



**Rockville Baseball Association
League Rules**

**Last Revised: February 2018
For the Spring 2018 Season**

Reviewed and approved by the RBBA Executive Board

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Article I: Divisions

Section A: General Rules

1. Each Division will be composed of two or more Teams as defined in Article II.
2. The Divisions shall be administered by and under the immediate supervision of the Executive Board and its respective Division Director.
3. There shall be six (6) Divisions according to age classification for baseball and three (3) age groups for softball as listed in Section B.
4. Age discrepancies will be decided by the Director of Personnel

Section B: List of Divisions

- **Ronald Diehl Instructional Division**
 - Any player who is currently enrolled in any public or private school in grade level 1 (One) or 2 (Two) or the equivalent age.
- **Buddy Kinder Rookie Division**
 - Any player who is currently enrolled in any public or private school in grade level 3 (Three) or the equivalent age.
- **Pee Wee Division**
 - Any player who is currently enrolled in any public or private school in grade level 4 (Four) and 5 (Five) or the equivalent age.
- **Midget Division**
 - Any player who is currently enrolled in any public or private school in grade level 6 (Six) or 7 (Seven) or the equivalent age.
- **Junior Division**
 - Any player who is currently enrolled in any public or private school in grade level 8 (Eight) or 9 (Nine) or the equivalent age.
- **Senior Division**
 - Any player who is currently enrolled in any public or private school in grade level 10-12 and any player up to the age of eighteen (18) before April 30.
- **Softball 8U**
 - Any player who is currently enrolled in any public or private school in grade level 1 (one) through three (3) or the equivalent age.
- **Softball 10U**
 - Any player who is currently enrolled in any public or private school in grade level four (4) and five (5) or the equivalent age.
- **Softball 13U**
 - Any player who is currently enrolled in any public or private school in grade level six (6) through eight (8) or the equivalent age

Article II: Teams

Section A: General Team Rules and Guidelines

1. Participation in the RBBA is available to all children.
2. Outside Teams may participate in the RBBA program under the rules and policies promulgated by the RBBA Board and the City of Rockville.
3. The Number of Teams participating in the RBBA will be approved by the Board.

Section B: Sponsors

1. Sponsorship shall be accepted from service clubs, business establishments, citizens' associations, and other qualified individuals and businesses, all subject to approval by the Board.
2. The Sponsor shall furnish a sponsorship fee as determined by the Board.

Section C: Composition

1. Each Team shall have one (1) Manager who is directly responsible for ensuring that their Team complies with all requirements set forth in the By-Laws, these League Rules, and any other guidelines which the Board shall approve from time to time.
2. In all Divisions, the Manager of each Team shall be assigned not less than eleven (11) or more than fourteen (14) players in Instructional and not more than thirteen (13) in all other divisions.
 - a. Requests to exceed the maximum number of players must be approved by the Manager.
 - b. There will be no exceptions to the minimum.
3. Team rosters will be provided to the Managers by the Director of Personnel.
4. Managers shall submit the name of all Quit Players, as defined in Article II Section E, to the Director of Personnel.
5. Managers shall not forbid their players from participating on teams in non-Association sponsored programs.
6. The Manager is responsible for contacting the parent of any player who suffers an injury and reporting the injury to the Division Director.
 - a. The Division Director will then provide a detailed incident report to the City of Rockville Liaison.
7. The Manager of the winning team must contact the Division Director with the results of the game within 24 hours of the end of the game.
8. All Association Managers must be certified by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA), complete concussion training through NYSCA, complete the Intro to Pitch Smart course provided, and any other procedures the Board may approve from time to time.

Section D: Players in General

1. Players must meet the requirements of the By-Laws, these League Rules, and any further guidelines as the Board may approve from time to time.
 - a. Among any other requirements, players must meet the eligibility requirements as specified in the By-Laws.
 - b. These requirements shall supersede requirements of the travel league the teams are entered.
2. Any Player may be on the Official Roster of only one intramural team and only one travel team in the Association.
3. Any Player on an official roster in the Junior Division may play on a Senior Division team to prevent a forfeit for the Senior Division team.
4. A Player who is eligible to play in the Junior or Senior Division and who was not on a RBBA team at any time during the immediate past season shall be considered a Free Agent. A Free Agent has the option of trying out for the RBBA team of his/her choice, provided that the age, residency, and school attendance requirements are met.
5. No Player shall be eligible to participate in a Division Play-Off game, any RBBA All-Star game or the RBBA Tournament unless said Player is on an Official RBBA Roster, and has played in at least one-half of his/her team's regular season games, except when unable to participate due to injury.
6. Players may be added to the roster during the second half of the team's regular season only with the specific approval of the Director of Personnel.
7. Players may be requested to show proof of age upon request of Director of Personnel.

Section E: Transfer of Players

1. The transfer of Players from one team to another is strongly discouraged, however the association recognizes that in certain instances situations develop where it is advantageous to both the player and the RBBA for a transfer to be affected.
2. Approval of such transfer falls under the purview of the Executive Board and the Director of Personnel as outlined below.
3. The Board shall consider a written request from the parent(s) for the transfer of said Player when

Board of Directors:

The Board shall consider a written request from the parent(s) for the transfer of said Player when:

- a. The Player chooses to transfer to a team managed by their parent.
- b. The Player's place of residence changes from one school to another and who, within one (1) year of the residential move, requests placement on a team in or near the new residential area.
- c. The parent obtains a written release from the Player's current Manager between January 1 and May 15.

- a. Requests for transfer submitted after May 15 shall be tabled until January 1 of the next season.
- d. The Board shall honor one (1) release request per Player per year.
- e. The criteria to be used for reassignment under (d) above shall be as follows, in sequence:
 - a. To the Team located in the same sector of the city as the Player's residence and having the lowest won-lost record of Teams in that sector. Team selection in all listed clauses shall be subsequent to the following conditions:
 - i. If the reassignment is effective before the start of the season, the record from the previous year will be used.
 - ii. If the reassignment is effective during the season, the record from the current season will be used.
 - b. To the Team located in the same sector of the city as the Player's residence and having the fewest number of Players under contract in that sector.
 - c. To the Team with the lowest won-lost record in the Division.
 - d. To the Team with the fewest Players under contract in the Division.

Director for Personnel:

- 1. The Director of Personnel shall have the authority to reassign a player(s) with the conditions described below.
 - a. Placement shall be based on the neighborhood or school of the player.
 - b. A child may be re-assigned to play on a Team for which their parent is a coach or sponsor.

Section F: Quit Players

- 1. A Quit Player is anyone who leaves or refuses to play for the assigned team without obtaining a written release from the Manager.
 - a. In the event a Player quits prior to signing a RBBA contract for the upcoming season, the Player shall sit out the full upcoming season.
 - b. In the event a Player quits after the season is completed, the player shall become eligible for reassignment.

Section G: Age Waivers

- 1. The Board shall consider a written request from the parent(s) for the age waiver of said player when one of the following occurs:
 - a. The Player chooses an age waiver to a Team managed by his/her parent.
 - b. The Player chooses an age waiver to a Team sponsored by his/her parent.
 - c. The Player has a recommendation from a previous Manager that the Player has the ability to compete at the next division level.
- 2. The Player will be assigned to a Team through the normal feeder system.

3. Age waivers will only be considered for birthdays falling on or between May 1 and December 31 of the youngest year of the next highest division.
4. Age waivers will also be considered for some players to play down.
 - a. Only players within six months of the cut off of the next lowest division, and with approval from the appropriate Division Director, and team coach, shall be granted this waiver.

Section H: Suspended Players

1. On Opening Day and throughout the season, any player who is removed by the Manager of their Team for minor disciplinary problems shall be subject to suspension by the Manager for one game provided that said manager submits a written communication to the suspended Player's parents and a copy to the President within twenty-four (24) hours from the time of the suspension.
2. On Opening Day and throughout the season, any Player who is removed by the Manager of their Team for major disciplinary problems shall be subject to suspension by the Board for a period of twenty-one (21) days.
 - a. It shall be the Manager's obligation to submit, within twenty-four (24) hours after the Player is removed, a written communication to the Board outlining the basis for removal.
 - b. The Board shall rule on the request within twenty-four (24) hours after receiving the Managers statement.
 - c. After completion of the twenty-one (21) day suspension, the Board may reinstate or permanently expel the Player.

Section I: Player Eligibility

1. Any Player(s) may be found ineligible for violations of the provisions found in these By-Laws, the League Rules, or such other guidelines as the Board may approve from time to time.

Section J: Forfeits

1. The following shall result in a forfeit of all games in which the infraction occurred, when such infraction is brought to the attention of the Board through a written communication.
 - a. Playing of an ineligible player
 - b. No Board Approved Manager in attendance at a game.
2. When such games are forfeited, there shall be an automatic review of the Manager's conduct by the Board.

Article III: Registration

Section A: General Registration Guidelines

1. Before any Team shall be entitled to commence Association play, it must meet the following registration requirements:
 - a. All Teams must register with the Board at a date and time specified by the President.
 - b. Player registration fees shall be submitted to the Director of Personnel as part of the registration process.

Article IV: Competition

Section A: Official Association Rules

1. The Association will use the most recent edition of the National Federation of State High School Association Baseball Rules, as modified and approved for each Division by the Board to the extent not inconsistent with the By-Laws, these League Rules and any other guidelines the Board may approve of from time to time.
2. Each Division is encouraged to modify the Official Association Rules as it deems appropriate to further the Association's goals of providing young people with the opportunity to learn the skills of baseball and enjoy participating in competing in an organized league, with a view toward educating and training the young people to become better citizens.
3. The Divisions are advised to consider the Player's personal safety, welfare, and attitudes of fair play and good sportsmanship.
4. Each Division's modifications to the Association's Rules will be valid for the current season, unless vetoed by the Board as set forth in the By-Laws.

Section B: Official Equipment Rules

1. The Board shall designate at the First Annual General Membership meeting the official game ball to be used in regular season play.
 - a. Any ball to be used in an official game shall not be marked in any manner whatsoever other than the manufacturer's logo, emblem, official seal, etc.
2. No wooden bats are permitted in the Rockville Baseball Association, except that the Junior and Senior Divisions may enact rules permitting their use in those Divisions.
3. Metal cleats are permitted only in the Junior and Senior Division of the RBBA.
4. Helmets with face masks must be used for Instructional, Rookie, and Pee Wee.
 - a. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Section C: Postponed Games

1. A postponed game is one canceled before the first pitch is thrown.
2. The Division Director will reschedule the game at the next available time to the best of their ability.

Section D: Incomplete Games

1. An incomplete game is any game where the first pitch has occurred and the umpire must terminate the game before it becomes official.
2. The Division Director will schedule the continuation game to be played within ten (10) days of the originally scheduled game to the best of their ability.

Section E: Rescheduled Games

1. The Division Director shall promptly reschedule postponed or incomplete games and notify both managers.
2. All players on the official roster are eligible to play in a continuation game.
3. The innings pitched in an incomplete game will count toward a pitcher's total innings for the playing week.
4. The lineup for the continuation game will be the same as the lineup of the original game. If a player is not available for the continuation game, the player's turn in the batting order will be skipped without penalty.
5. If the wildcat batting order is in effect, any players not in the original line up will be added to the end of the original batting order. Otherwise the Division substitution rules will be in effect.

Section F: Pitching Constraints

1. The Association will use Pitch Smart Guidelines in all Divisions.
2. A pitcher shall be charged with a full inning pitched once said pitcher delivers a legal pitch or if said pitcher is the pitcher of record at the time a put-out is made.

Section G: Ejections

1. Any Player ejected by the umpire from a game shall be suspended until the Player's team has completed their next official game.
2. Any member of a Team's coaching staff ejected by the umpire shall be suspended until the Team has completed their next official game.
3. A Manager or Player who has been suspended may not participate in pre-game warm ups, be present in the dugout area, be on the playing field, or interact with other team members.
4. Ejections may not be appealed or reversed.

Section H: Waiver of Rules

1. No playing rule, either general or specific, may be changed during the season between the dates of April 15 and September 1 of any year.

2. Failure of any team Manager to enforce compliance with any of the general playing rules shall result in a protest, possible forfeit, or possible suspension when such infractions are called to the attention of the Board.

Article V: Records and Results

Section A: Official Scoring Guidelines

1. The home team shall furnish an official scorer for each game.
 - a. That scorebook shall be official, and the umpire will sign the official score book at the end of the game.
2. The Manager of the winning team shall turn in a game summary to the Division Director within twenty-four (24) hours of the games conclusion.

Article VI: Protest of Games

Section A: Process of Protesting a Game

1. All protests must be made at the time of the alleged infraction to the umpire and the opposing team Manager.
 - a. The protest will be noted in both Managers' score books and attested to by the umpire.
 - b. A request to file a protest by a Manager must be honored by the opposing Manager and the umpire.
2. A written protest of the alleged infraction, including complete description and explanation, as well as rule citations and references, must be submitted to the Director for Division Play, within twenty-four (24) hours following the questioned infraction of the rules.
3. A protest fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) must accompany all protests. In case the protest is upheld, the fee will be refunded. If not upheld, the fee will be deposited in the RBBA Treasury and used for the administration and operation of the Association, at the pleasure of the Board.
4. The Board shall notify Managers of both teams involved in a protested game of the protest hearing. Said notice shall be given at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to said hearing.
5. The Director for Division Play shall set up a Protest Committee, consisting of 3 or more persons, to hear and act on protests.
 - a. A majority vote will be required for a ruling.
 - b. The actions of the Committee shall be final.
 - c. The Protest Committee must rule on the protest within one (1) week after the protest is officially filed.
6. Protests in regard to the use of an ineligible Player or Manager may be submitted to the Board at any time.
7. The Protest Committee cannot consist of any member who is involved in the protest.

8. Protests which occur during Division play-offs must:
 - a. Be filed within twelve (12) hours of the alleged infraction;
 - b. Be ruled on within twenty-four (24) hours after the protest is filed.

Article VII: Additional Competition

Section A: All-Star Game Rules

1. The Board and appropriate Division Director shall publish the following:
 - a. The number of All-Star Games for each Division.
 - b. The date and starting time for each All-Star Game.
 - c. The number of Players to be selected from each Team.
 - d. Other procedures and requirements the Board deems appropriate and not inconsistent with the By-Laws, these League Rules, and any other guidelines which the Board may approve from time to time.
2. The Manager with the best won-lost record in each division shall be the Manager of the home team for that Divisional All-Star game.
3. The Manager with the second-best record in each Division shall be the Manager of the Visiting team for that Divisional All-Star game.
4. Each Manager in the Division shall select the Players to represent their Team in the All-Star game.
5. Selected players must wear their regular season uniforms.
6. All game play shall be governed by the Association's rules for that Division's regular season play with the exception of specified wherein this section.
7. The total number of innings for each All-Star Game shall be eight.
8. Each Player must play a minimum of four (4) innings.
9. No pitcher may pitch more than two innings.
10. All-Star Awards shall be presented to each All-Star player.

Section B: Greater Washington 4th of July Tournament Rules

1. No more than two (2) RBBA teams from Pee Wee, Midget, and Junior Divisions shall be selected for play in the tournament.
2. One (1) RBBA team from the Rookie and Senior Divisions may be selected.

Managerial Selection Process:

1. Division Directors shall canvas each of their Division Managers for their selection for the tournament manager position.
 - a. This canvas should take place before the 5th game of the regular season.
2. Division Directors shall review the list of potential candidates with the advice and consent of other Board members.
3. Division Directors shall contact the candidates in regard to their availability for the tournament.

- a. The Division Director shall call a divisional membership meeting in a timely manner.
 - b. They shall present each respective Manager with a managerial candidate list. The division director shall have the Managers of that division vote for the tournament manager(s). The ballot method will be used.
4. Elected tournament managers will enlist the services of at least one (1) RBBA Manager from his Division as an assistant manager.
 - a. NYSCA certified assistant coaches from the tournament Manager's RBBA seasonal team can also be enlisted as assistant coaches.
5. The appointment of tournament manager(s) is subject to RBBA board approval.

Player Selection Process:

1. A public tryout for each team will be scheduled between the last game of the regular season and the All-Star games.
 - a. The tryout will be advertised by sending an electronic mail message to every RBBA Player before the end of the regular season.
 - b. In lieu of mailing a flyer, each Division may elect to notify the Players via electronic mail.
2. Notice of those selected for the team or for a call-back tryout will be provided within forty-eight (48) hours of the public tryout.

Section C: Participation in Outside Tournaments

1. With the approval of the Board, Managers may form a team to participate in invitational tournament using players who are on an official roster of a team in the Association.

Section D: Fall Baseball

1. Divisional play in the Fall will be for all Divisions in which enough teams are furnished.
2. Fall Baseball will follow all procedures outlined in this document and in the Association By-Laws and other guidelines that Board may approve of from time to time, but will have its own set of rules to be published on the website.

Section E: Travel Play

1. The Association will sponsor teams as possible in outside travel league(s).

Article VIII: Code of Conduct of the RBBA

Section A: Reason and Purpose

1. The Association will provide young people with opportunities to learn the skills of baseball and the enjoyment of participation and competition in an organized league, with a view toward educating and training the young people to become better citizens.

2. The player's personal safety, welfare, and attitudes of fair play and good sportsmanship will be emphasized.

Section B: Players

1. The players will report for games attired in neat, clean uniforms.
2. There will no smoking, drinking, or use of illegal substances by any player before, during or after a game on or adjacent to the field.
3. Players should always address the adults in charge of all teams as "coach", or as they prefer to be called.
4. Players will respect the umpires.
 - a. Players may request a rule's interpretation from an umpire between innings with intent of acquiring more knowledge of the game.
5. Players will conduct themselves in an orderly manner at all times regarding opponents, Umpires and spectators.
6. Good sportsmanship will be observed at all times.

Section C: Managers

1. Will maintain disciplinary control of their players, coaches, and player's parents to the best of their ability at all times.
2. Will address the Umpire(s) in a respectful manner.
3. Will not delay the game's progress by repeatedly requesting "time" in order to discuss rule interpretations or decisions.
4. Will ensure that players are informed of scheduled RBBA activities and have player members present at such activities including Opening Day, All Star Games, Playoffs, and Awards Ceremonies, and other RBBA events.
5. Abide by a Doctor's decision in all matters of a player's health, injuries and ability to play and never allow any player to enter or re-enter a game if there is any doubt as to the seriousness of the player's injury.
6. Attend scheduled RBBA and Division meetings and clinics so as to improve understanding of the Association rules, goals and objectives.
7. Never use any physical means against spectators, players, officials, recreation staff, or other managers and coaches.
8. Never criticize opposing teams, managers, coaches, or spectators by word of mouth or gesture.
9. Never ask or suggest directly to a player of another team that they are desirous of having such a player for their team.
10. Never encourage intentional roughness on the part of any player during the course of a game.
11. Will not use or permit the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal substances in the dugout or the playing field area during any team activity.

Section D: Umpires

1. Will discuss or explain all rule interpretations when properly requested by the manager.
2. Will not berate a player or coach during or between innings.
3. Will inform the appropriate Manager when a violation of the rule is being done by a player and will not attempt to correct the player but will offer the manager advice and help to correct the fault if requested.
4. Will show proper respect to Managers, coaches and players.
5. Will conduct the game with a dignity befitting their official position.
6. Must file on the official score book a report of any and all protests.

Section E: General Rules of Procedure and Conduct

- 1) Spectators and participants are encouraged to cheer for their team. Verbal harassment of game participants by anyone in attendance at an RBBA-sponsored game is considered unsportsmanlike conduct and is not condoned.
- 2) Should un-sportsman's like conduct of the participants continue after a warning by the umpire in charge of the game or by a Board Member, a forfeit will be declared in favor of the appropriate team.
- 3) Anyone who strikes, shoves, pushes, bumps, or physically threatens an umpire in any manner shall be suspended from all RBBA-sponsored activities for a period of time as determined by a majority of the Board.
- 4) An adult (18 years of age or older) shall be present at all times during the operation of the concession stand.
- 5) At all times, mutual courtesy, fairness, and respect are to be shown among parents, players, managers, coaches and umpires.
- 6) Only designated team managers may discuss a ruling with the umpire.
- 7) Managers, coaches, spectators and players not involved in the particular play shall not encroach on the playing area while the ball is in play.
- 8) Alcoholic beverages are forbidden at all Association-sponsored activities.

Article IX: Amendments

Section A: Simple Majority

1. These League Rules, or any section of same, may be amended or repealed by a simple majority or the Board at a meeting held consistent with the provisions of the By-Laws

Section B: Sponsorship of Amendments

1. At any time, either the Executive Board or Voting Members may propose amendments to these League Rules.
2. Such Sponsorship or recommendation shall be made as specified in the By-Laws.

Section C: Time for Amendments to League Rules

1. Notwithstanding Section B above, Amendments to these League Rules must be consistent with the period of no amendments as specified in Article VI of the By-Laws.

Article X: Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policies

Section A: Non-Discrimination Policy

1. The Rockville Baseball Association does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, gender, gender expression, age, national origin and ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.
 - a. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of all services
 - b. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, players, parents, volunteers, vendors, and all others the organization works with.
2. The Rockville Baseball Association is an equal opportunity organization. We will not discriminate and will take measures to ensure against any discrimination in employment, recruitment, advertisements for employment, compensation, termination, upgrading, promotions, and other conditions of volunteer opportunities against any volunteer or applicant on the bases of race, color, gender, national origin, age, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.
3. Any individual found to have engaged in discriminatory activity is subject to disciplinary action by the RBBA up to and including suspension, expulsion, and civil or criminal prosecution when warranted.

Section B: Anti-Harassment and Bullying Policies

1. The Rockville Baseball Association is committed in all areas to providing an environment that is free from harassment and bullying.
2. Harassment based upon an individuals sex, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, religion, or any other legally protected characteristics will not be tolerated.
3. All volunteers, including Executive Board Members, coaches, parents, players, et al, are expected and required to abide by this policy.
4. No person will be adversely affected in any league opportunity as a result of bringing complaints of unlawful harassment.

Section C: Anti-Harassment and Bullying procedures

1. If an individual feels that they have been harassed on the basis of their sex, national origin, ethnic background, or any other legally protected characteristic, they should immediately report the matter to a member of the Executive Board, the appropriate Division Director, coach.

- a. If the issue relates to a specific team, that teams coach should be the first point of contact.
 - b. If the issue relates to an Executive Board member, the President of the RBBA should be immediately contacted.
2. Once the matter has been reported it will be promptly investigated and any necessary corrective action will be taken where appropriate.
3. All complaints of unlawful harassment will be handled in as discreet and confidential a manner as is possible.
4. Any individual engaging in improper harassing behavior will be subject to disciplinary action.