



# **2020 COYBL 9U MODIFIED Division League Rules**

(12-03-19)

- 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. Purpose**

- To not use the baseball rules that might overtly impact games because 9-year-old baseball players may not be developed enough to play by those rules.
  - These rules are intended to allow coaches to coach and players are forced to play defense and make defensive plays. Double plays are still in order. Outfielders and infielders learn relay situations. Pitchers get an opportunity to focus on pitching and the games will be more competitive. Players will stay involved in the game both on defense and offense. Game times will be cut down because there are more opportunities for outs.
  - We realize that you will have to play by the other “traditional” rules in tournaments, but we feel it is more important to play the game and learn the game at this age than it is to win tournaments. Let the kids determine the outcome of games not the coaches.

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### **2. Game Time Temperature**

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

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### **3. Game Length**

Regulation games are 6 full innings unless the home team is winning after 5 ½ innings, at which point the game is officially over.

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### **4. 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.

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### **5. Run or Mercy Rules**

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

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### **6. Playing Rules**

- Dropped third strike is a live ball. A catcher must make a throw to 1<sup>st</sup> base or tag the runner to record an out on a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike. If there is a runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> base, he cannot advance home, even on an errant throw. The batter however can advance to 2b on an errant throw, if 2b is unoccupied at the time of the play.
- Runners are permitted to lead off all bases.



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- Pick off from pitchers are permitted. If a pitcher attempts a pick off to any base including 3b then it is a live play and the offense can advance if it is a failed attempt. Examples: (a) If a pitcher attempts a pick off to 3b and throws the ball away, the runner on 3b can advance home (b) If a pitcher executes a pick off to 3b with a runner on 3b and 2b, and the runner on 3b gets in a run down and gets tagged out, the runner on 2b may advance to 3b. Pick offs are live plays no matter how many outs there are.
- Runners will only be allowed to steal one base after the defense has recorded one out in an inning. A runner can only attempt to steal one base in an inning. A runner may advance one base on an errant throw from a catcher to 2<sup>nd</sup> base, assuming 3<sup>rd</sup> base is not occupied at the time of the play, but if there is a runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> base at the time of the play he may not advance.
- Runners on 3<sup>rd</sup> base must be batted in, with zero or one out. You may not bunt to score the runner from 3<sup>rd</sup> base. With two outs, runners on 3<sup>rd</sup> base may steal home or advance on a passed ball or wild pitch, even if the runner has previously stolen a base.
- Runners may advance one base on an errant pickoff attempt from a pitcher to 1<sup>st</sup> base or 2<sup>nd</sup> base (as long as 3<sup>rd</sup> base is not occupied at the time of the play), but not 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
- Runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base may advance on a wild pitch or passed ball once there is 1 out. With 1 out, the runners can advance one base, whether it is a steal, passed ball, or wild pitch.
- Runners can advance on a pitcher's overthrow to any base as that's a baseball play.
- Bunting is permitted.

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### 7. Run or Mercy Rules

- 10 runs after 4 innings (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead).

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### 8. Number of Players

- You may start a game with 8 players, but you must take an out for the ninth spot in the batting order. A 9<sup>th</sup> player may enter the lineup at any time during the game as long as the player's 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.
- If, at any time during the game, your line-up is reduced to 7 players or less, the game will be ruled a forfeit.

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### 9. 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



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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 back to the score after the last completed full inning of play after the 4<sup>th</sup> full inning for the game's.
- 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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### **10. Designated Hitter (DH) & Extra Hitter(s) (EH)**

- DH (Designated Hitter) and EH (Extra Hitter) are allowed for for league play. You cannot use both in the same game.
- The DH is a hitter who does not play a position, but instead fills in the batting order for any position player.
- An unlimited number of extra hitters will be allowed, up to and including batting the entire roster (roster batting). A team using the EH is required to let the opposing manager and the home plate umpire aware prior to the start of the game. This must be addressed when covering fields and grounds rules. Both teams must exchange line-up cards with the opposing team.
  - A team using EHs must maintain the same number of batting positions used in their initial line-up for the entire game.
  - If a team is unable to maintain the batting line-up due to player injury or illness, the injured or ill player is removed from the batting order with no penalty. If a player is ejected when an EH, the vacated spot in the lineup will be considered an out.
  - This rule is in effect even if the team drops below 9 players. If a player leaves the game for any other reason, then the missing batter will be considered out.
  - Any EHs, while not in a defensive position, will be treated as such for substitution purposes.
  - If a player arrives late, he/she can be entered at the end of the lineup

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### **11. Courtesy Runners**

- Courtesy runner for pitcher and catcher with 2 outs are allowed to help speed up the game. Courtesy 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 courtesy runners.

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### **12. Footwear**

- Rubber spikes are recommended. Metal spikes are prohibited.



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### 13. 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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### 14. Slug Bunting

- 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 for player safety purposes with younger players).

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### 15. 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.

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### 16. 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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### 17. 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.
- 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 9u – 10u must have at least one certified COYBL approved umpire, however, is highly recommended that age 9U and 10U have two umpires for Divisional Games.
- All divisional games for 11u – 16u must have two certified COYBL approved umpires.
  - For age's 11u-13u, 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.
- 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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### **18. Team Eligibility:**

- 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 by your first COYBL game 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 the league office 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.
- A team cannot be made up of more than 22 roster players.
- 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. 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 for prior or current games to the team using the illegal player.
- 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.

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### **19. 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.



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- 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.

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### 20. 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.**
- 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.

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### 21. League ending date:

- Official league ending date is June 27, 2020 for ages to 9U-12U.

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### 22. League Tournament

- If you are planning on playing in the COYBL League Tournament, you must register for it on the COYBL site prior to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
    - To qualify for the league tournament must have played all divisions games by June 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(s).
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### **National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Rules**

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#### **23. 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**

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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



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### 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.***