

2009 CATONSVILLE YOUTH LEAGUE BASEBALL PURPOSE AND BY-LAWS

NOTE: Each team should carry a copy of these rules to every game, and should refer to the Age Group Specific Rules when the ground-rules are discussed between coaches and the umpire prior to the game.

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PURPOSE

The stated purpose of the Catonsville Youth League Baseball program (CYL) is to implant in the youth of this community the ideals of good sportsmanship, courage, obedience, loyalty, truth and reverence, so they may be finer, stronger, and happier young people. For CYL to attain these goals, league officials, managers, coaches and parents must assume the following responsibilities:

1. Inspire in the players a love for the game and a desire to win.
2. Teach them that it is better to lose fairly than to win unfairly, and to stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.
3. Lead players and spectators to respect the integrity and judgment of officials by setting a good example.
4. Eliminate all possibilities, which tend to destroy the best values of the game.
5. Show courtesy to opposing teams.
6. Achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.
7. Encourage leadership, use of initiative, and good judgment by the players and the team.
8. Recognize the objectives of the game are to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well being of the youth of Catonsville.
9. Remember that an athletic contest is only a game, not a matter of life or death for the players, parents, officials, fans, state or nation!

ADMINISTRATION

CYL is a volunteer organization whose program is registered with the Catonsville Parks and Recreation Council-PROGRAM # 270. The CYL is managed by a central core of five (5) officers. Additionally each age group has a Division Director as well as Managers and Coaches for each team.

1. Selection of officers - Each officer position is subject to an election yearly, either because someone wants to challenge the sitting member or one of the officers' wishes to resign.
2. Changes in Rules or Methods of Operation - CYL are a volunteer league and all changes to rules or methods of operation will be discussed during the league meetings. If no clear consensus is reached, then a vote of the majority of the five (5) officers will determine the outcome.
3. Division Directors - will conduct the day-to-day operations of each age group. This will include: overseeing the development of the teams; assigning practice and game schedules; acting as the first point of contact for any Manager, Coach or Parent question about league operations; participating in arbitration committee decisions; and coordinating the after season tournament and All Star games.
4. CYL finances are conducted by the league treasurer through the CYL program as maintained by the Catonsville Recreation and Parks Council. All money collected and dispersed by CYL goes through the Council.

UNIFORMS

1. Uniforms will consist of a baseball cap with logo, a team shirt with a large number on the back, a pair of athletic pants, and baseball socks. All of the above will be provided by CYL. Batting gloves, headbands, sunglasses, etc. are optional (within the rules) and are NOT supplied by CYL.
2. Players who register during the announced dates will be given pants upon registration. The remainder of the uniform will be available on Picture Day. Every effort will be made to outfit the player in the proper shirt size. However, exact shirt sizes and availability of specific numbers are not guaranteed for any player.
3. Players registered after the announced registration dates may be required to supply their own pants and are subject to a late fee of \$25.00.
4. Appropriate athletic shoes and baseball gloves are the responsibility of the player. STEEL SPIKES ARE NOT ALLOWED EXCEPT IN THE 15-17 AGE GROUP.
5. Appropriate safety equipment such as catcher's mask, mitt, chest protector and shin guards are supplied for each team. A minimum of four (4) batting helmets will be supplied for each team.
6. Elastic athletic supporters with hard plastic protective' cup are REQUIRED for all catchers, and recommended for all other players. These are the responsibility of the player and will not be supplied by CYL.

MANAGERS/COACHES

1. All Division Directors, managers and coaches are volunteers.
2. Selection of managers and coaches, as well as team assignments is at the discretion of the League Officers.
3. Division Directors, managers and coaches can be removed at any time if the board determines such action is necessary.
4. Each team shall have a manager and up to 2 assistant coaches. The assistant coaches must be named prior to the date of player evaluations. If 2 coaches have not been selected and approved by the Division Directors prior to player evaluation, the Division Director will assign coaches prior to the draft.

UMPIRES

1. Umpires are not required for Tee-Ball or Coach Pitch leagues.
2. Umpires are required at all age groups over 8 years. If no umpire is available, then the crowd will be solicited for umpire assistance. At the last resort, a manager or coach from one of the teams may umpire. Any such substitution must be agreed to by both managers prior to the beginning of the game.

PARTICIPATION

Any person between the ages of 5 and 17 is eligible to participate in the CYL Baseball program provided the player will be no more than 17 years old before August 1st of the calendar year in which they are registering. Proof of age will be required the first time the player registers with CYL baseball.

Registration will be held on at least two Saturdays and done other days in January or February of the calendar year in which games will be played. Registration dates will be announced in school flyers, the Catonsville Times Newspaper (when possible) and through US Postal Service mail or email (for players who participated the previous year).

Age groups will be determined as follows:

5-6 years	Tee Ball
7-8 years	Coach Pitch
9-10 years	Clinic League
11-12 years	Minor League
13-14 years	Major League
15-17 years	Senior League

Players will be allowed to play in an age group other than their own (older or younger) with the approval of a majority of the league officers and the two affected age division directors.

Any player who has not paid the registration fee by March 20th and who has not made other arrangements with CYL baseball cannot be considered during the draft to formulate teams. Children wishing to join CYL baseball after this point may be accepted, subject to approval of the age division director. If they are accepted, the child will be added to team rosters in the order determined on draft night.

FORMATION OF TEAMS

1. Each team will begin the season with no less than 10 players on the roster, unless alternative actions have been approved by a majority of league officers.
2. Tee Ball and Coach Pitch League teams will be formed in late March by the age group director. Every effort to honor requests to play with other individuals or specific managers will be made. The children of Managers, Coaches and Sponsors will be assigned to the team that the parent is assisting unless the parent requests otherwise.
3. Teams for age groups 9-10, 11-12, 13-14 will be formed by a "drafting process" as follows:
 - a. When possible, each team will have as a base, one Manager's child and two coaches' children (3 total). Additional manager or coach's children will be assigned to the same team and will be considered in the draft in the following positions: 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 12th, 10th, 8th, 6th, and 4th respectively.
 - b. The remainder of the players will be subject to the draft. Attempts will be made to honor requests for players to be on the same team for car-pooling or other reasons, but requests are not guaranteed.
 - c. Brothers and/or sisters playing in the same age group will be placed on the same team unless the family requests differently. During the draft, the brothers and/or sisters will automatically be added to the team selecting the first family member and will be counted as the team's choice in the following round(s).
 - d. Draft order will be determined by each manager drawing a selecting number on the draft night. After the draft order is determined, the manager or a designated representative will write their child or children and any coaches child or children in the specified rounds under their team name.
 - e. The first round (usually the fourth player on each team) will be conducted with selection number 1 having the first choice of the available players. Then selection 2 will choose a player and the rest of the teams will select a player in their turn.
 - f. The second round (usually the fifth player on each team] will be conducted with the highest number team selecting first and will proceed to the lowest number having the final selection in round two. Any team already having a player in this round (coach/manager child or relative) will be skipped.
 - g. The 15-17 age division will follow the procedures above except, prior to the draft, the age director, with the approval of the board, may implement procedures such that all known pitchers and catchers will be selected in order of need until all teams are evenly manned in these positions.

SCHEDULES AND AWARDS

1. Players on teams in the 9/10,11/12,13/14 and 15/17 leagues will participate in a post-season single elimination tournament.
2. Tee-ball and Coach pitch leagues are instructional leagues only. No team standings will be kept or posted and no team awards will be given by CYL. Each player will receive a participation award (trophy or plaque). Fundamentals of the game are to be stressed.

Clinic, Minor, Major and Senior Leagues:

- a. For the regular season, each player on the team with the best record will receive a first place trophy. Every player on a team with the next best record will receive a second place trophy. (Note: At the discretion of the league and the age-group director, a league can be divided into separate leagues, with first place awards given in each league, rather than awarding second place trophies).

In the event of a tie, tiebreakers will be as follows:

- Head-to-head record of the teams with identical records.
 - Division record (if two divisions).
 - Intra-division record (if two divisions).
 - Least runs allowed in head to head games by each team with identical record.
 - Coin toss.
- b. A post-season single-elimination tournament will be held. Tournament pairings will be determined by final league standings. First place team will play last place; second place will play next to last place and so on. (In the event of odd numbers of teams, byes will be given to top ranked teams. Subject to approval of the board, trophies will be awarded to the two teams advancing to the championship game.

POST SEASON ALL-STAR GAME

Each team in age groups 7-8 and older will have at least two representatives on the All-Star team. A team trophy will be awarded to each All-Star.

Subject to the decision of the division managers and division director, and with the approval of the board, any age group may eliminate the All-Star game and substitute another activity or event.

RULES

CYL games will be played under the rules set forth in the "OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES" (attached), with the following exceptions:

Rules for All Age Groups

1. All players must be in uniform.
2. Every player on the team will bat in order (Bat the lineup).
3. All catchers are required to wear a full complement of catcher's equipment, including an athletic supporter with protective cup.
4. Games will be played or cancelled at the discretion of Catonsville Recreation and Parks personnel.
5. After the game begins, it is the umpire's decision to continue, delay or suspend play.
6. Prior to June 1, no inning shall begin after 8:00 P.M. (according to the UMPIRE'S watch) or such time as the umpire determines that there is not sufficient light to continue. On or after June 1, no inning shall begin after 8:30 P.M. (according to the UMPIRE'S watch) or such time as the umpire determines that there is not sufficient light to continue.
7. A team must have at least 8 players present to start a game. If a team does not have 8 players by 6:15pm (or 15 minutes after the scheduled start time) by the umpires watch, that team must forfeit the game.
8. Suspended games will be replayed at the earliest possible date. The League Director for the age group is responsible for arranging an umpire for the make-up game and to contact the field coordinator to schedule playing field and date.
9. Suspended games that are not completed before the end of the season will not count toward the league standings.
10. If a player is present at the time a game begins, he must play at least three innings on defense in a regulation game.
11. A game must be suspended and the field evacuated if there is lightning in the area. A 15-minute or longer waiting period may be required to see if the threat passes. All players and coaches must wait in an automobile, a concession stand, or inside a building until the final decision to play or postpone is made.

12. Site specific ground rules will be discussed by the umpire and both team managers or team representatives before the game begins.
13. For purposes of pitching limits, CYL weeks are Sunday through Saturday.
14. For purposes of pitching limits, one pitch thrown in an inning constitutes an inning pitched.
15. Free substitution is allowed, that is a player can be removed from the game defensively and later reinserted, with the exception of the pitcher (see rule 16)
16. After a pitcher has been removed from the mound, he may go to any position, but he may NOT be reinserted as a pitcher for the remainder of the game.
17. Protesting a game is allowed only when a manager or designated team representative believes that an interpretation of the rules is incorrect. The protest must be issued immediately after the suspected violation is noted. The umpire will be notified that a protest is being lodged and the game will continue. After the game, the protesting person will notify the League Director for the age group that the protest is being lodged. The Board of Directors will meet within one week to hear the protest.
18. Metal bats are allowed, with bat size restrictions as stated in Age Group Specific Rules.
19. Steel spikes or steel cleated shoes are not allowed, except in the 15-17 age group.

SITE SPECIFIC RULES

Catonsville High School

1. Field 3 -Any batted ball that the Umpire rules to have gone over the hill in left field is a dead ball home run. This is a judgment call and cannot be appealed.
2. Field 4 -Any batted ball that the Umpire rules to have gone into the tree line in left field is a dead ball home run. This is a judgment call and cannot be appealed.

AGE SPECIFIC RULES

5-6 Age Group Specific Rules Tee Ball

1. To provide as much instruction as possible, coaches and their assistants may be on the field during the game.
2. All players should have the opportunity to bat in each of the 3 innings of play.
3. Coaches may pitch to batters; however, no more than six pitches are allowed per batter. After that time, a tee must be used.
4. To expose players to positional play, players in the infield should be limited to 5, playing the traditional infield positions (pitcher, first, second, third and shortstop).
5. There is no catcher in this league, due to safety considerations and tee obstacle.
6. To reward defensive play, batters and baserunners who are put out must leave the base paths. There are no strikeouts.
7. Batters and baserunners may take more than one base, but can advance only one base due to an error. No player however, may advance on a throwing error to first base, or by the first baseman's failure to catch a thrown ball.

7-8 Age Group Specific Rules

Coach Pitch.

1. Six innings constitutes a complete game (unless a game is called due to darkness or weather).
2. Games shall not exceed 1-1/2 hours.
3. If a team scores 5 runs in an inning, their at bat shall end at that time
4. The team that is at bat will provide a coach pitcher.
5. The coach pitcher must stay out of the way at all times and may not coach base runners.
6. If the ball hits the coach pitcher, the ball is' dead. If the ball striking the coach/pitcher is a batted ball, the batter will receive another pitch. If the ball striking the coach/pitcher was thrown by a fielder, the runners must stop at the next base.
7. Batter will receive 6 good pitches or three strikes to put the ball in play. Pitches shall be considered 'good' by the pitching coach. The batter is out if the ball is not put in play on the 6th pitch. If the 6th pitch is fouled, the batter will receive an additional pitch.
8. To expose players to positional play, players in the infield should be limited to 6, playing the traditional infield positions (pitcher, catcher, first, second, third and shortstop). Child "pitcher" is to stay even with, or behind, the coach pitcher and no further than five feet away from the coach pitcher.
9. A catcher must be in the catcher position at the start of each pitch.
10. The defensive team must have an adult backing up the catcher.
11. Base runners are not allowed to leave the base until the ball is batted.
12. The home team will provide a parent/coach as an umpire.
13. The ball is considered dead at the umpire's discretion, when an infielder has possession of the ball within five feet of the baseline and does not attempt to make a play. The umpire shall evaluate the position of the runners and if the runner is not at least half-way to the next base, the runner will be awarded that base.
14. All overthrows that are in-bounds shall be considered live until the conditions in rule 13 are satisfied.

9-10 Age Group Specific Rules

1. Games will be played on a 60-foot diamond with a pitching rubber that is 42 feet from home plate.
2. Six innings constitutes a complete game (unless a game is called due to darkness or weather).
3. The infield fly rule is not in effect. (No automatic out).
4. Base runners are not allowed to leave the base until the ball crosses home plate. (With the exception of home plate (see rule 5), stealing is allowed after ball crosses plate, but no leading off).
5. Base runners may not "steal" home plate, or advance to home on an overthrow, unless that overthrow is the result of a play after a batted ball.
6. When advancing to a base on a contested play, base runners must slide (feet first) to avoid contact. Collisions must be avoided, and head-first slides are not permitted except when returning to a base.
7. Pitchers will not pitch more than three innings in a game.
8. If a pitcher hits three batters in one game, that pitcher must be removed from the mound and may not pitch again in that game.
9. Four innings completed by the team with the lower score constitutes a regulation game.
10. Games are played using a 9-batter rule. That is, only nine batters will be allowed to bat in an inning if three outs are not recorded, however, if the ninth batter is walked or hit by a pitch, then one additional player will be allowed to bat. This rule is waived for the SIXTH inning.
11. Intentional walks are not allowed. If an umpire believes that a player or team is trying to intentionally walk a batter, the umpire has the discretion to return the count to no balls and no strikes.
12. There is no restriction on weight differential for bats, however, big barrel bats are NOT permitted. (No bats over 2 ¼")

11-12 Age Group Specific Rules

1. Games will be played on a 60-foot diamond with a pitching rubber that is 46 feet from home plate.
2. Six innings constitutes a complete game (unless a game is called due to darkness or weather).
3. Base runners are not allowed to leave the base until the ball crosses home plate (Stealing allowed after ball crosses home plate).
2. When advancing to a base on a contested play, base runners must slide (feet first) to avoid contact. Collisions must be avoided, and headfirst slides are not permitted except when returning to a base.
3. Pitchers will not be allowed to pitch more three innings per game.
4. Four innings completed by the team with the lower score constitutes a regulation game.
5. Batters will not run on a dropped third strike. After three strikes, the batter is out.
6. There is no restriction on weight differential for bats, however, big barrel bats are NOT permitted. (No bats over 2 ¼")

13-14 Age Group Specific Rules

1. Games will be played on a 75-foot diamond with a pitching rubber that is 54 feet from home plate.
2. Seven innings constitutes a complete game (unless a game is called due to darkness or weather).
3. Pitchers will not pitch more than 4 innings in a game.
4. Four innings completed by the trailing team constitutes a regulation game.
5. When advancing to a base on a contested play, base runners must slide (feet first) to avoid contact. Collisions must be avoided, and head-first slides are not permitted except when returning to a base.
6. Big barrel bats (over 2 ¼") are allowed with no restrictions on weight differential.

15-17 Age Group Specific Rules

1. Games will be played on a 90-foot diamond with a pitching rubber that is 60 feet and 6 inches from home plate.
2. When advancing to a base on a contested play, base runners must slide (feet first) to avoid contact. Collisions must be avoided, and head-first slides are not permitted except when returning to a base.
3. Pitchers will not pitch more than 4 innings in a game.
4. Four innings completed by the trailing team constitutes a regulation game.
5. Big barrel bats (over 2 ¼") are allowed with a weight differential limit of -3 (drop three).

TRAVEL BASEBALL

The mission of the CYL Travel Baseball Program is:

1. To provide strong moral leadership and positive role models for boys in the travel program.
2. To teach the proper advancement of baseball skills and a love for the game.
3. To develop and build upon each player's individual abilities in order to prepare him to advance to the next level in the sport.
4. To field competitive teams that represent the Catonsville Youth Baseball League and the Catonsville community.

TRAVEL BY-LAWS

1. The travel program is part of the Catonsville Youth Baseball League. There are travel baseball teams for the following age groups: under 8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14. The formation of a second team in any age group will be determined on a year to year basis. The team(s) in a particular age group will be formed from all candidates, who attended the formal tryouts.
2. All players must play in their age specific group. Any requests for exception must be approved by the Travel Coordinator and the Board.

3. Travel teams may compete in the in-house Catonsville Recreation League. The travel teams will play together as a unit and will play in the next higher age category. If there is a second team in a particular age group, the decision on how that team shall play in the recreation league will be determined on a year to year basis based on what is determined to be in the best interest of the children and the league. The determination, of which travel league that a particular team will play in, will be determined by the Travel Coordinator and approved by the Board. Specific requests by a particular age group to play in a specific league and/or tournament will be considered but will be subject to approval of the Travel Coordinator and the Board.
4. Travel teams may compete in local recreational league tournaments during the season.
5. Travel team tryouts shall begin the first weekend in March and will continue for up to three consecutive weekends. Players will be selected by the manager of each team on the basis of their try-out. There is no mandatory number of tryouts that a prospective player must attend.
6. The Travel Coordinator shall select the managers for each of the travel teams. The Travel Coordinator shall submit his selection to the CYL Board for their approval. Anyone interested in being a manager for one of the travel teams shall submit their name to the Travel Coordinator by October 15th of each year preceding the year they wish to manage a team. The Travel Coordinator shall then consider all persons interested in managing.
7. Coaches for a travel team shall be limited to two (2) per team, prior to tryouts. Coaches may be selected by the manager of each team and are subject to approval by the Travel Coordinator and the Board. Additional coaches may be added after tryouts, but any costs associated with their involvement, i.e. uniforms, etc., shall be the responsibility of that particular team and not the CYL league.

END OF BYLAWS