

UYBL Fall 2023 Bylaws

Dear Coaches,

We appreciate your service to our community and youth. As opening day nears, we want to take the opportunity to clarify the regulations that will be governing our games this upcoming season. Fall Baseball is not a Little League sanctioned activity, therefore rules that govern those games are up for interpretation. Below is a focused list of bylaws that league officials will operate under.

- **Length of games:** Regulation game is 6 innings. For both divisions, no new inning shall begin if 1 hour and 45 minutes has passed since first pitch. For player pitch only, there is a “hard stop” at the 2-hour mark of any game, as in the regular season.
- **Extra Innings:** UYBL will continue to observe the California rule within extra innings of play this fall. Any inning played after inning 6, will start with one runner occupying second base. The runner at second base will be the individual that recorded the last out of previous inning.
- **Run limits/Mercy Rule:** For player pitch division, once the batting team has scored five runs within any given inning the batting team will concede the remaining outs and allow the other team to hit. If the final inning has been declared by the umpire, this run limitation does not apply. For Major’s division, no batting team with a lead may score more than five runs within an inning. If the batting team started the inning at a run deficit, they may not score more than the runs necessary to erase the deficit plus 5. For instance, if the batting team is trailing 2-5, they would be able to score 8 runs before the run limit is achieved. That being said, runs must be tracked by an assigned scorekeeper or the coach(s). Umpires will not be responsible for tracking the score. Little league mercy rule, 15 runs after 3 innings or 10 run lead after 4 innings will not apply to our Fall season. This would take away playing time from our players. The time limit and run limit should mitigate lopsided outcomes.
- **Minimum Players:** Any team must have at least 8 players to start a game. If a team only has eight players at the start of the game, the ninth batter in the order will be skipped and will not be counted as an out. Players that show up late may participate in the game as soon as they show up. Those players will be placed at the end of the batting order. At the Player Pitch division, coaches may agree to start a game with only seven.
- **Live Ball on Swing and Miss Third Strikes (Majors Only):** Spring Little League regulations in place for fall regarding dropped third strikes. **MAJORS ONLY**
- **Minimum Play and Substitutions:** Teams at both the PP and Majors divisions will utilize a **continuous batting order**. Everyone in the dugout will have a place in the batting order and teams will bat through their roster. This is a variation from Little League rules, but one that works well for a developmental league, like our Fall season. Players may substitute defensively for anyone at any spot. (pitching/catching rules below) There should be no reason that one player sits out defensively more than a couple of innings with the open subbing, but each player must play a minimum of six consecutive outs on defense.
- **Pitch Count.** Monitoring pitch count and player eligibility will be the responsibility of the Coaches. Since games will only be on Saturdays, days of rest will not be applicable this season. Just as a reminder, the following maximum pitch limits will apply this season:
 - Player age 8: 50 pitches max.
 - Player age 9-10: 75 pitches max.
 - Player age 11-12: 85 pitches max.
 - A catcher that plays behind the plate for more than three innings is not eligible to pitch.
 - A pitcher that throws more than 20 pitches is not eligible to catch.

- Though not mandated, Fall Baseball is a good opportunity to expose players to new positions and situations. The intent of this league is to grow the skill sets of each of our players in a safe and healthy environment. Once again, we thank you for volunteering your time and look forward to a fun filled season. Please do not hesitate to reach out, if you have any questions.

UYBL Fall Baseball Committee

Andrew Ruelle