call up a Minor League player, nor may a Minor League team call up a Rookie League player unless the roster falls below the number of eligible players (for Major League that number is 10 players and for Minor League that number is 11). If a player participates in more than 3 games, he will remain on that team and become the first-round draft pick of that team in the following year's draft.

### Section 4 – Other draft/player selection items

- A. **Coaches Picks/Player Options:**
- Managers of Minor League and Rookie League teams may declare one (1) player option, with parent approval. That player will automatically become that teams first round draft choice.
  - Managers of a Major League team may declare one (1) player option in the event that their previous player option has left the team. This option is declared outside of and prior to the draft and will not be charged as a draft pick.
- B. **Expansion Teams:**
- In the event that a team is added to any league, in addition to the player option listed above, such "Expansion Team" will be awarded the 1st selection in each round of the draft as well as a "sandwich pick" between the 1st and 2nd rounds of the draft.

## MANAGER/COACHES GUIDELINES

### Section 1

- A) All managers will be present at the first manager's meeting called by the Vice- Presidents of the League or risk possible loss of a team.
- B) All managers will be expected to attend 75% of all games or risk possible removal as manager:
  - Exceptions to A and B: A manager may give a statement, indicating the reason for absence, to the Vice-President for consideration, prior to the managers meeting.
- C) In addition to NYBL rules and By-laws, League coaches subject to the coaching provisions of the NYO By-Laws in regard to conduct. A copy of the NYO bylaws will be provided to each manager before the season starts, as well as NYBL Bylaws and league rules.
- D) Managers and coaches are to conduct themselves in a manner displaying good sportsmanship and well-mannered behavior. Any complaint will be directed in writing to a League Officer. The League Officers will review the complaint and take action in accordance with NYO By-Laws.
- E) Major League coaches wishing to manage must have attended at least 75% of the previous year's games in which he coached. Managers that move to the Major League will accept the remainder of all players of that vacated team. Newly nominated Major League managers will be approved at a Northwestern Youth Baseball League meeting.
- F) Succession of managers should occur as of or before the September meeting, by notification of the League President.
- G) Major League managers' vacancies for existing teams will be filled as follows:
  - 1) Major League coaches of that team
  - 2) Parents of players return to that team
  - 3) Minor League managers
  - 4) Minor League coaches
  - 5) Rookie League managers
  - 6) Rookie League coaches

League Managers for expansion teams will be filled as follows:

- 1) Returning coaches of that League
  - 2) Returning coaches from another League
  - 3) Parents of a player who will be in that League
- H) Any manager, coach, or volunteer who will have contact with the team shall submit to a Northwestern background check no later than 1 week after tryouts. Background checks will be submitted through the Northwestern School Corporation required process.
- 1) Verification of background checks are required ANNUALLY.
  - 2) The Manager or Designee will be suspended for one game if individuals without a Northwestern background check are allowed in the dugout during a game.
  - 3) NYBL will follow Northwestern Youth Organizations policy for determining who is approved to coach.
- I) White Sheet rules are approved by the NYBL Board of Directors and any changes must be determined by majority vote of the Board.
- J) Northwestern Youth Baseball League Managers and coaches in all divisions (except T-ball) are required to complete coaching education and certification, In accordance with The Babe Ruth League, Inc Baseball Rules and Regulations no later than opening day. The course is "Coaching Youth Baseball: The Ripken Way for Babe Ruth Baseball Coaches" The test is available through [www.baberuthcoaching.org](http://www.baberuthcoaching.org)

### Section 2

Each manager should assign a scorekeeper of his or her choice. Scorekeeper will be responsible for tallying score and reviewing their results with the opposing teams' scorekeeper every half inning for accuracy.

### Section 3

An individual may manage only one team in the Northwestern Youth Baseball League per year.

## **TEAM STANDINGS**

### **Section 1**

Team standings will be based on the team's win/loss record against the rest of the teams in the division. In the event of teams possessing identical win/loss records, refer to Section 2.

### **Section 2 – Tie-Breakers**

The Vice President of each league must submit the standings of the completed season to the NYBL Secretary at the August meeting. Ties will be resolved per Cal Ripken Rules. The 2018 Cal Ripken Rules were in this order: Head to Head, Fewest Total Runs Allowed and then Margin of Victory. If a tie still exists, a game will be played to determine the League Season Champion.

### **Section 3 - Forfeit:**

For purposes of league standings, Forfeits will be scored a 6-0 loss for the forfeiting team.

## **LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT**

At the conclusion of the regular season (and any play-off), each team will participate in a league championship tournament. Championship Tournament format is as follows:

- A) Major League, Minor League and Rookie League tournaments will be single elimination.
- B) Team pairings will be based on the League White Sheet Rules.
- C) Home team will be determined by the highest seeded teams' choice.
- D) Tournament pitching rules will be based on the Cap Ripken Tournament Pitching Guidelines.

## **CARE OF EQUIPMENT AND GROUNDS**

### **Section 1**

Any manager or coach keeping team equipment shall provide their home address to the League President to be submitted to NYO for Insurance purposes.

### **Section 2**

The home team manager will be responsible for the care of the diamond preparation prior to the game (marking baselines, batter's box, and pitching machine). Visiting team manager will be responsible for removal of equipment after the game. Each manager is responsible for cleaning the dugout after every game.

### **Section 3**

Batting cages- Teams playing on diamond 1 will have use of the east batting cage and teams playing on diamond 2 will use the west cage. Home teams will have access to cage 90 minutes prior to game for 30 minutes and visiting team will have remainder. Game pitching machines will not be used in batting cages and L screens will ALWAYS be used.

### **Section 4**

Any NYBL league game postponed due to weather conditions will date precedent over any other game or event (for example Invitational Tournaments) in the event the diamonds become playable that same day.

## **UMPIRES**

### **Section 1**

A board representative will be identified and selected to oversee scheduling of all paid umpires.

### **Section 2**

When possible, Major League games shall utilize two paid umpires per game, and Minor League games shall utilize one paid umpire, Rookie League games shall be umpired by a manager, coach, or parent from another team in the league. When this is not possible, Major League games will get priority for paid umpires, then Minor League games. Major League games should not be played without a minimum of one paid umpire and one field umpire who can be a manager, coach or parents from another team in the league. All efforts shall be made to provide Minor league games with a paid umpire, however they can be played utilizing an umpire who is a manager, coach or parent of another team in the league at the approval of the managers of the competing teams.

**CHANGES TO THE LEAGUE OPERATIONS GUIDE CAN BE MADE AT ANY POINT WITH A 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**