



# 2020 COYBL 7U & 8U League Rules

(06-04-20)

- COYBL Specific Rules
- National Federation of High School (NFHS) Rules (when a rule is not addressed specifically within the Age Level and COYBL Specific rules, COYBL defers to NFHS rules).

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## COYBL Specific Rules

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### 1. Game Time Temperature

- The temperature must be at least 40 degrees Fahrenheit at the start of the game (first pitch) and must remain at least at that temperature throughout the entirety of the game.

### 2. Game Length

- Regulation games are 6 full innings unless the home team is winning after 5½ innings, at which point the game is officially over.
  - 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 and how the game will be finished for non-division games.)
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### 3. Pre-Game 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.

### 4. Run or Mercy Rules

- 15 runs after 4 innings (3 ½ *innings* if the home team is ahead)

### 5. Playing Rules

- There are 10 players on defense. One player plays the pitching position; one player plays the catching position. Four players play the outfield positions.
- There is a pitching plate 40-foot from the tip of home plate from which the coach must pitch.
- The pitcher must be within 2 feet of either side of the pitcher's plate and cannot be in front of the pitcher's plate prior to the pitch being made. Make a 4-foot diameter circle from the middle of the rubber and the pitcher must have at least one foot inside the circle and must remain behind the pitching rubber until the pitch is thrown.
- Each batter is allowed six pitches or three strikes. If a batter hits a foul ball on the sixth pitch, he or she is allowed to continue batting until he or she either does not make contact with the ball or puts the ball in play.
- In innings 1-5 there will be a 7-run limit and may score an unlimited amount of runs in the 6th inning.



## 2020 COYBL 7U & 8U League Rules

(06-04-20)

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### Playing Rules - continued

- A fair-batted ball hitting a coach pitcher is declared no pitch / do over if the umpire rules that the coach pitcher's contact with the ball was unintentional. If, in the umpire's judgment, a coach pitcher intentionally contacts a batted ball, the batter is out, and no runner can advance.
- Umpires call time after every play and declare the ball dead. Time should be called as soon as all three of the following occur:
  - The lead runner stops attempting to advance.
  - The ball is in the possession of a fielder in the infield.
  - No defensive play is imminent.
  - Time does not have to be called by the defense for the purpose of this rule.
- The game is to be played in a manner that is realistic and baseball like. These players are 7& 8 years old, and it does them no good to have the game played like a track meet. Try to play as realistic as possible. It does everyone no good to just run all over the place.
- All teams must roster bat for all games.
- Teams can use either nine or 10 defensive players. One player must be a pitcher, and one player must be a catcher.
- Teams must have a minimum of eight players to start and finish a game but must take an out for the ninth player. When a team in a game has a number less than eight, the game is declared a suspended game and is not rescheduled. The suspended game is then ruled a forfeit by the league director. Umpires have no authority to forfeit a game.
- Because teams are roster batting, there is free substitution on defense. The batting order must remain the same.
- If a player arrives late, he/she can be entered at the end of the lineup if their name appears on the lineup card prior to the start of the game.
- If a player is ejected when roster batting, the vacated spot in the lineup will be considered an out
- If a player bunts or takes a half-swing, it is a foul ball.
- The catcher must be in the catcher's box.
- No bases awarded for batter hit by pitcher
- No Infield fly rule
- No base stealing
- No bunting
- No intentional walks
- Runners cannot leave their bases until the pitched ball crosses the front edge of home plate. A runner who leaves early is declared out, and the pitch is declared a no pitch.
- Courtesy runners must be the last batted out and can be for the catcher of the previous inning only.
- Barrel of the bat cannot be any larger than 2 3/4".
- Each team will play everyone within their division twice (2). You may play teams from the other division as non-league games. These non-league games will not count in the division standings.



## 2020 COYBL 7U & 8U League Rules

(06-04-20)

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### 6. Official Games Due to Weather or Darkness

- 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 and how the game will be finished for non-division games.)
- If play has gone beyond 4 full innings:
  - The final score of the game reverts to the score after the last completed full inning of play after the 4<sup>th</sup> full inning for the games.
- 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 Rules for pitcher eligibility for a resumed game.

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### 7. Courtesy Runners

- Courtesy runners must be the last batted out and can be for the catcher of the previous inning only.
- Note: It is not mandatory to utilize courtesy runners.

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### 8. Footwear

- Rubber spikes are recommended. Metal spikes are prohibited.

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### 9. Bats

- COYBL will allow bats that are approved according to the Nations Baseball bat rule, USSSA bat rule, as well as the USA baseball bat rule for 2020 and 2021 league play.

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### 10. Slug Bunting

- Slug Bunting is **not permitted** (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 for player safety purposes with younger players).

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### 11. Tobacco or Vaper Usage

- 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.



## 2020 COYBL 7U & 8U League Rules

(06-04-20)

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### 12. Taunting & Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- Taunting or unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind against the other team will not be tolerated. Coaches, players, parents or fans that take part in this type of behavior will be removed immediately from the game and park by the umpires immediately. Note: Each incident will subsequently be handled individually by the COYBL league office.

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### 13. Umpires:

- Under no circumstance is a relative of a player to officiate a COYBL game. The penalty for will be forfeiture of the game by the offending team.
- All Umpires must be licensed and in good standing with OHSAA. They must also register (Free) on the COYBL website. There is a link on the home page for them.
- Use of Non-OHSAA Licensed umpires will result in forfeiture of any and all games and a ban from COYBL for that year.
- 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 – 8U must have at least one certified COYBL approved umpire.
- Fees for umpires are set based on the agreement from the paying team(s) and the umpire, the COYBL does not make those arrangements. However, as a guideline, an average fee for two umpires in Central Ohio for a 6-inning game is \$50/each. Umpires officiating a game by themselves (single umpire) should be paid more than the two-umpire rate.
- If you are playing a divisional double header, the umpire fees are to be split by both teams. For non-division double headers, the umpire fees are to be determined by the participating teams.

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### 14. Team Eligibility:

- The league fee includes your National Registration fees for all Sanctioning bodies that the COYBL is affiliated with.
- Team rosters must be online at [www.nations-baseball.com](http://www.nations-baseball.com) before your 1<sup>st</sup> game.
- 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.
- 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.
- Coaches must always have a copy of their players birth certificates with them. If you cannot provide your 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.



## 2020 COYBL 7U & 8U League Rules

(06-04-20)

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### 15. Player Eligibility:

- 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 may not play for multiple COYBL teams at the same age level except for an organization that has multiple teams in the same age group, for example: An A Team, a B Team and C Team.
  - 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 a team with a player from another team in that organization, so it has enough players to play the scheduled game(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.
- Any player can play "UP" in an older age group for COYBL Play.
- If a player plays for two COYBL teams (must be two different age groups, unless the above applies), that player may only pitch for their primary team. A fill-in player may not pitch for the team using him to fill a roster spot. Any player playing on more than one team must also be on BOTH COYBL ROSTERS and BOTH NATIONS ROSTERS to be eligible to play and to be insured. Note: once a player is added to a roster, she/he cannot be changed during the current season of play. Rosters are time stamped when additions are made. 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.
- You can add non-COYBL players at any point in the season.
- Leaving teams:
  - If a player leaves a team for any reason during the current season, he must receive a letter of release from the original team, signed by 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 9U to 12U age groups must be dropped by 5/31/2020 to be picked up by another team for the 2020 season. 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



## 2020 COYBL 7U & 8U League Rules

(06-04-20)

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### 16. Division Standings:

- Divisional standings will include the wins and losses of the two games played 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.**
- Any ties in the divisional standings on the final day will be decided by a one game playoff.
- Rainouts or other cancellations must be made up in good faith for divisional play.
  - Note: Divisional play takes priority over 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.
- 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.
- When scheduling division games, you must take into consideration when the other team will end their season.

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### 17. League ending date:

- Official league ending date is July 1, 2020 for ages to 7U & 8U.

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### **National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Rules**

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#### **Default Rule**

- When a rule is not addressed specifically within the COYBL Specific Rules, COYBL defers to the Ohio high school rules published by the NFHS. An NFHS rule book can be purchased by calling 614-267-2502.
  - **Judgment calls of Umpires are not eligible for protest.**
  - **Only rule interpretations, age and pitching violations can be under protest**



## 2020 COYBL 7U & 8U League Rules

(06-04-20)

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### 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-game 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, i.e. Chest bump or push – Suspension for the year or more
- \* 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



## 2020 COYBL 7U & 8U League Rules

(06-04-20)

### 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***





## 2020 COYBL 7U & 8U League Rules

(06-04-20)

### 7U, & 8U COACH PITCH FIELD:

There is a 30-foot safety arc from the back tip of home plate and from the first-base line to the third-base line.

Fielders must stay beyond the arc until the ball is hit.

There is a pitching plate 40 feet from the tip of home plate from which the coach must pitch.

There is a circle drawn with a 10' diameter with the pitching rubber in the middle. This is a safety area for the player in the pitching position. The defensive player listed as the pitcher cannot leave the pitching circle until the ball is hit. If the pitcher leaves the circle early, the play continues.

After the play has ended, the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or accepting a no-pitch and ruling of the play as over.

If this occurs a second time by the same pitcher, that player is removed from the pitching position for the remainder of that inning.

If it occurs any time after that by the same player, then he or she is removed from the pitching mound the remainder of the game.