

# COYBL



## 2019 Central Ohio Youth Baseball League rules



COYBL's Official and Exclusive Uniform and Fan Gear Provider

# 2019 COYBL RULES

**\*\*Note:** The following rules are for COYBL play only (including division and non-division games). Any non tournament game that you may have with another team from the COYBL, please default to these rules.

**\*\*Nations Baseball tournaments will use the Nations National rules and many of the COYBL rules do not apply.**

**\*\*COYBL – Any rules that are not specifically addressed in this book should default to the Ohio High School rules that are published by the National Federation of State High School Associations. A high school rule book can be purchased by calling 614-267-2502.**

**Doug Hare - COYBL Founder & League President**

**P.O. Box 1425**

**Pataskala, Ohio 43062**

**614-778-1391**

**Email: [doughare@coybl.org](mailto:doughare@coybl.org)**

**[www.coybl.org](http://www.coybl.org)**

**\*\*Please make your age group director the first point of contact with any discrepancy, complaint or inquiry.**

## COYBL Age Group Directors

**7U Director - [doughare@coybl.org](mailto:doughare@coybl.org) 614-778-1391**

**8U Director - [pete.tarnapoll@gmail.com](mailto:pete.tarnapoll@gmail.com) – 614-563-1905**

**9U Director – Doug Hare – [doughare@coybl.org](mailto:doughare@coybl.org) 614-778-1391**

**10U League Director – Doug White – [GBC2513@gmail.com](mailto:GBC2513@gmail.com) – 614-537-6623**

**11U Director - Pete Tarnapoll – [pete.tarnapoll@gmail.com](mailto:pete.tarnapoll@gmail.com) – 614-563-1905**

**12U Coach Pitch League Director – Brad Elgin – [belgin858@gmail.com](mailto:belgin858@gmail.com) – 614-537-0956**

**13U League Director – Mark Dountz – [mdountz@gmail.com](mailto:mdountz@gmail.com) – 614-989-3874**

**14U League Director – Nate Whisner – [natewhisner@gmail.com](mailto:natewhisner@gmail.com) – 740-258-0550**

**15/16U League Director – Doug Hare – [doughare@coybl.org](mailto:doughare@coybl.org) – 614-778-1391**

**\*\*\*\*\* COYBL HAS A ZERO TOLERANCE – NO ALCOHOL POLICY \*\*\*\*\*  
ALCOHOL IS NOT PERMITTED AT ANY COYBL EVENTS (INCLUDING PRACTICES, GAMES,  
TEAM FUNCTIONS, ETC.) ANY VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY WILL RESULT IN AN  
IMMEDIATE BAN FROM COYBL.**

## General Notes and Updates:

- The USSSA bat rule is in effect for COYBL play for age's 7u-14u. 15 and up must use BBCOR bats. We will also allow the new USA Approved Bats for league play.
- It is mandatory to post your roster online at [www.nations-baseball.com](http://www.nations-baseball.com)
  - Please contact Nate Whisner: [nate.whisner@nations-baseball.com](mailto:nate.whisner@nations-baseball.com) for assistance with any Nations Baseball questions or inquiries.
- **By Ohio Law, all coaches and anyone working with kids must take and pass the "Return to Play – Concussion online program every three years. The site to do that is: <http://www.healthy.ohio.gov/en/vipp/child/returntoplay/Coaches-and-Referees>.**
- **In 2018, a new state law was enacted that all coaches and parents must read the information about Lindsay's Law and also take the online test, sign and send the form to the league office that the training was completed**
- **In 2019, all coaches must take the Safe Sport Act Training as well. This is a Federal Law and is not optional.**
- **EVERYTHING YOU AND THE PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ON THESE LAWS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR PLAYER SAFETY PAGE ON THE COYBL SITE.**

## SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT

**All head coaches are responsible for the actions of all coaches, players and parents of their team.**

- All players, coaches, parents and fans are expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.
- Any player, coach, parent or fan, whose conduct is unbecoming or abusive will, at minimum be warned and may be removed from the playing field and/or complex at the discretion of the umpires.
- Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated at any time.
- Cursing or throwing of equipment will be an automatic ejection.
- If a coach or team will not restrain and control its players, coaches, parents and fans, the players, coaches or team involved may be banned from league play for the season and possibly for the following year if deemed severe.
- **Taunting of any kind against the other team will not be tolerated. Players and or coaches that take part in this will be removed from the game and park by the umpires immediately and will also serve another game suspension or if severe, may be banned from league play for a time to be determined by the league.**

Participation in competitive events can often lead to regretful behavior, so it is essential that we all must exercise restraint and remember to be good examples and role models for the kids and the game of baseball. Coaches should keep a copy of this rulebook and the OHSAA rulebook with them at all games.

**Thank you for playing in the COYBL League. We hope you, your team and your fans have an enjoyable season.**

***(Please note that it is strongly recommended that coaches report violations of these rules to your age group director.***

## **LEAGUE STANDINGS AND REPORTING OF SCORES**

- **FINAL SCORES AND PITCHING STATS OF ALL COYBL GAMES ARE TO BE POSTED TO THE WEBSITE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE COMPLETION OF THE GAME. ANY VIOLATION OF THIS WILL RESULT IN A FORFEIT.**

- Standings are determined by wins and losses as well as winning percentage within your own division. **DO NOT POST ANY TIES**
  - Division champions will be determined using this method.
  - Games that are played outside of the division will not be considered when determining division standings. These games can still be kept in the overall win and loss column however.
- Any ties in the divisional standings on the final day will be decided tie breakers in the COYBL rule book unless both teams can agree on a one game playoff.

There will be no Co-Champions. If there is a tie, the champions will be decided by the following tie breakers (among all teams/games played in their division) in descending order:

- It is strongly recommended to check the league web site frequently for updates.

### **2019 League ending date for division games:**

July 1st, 2019 for ages 7u to 12u  
July 31<sup>st</sup> for ages 13U and older

\*Note:

Please remember it is league policy that divisional games take priority over non-divisional games.

**Division games must be made up on the first open date each team has or first date of a non-division game. You must work together to get these done.**

**When scheduling division games, you must take into consideration when the other team will end their season.**

# IMPORTANT SAFETY ISSUE:

## LIGHTNING AND INCLEMENT WEATHER

**Recognition** - Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials shall be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightning flashes is approximately two to three miles, ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

**Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity

**National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings. A watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers shall be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

### Management

- **Evacuation** – If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.
- **Thirty-minute rule** – Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes. **Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.**

***Safety of the players, coaches, parents and spectators are of the utmost importance and there is absolutely no leeway in these rules. No deviations from this rule are permitted and violations will result in suspension from COYBL for the remainder of the year.***

# **TEAM ELIGIBILITY**

**Section 1** – The league fee includes your Registration fees for Nations Baseball and USSSA Baseball.

**Section 2** – Teams must have a liability insurance policy in place for their team before playing any games under COYBL. If you registered under Option 1 – you are insured under the Nations Baseball policy. For this policy to be in full force, your roster must be added to the Nations Baseball web site for the players to be insured.  
If you opted for Option 2 you will need to name COYBL and Nations Baseball on your policy as additional insured. You will need to send me a copy of your policy naming COYBL on it and you will need to upload a copy to the Nations Baseball site as well. It will be reviewed for coverages before approval.

**Section 3** - A team cannot be made up of more than 22 roster players.

**Section 4** – Team rosters must be online at [www.nations-baseball.com](http://www.nations-baseball.com) and at [www.coybl.org](http://www.coybl.org) before you play your first game

- All rosters are available for everyone to see online.
  - Specific rules will be further addressed in the “Individual Player Eligibility” section.
  - If you do not place your players on the Nations Baseball Roster, you are subject to forfeiture of games and your team insurance is void and your players will not be covered.

**Section 5** - All teams must submit the above before they will be permitted to start league play. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of any games played. (Please refer to forfeiture policy on pg. 4)

**Section 6** – For tournament Play, teams may be reclassified at any time during the season by the Nations Ohio Director or the USSSA Ohio Director, based on strength of team or any other pertinent information. Note: This will not affect any standings or divisional decisions that have already been made in the COYBL.

**Section 7** - Use of an illegal player or a non-roster player will result in forfeiture of any games in which the player participated. At ANYTIME during the season, if a league director discovers that an illegal player was used, he can apply a forfeit to the team using the illegal player. (Please refer to forfeiture policy on pg. 4)

**Section 8** - Coaches must have a copy of their team roster and birth certificates with them at all times. If you cannot provide your roster and birth certificates when requested, you will forfeit the game. If the birth certificate is posted online at [www.nations-baseball.com](http://www.nations-baseball.com), then this rule is waived.

# **INDIVIDUAL PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

**Section 1** – Players may not play for multiple COYBL Teams at the same age level with the exception of an organization that has multiple teams in the same age group, for example, an A Team, a B Team and C Team, etc...

In these cases, the organizations that have multiple teams may be permitted to pull players from A, B or C teams to fill a roster spot on in the case of not having enough players to play the scheduled games(s). The spirit of this rule is not to have wholesale changes on the roster to have significant advantages, its intended to have enough players to play the scheduled game(s).

Examples: A Team can pull from B or C Teams, B Team can pull from A or C Teams and C Team can pull from A or B Teams.

**Section 2:** Any player can play "UP" in an older age group for COYBL Play.

**Section 3** – If a player plays for two COYBL teams (must be two different age groups), that player may only pitch for one COYBL team per year and the league office must be aware of the team he will pitch for. He must also be on BOTH COYBL rosters

- Note: This cannot be changed during the current season of play.

**Section 4** – If a player is on two COYBL rosters, he must also be on both Teams Nations Baseball rosters to be insured properly when playing for each team. Please note, adding a player to your Nations roster could adversely affect your classification. Any questions about that will need to go to the Nations Baseball Office.

**Section 5:** You can add players at any point in the season. It is a long season and injuries and other factors can affect a team's roster. COYBL discourages picking up players from Tournament only teams.

## **Section 6:**

- If a player leaves a team for any reason during the current season, he must receive a letter of release from the original team that is to be signed from the head coach and the parent of the player and this is to be mailed to the age group director.
- The original team must also officially drop the player from their roster on the Nations Baseball website before any team is eligible to pick that player up.
- If a player is released from a team, he may not return to that team for the remainder of the current season.
- If a player leaves a team by their choice for any reason, all fees due to the team must be paid in full before the player can play for another COYBL team. No Exceptions.
  - *A player in the 7U to 12U age groups must be dropped by 5/31/2019 to be picked up by another team for the 2019 season.*
  - *A Player in the 13U to 19U age groups must be dropped by 6/30/2019 to be picked up by another team for the 2019 season.*

### **\*\*\*\*\* AGE ELIGIBILITY CHART \*\*\*\*\***

<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>CUTOFF</b>
8 & under	Ninth Birthday
9 & under	Tenth Birthday
10 & under	Eleventh Birthday



11 & under	Twelfth Birthday
12 & under	Thirteenth Birthday
13 & under	Fourteenth Birthday
14 & under	Fifteenth Birthday

**NOTE: ANY PLAYER DROPPED AFTER THE DATE GIVEN FOR THEIR AGE GROUP IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY COYBL GAME FOR THE CURRENT SEASON**

**AGES 14 & Under:**

- The player's age on April 30th determines the player's eligible age division for the current season, this includes April 30th. For example: *My child is 10 on April 30<sup>th</sup>, he is eligible for play in the 10 & under division.*
- *Players can play up an age division but can never play down.*

**High School Divisions 15u – 16u:**

- Participation is based on age and high school grade.
  - Note: Age is always first.
    - 15u is 15u (See below for the Grade Exception Rule.)
- All high school divisions have a Grade Exception Rule based on ONE age up.
  - For example: *My 16-year old freshman can play in the 15U - freshman age division.*

**High School Division Age Eligibility Chart**

**15U – HS Freshman/Sixteenth Birthday**  
**16U – HS Sophomore/Seventeenth Birthday**

**GAME RULES**

**Section 1 – Umpires:**

- **Both Teams MUST record the names of the Umpire(s) and their OHSAA number prior to the game starting. Failure to do so will result in the game being declared invalid and must be replayed.**
- All divisional games for 7u – 10u must have at least one certified COYBL approved umpire. It is highly recommended that age 10U has two umpires for Divisional Games.
- **In 2020, we will require two umpires for all division games – ages 9U and up.**
- All divisional games for 11u – 16u must have two certified COYBL approved umpires.
  - NOTE: For age's 11u-16u, if both teams agree to play with one umpire prior to the game then no complaints or inquiries can be made to any league directors. If there is not a pre-game agreement, then the outcome of the game will not be recorded in league standings.
  - NOTE: All fees for umpires are set based on the agreement from the paying team(s) and the umpire, the COYBL does not make those arrangements. Also, for non-division games if you are not going to follow division rules, please give the opposing team the courtesy of making them aware of the game arrangements as early as possible.
  - NOTE: If you are playing a divisional double header, the umpire fees are to be split by both teams. All non-division double headers, the umpire fees are to be determined by the participating teams.
  -



- **Section 2 – Divisional Standings:**

- Divisional standings will include the wins and losses of the two games you play against each of your divisional opponents.
- **Any divisional game that is tied must be finished.**
  - **Ties will not be included in the final divisional standings.**

**Section 3 – Rainouts and Cancellations:**

- Rainouts or other cancellations must be made up in good faith for divisional play.
  - Note: Divisional play takes priority of non-divisional play, so any rainout or cancellation in division play must be made up before non-division games.
  - Each game is important for the division standings.
- **Division games must be made up on the first open date each team has or first date of a non-division game.**
- Official league ending date is July 1 for ages to 12U and July 31 for ages 13U and up. Please know that not all teams will play that late into the summer.
- When scheduling division games, you must take into consideration when the other team will end their season.
- If you are planning on playing in the COYBL League tournament, you must register on the COYBL site prior to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.
- To Qualify for the league tournament, ages 7U to 12U must have played all divisions games by June 21<sup>st</sup> and place in the top four of your division. If one or more of the top four choose not to play, the spot(s) will be offered to the next place team.
- To Qualify for the league tournament, ages 13U and Up must have played all divisions games by July 19<sup>th</sup> and place in the top four of your division. If one or more of the top four choose not to play, the spot(s) will be offered to the next place team.

**Section 4 – The Temperature must be 40 degrees Fahrenheit to play any COYBL Games.**

**Section 5 – Pregame Agreements:**

- Any pregame agreements regarding time limits must be agreed upon by both head coaches and in witness of the umpire in charge. Once agreed upon, no exceptions can be made.
  - NOTE: Some parks have specific restrictions that need to be discussed during pregame conferences.

**Section 6 – Regulation Game Lengths:**

- Ages 8u – 12u are to play 6 inning regulation games.
- Ages 13u – 18u are to play 7 inning regulation games.
  - NOTE: All division game double headers are to be played according to regulation length. All non-division double headers can be adjusted if a pregame agreement is made between both head coaches and in witness of the umpire in charge.

### **Section 7 - Run Rules (Mercy Rules)**

- Ages 8u-12u: 10 runs after 4 innings (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead)
- Ages 13u-18u: 10 runs after 5 innings (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead)

### **Section 8 – Official Games due to Weather or Darkness (7 inning games)**

- If weather or darkness interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire, it is a regulation game if:
  - 5 full innings have been played, or if the home team has the lead after the visiting team has recorded 3 offensive outs in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.
    - NOTE: If the game is tied when the umpire decides to end the game after 5 full innings or if the visiting team has recorded 3 offensive outs in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, then the game is to be resumed as it stands with all offensive and defensive stats kept and recorded.
      - This is specifically mandatory for division games, this is not mandatory for non-division games. (An agreement between head coaches can be made in a safe place after the game has ended as to whether or not and how the game will be finished for non-division games.)
  - If play has gone beyond 5 full innings:
    - Go back to the last complete inning of play after the 5<sup>th</sup> full inning for official record of game.
  - If play has stopped before 5 full innings:
    - An agreement must be made by the two head coaches in witness of the umpire in charge to resume the game with offensive and defensive stats kept and recorded or to start game over from beginning.
      - If an agreement cannot be reached, then the game is to be resumed from where it was stopped.
        - NOTE: Please refer to Pitching Rule #13 for pitcher eligibility for a resumed game. (Page 12)

### **Section 9 – Official Games due to Weather or Darkness (6 inning games)**

- If weather or darkness interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire, it is a regulation game if:
  - 4 full innings have been played, or if the home team has the lead after the visiting team has recorded 3 offensive outs in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning.
    - NOTE: If the game is tied when the umpire decides to end the game after 4 full innings or if the visiting team has recorded 3 offensive outs in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, then the game is to be resumed as it stands with all offensive and defensive stats kept and recorded.
      - This is specifically mandatory for division games, this is not mandatory for non-division games. (An agreement between head coaches can be made in a safe place after the game has ended as to whether or not and how the game will be finished for non-division games.)
  - If play has gone beyond 4 full innings:
    - Go back to the last complete inning of play after the 4<sup>th</sup> full inning for official record of game.
  - If play has stopped before 4 full innings:

- An agreement must be made by the two head coaches in witness of the umpire in charge to resume the game with offensive and defensive stats kept and recorded or to start game over from beginning.
  - If an agreement cannot be reached, then the game is to be resumed from where it was stopped.
    - NOTE: Please refer to Pitching Rule #13 for pitcher eligibility for a resumed game. (Page 12)

**Section 10** – EH (Extra Hitter) and DH is allowed for all ages for league play. You cannot use both in the same game

**Section 12** – Metal spikes are permitted for ages 13u and up. No metal spikes for ages 7u-12u.

**Section 13** – Slug Bunting is **not permitted** in ages 14U and below

- A Slug bunt is squaring to bunt and then pulling the bat back and swinging away. This puts players in danger and will not be permitted.
- NOTE: Tournament rules differ from COYBL rules please be sure to know specific tournament rules.

**Section 14** - You may start a game with 8 players, but you must take an out for the spot in the batting order. The 9<sup>th</sup> player may enter the lineup at any time during the game as long as the players name is entered on the lineup card prior to the game. You may finish with 8 players with the understanding that the vacated spot in the lineup will be an out each time it comes up in the batting order.

**Section 15** – There will be no tobacco use in or around the dugout area or on the field of play at any time. Violation of this rule could result in suspension of the violating coach or player.

**Section 16** – Courtesy runner for pitcher and catcher only with 2 outs – runners cannot currently be in the game lineup. If roster batting, the courtesy runner must be the person that made the last out.

- Note: It is not mandatory to utilize the courtesy runner.

**Section 17** – Taunting of any kind against the other team will not be tolerated. Coaches, players, parents or fans that take part in this will be removed from the game and park by the umpires immediately.

- Note: Each incident will be handled individually by the league office

**Section 18 – Roster Batting:**

- Roster batting is permitted from age's 7u-16u, but it is not mandatory.
- If a team chooses to roster bat then each player can switch defensive positions freely. (Pitching rules still apply)
- If a player is injured or sick and cannot continue in the game while roster batting that spot in the lineup will **not** be considered an out.
- If a player is ejected when roster batting, the vacated spot in the lineup will be considered an out.
  - If a player arrives late, he/she can be entered at the end of the lineup

## COYBL Bat Rules

See last two pages of the rule book for bat rules for league play

# Pitching rules

## Pitch Count Limit Rule for The Central Ohio Youth Baseball League

COYBL has decided to continue with a pitch count/limit rule for this upcoming season. COYBL has developed as precise a program as realistically possible to ensure the long-term safety of our players.

We are asking coaches to forward this information to their team's parents so they can also be aware of the dangers of over-pitching young players. Because we have no ability or authority to police activities outside the regular COYBL season, our goal is to educate coaches, parents, and players so pitchers will remain safe from arm injury through-out their entire career.

### Procedure: (Please use the Pitch Count Tracker Sheet provided by COYBL)

Because the purpose of a pitch count limit rule is to protect young pitchers and prevent coaches from practicing a win at any cost mentality; the following procedures have been adopted by COYBL. It is vital that coaches follow these procedures precisely and with the player's safety in mind. This rule is for COYBL league play only.

\*\*\* The Pitch tracker is an electronic tool that works on a mathematical formula. As with any technology, glitches can happen. \*\*\*

\*\*\* TO PROTECT THE PLAYERS, THE PITCH COUNT CHARTS THAT SHOW WHEN A PLAYER CAN PITCH AGAIN BASED ON THE PITCHES THROWN WILL ALWAYS SUPERSEDE THE WEB SITE PITCH TRACKER. \*\*

1. Prior to the start of each game, communicate with the opposing team as to who is eligible to pitch and how many pitches each pitcher has available to throw. This information should be written on the line-up card and exchanged before the game starts. **Once each line-up card and the eligible pitchers for that game are viewed and acknowledged by each coach no other pitchers may pitch for either team, regardless of whether mistakes were made and subsequently caught, there is conflicting information online, etc. Inaccurate or false information given to an opposing coach or the use of a pitcher not on the acknowledged line-up cards (an ineligible pitcher) can lead to disciplinary actions by COYBL and/or forfeiture of the game in question.**

2. Each pitch thrown in the game counts towards the pitch count total. Warm-up pitches and a throw over to a base do not count toward the pitch count total. *A guide to as if a pitch should count toward the pitch count total is if an umpire makes a call on the pitch then it should count toward the total of pitches thrown{ball, strike, foul ball, fair ball, ball four, hit batter, foul tip, etc.}.*

3. Per Nations Baseball rule IX, section C, #14, an intentional walk is granted upon request. Since a pitch is not thrown, although a ball is called by the umpire, the 4 balls called by the umpire during the intentional walk do not count toward the pitch count total.

4. Pitch count totals will be tallied on the official COYBL pitch count log form. It is suggested the count be maintained by an assistant coach, the score keeper, or a parent. *The log forms can be downloaded and printed from the COYBL web site.*

*There is room for information to be documented on each sheet for ten pitchers. There is a black line dividing the sheet into two halves. The top half of the form for one team and the bottom half for the other team. If needed more than one form can be used per game.*

5. Pitch count totals will be compared and verified accurate after each completed inning. The home team will be responsible for keeping the official count. If a difference in the pitch count total is recognized, try to resolve the difference in a civil non-confrontational manner. If an inconsistency of pitch counting is repeated inning after inning or a person becomes confrontational, the home plate umpire will be notified along with the league director. A protest can be filed following COYBL league Protest Procedures found in our rule book.

The league director will monitor teams who are consistently reported for having disputed pitch count totals during a game or have a pattern of being confrontational. The league director can institute a ruling and assess a penalty, if the director feels a pattern of confrontational behavior or disputed counts are in bad faith and are an attempt to cheat the pitch count limit rule.

6. As a pitcher approaches his maximum daily pitch count limit, insure the opposing team and home plate umpire are made aware of the fact. When the maximum daily pitch count limit is reached, announce that the limit has been reached. At that time the pitcher will be removed from the game. *Coaches are encouraged to know when a pitcher is close to reaching his maximum daily pitch count limit so another pitcher can be properly warmed-up.*

EXCEPTION RULE: If a pitcher reaches his maximum daily pitch count limit while actively pitching to a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch to that batter until any one of the following conditions occurs: a.) The batter reaches base, b.) The batter is put out, c.) The third out is made to complete the half-inning. *This exception will cause the pitcher to exceed the pitch count limit by most likely a few pitches. This exception will most likely be the norm rather than an exception.*

7. A pitcher may be removed from a game at any time prior to reaching his maximum daily pitch count limit. The pitcher's total pitch count for that game will then be used to determine his pitching eligibility for the coming days. *If a coach wants to limit a pitcher's total pitch count so that the pitcher can be used in future games, the situation may arise when a pitcher needs to be removed from a game while actively facing a batter and not finishing that at bat.*

8. Pitchers, of all ages 9U to 14U, may only pitch two consecutive days. To be eligible to pitch a second consecutive day, the pitcher is limited to 25 or fewer pitches the first day. The following day that same pitcher has a maximum daily pitch count limit 40 pitches for U9 to U12 and 45 pitches for U13 and u14. In all cases, a pitcher who throws two consecutive days must rest two days before his next appearance. *EXCEPTION RULE: The exception rule in #6 applies to the second consecutive day's maximum daily pitch count limit of 40 pitches for U9 to U12 and 45 pitches for U13 and u14.*

9. At the conclusion of every game, teams are to compare and verify the accuracy of the pitch count totals for each pitcher. A coach from each team will sign both teams' pitch count limit log sheet confirming the accuracy of the totals. It is the responsibility of each team to immediately report the pitch count totals for their team's pitchers to the COYBL web site. Failure to post the pitch count totals within 24 hours of the game's completion will result in disciplinary actions by COYBL as described in the penalties section of this rule.

10. It is the responsibility of both teams to verify the accuracy of the score and the pitch count totals entered by the opposing team and report any discrepancies to the league director.

11. Once a player is removed from the mound he may not return to the pitcher position in that game

12. A pitcher may pitch in more than one game in a day as long as the maximum daily pitch count limit is not exceeded. If pitching in both games of a double header, the pitch count total from the first will be added to the pitches thrown in the second game to total the daily pitch count.

13. Pitches delivered in a game declared a "Suspended Game" shall be charged against the pitcher's eligibility. The pitch count of the suspended game must be reported to the COYBL website as described in # 9. No matter the day the suspended game is resumed, the pitch count/limit chart shall be followed to

determine a pitcher's eligibility. If the pitcher that was pitching when a game was declared a suspended game is now ineligible to pitch due to the pitch count limit rule, a different pitcher will need to be inserted to finish the suspended game.

14. The maximum number of pitches in one day with complete rest is as follows:  
 Ages 9&10: 75    Ages 11&12: 85    Ages 13&14: 95    Ages 15&16: 125 Pitches

Use the Pitch Count Guidelines sheet for other limitations and rest time for pitchers.

**\* Research has shown that a player which has been removed from the pitcher position should not play the catcher position in the same day. This is only a recommendation and not a COYBL rule**

**PENALTY FOR PITCHING RULES VIOLATION:**

**Using an Ineligible Pitcher Penalty:**

Head coaches are ultimately responsible for accurate reporting of eligible pitchers during the exchange of line-up cards prior to each game.

If a pitcher that is not eligible to pitch does so, after the exchange of line-up cards, the game is subject to forfeit upon proper filing of a protest (procedures for doing so can be found in this Rule Book, Pg #16) by the opposing coach.

**Exceeding the Pitch Limit** Penalty Progression Scale:

Head coaches are ultimately responsible for accurate and timely reporting of their team's pitch count totals to COYBL as described in the procedure section.

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** If a head coach is found to have exceeded a pitcher's limit through late or inaccurate reporting, he will be notified that the actions have been recorded by the league and a warning will be given. The game in question will be declared a forfeit.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:** If a head coach is found to have exceeded a pitcher's limit through late or inaccurate reporting for a second time, the team will forfeit their two most recent wins. If a team does not have two wins at the time of the infraction, the team will forfeit their wins as they occur to total two games.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:** If a head coach is found to have exceeded a pitcher's limit through late or inaccurate reporting for a third time, the team will forfeit two games in the manner described above and the team will not be eligible to win their division or league, plus the head coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season and could be banned from league play.

**Playing field:** These are the recommended playing dimensions.

Bases and Pitching must adhere to this chart, but the outfield dimensions can vary.

RECOMMENDED PLAYING FIELD DIMENSIONS		
DIVISION	BASES	PITCHING
U8 COACH PITCH	60	40.4"
9 & UNDER	65	46
10 & UNDER	65	46
11 & UNDER	70	50
12 & UNDER	70	50
13 & UNDER	80	54
14 & UNDER	90	60-6
15 & UNDER	90	60-6
16 & UNDER	90	60-6
17 & UNDER	90	60-6
18 & UNDER	90	60-6



## **UMPIRES**

COYBL requires that **ONLY** OHSAA licensed umpires be used for any and all COYBL Games so that our games are played in accordance to those rules and for the safety of the players of COYBL.

**Use of Non-OHSAA Licensed umpires will result in forfeiture of any and all games and a ban from COYBL for that year**

**Judgment calls of Umpires are not eligible for protest.**  
**Only rule interpretations, age and pitching violations can be under protest**

## **PROTESTS**

Protests must be given to the Umpire in charge before the game is completed. The protesting team must get the Umpire's name and phone number and be submitted along with your protest to the league office. Protests must be made to the league office by email within 24 hours.

A \$100.00 protest fee must be submitted with a written protest within 72 hours to the league office to make the protest official. The \$100.00 protest fee is refunded if the protest is allowed.

## **COYBL FULL DISCLOSURE POLICY**

All complaints against a coach or team must be sent to the league office and your age group league director and you must copy the coach of the team you are complaining about. If this step is not followed, your complaint will not be addressed until you comply.

We will compile a list of teams / coaches and umpires that receive complaints and if it is deemed excessive or the issue(s) are severe, you could be banned from play for the next year or longer.

## **COACHES OR PLAYER EJECTIONS**

\*Coaches ejected from a game must sit out that game and the next game as well.

Players ejected from a game will sit out the remainder of that game only.

\*Coach and Player ejection must be reported to the league office by the head coach within 24 hours.

\*A two week suspension will be levied if the ejection is not reported per above.

If the ejection is deemed to be severe in nature, further suspensions from the League could result.

\*If the person ejected does not leave the field and park area as soon as they are ejected and makes a bigger scene, it will be escalated to a 2 week suspension

\* If there is any physical contact, ie. Chest bump or push, it will be a 30 day suspension

\* If there are any punches thrown, it will be a lifetime ban from the league.



\* These rules pertain to parents, Umpires, Coaches and other spectators at the game

### **TIE BREAKERS**

If there is a tie with 3 or more teams, once a tie is broken with those teams, teams advance to the next tie breaker rule until the tie is broken.

Tie breakers

1. Win-Loss Record (In Division only)
2. Head to Head (only if two teams are tied)
3. Fewest Runs Allowed (In division only)
4. Highest Total Run Differential (In division only)

Head to head is considered only when two teams are tied.

For three or more teams, head to head is skipped in favor of the next tie breakers, in order as above until the tie is broken.

The maximum run differential per game is +8 or -8.

Total run differential is the sum of each game's differential.

## **NATIONAL SANCTIONING BODIES FOR COYBL**

### **NATIONS BASEBALL OHIO CONTACTS:**

**Nate Whisner** – Central Ohio Director

158 Maple Lane  
Newark, Ohio 43055  
Phone: 740-258-0550  
[nate.whisner@nations-baseball.com](mailto:nate.whisner@nations-baseball.com)

**Michelle Dowers:** - Ohio State Director

Phone 513-678-0747  
[Michelle.dowers@nations-baseball.com](mailto:Michelle.dowers@nations-baseball.com)

### **USSSA OHIO BASEBALL Contacts:**

Dennis Dick  
**(513) 275-1211** Cell  
[Dennis.dick@usssa.com](mailto:Dennis.dick@usssa.com)

## 2019 COYBL Bat Rules

**In 2019, COYBL will allow bats approved and stamped by USSSA and also the new USA approved bats for league play.**

**It is in your best interest to ask tournament hosts what bat rules will they follow.**

- **Bats** - The Official Bat shall be round in cross section of the barrel and taper, straight in length and measure not more than 34 inches long, including tape or other grip additions to the bat, shall have a knob at the end of its handle, and not more than 2- 1/4 inches in diameter for small barrel bats and not more than 2 and 3/4 inches for big barrel bats at its largest part. Its weight shall not exceed 31- ounces, including tape or grip addition to the bat. The bat shall have a grip of tape or some other material to facilitate holding the bat during the batter's swing (not mandatory on wooden bats). All key graphics, including USSSA and BPF markings, must be permanent and cannot be applied as decals or by any other method that would allow the key graphics to be easily removed or added to the bat.
- Material.** THE BAT may be made of hard wood of one piece, or laminated from sections of hard wood bonded together with adhesive in such a way that the grain directions of all the pieces are essentially parallel to the length of the bat. THE BAT may also be made of aluminum or other metals, fiberglass, graphite or composite materials.
- Construction.** The bat may be made in pieces from different materials but must have a closed barrel end, a taper, a handle and a taper. The bat may be modular with interchangeable parts, subject to additional safety and tampering requirements as set forth in the standard USSSA Bat Licensing Agreement. The knob portion must be welded or mechanically attached to the bat.
- **Big Barrel Bats (Diameter greater than 2¼” but not more than 2¾”)**
- EFFECTIVE January 1, 2014 14 U AND YOUNGER BIG BARREL BAT RULES. TO BE LEGAL IN 2014 FOR COYBL
- 14U AND BELOW, A BIG BARREL BAT (no more than 2¾ inches diameter and no more than 34 inches in length) MUST HAVE THE NEW USSSA MARK ON ITS TAPER, OR (“USSSA marks and other graphics of the bat must be applied permanently and must be applied by the manufacturer. No stickers or decals are allowed and no one may add graphics to a bat once manufactured. Use of a bat with graphics not applied by the manufacturer will be use of an altered bat and

subject to suspension under the USSSA Altered Bat rules. In addition to being violation of the USSSA Altered Bat rules, any use, creation or application of a USSSA mark without written permission of USSSA is a violation of Federal Trademark law and may result in prosecution by USSSA. If you have any concern about the person selling or providing you a bat, do not accept the bat, because you will be held responsible for any bat you bring into or use in a COYBL game.”)

- BE A QUALIFIED BBCOR BAT, OR
- BE A WOOD BAT.
- "Qualified BBCOR Bat" means a Big Barrel bat that has a BBCOR mark permanently attached to the bat that is recognized by NHSF as a legal bat for NHSF sanctioned play and has no more than a minus 3 ounces difference from the length of the bat which bat must be at least 29 inches long. Please note that only Qualified BBCOR bats have any weight v. length (drop) limitation.

- **15U and Above Division of Play (15U – 18U scholastic divisions)**

- All bats for scholastic divisions 15U – 18U must conform to the NFHS (National Federation of High School Association) bat limitations including a length to weight ratio no greater than negative three (-3) ounces. These bats :
  - Must be NHSF approved with the appropriate BBCOR certification mark, OR
  - Be a Wood Bat.
  - The new USSSA mark can be found in the Baseball Tab of the USSSA Website.
- Small Barrel Bats (Diameter no more than 2¼”)

**SMALL BARREL BATS**

- Only those Small Barrel bats approved USSSA and USA :
- Wood, OR
- Made with the New USSSA mark or USA mark will be allowed in COYBL play.

There is a list of approved and banned bats on the Rules page on our website.