

**Three Rivers Youth Baseball & Softball  
2025 Cal Ripken- Minors Division  
Local League Rules**

**ALL GAMES MUST START WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Game Preparation / Take Down**

- The Designated Home Team is responsible for preparing the field for the game.
  - Chalk lines, place bases, etc...
  - Most important for **FIRST** game of that particular day
- The Designated Visiting Team is responsible for field clean up.
  - Wet down and Rake the plate and mound areas, remove bases & install plug
  - Most important following **LAST** game of the day

**Pre-Game Warm-Up & Field Use**

- Teams can warm up off the field until the previous game is completed.

**Playing Time / Substitutions**

- All players must play a minimum of 2 innings in the field.
- All players on the roster will bat in the rotation for the entire game.
  - Position in batting order does not change when field substitution are made
- Any starting player may be removed from the game and return as long as he is in the same spot in the batting order.
- A substitute player who has been removed is NOT permitted to return.
  - Unless all available players have played, and an injury necessitates reentry
- There is no penalty for illegal entry of a player other than they must be immediately removed from the game.

**Base Running**

- Players are not allowed to leave a base until a pitch has crossed home plate.
- A base runner who intentionally (maliciously) runs into a defensive player will be **called out and ejected** from the game. Defensive player must allow a clear path to the base/plate
- There will be NO running on a 3rd strike. 3rd strike = out, even if the catcher drops the ball.
- Base runners are not allowed to advance once the pitcher has secured the ball **and has returned to the mound.**
- Cal Ripken Minors Rules allow for head first sliding into any base (not encouraged but is allowed)

**Pitching**

- Pitchers League Age 10 and younger cannot exceed 75 pitches in a day (game)
- Pitch Count and Required Days of Rest...
  - 66+ pitches = 2 full days of rest (Saturday - Rest Sun/Mon - Pitch Tuesday)
  - 41-65 pitches = 1 full day of rest
  - 0-40 pitches = Can pitch the next day
- A pitcher may start at pitcher, move to another position, then return to pitcher in the same game.
  - As long as he isn't removed during a "2nd trip" to the mound by the coach.
- A 2nd trip to the mound during the same inning means the pitcher must be removed as pitcher for the remainder of the game.

### Equipment Requirements:

- USA Bat Marking and Bat Barrel Maximum of 2 5/8"
- Helmets are required for all batters, base runners, and players "on deck"
  - Bat boys / girls must wear a helmet at all times.
- Cleats MAY NOT have metal spikes
- Jewelry is permitted - Umpires have the authority to request removal.

### Game Length

- A 5-run rule per inning is in effect. After 5 runs are scored by a team, swap the field and carry out completion of inning or start next.
- Games are 6 innings long or...
- 10 Run rule can take effect after 3 1/2 (or 4 innings) if either team has a 10+ run lead
- Official start time must be recorded in the scorebook.
- If any inning concludes past the 1:45 time limit the game is over.
  - Do not start the next inning
- If the game has reached 3 1/2 innings and 1:45 minutes and home team is winning, the game is over. Home team does not need to bat.
- If the game reaches the 1:45 mark but the home team is trailing and has yet to bat, they are permitted to finish the inning
- Games with 4:30 start time- Until May 1st Game length will be reduced to 1:30. Do not start new inning after 1 hour 30 minutes. Official Start time for early games will be 4:30 pm regardless of whether or not the game starts on time. If game has not ended at 1 hour 45 minute mark the game is over and the official score will revert back to the score at the end of the previous inning.

### Playoff / Tournament Specific Rules & Adjustments.

1. All players must play a minimum of 2 consecutive innings AND have one official at bat.
2. Any starting player may be removed from the game and return as long as he is in the same spot in the batting order.
3. Coaches have the option to bat 9 rather than the whole line up.
  - a. A team may still opt to bat the entire line-up if they want.
  - b. Players must still play 2 consecutive innings in the field.
4. 8 Run limit in an inning if there is the allotted time for a longer game.
5. 10 Run rule in effect after 4 innings
6. No advancement to 1<sup>st</sup> on a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.
7. The ball is dead once the pitcher has secured the ball and has returned to the mound
8. No playoff game will end in a Tie. Extra innings will be played until a winner is decided.

\*\*\* Teams need to be mindful of other teams waiting for access to the field and dugout. Please clear the dugout and field immediately following handshakes. Post games meeting need to be done outside the playing fields if there are other teams waiting for the fields\*\*\*

- The home team is required to provide the official scorebook.
- Both teams are required to track their own player pitch count.
- In an effort to speed the games along we are permitting / encouraging coaches to warm pitchers up between innings. We are also allowing for "batters on deck" with the on-deck batter to be behind the current batter. Please help with having the "in the hole batter" to retrieve bats during games.