



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF ROCKFORD**

2025 Code of Rules & Policies

I Rules

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3. Control of Team, Free Agency, Releases, Player Trades
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II Policies

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Mission Statement of the BNBA

The Boys & Girls Club of Rockford Baseball League (Heretofore referred to as BNBA) is designed to provide the Rockford community with the best baseball organization possible; to instruct our participants not only to learn the game of baseball, but also to guide them into becoming fine young adults and good citizens as well as to enforce the importance of good sportsmanship, teamwork, and respect for authority.

Purpose, Applicability, Interpretation of These Rules

These rules have been adopted for the purpose of defining and regulating the proper organization of teams, play, conduct, and discipline of all participants in the BNBA. Unless otherwise expressly modified herein, these rules apply to all divisions and participants within the League. In the interpretation and enforcement of these rules, all participants are requested and required to give due regard to the age, level of understanding, experience, and requirements of safety of all players in the League as well as to the purpose of the League in affording an enjoyable education and rewarding experience for the participating players, their families, adults, team members, and team sponsors.

<p><u>Baseball Divisions</u></p> <p>Carew— Ages 4, 5 & 6 Jr. RBI —Ages 7 & 8 RBI —Ages 9 & 10 Reese – Ages 11 & 12 Koufax – Ages 13 & 14</p>	<p><u>Baseball Sites</u></p> <p>Boys & Girls Club Baseball Complex - 925 Lawn Drive Loves Park, IL 61111 815/637-4329 baseball@rockfordboysandgirlsclub.org</p> <p>Hugo Borgnis Baseball Park - 1000 Mill Road in Rockford, IL 61108</p>
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I Rules

- 1.01 The League and the Boys & Girls Club of Rockford hold the right to change and/or amend these rules at any time as well as to make exceptions to them when it is in the best interest of the League.
- 1.02 The League and the Boys & Girls Club of Rockford will interpret, make judgments and rule upon any disputes or situations that may arise, that are not covered within the BNBA Code of Rules and Policies in which this decision will be final.
- 1.03 **Rules governing the BNBA have been developed and revised and will take precedence over the following sets of rules when disputes arise in the following order.**
- A. **BNBA Code of Rules and Policies**
 - B. **Official Rules of Major League Baseball**
The current year Official Rules of Major League Baseball will govern any interpretations or disputes that arise from the playing fields. However, they are only valid if the following BNBA Code of Rules and Policies does not cover the question in dispute. BNBA Code of Rules and Policies will take precedence.
 - C. **Rules for the Carew Division and Jr. RBI Divisions will be in addition to the above rules**

2.00 TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES AND ELIGIBILITY

- 2.01 **Paperwork, Documentation and Player Registration**
- A. **All coaches must submit the following written information and verifying documentation to the League Director:**
 - a. Coaches Background Check Form
 - b. Players are required to register and pay online at rgreatfutures.org.
- 2.02 **Age Groups**
- A. All players must participate in the League that their date of birth (age) designates them to play in. Alternatively, a player may play “up” one level in order to keep an established team together.
- 2.03 **League Age Groups:**
- A. **Carew Division**
 - a. 4 years old (players who will be 4 years old by April 30)
 - b. 5 years old (players who will be 5 years old by April 30)
 - c. 6 years old (players who will be 6 years old by April 30)
 - B. **Jr. RBI Division**
 - a. 7 years old (players who will be 7 years old by April 30)
 - b. 8 years old (players who will be 8 years old by April 30)
 - C. **RBI Division**
 - a. 9 years old (players who will be 9 years old by April 30)
 - b. 10 years old (players who will be 10 years old by April 30)
 - D. **Reese Division:**
 - a. 11 years old (players who will be 11 years old by April 30)
 - b. 12 years old (players who will be 12 years old by April 30)
 - E. **Koufax Division**
 - a. 13 years old (players who will be 13 years old by April 30)
 - b. 14 years old (players who will be 14 years old by April 30)

2.04 **Dugout Coaching and Number of Coaches on the Field**

- A. Only coaches and scorekeepers that have submitted a background check are allowed in the dugout or on the field during a game.
- B. No manager or coach may participate (in any capacity) from outside the playing field, dugout, or bench.
- C. Any Manager or Coach engaging in managing or coaching activities from outside the playing field in any League Game shall be subject to ejection from the game.

2.05 **Players Playing with More Than One Team**

- A. No player while on a BNBA team is permitted to play with ANY other baseball league.
 - a. **Penalty - The team that the player is on will forfeit all of the games that that player played in.**
 - b. Exception - Only players in the Sandy Koufax division and who are sophomores in High School may participate on a team other than a BNBA team or high school summer team while under contract to a team in his League.
- B. Players, **with the permission of their manager**, may play with other BNBA teams on *weekends* in tournaments.

2.06 **Roster Size**

In the event a team loses one or more players during the season it may add players to its roster as needed to replace the player/s with the consent of the League. The new player must have registered online at RGREATFTURES.ORG and paid their fees.

2.07 **Player Fees**

- A. Rod Carew Division: (ages 4, 5 & 6) individual player fee = \$80.00.
- B. Jr. RBI Division: (ages 7 & 8) individual player fee = \$90.00.
- C. RBI, Reese, and Koufax Divisions: (ages 9 – 14) individual player fee = \$140.00.

3.00 SPORTSMANSHIP, BEHAVIOR and DISCIPLINING OF PARTICIPANTS

3.01 **General Rules of Conduct and Behavior**

- A. Every spectator, player, batboy, manager, coach, scorekeeper, and umpire shall always observe and exhibit fair, honest, and sportsmanlike behavior before, during and after every game.
- B. No team participant or umpire shall engage in any conduct that is unsportsmanlike, detrimental to the continuance of regular play of the game or that is in violation of any of the following rules.
- C. Indecent or obscene language is prohibited at any time while in, on or about any League facility.

3.02 **Alcohol & Tobacco Prohibited**

- A. No spectator, manager, coach, or umpire is permitted to consume or exhibit any behavior of being under the influence of alcoholic beverages or any other controlled substance in any manner while in, on or about any Boys & Girls Club of Rockford facility.
- B. Smoking or **any other form of tobacco** use is prohibited on any Boys & Girls Club of Rockford facility. Any use of tobacco must be done outside the confines of the entire facility.

3.03 **Dismissal of Managers and Coaches**

- A. The League holds the right to ban any spectator, manager, coach, scorekeeper, or player at any time from participation in the League or even entering a Boys & Girls Club of Rockford Facility upon intentional or willful violation of any rule of conduct or behavior.

3.04 **Ejection from a Game**

- A. Any umpire while umpiring a League game may eject and disqualify (**in the exercise of sound discretion**) from further participation any spectator, player, batboy, manager, coach, or scorekeeper in a game about to

- commence or already being played who is engaging in any behavior that is unsportsmanlike or detrimental to the continuance of play or that is in violation of any rule governing conduct or behavior.
- B. Umpires will have the option of ejecting coaches from the game or restricting the coach to the dugout.
 - C. Any BNBA Official also holds the right to eject any spectator, player, batboy, manager, coach, or scorekeeper at any time.
 - D. The manager of the team **will** be ejected along with the spectator/s.
 - E. Any spectator, manager, coach, or scorekeeper that is ejected from a game must leave the entire confines of the baseball field immediately upon ejection and may not participate in the game or with any team in any way until the game is over.
 - a. A **Player** that is ejected may remain in the stands as a spectator as long as the player is quiet.
 - b. If a spectator refuses to leave after being ejected from a game, any umpire or League official has the right to end the game making the team that the offender is representing forfeit the game.
 - c. Any spectator that refuses to leave after being ejected is subject to arrest and criminal charges may be pressed against that spectator.
 - F. Any spectator, manager, coach, or player ejected from a game shall be disqualified from further participation in that game **and** in the **next League game to be played (scheduled or rescheduled)**.
 - a. In the event of a second ejection from a scheduled or rescheduled game in the season, the ejected individual shall be disqualified from participation in that game and the next two League games scheduled for his/her team.
 - b. In the event of a **third** ejection in the season, the ejected individual shall be banned from further participation in the League and will not be permitted to enter any BNBA facility.
 - c. Any manager, coach or player may be present as a **spectator outside of the playing field** at the next game(s) being served by the ejection if the manager, coach, or player is not coaching or interfering with the game in any manner.
 - d. There is **no appeal** to anyone being ejected.

3.05 **Replacing an Ejected Player**

The ejected player's batting spot will be eliminated, and the order simply moves up. There is no automatic out.

3.06 **Documenting the Ejection**

- A. The umpire executing the ejection of any team member from a League game shall report to the League the name of any individual ejected and the reasons for the ejection to the League within twenty-four hours of any ejection.

II Policies

4.00 SAFETY RULES AND REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

4.01 Flagrant Contact (Slide and Tag Rule)

- A. Any runner is out when the runner does not slide legally.
 - a. On a “force play,” a legal slide shall be a slide in which the runner can touch the bag from the runner’s sliding position.
 - b. Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a runner shall be deemed to have made an illegal slide if the runner contacts or attempts to contact the fielder:
 - i. Above the fielder’s knee with the runner’s spikes
 - ii. By either “rolling” or “leg whipping” the fielder
 - iii. In a manner that the umpire deems to be unsafe and not a legitimate baseball play
- a. Any runner is out when the runner does not attempt to avoid contact with a fielder who has possession of the ball and is attempting to make a tag.
- b. For Subsection 2, a fielder who is in the process of eminently receiving a ball shall be considered a fielder in “possession” of the ball.
- c. Penalty for one & two. The ball is dead, and no runners shall advance beyond the last base attained prior to the illegal slide or contact. If the slide or collision is flagrant, the runner shall be ejected from the game.

4.02 Helmets

- A. It is mandatory that players must wear NOCSAE approved protective headgear with double flaps while batting, running, on deck, on base or is protecting the pitcher in the bullpen.

4.03 On-Deck Batter Position

- A. A player awaiting a turn at bat must position himself in the on-deck circle or area designated by the umpire which shall be located to the rear of the player batting
 - a. The umpire shall ensure that all bats and other equipment are kept in a safe location at all times and that all base paths and other playing areas are kept free of debris and equipment that might impede or injure any player.

4.04 Catcher’s Equipment

- A. All players in the position of catcher while playing in the field shall wear:
 - a. NOCSAE approved protective headgear (hardhat) and a throat protector.
 - b. shin guards
 - c. chest protector
 - d. catcher’s protective cup

4.05 Warming up a Pitcher

- A. Any player assisting in readying a pitcher to enter a game must wear:
 - a. NOCSAE approved protective headgear (catcher’s helmet) and a throat protector.
- A. If the pitcher and catcher are warming up in the foul area of the playing field, a player or coach must be stationed with a fielding glove to function as a protective “spotter” for them.
 - a. If the “spotter” is a player, the player must wear a batting helmet for protection.

- B. **Between Innings** – All teams are responsible for providing a catcher to quickly warm up the pitcher between innings.
- C. The umpire has the right to make the pitcher forfeit the five warm up pitches and the catcher's throw down to second base if the catcher takes too long to get ready or if no one warms up the pitcher for the catcher.

4.06 **Metal Spikes**

- A. Metal Spikes are permitted only for players in the Koufax Division (13 & 14 years old)

4.07 **Bat Restrictions**

A. **14-Year-Old Players**

Wood or non-wood BBCOR bats may be used by 14-year-olds. The bat may not exceed minus three (-3) in differential between length and weight and must not be larger than 2 5/8 inches in diameter.

B. **9 to 13-Year-Old Players**

Wood or non-wood bats may be used and must not be larger in diameter than 2 5/8 inches. There is no restriction regarding the differential between length and weight.

All non-wood bats must have the certification and stamp of USA Baseball. An altered or tampered bat will be subject to 6.03 (4) of Official MLB Baseball Rules. Exception – If a bat is determined by the umpire to be merely dented or damaged, it shall be removed, and a team warning issued. Each subsequent offense will result in the batter being called out. If the batter has reached base on a base hit and runners have advanced because of the hit, all runners shall return to their base occupied at the time of the pitch and the batter will be called out. The appeal must be made before the next pitch.

5.00 GAME AND FIELD RULES

5.01 **Home Team in Third Base Dugout**

- A. The team indicated on the division schedule, as “home team” shall occupy the third base dugout and the visiting team shall occupy the first base dugout.

5.02 **Time Limit**

- A. All League games for RBI, Reese, and Koufax shall have a one hour and forty-five-minute DROP DEAD time limit.
- B. All 5:30 PM games shall start promptly at 5:30 PM. Game time for the 5:30 PM game shall never be later than 5:30 PM (**although it may start earlier**). It is the manager's responsibility to be prompt and ready for pre-game infield and have their line-ups ready for the scorekeeper on time to ensure the game begins at 5:30 PM.
- C. However, game time shall **NOT** be sacrificed if it is the umpire's fault by being late.

5.03 **Pre-Game Infield Practice**

- A. Each team gets five minutes of fielding practice on the playing field before the start of every game.
- B. The official scorekeeper/announcer shall make an announcement and advise the opposing managers of the time that their respective practices shall begin.
- C. The visiting team goes first. The home team goes second unless it is agreed to by both managers that the home team goes first. This is only in the case that the visiting team is not ready, and the visiting team manager has agreed to let the home team go first.
 - a. Any team failing to be present for the beginning of its allotted practice time will forfeit its fielding practice.
- D. The team not taking their pre-game infield has the right to stay in the outfield (on their side of the outfield) and continue to warm up and conduct drills as long as they do not interfere with the other team.
 - a. However, be polite and move your team out of the way if the team wants to hit balls to the outfielders.

5.04 Game Baseballs

- A. The League shall supply baseballs for all games.
- B. Home team is responsible for chasing the foul balls – send players not in the game or spectators.

5.05 Site Rules

A. Sportsmanship and Conduct

- a. Good sportsmanship is enforced.
- b. Trash talking, taunting, gloating after a win is not permitted.
- c. Shake hands after a win or loss.
- d. Foul language will not be tolerated.
- e. Keep all arguments away from children, players, diamonds, and games.
- f. Managers are responsible for their fans' behavior. If fans get out of control:
 - i. The manager of the team will be ejected along with the spectator/s.
 - ii. Your team can forfeit the game and/or your place in the League.
- g. Anyone ejected from any game for any reason (whether it be a spectator, manager, coach, or scorekeeper) must leave the entire facility during the game.
- h. Managers, coaches, and scorekeeper who are ejected will not be allowed to participate in the next game.
- i. Umpires along with Site Directors have the right to eject any spectator, manager, coach, scorekeeper, or player at any time.

B. Site and Field Rules

- a. Spectator admission fee will be \$1.00 per day for everyone eighteen (18) and over.
 - i. Children seventeen (17) years of age and under are admitted free.
- b. There is a lack of throwing room.
 - i. Do not allow players or children to play catch or throw any balls of any kind anywhere inside of our facilities. We are trying to avoid injuries.
 - ii. As soon as the previous game is over, while the other two (2) teams are still shaking hands, run to the outfield to get arms loose and long toss done.
- c. No hitting balls of any kind into any fencing at any time— including any kind of wiffleball.
- d. No practicing on any fields until right before your scheduled game time.
- e. Take your equipment down the foul line and stay away from the dugout while waiting for the first team to clean up the dugout and exit the dugout.
- f. Clean your dugout of any trash after every game.
- g. Dogs or pets of any kind are NOT allowed inside baseball park facilities. (Assistance Animal/Guide Dogs ARE permitted).
- h. No rollerblades, scooters, or bikes inside baseball park facilities.
- i. No noisemakers.
- j. No smoking inside ballpark facilities.
- k. People must go outside of the front gate to smoke.
- l. Park at your own risk.
 - i. Park away from potential foul balls.
 - ii. We are **NOT** responsible for damage to cars.
- m. Parking is scarce so you may have to park down a street or two.
- n. Stay away from no-parking zones – posted by signs or yellow paint - Police will issue tickets for cars that are parked in any “No Parking Zone.”

6.00 LINE UPS AND RULES GOVERNING PLAY

6.01 Scorekeeper/Announcer

- A. Every game **MUST** have an official score sheet and pitching record sheet completed accurately.
- B. If a scorekeeper/announcer is not available for a game both teams **must** have their team scorekeepers

completely fill out a game summary form and pitching records to turn into the office after the game.

- a. If no scorekeeper/announcer is available, it would be appreciated if one or more of the team scorekeepers would work together to keep the official score sheet fairly and accurately and fill out the pitching record sheet.

6.02 Line Ups at Game Time

- A. The manager or scorekeeper of each team must present their team's official batting line up sheet to the Official Scorekeeper/Announcer and the opposing team manager or scorekeeper **not less than twenty minutes before the scheduled starting time of the game.**
- B. The official batting line up sheet:
 - a. Should Include first and last names
 - b. Include uniform numbers
 - c. Be in proper order
- B. At the time when the plate umpire announces, "Play!" to start the game each opposing team must have nine players from their official season roster. If nine such players are not present, the game may begin with eight players. There is not an out recorded if there are just eight players.
- C. There should be no forfeits. If a team does not have enough players, the opposing team should lend them players to play in the field.
- D. No player can play in any League game that is not on the team's official roster.
- E. Any defensive player (**other than pitcher**) may assume a different defensive position during any defensive half-inning and then resume his original position at any time during that half-inning or thereafter.

6.03 All Players Must Bat

Starting line-ups will consist of **all** your players who are present (example: If thirteen players show up, then thirteen players must bat straight through).

6.04 Substituting Players

In all Divisions free substitution is permitted for all positions except for pitchers.

6.05 Courtesy Runner

- A. A courtesy runner may be used for a team's pitcher and/or catcher **ONLY**.
- B. A courtesy runner is **NOT** mandatory.
- C. The courtesy runner must be the last batter that was out.

6.06 Speed up Rules

Each team is allowed only one time-out (requested by its manager **or** one of his coaches) during each half inning (Examples: talking over signs, making defensive position changes, etc.).

- a. This rule does not apply when a player is injured or suspected of being injured. A coach or an umpire should call time out at any time a player is suspected of being injured.
- b. This rule does not apply when a player needs time-out to catch their breath or adjust their uniform.

6.07 RBI Division - Six (6) Run Rule

- A. If six runs are scored in a half inning in any RBI Division game that half inning shall be deemed completed.
- B. If a team scores more than six runs before the umpire calls time out on the last play of the inning, only the sixth run counts.

6.08 RBI Rule Exceptions

- A. **Scoring from third:** Runners occupying third base cannot advance to home plate on a wild pitch, passed ball or dropped third strike; nor can the runner steal home. The only way to score is to be batted in or played upon.

- a. For clarification, once a runner or batter/runner stops their advancement at third base, the play is over. If a runner or batter/runner continues their advancement without stopping or slowing, then they may score legally.
 - b. No coach or player may provoke a runner on third to leave their base. Umpires have the right to make the runner at third base go back to third if, in the umpire’s judgment, the umpire believes that the coach or runner provoked this play intentionally. A pitcher throwing to third to base to retire the runner shall not be considered a provocation.
- B. **Dropped third Strike** - The batter-runner may not advance to first base on a dropped third strike, wild pitch, or passed ball. The batter is simply out. However, runners may advance to second and third at their own risk.

7.00 Pitching

7.01 Pitch Count Limits and Required Rest

Age	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	0 Days Rest	1 Days Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	4 Days Rest
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+

7.02 Trips to the Mound

- A. Each team is allowed one trip to the mound per inning. Once any coach makes a trip to the mound for a second time in the same inning than the pitcher must be removed from the mound.

7.03 Pitchers: Warm Up Pitches

- A. Before the start of each half inning, the pitcher will be allowed five warm up pitches.
- B. After the start of a half inning and a relief pitcher enters, that relief pitcher will be allowed eight warm up pitches.
- C. If a pitcher is injured, and the injury results in removal from the game, the replacement pitcher will be allowed any amount of warm-up pitches.

7.04 General Pitching

- A. Pitchers may **not** wear white or light-colored sleeves while pitching.
- B. **Intentional walks:** ask the home-plate umpire to send the batter to first base.

8.00 UMPIRES, CONTROL AND PROTESTS

8.01 Control of the Game

- A. Every game played shall be under the supervision of one umpire. The umpire shall have the authority to commence, temporarily suspend, postpone, or end the game under the umpire’s supervision due to factors such as poor sportsmanship, harsh weather, etc.
- B. League and Site Directors also have the authority to commence, temporarily suspend, postpone, or end the game under the umpire’s supervision due to factors such as poor sportsmanship, harsh weather, etc.

8.02 Protests

Protests are not permitted.

9.00 **FORFEITS**

9.01 **Forfeits**

Any team forfeiting two games in a season is subject to being barred from further participation in the League for the remainder of that season as well as the following year.