

# Williamsburg Youth Baseball League Junior League 2019 Rules

*WYBL Rules supersede relevant sections in the Babe Ruth Rules.*

## Time Limit

Games are seven innings in length. A new inning will not begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes has elapsed unless the score is tied (see below). The umpire will keep the official time.

## Tie Games; Extra Innings

In the event of a tie, one extra inning may be played until the time limit expires. If a **regular season game** remains tied after the extra inning **or** time limit expires, the game will end in a tie and be recorded as such. If a **playoff game** remains in a tie after the extra inning, International Tiebreak Rules will apply: *The last batter of the current inning will be placed on second base with 0 outs. The next individual in the lineup will be placed at bat and play will continue from that point. This will continue so forth and so on until a winner is determined. Both Away and Home teams will have an opportunity.*

## Suspending Games—Rule 4.12 (7)

In addition to 4.12 (1–6), which remain in effect, the following replaces 4.12 (7):

A game shall become a suspended game that must be completed at a future date if the game is terminated [because]: 7. The game has not become a regulation game (4 ½ innings with the home team ahead or 5 complete innings with the visiting club ahead or tied). The completion of a suspended game is a continuation of the original game. The lineup and batting order of both teams shall be exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules governing substitution. Any player may be replaced by a player who had not been in the game prior to the game's suspension.

## Pitching Rules

Once a pitcher is relieved of his pitching duties, he may not re-enter as pitcher in the same game. Otherwise there are free defensive substitutions (see below).

Pitches shall be counted according to Baseball Rule 2.00—“A pitch is a ball delivered to the batter by the pitcher,” in addition to any pitches delivered to the batter ruled a “no pitch” by the umpire, e.g., a pitch delivered in error while the ball was dead.

The following pitch counts and required rest will apply during **WYBL Juniors Season and Playoffs** [and, with only minor procedural differences, during Babe Ruth tournament play]:

PITCH COUNTS AND REST REQUIREMENTS				
AGE	DAILY MAX (PITCHES IN GAME/DAY)	REST PERIOD		
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days
13-15	95	1-45	46-75	76+

If the pitcher reaches the maximum pitchcount limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until the batter reaches base safely or is put out. In a game suspended by darkness, weather, or other causes and resumed the following calendar day, the pitcher at the time the game was halted may continue to the extent of his or her eligibility. A day rest shall be defined in “Days” starting at 12:01am and ending at 11:59 pm of the next calendar day.

The Official Scorekeeper on GameChanger shall be the “official pitch counter.” He or she shall maintain accurate counts for both team’s pitchers. To balance the preeminent concern of player safety with brisk pace-of-play, frequent inquiries about a pitcher’s “official count” are discouraged. A pitcher’s own manager has the ultimate responsibility for knowing when his or her pitcher must be removed to meet the mandated rest requirements. The umpires shall not keep pitch counts.

The manager should inform the umpire-in-chief when his or her pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted above. The failure by the official pitch counter to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his or her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.

The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a preparatory (warm-up) pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation. Any such violations will be reported to the League Coordinator by the Official Scorekeeper. Repeated violations will be addressed by the Coordinator and WYBL Board and may include a manager’s suspension from coaching a team’s next game.

GameChanger will record the official scorekeeper’s pitch counts, which are presumptively correct. Managers shall submit any rare corrections to the League Coordinator within 24 hours.

Games that are suspended, makeup games, and any innings played “unofficially,” that is, when the outcome is mathematically out of reach—see below—count toward pitch count totals. These rules apply with equal force to WYBL playoff games.

### **Substitutions**

Free defensive substitutions with the exception of pitchers. Each player must play six defensive outs in the first four innings of the game. Teams will “bat the bench.”

### **Protests**

There are no protests under any circumstances. If there is a concern, please contact the league coordinator.

### **Mercy Rule**

The game will end if a team is down by twelve or more runs after batting in the fourth inning; ten or more runs after batting in the fifth inning; or eight or more runs after batting in the sixth inning.

## **Coaches**

No one except eligible players in uniform, the manager, and not more than two coaches shall occupy the bench or dugout.

## **Courtesy Runners**

A courtesy runner for the catcher may be used when the incoming catcher of record is on base with Two Outs. The courtesy runner shall be the player that recorded the last out. In addition, a substitute runner may be used for an injured player that has to be removed from the lineup for the remainder of the game. The substitute runner shall be the player that recorded the last out prior to the runner becoming injured.

## **Intentional Walks**

An intentional base on balls may be given by the defensive team by having its catcher or coach request the umpire to award the batter first base. This may be done before pitching to the batter or on any ball and strike count. The umpire-in-chief shall declare the ball dead before making the award. The spirit of this rule seeks to limit pitch counts—not to encourage intentional walks. On the contrary, WYBL seeks to limit intentional walks to broadly accepted baseball situations. Coaches who have questions about this language should speak with their League Coordinator.

## **Playoffs—Timing and Tie-Breakers**

In the event the regular season cannot be completed due to weather, the playoffs will be played as scheduled. Playoffs are tentatively scheduled for the week immediately following the last scheduled regular season game (based on the original schedule and typically the last week of school). The following tie-breakers will be used for seeding if there is a tie in the regular season standings: 1. Head to Head 2. Fewest average runs per game allowed for the entire regular season for seeding. 3. Coin flip.

## **Eight-Player Minimum; Penalty for Eight Players**

A team may start a game with a minimum of 8 players. An out will be recorded each time the ninth position in the batting order is “up.” A team that cannot field 8 players at the start of a game—or that falls below 8 players during it—forfeits. A ten minute grace period will be permitted at the start of the game.

## **Ejections**

If a player, coach, fan, or parent is ejected from a game, he or she will not be allowed to participate in the team’s following game. The person who is ejected may not view the current game AND the next game from any closer to the field than the paved parking lot.

Umpires file a report on any ejection with the league’s umpire coordinator who, in turn, notifies the junior league coordinator and the president of the league.

## **Equipment**

Metal spikes are allowed. Bats do not have a barrel size or weight-to-length limitation but must comply with Babe Ruth Rulebook. Catchers must wear protective cups and warm-up catchers both on the field and in the bullpen—to include coaches—must wear a mask. On deck batters must wear a helmet.