

VIRGINIA BEACH RECREATION BASEBALL LEAGUE BY-LAWS



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE BOARD	PAGE 3
TERMS OF OFFICE	PAGE 3
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD	PAGES 3 & 4
ARTICLE I: OBJECTIVES	PAGE 4
ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP	PAGE 4
ARTICLE III: FINANCES	PAGE 5
ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS	PAGE 5
ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES	PAGE 5
ARTICLE VI: GENERAL	PAGE 6
ARTICLE VII: INSURANCE	PAGE 6
ARTICLE VIII: REGISTRATION & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	PAGE 6 & 7
ARTICLE IX: PLAYER PERSONNEL	PAGE 7
ARTICLE X: COACHES	PAGE 7 & 8
ARTICLE XI: PRACTICES	PAGE 8
ARTICLE XII: MANDATORY PLAY RULES	PAGE 8
ARTICLE XIII: GAME SCHEDULES	PAGES 9
ARTICLE XIV: PLAYING RULES	PAGES- 9 to 15

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Director	John Martin	Courthouse	641-3304	jdmartinbighouse@hotmail.com
Senior Commissioner	John Mihalkovic (non voting)	Larkspur Salem	412-5730	jpmihalk@hotmail.com
Intermediate Commissioner	Pat LaMendola	Arrowhead	714-0798	steelerspat14@verizon.net
Midget Commissioners	Mike Smith/John Dorsett	Woodstock/ Kempsville	839-9199/ 499-4411	my2brtz@aol.com/ jcdorsettjr@aol.com
Umpire Coordinator	Jeff Gump	Larkspur Salem	406-4230	jeff.gump@gmail.com
Eligibility Coordinator	Chuck Harrell	Creeds	620-7057	chharrel@cox.net
Web Coordinator	Mike Kirby	West Kempsville	615-4576	codsrus1@hotmail.com

TERMS OF OFFICE

VBYFL Executive Director	1 Year
Senior Commissioner	1 Year
Intermediate Commissioner	1 Year
Midget Commissioner	1 Year
Officials Coordinator	1 Year
Eligibility Coordinator	1 Year
Web Coordinator	1 Year

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE VBRBL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- COMPOSITION:** The VBRBL Board of Directors shall be comprised of one Baseball Director from each participating recreation league.
- APPOINTMENT:** Each Recreation Association's Board of Directors is responsible to appoint one person to represent their league on the VBRBL Board of Directors by January 1st of each year.
- RESPONSIBILITIES:** There will be a meeting in January of each year to determine the VBRBL Board of Directors for the coming season. The board seats will work on a rotating basis so all leagues will split the burden of responsibility.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director shall be the principal Executive Officer and Director of the league. He/she shall preside at all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors. He/she shall appoint committees, as he/she deems necessary, be ex-office member of all committees and, in general, shall perform all duties incident to the Executive Director and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors. The Executive Director will maintain the bylaws, generate game schedules with respective commissioners and coordinate all three commissioners, official's coordinator, eligibility coordinator and web coordinator. The Executive Director will impose penalties and suspensions according to the bylaws and as determined by the VBRBL Board of Directors upon teams, players and coaches such as are necessary for the orderly conduct of the league. The Executive Director will disseminate bylaw interpretations as determined by the VBRBL Board of Directors.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (CONT)**SENIOR/INTERMEDIATE/MIDGET DIVISION COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioners are responsible for the day to day operations of their age group. They are the contact person for coaches in their age group for any issues that may arise. They are responsible for making cancellation/ postponement decisions in collaboration with the host site director or Home Team coach. Commissioners are responsible to reschedule cancelled games in collaboration with the Director of Officials. If there are any disciplinary issues with a coach/player it is the Commissioners job to bring the issue to the VBRBL Board of Director's for resolution. Commissioners will submit rosters which include name (first and last), number, date of birth and address including coach's names to the eligibility director. Commissioners are responsible for ordering and disseminating divisional and playoff awards. Funding for the awards, as decided by the Executive Board, will be proportionally divided among participating associations in the division. Awards will given to each divisional winner and the playoff champion and runner up. If a there are multiple divisions at the same level, an award will be presented to each of the divisional regular season champion.

UMPIRE COORDINATOR

It shall be the duty of the Director of Umpires to handle all aspects of the game officials for the league. It is his/her responsibility to coordinate with the Umpire Association to make sure we have proper official coverage for all games. After receiving the game schedule from the Executive Director he/she needs to estimate the cost of umpires for that season and send an invoice to each association for their share. A final invoice will be submitted to each association upon season completion. It is the director's job to coordinate how they are going to handle custodianship of VBRBL funds for payment of the umpires.

ELIGIBILITY COORDINATOR

It shall be the duty of the Eligibility Director to collect rosters including coaches from all teams. It is the responsibility of each recreational league to ensure participants meet the requirements of Article VIII Registration and Player Eligibility. Rosters will include Name (first and last), number, date of birth and address.

WEB COORDINATOR

It shall be the duty of the Web Director to establish a central site for league business. Upon receiving scores from each of the commissioners, scores and standings will be updated on this central site.

ARTICLE I: OBJECTIVES

1. To educate in the appreciation of baseball and to encourage systematic physical exercise.
2. To educate youth, regardless of race, sex, creed, or national origin, to practice the ideals of sportsmanship, scholarship, and physical fitness by example and instruction.
3. To promote and participate in the civic advancement of Virginia Beach.
4. To provide a wholesome and enjoyable recreational activity for the participants.
5. To familiarize youth with the fundamentals of baseball, to provide an opportunity to play in a game in a supervised, organized, and safety oriented manner.
6. To develop character, skill and promote good will among the teams and individuals participating.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this league shall consist of Virginia Beach Recreation Organizations that have the common goal of preparing kids to play baseball. Any league that is recognized by Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Department defines a Virginia Beach Recreation League.

ARTICLE III: FINANCES

1. Invoices and receipts shall document transactions within the league. Commissioners will be responsible for supplying final invoices for minor adjustments in funding for awards and additional umpire cost from makeup games.
2. Web site costs will be equally divided amongst VBRBL members and included in the Official's Coordinator invoices to member associations. Game rescheduling costs will be divided proportionally between the participating associations in the division.
3. Teams failing to complete the season of play, for any reason, will forfeit all monies paid to the league for officials.
4. Associations owing the league monies may be barred from participation in the league the following year.
5. Any monies to be turned into the league will be turned into the Director of Officials on the required date, unless prior approval is received.
6. There will be a season end financial report by the Director of Officials the first meeting upon season completion.
7. Each association is responsible for all of their own equipment, game hosting supplies and umpire payments.
8. The league shall not require a child to sell anything to raise money for the VBRBL.
9. The VBRBL will not be responsible for any debts incurred by any association or teams at any time, NO EXCEPTIONS.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

SECTION I: MEETINGS - LEAGUE

1. The meeting of this league shall be held within the City of Virginia Beach.
2. A meeting of the general membership shall be held at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
3. All general meetings of the Board of Directors will be opened to the public.
4. All newly appointed officers shall assume office immediately.
5. A majority must be present to constitute a quorum.
6. The Board of Directors shall alter, amend, rescind, add to or delete from the bylaws and rules, as it deems necessary.

SECTION II: MEETINGS - TEAM

1. Each team must be represented at all mandatory league meetings.
2. Each Head Coach shall schedule a parent meeting during the first week of practice.
3. Any Head Coach or member of a coaching staff who fails to attend these mandatory functions can be suspended for 14 days from participating in this league. The actual commencement date of the suspension will be at the discretion of the VBRBL Board of Director's.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

1. The Board of Directors shall appoint or remove all committee members and designate their duties.
2. The Board of Directors may appoint an advisory board.

ARTICLE VI: GENERAL

1. No member of the league shall provide goods and/or services to the VBRBL for personal gain.
2. The Board of Directors reserves the right to remove, by 2/3rds majority vote of the Board, any member who is not performing his/her duties or is detrimental to the league.
3. Adult personnel participating in this league shall be held responsible for their knowledge of the league rules.
4. Any problems arising during the season will be directed, in writing, as follows: Executive Director, VBRBL Board of Directors, & their own association's board of directors.
5. There will be no usage of tobacco products, alcohol or profanity on practice or game fields. Smoking is not allowed on school property (neither indoors nor outdoors). Violators will be subject to dismissal.
6. Each Recreation Association will have one vote for all matters and the Executive Director only votes to break a tie.

ARTICLE VII: INSURANCE

1. VBRBL shall not be responsible for any injuries. All participants in the league shall participate entirely at their own risk.
2. Players participating in the league should have accident insurance coverage. This is the player's (parent's) responsibility.
3. It is highly recommended that each Recreation Association arrange for their own liability and accident insurance plan to cover each team in their association. Each association is required to pay their own insurance premiums.

ARTICLE VIII: REGISTRATION & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Any player found to be invalid for any reason not in standard with the bylaws may mean forfeiture of all games from the time of the protest back to when the player's eligibility was received by the VBRBL. Playing a player whose eligibility was not previously checked may mean forfeiture of all games played. **NOTE: Eligibility information found to be false will result in player ineligibility for one year.**
2. The league highly recommends that every player have a physical before practice starts. It is up to each recreation association to determine if they will make it mandatory for their teams.
3. EACH ASSOCIATION MUST HAVE A MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION SECTION ON THEIR SIGN-UP FORMS FOR THE PARENT TO SIGN. This allows the coach to get medical attention for any child whose parents cannot be reached in case of an emergency.
4. Age cutoff date is May 1 of the current season. Player's league age will be his age on May 1 of the current season
 - a. Midget: 10, 11, and 12 year olds. Fall: Players who played Farm the previous spring and who will be playing Midget the following spring will be allowed to play Midget in the Fall.
 - b. Intermediate: 13, 14 and 15 year olds. Fall: Players who played Midget the previous spring and who will be playing Intermediate the following spring will be allowed to play Intermediate in the Fall.
 - c. Senior: 15, 16, 17, and 18 year olds.
 - d. 15 year olds may play either Intermediate or Senior baseball.
5. Exceptions to "play up" to the next age group must be approved by the member association's Board of Directors upon receipt of a written request from the parent. "Playing up" as a 9 year old is strongly discouraged and should only be allowed by each member association's Board of Directors on an extremely limited case-by-case basis for players who have clearly demonstrated the talent to play safely at the Midget level.
6. At time of sign-ups, each player must supply copy of their birth certificate.
7. If eligibility is questioned, proof of age must be verified through one of the following: Original Birth Certificate, certified copy of Birth Certificate, Military ID, or a passport. Address must be verified by a parental driver's license or paystub.

ARTICLE VIII: REGISTRATION AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY (CONT)

8. Players must be attending elementary, middle or high school or be in an approved home study program. Home schooled students must be able to produce a letter from the Office of School Leadership approving their home school program. If a player graduates high school prior to the typical age/timeframe of graduation, they may continue to play up to the age of 18.
9. Any player who participates in a high school baseball athletic program (either public, private or home school, varsity or junior varsity) is ineligible to participate in the VBRBL if the school and recreation programs overlap (from the first practice to the last official game). A player participating in organized high school baseball cannot be picked up in the VBRBL after the first school league game has been played. If a player becomes a member of the school team and then decides he does not want to play school baseball, he must be released from the school team before the first school league game is played to be eligible for the VBRBL.
10. Team Rosters will be "locked-in" 30 days from the first game played and submitted to the Eligibility Coordinator. In order for a player to be eligible to participate in the playoffs, the player must have participated in 50% of the regular season games. Player injuries which prohibit participation shall be noted in scorebooks and do not count against regular season participation.
11. A player may only play on one team that is organized by the VBRBL.
12. A player should play for a team only in the community area in which he lives. Each recreation area association chairperson has a map with his area delineated.
13. While the VBRBL does not support players switching teams after the first league game, the VBRBL does realize there may be extenuating circumstances that necessitate this action. After the first game, if a player has a justifiable reason to change teams, the VBRBL Board of Directors will be involved in assigning the player to a different team (when one can be identified). If a player has a reason to change teams and there is no other team available in his own area, then he may go the next nearest community to his home and apply to play.
14. **The VBRBL Board of Directors reserves the right to investigate abuses of participants playing outside of their community area.** If it is determined that there was intent to deceive, severe penalties may be enacted.

ARTICLE IX: PLAYER PERSONNEL

1. Each recreation association is responsible to come up with a process to evenly divide their teams based on talent. The VBRBL Board of Directors reserves the right to implement draft rules in future seasons if associations start stacking teams.
2. Any child transported to a medical facility cannot resume practice or play in any game without a written permission slip from a doctor.

ARTICLE X: COACHES

1. Each recreation league is responsible for interviewing and choosing their coaches.
2. All associations must do background checks on their coaches. Refusal to complete a background check by a coach will be grounds for termination. At a minimum, associations will search the Virginia State Police Sex Offender Registry (<http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov/sor/html/search.htm>) for all league personnel that have direct contact with the players. This includes, but is not limited to, league board members, coaches, team moms and equipment personnel. Anyone who is listed in the Virginia State Police Sex Offender Registry, or has been previously listed in the registry, or is a convicted sex offender not listed on the registry, will not be eligible to participate in any capacity for VBRBL or any

member league, other than as parent or guardian. Leagues are encouraged to conduct full criminal background checks on these personnel.

3. Moral Offenses...The VBRBL Executive Director pending the outcome of said charge may suspend any coach charged with a moral offense.
4. Coaches must stay off the field and remain under control as examples to the players and fans.
5. Coaches, along with the game officials, are jointly responsible for the conduct and control of the teams, fans and spectators.
6. Coaches do not make league policies - they carry them out.

ARTICLE X: COACHES (CONT)

7. On the playing and practice fields, the coaching staff is in complete charge of the team and will not be interfered with, except in cases of rules violations or any conduct deemed to be detrimental to the welfare of the players or the league by the Executive Director.
8. A coach must do everything in this power not to run up the score on an opposing team. Any coach in violation of this rule will be suspended from the next game and any practice that week. For a second violation the coach will be suspended for the rest of the season and be considered "not in good standing" with the league. All coaches must remember the "SPIRIT OF THE GAME".
9. Any head or assistant baseball coach that changes recreation associations within the VBRBL must sit out as a coach for one year. The coach's children will be allowed to play for the new association.
10. Coaches are responsible for seeing that their players meet the age requirements, that their players live within the area, that their players are enrolled in school or a home school program, are not high school varsity or junior varsity players in baseball, that their players meet any applicable release criteria and that the roster does not exceed the limit of players.
11. Any coach who plays an over age player in violation of these bylaws shall be suspended indefinitely from coaching in the VBRBL.
12. All coaches are encouraged to be certified by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) or another accredited certification program.
13. Coaches will please advise their players of the articles of these bylaws. Ignorance of any rule in these bylaws on the part of the coach, player or players will not be tolerated.

ARTICLE XI: PRACTICES

1. The first day of adult supervised practice can start no earlier than March 15th. For Fall Baseball, this date is August 23rd. No practice may occur before this date without prior approval of the VBRBL Board of Directors.
2. Associations may organize clinics/camps as long as they are conducted for the benefit of, and are open to all VBRBL members. All clinics/camps must be approved by the Board of Directors.
3. Coaches will keep an eye on all team members for signs of heat exhaustion and fatigue. In accordance with Virginia High School League guidelines ([VHSL Heat Guidelines](#)), leagues will not conduct practices when the Heat Index reaches 105° at their designated practice fields. Practices will be limited, per league guidelines, when the heat index is in between 95° and 104° at their designated practice fields.

ARTICLE XII: MANDATORY PLAY RULES

1. Any coach, who violates any of the rules willfully and knowingly will forfeit that game and will be suspended from the league for a time determined by the VBRBL Board of Directors.
2. **Midget Division:** The Midget batting line-up will consist of every player in uniform that is in attendance. The batting order will remain the same for the whole game. Each player must play at least two innings in the field and bat at least once in a 1:50 minute game. Any nine players in the line-up may play in the field in any given inning. Both scorers will check players off in the score book when they play their innings in the field. If any player is to be benched for disciplinary reasons, that must be clarified with the opposing coach prior to the start of the game. Once the batting order is set, the number of players in the batting order stays the same for the whole game, except in cases of injury, etc (see substitution rules in Article XIV)).
3. **Intermediate Division:** The Intermediate batting line-up will consist of every player in uniform that is in attendance. The batting order will remain the same for the whole game. Each player must play at least two innings in the field and bat at least once in a 1:50 minute game. Any nine players in the line-up may play in the field in any given inning. Both scorers will check players off in the score book when they play their innings in the field. If any player is to be benched for disciplinary reasons, that must be clarified with the opposing coach prior to the start of the game. Once the batting order is set, the number of players in the batting order stays the same for the whole game, except in cases of injury, etc (see substitution rules in Article XIV).
4. **Senior Division:** In a 1:50 minute game, each player must bat at least once and play at least two innings in the field. **The batting line-up will consist of 9 players.** A DH may be used for the pitcher only. A pinch runner may be used during an inning. The pinch runner can only be a player that did not/will not play the defensive field that inning. The re-entry rule is in effect. Any starting player who is taken out of the game may only re-enter the game in his original batting position and this can only happen once.
5. **Pitching:** *Midget, Intermediate and Senior Level* Pitchers shall pitch no more than 7 innings on the same calendar day and no more than 10 innings in any one calendar week. A calendar week is from 12:01am Monday to 12 midnight the following Sunday.

ARTICLE XIII: GAME SCHEDULES

1. **Game Schedule:** The VBRBL's Executive Director with the respective commissioners is responsible for preparing the Official Game Schedules. He/she will distribute the official schedules to the Board of Director's the first week of April. Fall baseball the schedules will be distributed the first week of September.
2. **Changes to Official Schedule:** The respective commissioner must be notified at least 5 days in advance of a contemplated game time change. The Director of Officials is responsible for notifying game officials of the location of the game, the date and time of the game, and the number of games to be played.
3. **Game Cancellation/Postponement:** Games may be cancelled and postponed due to inclement weather. In this event, the host site Director or Home Team shall request the cancellation or postponement from their respective Commissioner at the earliest possible time to prevent inconvenience to the game officials and the visiting team. The decision to play or postpone the game rests with the host site director or Home Team and their division's Commissioner. The Commissioner will contact the Official's Coordinator and/or Official's Association if the game is cancelled/ postponed. Games will be postponed when the Heat Index reaches 105° at the game field in question, per Virginia High School League guidelines ([VHSL Heat Guidelines](#)).
4. **Make-up Games:** The VBRBL Commissioners will schedule all make-up games as soon as possible and provide all affected leagues (those scheduled to play and those who will be affected by the outcome) with the game date, time, and location.
5. **Playoffs:** The top 2 to 3 teams in each division/league will make the playoffs. The VBRBL Board of Directors reserves the right to change the number of teams making the playoffs in each league and if fall baseball will have a playoff. The teams will be seeded using the final regular season standings. Any ties will be broken using the following system in order:
 - a. How the teams did head to head
 - b. How the teams did against common opponents
 - c. How the teams did against higher ranked teams
 - d. Flip of a coin
6. **Scrimmages:** Teams are allowed to go out and schedule their own scrimmages as long as they get approval from their recreation association director.

ARTICLE XIV: PLAYING RULES

The league shall play under official baseball rules except as modified herein:

SECTION I: EXCEPTIONS TO PLAYING RULES

1. **Game Field Size:**
 - a. Midget-The distance between all bases shall be 70 feet. The distance between the point of home plate and the front side of the pitcher's rubber shall be 50 feet.
 - b. Intermediate-The distance between all bases shall be 80 feet. The distance between the point of home plate and the front side of the pitcher's rubber shall be 54 feet.
 - c. Senior-The distance between all bases shall be 90 feet. The distance between the point of home plate and the front of the pitcher's rubber shall be 60 feet, 6 inches.
2. **Equipment:** If the umpire observes any equipment violation, the violation will be corrected at once. If the violation is not corrected, the umpire shall eject the player.
 - a. **Shoes:** Shoes with metal cleats are prohibited. Rubber soled or rubber cleated shoes only.
 - b. **Helmets:** It is mandatory for each batter and runner to wear a head protector. This protector will cover both ears and temples. It is illegal to wear any other head gear. Any player judged by the umpire to intentionally discard his head gear will be declared out after the play is over. It is recommended that base coaches (both youth and adult) wear a helmet while coaching.

ARTICLE XIV: PLAYING RULES (CONT)

- c. **Bats:** Dented bats are not allowed. Maximum bat sizes are as follows:
 - i. Midget: 33" length; 2 5/8" in diameter
 - ii. Intermediate: 34" length; 2 5/8" in diameter
 - iii. Senior: -3 length to weight ratio. A bat shall not weigh more than 3 ounces less than the length of the bat in inches (e.g. a 34-inch-long bat cannot weigh less than 31 ounces).
 - iv. Composite bats at the Midget, Intermediate and Senior levels are not permitted (unless they are BBCOR certified).
 - d. **Catchers:** It is mandatory for all catchers to wear face mask, throat protector (unless wearing a "hockey" style mask), helmet, chest protector, shin guards, athletic supporter with protective cup securely in place. Skull caps are not permitted.
 - e. **Cup:** It is highly recommended that each player wears a protective cup.
 - f. **Baseballs:** The home team will furnish one new ball and one acceptable ball (practically new) and additional balls if necessary. All balls will be of top grade. The home team shall have an ample supply on hand and coaches are requested to make arrangements to have the balls retrieved.
 - g. **Uniforms:** Uniforms must consist of a hat, same colored shirt, pants and socks. Uniforms must have numbers which can be read by game officials.
 3. **Bases:** The home team of the first game is responsible for properly installing the bases at the specified distance for their level of play. The home team of the last game is responsible for removing the bases and properly storing them. The commissioner of each division will coordinate with that area's recreation association on how bases will be furnished and stored at each field location.
 4. **Game Officials:** All games when possible will have two game officials. Officials will be assigned by the Official's Association and no team has the right to refuse any official assigned.

5. **Minimum Players:** A minimum of 8 players must be dressed and eligible to play at each game. If the 9th player arrives, he must enter the game immediately and will be the 9th player in the lineup. If a team plays with eight players, the 9th spot counts as an out. If a team starts with nine players and loses a player due to injury, and there are no substitutes available, the spot vacated will count as an out. Any time a team has fewer than eight players, they must forfeit the game. For Midget, late players will be added to the lineup in the order in which they arrive. If a team fails to dress the minimum number, it will forfeit the game unless both coaches agree to play. If both coaches agree to play then the game will count in the standings and run up the score regulations are still intact.
6. **Ten Run Rule:** If after four and one half (4 ½) innings the home team is ahead by ten runs or after five or more complete innings either team is ahead by ten runs, the game will be terminated.
7. **Score:**
 - a. The home team will be designated as the official scorer (furnish score book). However, the visiting scorer is requested to check frequently to avoid the possibility of mistakes. In the event of any dispute which cannot be settled, the umpires will collect all score books immediately and make all necessary notations. THE GAME WILL CONTINUE and as soon as possible after the conclusion, the umpire will present the VBRBL with score books and all pertinent information.
 - b. The score books of home and visiting teams must be filled out with players' first and last names and number. If this information is not provided, protests will be denied.
 - c. The **winning team** is responsible for calling/e-mailing/texting in the scores as soon as possible after the game to the commissioner of the league (Midget, Intermediate, Senior) and Web Coordinator. When calling/e-mailing/texting, give the following information:
 - i. Date Played
 - ii. Division (if any) (National, Atlantic, Red, Blue, etc.)
 - iii. Team names/scores: Example: "Game played May 1, East Division, Courthouse Marlins 5; Woodstock Dodgers 4."
 - d. Each recreations association's home website will have a link to the standings and scores of the VBRBL.

ARTICLE XIV: PLAYING RULES (CONT)**8. Game Times:**

- a. A minimum of one hour and fifty minute (1:50) limit. No new inning will start after one hour and fifty minutes (1:50) of playing time. Any inning started must be completed. This time limit may be extended for any of the leagues as determined by the VBRBL Board of Directors.
- b. Playoff games cannot end in a tie. The one exception to the 1:50 minute time limit is when a playoff game is tied after the time limit. If this happens additional innings must be played to break the tie.
- c. Games may start earlier than the scheduled time only if both coaches agree.
- d. The official starting time for each game will start at the completion of the coaches meeting. The teams should be warmed up and ready to have the first pitch thrown at the scheduled game time. For each game, both scorebooks (home and away team's) will log in the score book the official start time of the game. This will be taken from the umpire's watch.
- e. There will be umpire's time-outs on players' injuries. Injuries will be taken care of before the game continues.

9. Regulation Game (including playoff games):

- a. It will be a regulation game when seven innings have been played **or** the time limit has elapsed and the teams have had an equal number of "at bats". Once an inning has started, it must be completed. A new inning may not be started after one hour and fifty minutes (1:50) has elapsed from the official starting time. If the game is tied after seven innings and time remains, the game will continue until the time limit expires or a winner is determined. Again, if an inning is started, it must be completed.
- b. It will be a regulation game if it is called by the umpire on account of darkness, rain or other causes which in the umpire's judgment interfere with further play provided five or more equal innings have been played. Four and one half (4 ½) innings will constitute a regulation game if the home team has scored more runs in its four innings than the visiting team has in its five innings.
- c. A tie game will count as half a win and half a loss in the standings.
- d. If a game does not meet regulation status, it shall be rescheduled if at all possible. Rescheduling by the division commissioner will be based on if the game affects the seedings for the playoffs, if time permits or is a playoff game. Umpire fees will be divided proportionally by the associations participating in the division. Games which do not meet regulation status will be continued where left off with the following criteria:
 - i. Both teams scorekeepers must compare books to make sure they represent the same status before they leave the field from the suspended game. The home plate umpire will notate the spot the game has been suspended and sign both books. The books must specify defensive positioning, who is on base, how many outs and the count on the batter.
 - ii. When the game is continued, the field will be set up exactly as it was when the game was suspended. Any base runner that is missing from the continued game that was on base when the original game was suspended will be replaced by the first player before him in the original batting order that is also not on base.
 - iii. The defensive team is allowed to make substitutions in the field just like they would in the middle of an inning in a regular game. Senior and Intermediate substitution rules will reset at the point of the continued game. For example, if the previous catcher is not present at the continued game, a substitute player may be inserted. This player, along with the remaining players on the field, are all considered starters.
 - iv. Both teams batting lineups must be exactly like they were when the game was suspended. For the Midget Division, any player that is missing from the original game's batting order will be crossed out and every other batter will move up one place in the order. Any players that were missing from the original suspended game, but are present at the continued game, will be automatically placed at the bottom of the original batting order.

ARTICLE XIV: PLAYING RULES (CONT)

- e. If a game is called by the umpire in the 5th, 6th, or 7th inning, the official score will revert to the last fully completed inning. For example, if a game was suspended for lightening in the middle of the 6th inning, the official score will revert back to the what the score was at the end of the 5th inning. Even if the visiting team scores enough runs in the top half of the 6th inning to take the lead it will not stand unless the home team gets all 3 outs in the bottom of the 6th to complete the inning.
10. **Forfeits:** If a team forfeits two games in succession or three games in a season for not having the required number of players to start the game, the team will be dropped for the remainder of the season.
11. **Bench & Fan Behavior:** Parents can be barred from games for poor conduct by the VBRBL Board of Directors. Any staff or team member ejected from a game shall be suspended for a minimum of one additional game. Suspensions are at the absolute discretion of the VBRBL Board of Directors.
12. **Bench/On Deck Restrictions:** Only the authorized coaches may occupy the player's bench in addition to the players. The home team will occupy the first base bench, visiting team the third base bench. This will be designated on the schedule with the home team listed as last. Managers are responsible for keeping "dead wood" off their benches. After the game, teams should make sure trash on their side is put into trash cans. The on deck batter at the Senior, Intermediate and Midget levels may warm up with a bat in a designated warm up area or behind the backstop.
13. **Game Day Roster:** Prior to the start of a game, each team will exchange rosters/lineups. Late players will be added to the opposing team's scorebook prior to the player entering the game. Rosters will be limited to 20 players.
14. **Blood on Uniform:** When it is detected that a player is bleeding, has an open wound or has a uniform with blood on it, the player will be attended to at once. If the player is able to return to the game, the wound must be covered with a dressing that will withstand the demands of participation. Any player whose uniform has visible blood must have that uniform changed before returning to competition.
15. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** *All coach and player suspensions will be fulfilled into following seasons (spring or fall) when necessary. All coach and player (with number) ejections will be reported by the coach to the VBRBL Board of Directors. Umpires will also report coach and player (with number) ejections to the VBRBL Board of Directors.*
- a. Any player or coach ejected from the game by an official for fighting shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of the next two games to be played by his team. No notice of this suspension shall be necessary, unless a suspension of 3 or more games is issued. In the event a player or coach deviates from this ruling, it will constitute a forfeit and the team not at fault will receive credit for a win. The player or coach will **still** be suspended from the next two games to be played by his team. Further sanctions will be enforced as necessary.
- b. Any player or coach ejected from the game by an official for unsportsmanlike conduct shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of the next league game to be played by his team. No notice of this suspension shall be necessary, unless a suspension of 2 or more games is issued. In the event a player or coach deviates from this ruling, it will constitute a forfeit and the team not at fault will receive credit for a win. The player or coach will **still** be suspended from the next league game to be played by his team. Further sanctions will be enforced as necessary.
- c. Any player, coach or spectator guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct in any manner toward the officials will be subject to suspension by the VBRBL.
- d. Any player, coach or spectator guilty of striking an official in any manner during or after a game shall automatically be suspended indefinitely from participating in the VBRBL.
- e. Once suspended, a player or coach may not come within 200' of home plate for the suspended game. The suspended player or coach may not participate in any game activities which includes pre-game warm up or coaches meeting.
- f. A player who is on base and attempting to distract the defensive team (i.e. clapping or similar conduct) is considered to be participating in unsportsmanlike conduct. The first offense will result in the player and his team issued a warning. The second unsportsmanlike offense by that **same team** will result in the offending player being called out by the umpire. The third unsportsmanlike offense by that same team will result in the offending player being ejected from the game by the umpire.

ARTICLE XIV: PLAYING RULES (CONT)

16. **"Suicide Squeeze":** MIDGETS ONLY... No "Suicide Squeeze" allowed. This is a JUDGMENT CALL by the umpire. If it occurs, the ball is DEAD. The runner is out. Coach is warned that if it happens again, coach will be ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct. It is suggested that the coach get clarification on exactly what the umpire will consider a "suicide squeeze" at the pre-game conference. Note: There can be a squeeze play without it being a "suicide squeeze".
17. **Head First Slide:** Midget League Only-The runner is out when he slides head-first while moving forward. NOTE: Applies only when advancing to a base. Does not apply when returning to a base from a run down or a pickoff situation.
18. **Collision Avoidance Rule:** A runner and the defensive player shall avoid collision while attempting to obtain a base or make an out. It is recommended the base runner slide into the base he is attempting to obtain to avoid collision. If the base runner or defensive player does not attempt to avoid collision, then runner will be either called out or awarded the base depending upon if the runner or defensive player was the offending party. If in the **umpire's judgment** the runner or defensive player attempted to knock down or "run over" the other player then the umpire will eject the offending player for unsportsmanlike conduct.
19. **Balks:** Midget League Only-On the first and second occurrence (by the same pitcher), the umpire will call "balk" and explain the rule infraction to the pitcher's manager. The rules regarding a balk will be enforced upon the third occurrence (by the same pitcher). The manager is permitted to visit the mound to reinstruct the pitcher in regards to the balk without this counting towards a visit to the mound.
20. **Speed Up Rules will be in Effect:**
- a. Pitcher will take only five warm-up pitches between innings.
 - b. After each out, the ball must be returned to the pitcher before the next batter steps into the batter's box.
 - c. Intentional Walk is allowed.
 - i. If a team elects to intentionally walk a batter, the coach will notify the umpire who in turn will signal the batter to first base without the pitcher pitching to the batter. **Exception: If runners are on base, the pitcher must pitch to the batter.**
 - ii. Senior Boys: If runners are on base, the catcher may stand and hold his glove out to the side to receive the pitch. Runners may advance at their own risk. The batter may hit the ball if he can do so without leaving the batter's box.
 - d. Only one offensive time-out per inning will be granted by the umpire.
 - e. The catcher will keep his catcher's gear on, except mask, at the completion of each inning, unless he is to be the number one, two or three batter.
 - f. With two outs and catcher on base, it is mandatory to have a courtesy runner for the catcher. The courtesy runner must be the first player in the batting line up before your catcher spot in the batting order that is currently not on base. Example: If your catcher is batting the 6th spot in the order and gets on base with 2 outs then the 5th batter must run unless they are one base then the 4th would run.
 - g. There will be no hidden ball tricks or anything to encourage a delay. Umpires will inform players to put the ball into play immediately and make every effort to keep the game moving.

21. Substitution Rules:

- a. **Re-entry Rule:** Any of the starting players in the batting line-up may be withdrawn from the game and re-enter once provided they always occupy the same position in the batting order. Once a substitute player is taken out of the batting line-up, he may not re-enter.
- b. **Pitching:** A coach will be allowed one visit to the mound per inning. The second appearance necessitates the removal of the pitcher. The pitcher may play any other position on the field and may come back to pitch a maximum of one time, provided he has not been removed from the game. If the pitcher is taken out of the game, and re-enters, he can play any position except pitcher.
- c. **Injuries:** If you do not have an eligible substitute you may re-enter a player who was withdrawn to replace the injured player. Midget League Only-If there are more than 9 players in your line-up and a player is injured, there is no penalty. If you drop down to 8 players due to injury, the vacated spot counts as an out.

ARTICLE XIV: PLAYING RULES (CONT)

- d. **Player Ejection:** If a team loses a player due to an ejection, there will be no team penalty for this as long as the team has at least nine players. If a player is ejected and the team has no eligible substitutes, the ejected player may be replaced by the last player who was withdrawn. If no substitutes are available to replace the ejected player, the spot vacated by the ejected player counts as an out. In order to continue play, a team must always have eight players.
 - e. **Other** Midget League Only-If a team loses a player because the player has to leave the game for legitimate circumstances other than an injury or an ejection and has no eligible substitutes, there will be no team penalty as long as the team still has at least 9 players in the game.
22. **Light Difficulty:** If light difficulty should occur, the game will not be held up waiting for repairs for more than 30 minutes. If lights can be repaired by 15 minutes after starting time for the following game, that game will be played. If repair technicians cannot be reached or cannot repair the lights, the umpire has the authority to call the games. See **Article XIV 8. Regulation Game** for status of a game which is halted.
23. **Condition of Diamond/Rain/Hazardous Weather:**
- a. In the event of rain during the day, the Host Site Director or Home Team coach will check the condition of the diamonds whenever possible a minimum of 2 ½ hours before game time.
 - b. Once a game is started, the decision of the umpire to play or not because of the condition of the diamond and weather conditions will be final and coaches and teams will accept this decision without question. In the event the game is halted, the teams will not leave the immediate area for a period of 15 minutes. After this period, the umpire will make a definite decision as to whether the game will continue or be called. If the first game is called, the second is automatically called and will be made up at a later date. This also applies if the first game is in progress and is permanently halted by rain before it is "regulation". If a game is called off, please keep off the diamond as it must be protected for play the next night.
 - c. **Hazardous Weather Conditions-**If, on the date of your scheduled game, there is a tornado or hurricane warning in effect any time between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. for the Virginia Beach area, all games will be canceled for that date.
24. **Make-Up Games:** Games missed because of rain or light difficulty will be played at the next available time. As many games as possible will be made up. Some games may not be brought back if they have no bearing on which teams advance to the playoffs. Regular season make-up games will start from the beginning.
25. **Playoff Games:**
- a. The higher seeded team is considered to be the home team.
 - b. A winner must be determined (no ties).
 - c. No time limit unless otherwise stated. Must play a full 7 innings in the championship game. Midgets will play a full 7 inning game in the semi-finals and championship game. Exception: 10-run rules is in effect after 5 innings.

d. If play is stopped before game is completed by circumstances beyond our control, play will be continued from the point of interruption. Teams must be prepared to play on short notice if playoff games are postponed.

26. **Protests:**

- a. All protests must be submitted in writing by the Area Chairperson/Representative to the VBRBL Board of Directors. Only player eligibility and/or rule misinterpretations are protestable. Judgment calls by the officials are not protestable.
- b. All matters of an arbitrary nature in connection with a player's eligibility may be protested at any time during the season by a coach or the Area Chairman/Representative. All protests must be discussed and approved by the Area Chairman/Representative and then submitted in writing to the VBRBL Board of Directors.
- c. All matters of an arbitrary nature other than player eligibility must be protested in writing no later than 72 hours after said incident by the Area Chairperson/Representative to the VBRBL Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIV: PLAYING RULES (CONT)

- d. Coaches protesting must immediately notify the umpire at the time of the infraction and it will be announced that the game is being played under protest. The scorer will note on the books the following: the inning, the exact time, players on base, batter, balls, strikes, etc. THE GAME MUST CONTINUE. The coach must channel the protest through his Area Chairperson/Representative who then must submit the protest in writing to the VBRBL Board of Directors within 72 hours of the occurrence.
- e. Direct violation of a current bylaw is not appealable.



Established 2010

(Founding Members: Arrowhead-Point of View, Creeds, Courthouse, Kempsville, Larkspur Salem, West Kempsville, Woodstock)