

## **Brandon Valley Baseball Association**

### **Junior and Senior Bantam League Rules**

#### **The Game**

- 1. Intended length of the game is six (6) innings. There will be an 1 hour and 45 minutes time limit. No new inning will start after the time limit. Games may end in a tie during regular season play.**
- 2. Official games will consist of a minimum of 4 complete innings (3½ if the home team is ahead). If a lesser amount of innings is completed and the game is postponed because of weather, the game will resume at the point play was suspended, if possible.**
- 3. Rainouts and postponements will be dealt with by the two affected coaches and the League Representative who will make every effort to reschedule if possible.**
- 4. A minimum of eight (8) players per team is required to start a game. When batting, the ninth (9) position will count as an out. If one team fails to field 8 players, it will forfeit the game. (In this situation, coaches are encouraged to play a scrimmage using players from a combination of both teams if possible in this scenario).**
- 5. Every rostered player present at the start of a game will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs. (ref. LL 2009 Rule Book Regulation IV (i) for explanation)**
- 6. The game will not be interrupted by rule interpretations or protests of umpire calls. Any rule clarification requests should be made to the home plate umpire. Only the head coach may approach the umpire for clarification.**
- 7. Game protests may be filed by a head coach after the completion of the game by utilizing the Coaches Protest Form on the BVBA website.**
- 8. Run Rules: Each team is limited to five (runs) per inning except during the final inning.**
- 9. Distances:**
  - a. Senior Bantam – 46 foot mound and 60 foot bases.**
  - b. Junior Bantam – 46 foot mound and 60 foot bases.**
- 10. There is an infield fly rule. (ref. LL 2009 Rule Book Definition of Terms 2.0 )**
- 11. Each team should keep score and record pitchers pitch count during the game – home team scorebook will be the official book for the game. The home team coach should report the game score to the BVBA League representative using the form on BVBA website or directly on Jevin.**

## **Equipment**

- 1. Steel cleats are not allowed.**
- 2. Wooden bats are not allowed.**
- 3. Bat restrictions: No bat shall be more than 2¼" in diameter and 33" long: No big-barrel bats are allowed.**
- 4. Jerseys are required to be tucked in if possible and hats should be worn facing forward.**

## **Batting**

- 1. All players are included in the batting lineup.**
- 2. All players must wear helmets while batting, on base and on-deck. Only the on deck batter is allowed outside of the dugout.**
- 3. Bunting is allowed.**
- 4. Batters in the Senior Bantam League may run on a dropped third strike unless first base is occupied.**
- 5. Batters shall not throw their bat or helmet for any reason. Batters who throw bats or helmets in an unsportsmanlike manner may be disqualified from the game.**

## **Base Running**

- 1. Base runners are required to wear batting helmets at all time.**
- 2. Stealing is allowed. Runners may not leave the base until the pitch reaches the batter. (ref. LL 2009 Rule Book Rule 7.13) If violation, no runner may advance farther than forced by the batter's action.**
- 3. Base runners may advance on passed balls and wild pitches.**
  - a. Senior Bantam League: Home plate is open – players may score on via stolen base, or advancing on passed balls and wild pitches.**
  - b. Junior Bantam League: Home plate is closed – no player may advance home unless walked or hit in. However, if a throw is made toward a base runner a player may advance home.**
- 4. Sliding is required: If any contact is made at any base (except first base), including home plate, and the runner does not slide, then the runner may be called out. Any base runner who acts in an unsportsmanlike manner may be disqualified from the game.**
- 5. Base runners will be allowed one (1) base on any overthrow resulting in the ball going out of bounds.**

**6. Courtesy runners are allowed for the pitcher and catcher with two (2) outs.**

### **Catching**

- 1. All catchers must wear a mask with throat guard, chest protector and shin guards. (The BVBA encourages the use of protective cups).**
- 2. All catchers are subject to the catcher interference rule.**

### **Pitching**

- 1. Pitching Rule (ref. LL Rule Book Regulation IV – Pitchers general rules with option 2).  
This rule also applies to league tournament play.**
  - a. Junior Bantam: Max of 75 pitches per day**
  - b. Senior Bantam: Max 85 pitches per day**
- 2. If a pitcher leaves the mound he may not pitch again in that game. For the purpose of league play, a week is considered Monday through Sunday.**
- 3. Pitchers will be allowed five (5) warm-up pitchers between innings.**
- 4. Pitchers cannot balk.**
- 5. Pitchers may not wear batting gloves, sweat bands, distracting undergarments and jewelry around the neck or other loose-fitting clothing.**
- 6. A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of the day.**

### **Umpires**

- 1. Umpires will be provided by the BVBA. If an umpire or umpire crew fails to show, the coaches may recruit volunteers to fill that role (if there is no protective equipment available, balls and strikes may be called by an umpire standing behind the pitcher).**
- 2. Home plate umpires are required to wear an umpire shirt, chest protector and face mask.**
- 3. To begin play, the umpire shall declare “Play Ball!”**

### **Coaching**

- 1. Coaches are required to exchange lineups prior to the start of each game.**
- 2. Coaches of the home team are designated the official scorekeepers and must report the final score to the league representative on the appropriate league page on the BVBA website within 48 hours of the game.**
- 3. Coaches are responsible for all team equipment and should keep it off the playing field.**

**4. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of the players on their team and the parents and fan associated with the team. The BVBA expects coaches to assist in the positive administration of the game rules and to show exemplary conduct both on and off the field.**

**5. Coaches are ambassadors of the BVBA and are expected to follow the rules of conduct and sportsmanship established by the association. Any abuse of the coaching privilege, as determined by the association, may result in an immediate suspension of coaching duties.**

**6. Coaches are responsible for collecting equipment, pants and jerseys provided by the BVBA after the final league game and returning it to the appropriate league representative within two weeks of the end of league play.**

### **Sportsmanship**

**1. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and may result in ejection of any player, coach or spectator from the game and the Park.**

**2. Ejections may be made by the umpire or a BVBA league official.**

**3. All coaches are required to be familiar with the BVBA Coaches Code of Conduct rules.**

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