

# **Cuyahoga Valley Baseball Association 2025 Playing Rules**

The current version of the “National Federation of High School Baseball Playing Rules” and the “Ohio High School Athletic Association” as modified/amended below will govern all participation in the Cuyahoga Valley Baseball Association. Should any misunderstanding arise as to the intent or meaning of the rules and requirements of participation, or any discrepancy appear, the decision of the Cuyahoga Valley Baseball Association shall be final and conclusive.

*Append the following **RULE 0 SEASON, TEAM, PLAYER AND ROSTER REQUIREMENTS** and the sections and articles included within it to the NFHS Baseball Rule Book:*

## **RULE 0 SEASON, TEAM, PLAYER AND ROSTER REQUIREMENTS**

### **SECTION 1 CVBA SEASON & LEAGUES**

**ART. 1 . . .** For brevity “Cuyahoga Valley Baseball Association” may be abbreviated as “CVBA” hereafter, “Ohio High School Athletic Association” may be abbreviated as “OHSAA” hereafter, and “National Federation of State High School Associations” may be abbreviated as “NFHS” hereafter.

**ART. 2 . . .** CVBA regular seasons will be designated by the calendar year in which their game play occurs and shall include all CVBA related events and activities during that calendar year between the regular season dates published by CVBA. Additional seasons (i.e., Fall-ball seasons) may be approved from time to time and may require additional team registration and participation requirements as determined by the CVBA.

**ART. 3 . . .** Leagues offered for team participation in CVBA regular seasons will be based on age group. League designations within CVBA are listed as the oldest eligible player age, as of May 1 of the current CVBA regular season year, of all rostered players on a participating team. As an example, all players on teams in the 2025 8U League cannot have reached 9 years of age, or older, as of May 1, 2025 to be eligible for 8U league participation.

**ART. 4 . . .** CVBA will attempt to offer leagues at age groups 8U through 18U for each regular season, however CVBA reserves the right to combine age groups as necessary or refrain from offering leagues at age groups based on the number of teams registered. Teams cannot participate in the same age group for more than one (1) year.

**ART. 5 . . .** CVBA encourages individual leagues to be broken down into divisions based on the competitive level of the teams participating in the league. Within each division, teams can be further divided by geography or level of experience at the sole discretion of the CVBA. When registering for participation in a CVBA season, each team shall denote on their registration application their team classification (OPEN, COMMUNITY PLUS, or COMMUNITY) based on the following criteria:

- a. **OPEN:** Premier level teams. No team boundaries. No player limitations with exception to the birthday rule (May 1st). All high school age teams will be classified as OPEN teams and have open rosters.
- b. **COMMUNITY PLUS:** Community Plus based teams; must declare city or school district as boundaries. Teams are permitted to have five (5) players from outside declared boundaries on their roster.
- c. **COMMUNITY:** Community based teams; must declare city or school district as boundaries. Teams are permitted to have three (3) players from outside declared boundaries on their roster.

**ART. 6 . . .** No limit will be placed on the number of teams per stated boundary. Teams must submit a team registration application to the CVBA board for approval and admittance into the CVBA and placement within a CVBA league. Admitted teams will compete for a regular season division title and, at the discretion of the CVBA, in a season end league tournament sponsored by CVBA.

**ART. 7 . . .** At its sole discretion and for the benefit of the league, the CVBA reserves the right to combine divisions within a league, schedule games across divisions in the interest of providing a more favorable, more diverse, and/or more competitive regular season, and/or assign teams to divisions within a league irrespective of their team classification..

**ART. 8 . . .** All CVBA teams are prohibited from participating in more than one other organized baseball league's/association's regular season play while participating in the CVBA.

**ART. 9 . . .** CVBA games shall always take precedence over non-CVBA scheduled games and tournaments. In the event that a team has a conflict between a scheduled CVBA game and a scheduled non-CVBA game, the scheduled CVBA will take precedence and is to be played as scheduled. The penalty for cancellation and/or a refusal to play in a scheduled CVBA game by reason of a conflict with a non-CVBA event may be deemed a forfeit by the CVBA Board.

## **SECTION 2 CVBA TEAM, PLAYER AND ROSTER REQUIREMENTS**

**ART. 1 . . .** All teams must complete their registration for regular season participation prior to the date established by the CVBA. Teams completing their registration after the registration deadline shall be admitted to the regular season at the sole discretion of the CVBA.

**ART. 2 . . .** Following the registration deadline but prior to their respective first regular season games, all teams are required to submit a fully completed Parental Waiver, Release of Liability, Indemnification and Consent Form Roster (hereafter "Roster") to the CVBA. Roster forms are available online at <https://www.htosports.com/CVBA> and completed forms must be submitted by **electronic mail** to both 1) the CVBA ([cvbaroster@gmail.com](mailto:cvbaroster@gmail.com)), and 2) to the league commissioner. Roster submissions for each team must include the following information for each rostered player in order for the player to be considered a CVBA eligible player:

- a. Player Full Name
- b. Player Birth Date
- c. Player Home Address
- d. Player City, State and Zip code
- e. Attending School District
- f. Parent Signature

Furthermore, all teams are solely responsible for meeting all of the requirements of:

- g. Lindsay's Law (see Ohio Revised Code §3313.5310, §3707.58, & §3707.59)
- h. Ohio Return-to-Play Law (including required Coach Training per Ohio Revised Code §3313.539)
- i. Public Law 115-126 - Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017

**ART. 3 . . .** Players beyond their graduating high school senior year are ineligible to participate in the CVBA.

**ART. 4 . . .** Team rosters will be limited to no more than fifteen (15) players per team in the 8U-12U Leagues and to no more than eighteen (18) players per team in the 13U-18U Leagues.

**ART. 5 . . .** CVBA teams are permitted to make additions and/or modifications to their Roster prior to their respective leagues' final roster deadline date. Final roster deadline dates for CVBA leagues are as follows:

- a. 8U-14U – May 15<sup>th</sup>
- b. 15U-18U – June 4<sup>th</sup>

**ART. 6 . . .** Teams are not permitted to play in regular season games prior to submitting a fully completed Roster

to CVBA (as required in CVBA Rule 0-2-2). Any games played prior to the submission of a completed Roster to CVBA will be deemed forfeits.

**ART. 7 . . .** All CVBA teams must carry their own general liability insurance policy as a condition precedent to a team's participation in any CVBA events. A valid certificate of insurance, with the "Cuyahoga Valley Baseball Association" listed as an additional insured, must be provided as evidence of coverage prior to a team's participation and as a requirement of registration in a CVBA season and must be provided to CVBA prior to a team's first regular season game.

**ART. 8 . . .** Only players listed on a team's Roster are eligible to play in games. Players participating in games that are not listed on a team's Roster are ineligible players. Games played with ineligible players participating on a team will be deemed forfeits.

**ART. 9 . . .** Players living in one community and going to school (public or private) in another community may be rostered on a team in either community without being considered an outside player.

**ART. 10 . . .** Players can only be rostered on one team per CVBA league (age group). A player may only be listed on two (2) Rosters (his primary CVBA team and as a "call-up player" on another CVBA team in a different league, or age group, which he is age-eligible to participate in), however that player is only eligible to pitch in the lowest age group league for which he is rostered. It is each team's responsibility to verify its players' pitching eligibility. Games played by teams utilizing ineligible pitchers will be deemed forfeits. **(NOTE: above Rule 0-2-8 requiring all players to be listed on a team's roster applies to "call-up players" as well)**

*(Example: Player A is age eligible for and is listed on the Roster of both a team in the CVBA 8U league and a team in the CVBA 9U league. By CVBA Rule 0-2-8, Player A is an eligible player for both teams but is ineligible to pitch for the CVBA 9U league team he is rostered on.)*

**ART. 11 . . .** Tampering with players rostered on member CVBA teams between April 15th and end of playing season, including within any CVBA Tournament, as established by the CVBA could result in forfeit and/or the removal of the offending team from the CVBA.

## NFHS RULE 1 PLAYER, FIELD, EQUIPMENT

### SECTION 2 THE FIELD

*Append NFHS Rule 1, Section 2 to include the following CVBA rules 1-2-13 thru 1-2-15:*

**ART. 13 . . .** The dimensions listed in NFHS Rule 1-2-1 detailing the base lengths and in NFHS Rule 1-2-6 detailing the distance between the front edge of the pitching rubber and the back point of the plate are modified by age group to the dimensions listed in the table below:

**TABLE 1-2-13**

| League/Age Group       | Mod. Rule 1-2-1<br>Base Dimension | Mod. Rule 1-2-6<br>Mound Dimension |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 8U                     | 60'-0"                            | 43'-0"                             |
| 9U & 10U               | 65'-0"                            | 46'-0"                             |
| 11U & 12U              | 70'-0"                            | 50'-6"                             |
| 13U & 14U <sup>1</sup> | 80'-0"                            | 54'-0"                             |
| 15U and Above          | 90'-0"                            | 60'-6"                             |

<sup>1</sup>**NOTE:** 14U Required base and mound dimensions can be 90'-0" & 60'-6" respectively by a majority vote, held prior to the start of the season, of the participating 14U.

**ART. 14 . . .** If it is determined, prior to the start of a game, that the field dimensions do not substantially meet the requirements of CVBA rule 1-2-13, the home team is required to make the necessary adjustments to the field of play to bring it into substantial conformance with the correct and required dimensions or risk forfeit of

the game.

**ART. 15 . . .** If it is determined after the start of the game that any of the field dimensions do not substantially meet the requirements of CVBA rule 1-2-13, game play and time shall be temporarily suspended to allow the home team to make a reasonable effort to bring the field of play into compliance. All previous game play that occurred prior to the discovery of the non-conforming field dimension will remain as-played and neither team shall have to the right to contest the game by reason of non-conforming field dimensions.

### **SECTION 3 BATS, BALLS AND GLOVES**

*Append NFHS Rule 1, Section 3 to include the following CVBA rules 1-3-8 thru 1-3-10:*

**ART. 8 . . .** The requirement to furnish NOCSAE baseball listed in NFHS Rule 1-3-1 applies only to CVBA leagues 14U and above. The CVBA will provide a list of approved baseballs for use in CVBA leagues 8U-13U. High quality, tournament grade baseballs not listed in the CVBA approved baseball list may be submitted for use consideration to the CVBA for approval prior to the start of the season.

**ART. 9 . . .** The home team shall provide a minimum of two new CVBA-approved baseballs to start a game. The umpire-in-chief's judgement on the condition of any baseball for game use shall govern. No less than two baseballs shall be used to complete a game.

**ART. 10 . . .** Bats approved for use in CVBA leagues 15U-18U will fully conform to NFHS Rule 1-3-2 thru 1-3-5 and all applicable OHSA rules. Bats approved for use in the CVBA 14U league must be, at a minimum, USSSA 1.15 BPF certified, have a weight differential (drop) no greater than -5, and have a barrel diameter no greater than 2¾". Bats approved for use in the CVBA 13U league must be, at a minimum, USSSA 1.15 BPF certified, have a weight differential (drop) no greater than -8, and have a barrel diameter no greater than 2¾". Bats approved for use in CVBA 8U-12U leagues must be, at a minimum, USSSA 1.15 BPF certified.

### **SECTION 5 PLAYER EQUIPMENT**

*Append NFHS Rule 1, Section 5 to include the following CVBA rules 1-5-12 thru 1-5-14:*

**ART. 12. . .** Shoes with metal cleats are prohibited from use in CVBA Leagues 13U and younger. CVBA League 14U may permit the use of shoes with metal cleats by a majority vote of the participating teams prior to the start of the season.

**ART. 13. . .** It should be noted that CVBA rules do not supersede individual community and facility rules, thus players in any age group permitted to use metal cleats by CVBA rules should always have a non-metal cleat alternative shoe in case local and/or facility rules prohibit the use of metal cleats.

**ART. 14. . .** Upon discovery that a player is wearing metal cleats when CVBA, community, facility, and/or other organization of competent jurisdiction rules prohibited the use of metal cleats, the player's team will be given a warning and directed to immediately discontinue the use of metal cleats. Any subsequent occurrence of a metal cleat infraction by a member of a previously warned team within the same game or within a double header will result in a player ejection.

## **NFHS RULE 2 PLAYING TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

### **SECTION 3 BALK**

*Append NFHS Rule 2, Section 3 to include the following added language after the last paragraph in the Section:*

In the CVBA 8U & 9U Leagues balks do not exist and cannot be called as an infraction.

### **SECTION 11 DEADBALL**

*Append NFHS Rule 2, Section 11 to include the following added language after the last paragraph in the Section:*

In the CVBA 8U & 9U Leagues the ball becomes dead when the pitcher has possession of the ball on the mound. Following a batted ball into fair territory, runners may advance bases until such a time that the ball is declared dead by the pitcher having possession of it on the mound. Runners between bases and advancing to the next base at the time the ball is declared dead according to this paragraph may continue to the next base at their own peril but remain at risk of putout. Any attempt by the pitcher to make a putout following a mound dead ball will be considered a live ball play.

## **SECTION 19 INFIELD FLY**

*Append NFHS Rule 2, Section 19 to include the following added language after the last paragraph in the Section:*

In the CVBA 8U & 9U Leagues the infield fly rule is not in effect.

## **SECTION 34 STOLEN BASE, DOUBLE STEAL, TRIPLE STEAL**

*Append NFHS Rule 2, Section 34 to include the following CVBA rule 2-34-4 thru 2-34-5:*

**ART. 4 . . .** In the CVBA 8U League, all attempts for stolen bases, double steals, and triple steals are prohibited.

**ART. 5 . . .** In the CVBA 9U League, attempts to steal from third base to the home plate is prohibited.

## **NFHS RULE 3 SUBSTITUTING-COACHING-BENCH AND FIELD CONDUCT – CHARGE CONFERENCES**

### **SECTION 1 SUBSTITUTING**

*Append NFHS Rule 3, Section 1 to include the following CVBA rules 3-1-7 thru 3-1-9:*

**ART. 7 . . .** NFHS Rule 3-1-4 describing the use of a designated hitter is not applicable to CVBA and is prohibited in the CVBA. All players occupying a fielding position must bat for themselves in the batting order.

**ART. 8 . . .** A player may be designated on the lineup card as an **Additional Hitter (AH)**. The additional hitter may occupy any single spot in the batting order and may be inserted into a fielding position freely for as long as the player listed as the AH remains in the lineup. The use of the AH must be declared before start of game. Any team utilizing the AH option will bat 10 players and field 9 players. The starting AH can be replaced by a substitute player; however, the AH position cannot be eliminated from the lineup at any time after the start of the game. There must be 10 batters the entire game unless you lose your 10<sup>th</sup> player to an injury or illness. A spot vacated due to injury or illness that cannot be filled with an eligible player will be skipped. If a player is ejected or leaves the game for any purpose other than injury or illness and his spot cannot be filled with an eligible bench player, an out will be recorded for every time that spot is due to bat in the order.

**ART. 9 . . .** Prior to the start of the game a team, at their option, may elect to utilize a **Continuous Batting Order**. A team utilizing a continuous batting order must declare it to the opposing team prior to the start of the game and supply the opposing team with a lineup card listing, in batting order, all players in attendance at the game. Any team electing to begin the game using a continuous batting must complete the game with the same batting order in which they started without revision. If a player is ejected or leaves the game for any purpose (excluding injury) an out will be called and recorded each time that player's spot in the continuous batting order subsequently comes to bat.

### **SECTION 3 BENCH AND FIELD CONDUCT**

*Append NFHS Rule 3, Section 3 to include the following CVBA rules 3-3-5 thru 3-3-7:*

**ART. 5 . . .** A coach, manager, player, and/or fan who is ejected shall leave the vicinity of the playing area immediately and is prohibited from further contact, direct or indirect, with the team during the remainder of the game. It is the responsibility of the opposing team's manager to notify the CVBA board of any ejections that occur in a contest or game.

**ART. 6 . . .** The minimum penalty following the first ejection within a season, or a calendar year of a manager, player or coach will be a one (1) game suspension, with a longer suspension possible at the sole discretion of the CVBA board based on the severity of the offense that led to the ejection. A 2nd ejection within a season or a calendar year of a manager, player or coach will serve a minimum two (2) game suspension. A 3rd ejection within a season or calendar year of a manager, player or coach will result in a minimum suspension for the remainder of the season or a full calendar year (whichever is greater) from participation in the CVBA.

**ART. 7 . . .** The CVBA board has a zero-tolerance policy on behavior that is unsporting and/or detrimental to the spirit of the game of baseball. Good sporting behavior, by players, coaches, officials, and spectators alike, is a fundamental ingredient to the continued success of the CVBA and everyone's enjoyment of CVBA programs. Sportsmanship, or good sporting behavior, is about treating one another with respect and exhibiting appropriate behavior. Therefore, CVBA reserves the right to review any situation of unsporting behavior and subsequently take whatever action or impose whatever penalties it deems appropriate (*even if beyond the minimum penalties listed above in rules 3-3-5 & 3-3-6*) toward a manager, coach, player, or spectator based on the circumstances and severity of the infraction.

## **NFHS RULE 4 STARTING AND ENDING GAME**

### **SECTION 1 STARTING A GAME**

*Append NFHS Rule 4, Section 1 to include the following CVBA rule 4-1-6:*

**ART. 6 . . .** An elapsed game time shall be kept for the application of time limits described in CVBA rule 4-2-6. The elapsed game time shall begin at the conclusion of the plate meeting, as described in NFHS rule 4-1-3 between the umpire-in-chief and the visiting and home teams. Coaches shall denote and mutually agree on the time the plate meeting concludes prior to the starting of the game.

### **SECTION 2 ENDING A REGULATION GAME**

*Append NFHS Rule 4, Section 2 to include the following CVBA rules 4-2-5 thru 4-2-7:*

**ART. 5 . . .** The NFHS definition of a regulation game consisting of seven innings (turns at bat), shall apply to all CVBA leagues (9U – 18U) with the exception of the CVBA 8U & 9U Leagues in which a regulation game shall consist of six innings (turns at bat). Any reference in the NFHS and/or CVBA rules to the 7 innings intended as being the length of a regulation game shall be interpreted as 6 innings with respect to the CVBA 8U & 9U Leagues.

**ART. 6 . . .** Time limits shall be imposed as game ending events for all CVBA games in accordance with Table 4-2-6 below. In the application of this rule, no new inning shall be started if a game's elapsed time surpasses the time limits listed in Table 4-2-6 below and the game shall be deemed a completed regulation game, regardless of the number of innings played, at the conclusion of the inning being played following the moment a time limit is reached.

**TABLE 4-2-6**

| <b>League/Age Group</b> | <b>Time Limit</b>    |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 8U & 9U                 | 2 hours              |
| 10U                     | 2 hours & 15 minutes |
| 11U & 12U               | 2 hours & 15 minutes |
| 13U thru 18U            | 2 hours & 30 minutes |

**ART. 7 . . .** In addition to the NFHS rule 4-2-2 detailing a game ending condition when a team is ahead by 10 runs or more at the end of five innings of play, the CVBA also deems that the game shall end when the visiting team is behind 15 runs or more after 3½ innings, or after the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) inning, if either team is 15 runs behind and

both teams have had an equal number of times at bat.

## **SECTION 4 FORFEITED GAME**

*Replace NFHS Rule 4, Section 4 with the following CVBA rules 4-4-1 thru 4-4-4:*

**ART. 1 . . .** A game may be deemed a forfeit to an offended team when another team:

- a. is late in appearing or in beginning play after the umpire calls "Play." The CVBA specifies that an offended team must wait at least 15 minutes beyond the scheduled game time before a potential forfeit can be sought for a late arrival or no-show against their opposing team; or
- b. refuses to continue play after the game has started; or
- c. delays more than a reasonable amount of time in resuming play, or in not obeying the umpire's order to remove a player for violation of the rules; or
- d. persists in tactics designed to delay or shorten the game and results in a called game; or
- e. willfully and persistently violates any of the rules after being warned by the umpire; or
- f. is unable to provide at least eight players to start the game or cannot provide eight players to finish the game.

**ART. 2 . . .** Forfeits can only be awarded by the approval of the CVBA board, with a minimum of two (2) CVBA board members approving the forfeit award. Offended teams seeking an award of a forfeit must make application to the CVBA Board and must fully cooperate in providing all information available and/or requested by the CVBA board for the purpose of investigating and making a determination on a forfeit request.

**ART. 3 . . .** Upon review of a forfeit request and a determination by the CVBA board that a forfeit should be awarded to an offended team, the offended team, at the sole discretion of the CVBA board, may be awarded up to two (2) forfeit points and reimbursement of up to \$150.00 in lost umpire fees. If reimbursement of umpire fees are awarded to an offended team, the reimbursement funds will be issued from the offending team's season deposit and the offending team will be prohibited from participating in any additional CVBA games until they provide additional deposit funds to replace the amount paid out by the CVBA board to the offended team.

**ART. 4 . . .** By decision of the CVBA Board, any team (inclusive of all managers, coaches, and players) forfeiting more than three (3) games during a season will be prohibited from participating in the CVBA for the following season.

## **SECTION 5 PROTESTED GAME**

*Replace NFHS Rule 4, Section 5 with the following CVBA rule 4-5-1:*

**ART. 1 . . .** A protest can be filed only when an issue of participation eligibility is in question. There are no protests of judgment calls or rule interpretations permitted. If an issue of participation eligibility arises during a game, the head coach for the protesting team should:

- a. notify the umpire at the time of protest that you are playing the game under protest;
- b. have the umpire sign the score book and denote why game is being played under protest; and
- c. following the completion of game and prior to 12:00PM of the following day, file an email report to CVBA citing:
  - 1) the participation eligibility issue related to the protest;
  - 2) the umpire's name and his assigning umpire association; and
  - 3) any documentation/explanation to support the eligibility protest being made.

Any protest filed will incur a \$25.00 filing fee that will be taken from a team's non-complete fee on file and will need to be replenished if a forfeit is not awarded by the CVBA for the protest. All decisions of the CVBA protest

board are final.

## NFHS RULE 6 PITCHING

*Append NFHS Rule 6 to include the following Section 3 CVBA PITCH COUNT RULES:*

### SECTION 3 CVBA PITCH COUNT RULES

**ART. 1.** . . Pitching restrictions in leagues 8U thru 18U shall adhere to the pitch limitations and mandatory rest requirements listed in Table 6-3-1.

**TABLE 6-3-1**

| League | Daily Pitch Limit | Required Days of Rest (based on range of pitches thrown) |            |             |             |
|--------|-------------------|--|------------|-------------|-------------|
|        |                   | 0 Days Rest  | 1 Day Rest | 2 Days Rest | 3 Days Rest |
| 8U     | 70                | 1-20   | 21-35      | 36-55       | 56-70       |
| 9U     | 75                | 1-20   | 21-35      | 36-60       | 61-75       |
| 10U    | 75                | 1-20   | 21-35      | 36-60       | 61-75       |
| 11U    | 85                | 1-20   | 21-35      | 36-60       | 61-85       |
| 12U    | 85                | 1-20   | 21-35      | 36-60       | 61-85       |
| 13U    | 95                | 1-20   | 21-35      | 36-60       | 61-95       |
| 14U    | 95                | 1-20   | 21-35      | 36-60       | 61-95       |
| 15U    | 125               | 1-30   | 31-50      | 51-75       | 76-125      |
| 16U    | 125               | 1-30   | 31-50      | 51-75       | 76-125      |
| 17U    | 125               | 1-30   | 31-50      | 51-75       | 76-125      |
| 18U    | 125               | 1-30   | 31-50      | 51-75       | 76-125      |

**ART. 2.** . . A pitcher may finish the current batter if the daily pitch limit is reached during that at bat.

**ART. 3.** . . If a pitcher throws enough pitches in a game to require 1 day of rest or more, he may NOT pitch in the second game of a double header or the following day.

**ART. 4.** . . At the end of each CVBA contest, coaches are required to record the pitcher's name, uniform no., game date, and total number of pitches thrown in a designated data collection system (i.e. excel spread sheet). (NOTE: *Coaches are not required by CVBA to record player pitch counts for non-CVBA events, however it is recommended in the interest of players' health that maximum pitch counts and recommended days of rest be observed for all contests.*)

**ART. 5.** . . All pitches thrown in a suspended game or a "no contest" game SHALL COUNT toward the daily pitch limit and the total number of pitches thrown.

**ART. 6.** . . Each team must keep a record of all pitches thrown by each of their players in each game and make this record available to the CVBA upon request. If a team is questioned about a pitcher and the number of pitches thrown, a team must provide the record of pitches for that particular pitcher. Any player pitching during a period in which rest is required or pitching in excess of the applicable pitch limits is considered to be pitching as an ineligible player. Any contest in which an ineligible player is participating will result in forfeiture of the contest.

**ART. 7.** . . Pitch counts are to be recorded in each team's score book. If there is any discrepancy with the pitch count, the Home Team's pitch count will be considered as the "OFFICIAL PITCH COUNT" of record.

**ART. 8.** . . Umpires have no mechanism or jurisdiction on pitch count rules. They are not a resource to resolve pitch count conflicts during the game.

*CVBA recommends that pitchers should develop proper mechanics as early as possible and include more year-*

*round physical conditioning as their bodies develop. It should be discouraged for a pitcher to return to the mound in a game once he/she has been removed as the pitcher. It is also recommended that pitchers should not throw breaking pitches (curveballs, sliders, etc.) in competition until their bones have matured (indicated by puberty) - typically about 13 years of age. In order to succeed, a youth pitcher should focus on good mechanics, a fast fastball, a good change-up, and good control.*

## **NFHS RULE 7 BATTING**

### **SECTION 4 BATTER IS OUT**

*Append NFHS Rule 7, Section 4 to include the following CVBA rule 7-4-2:*

**ART. 2.** . . In the CVBA 8U & 9U Leagues the batter is out when a third strike is either caught or not caught. Batters cannot advance to first base on a dropped third strike.

## **NFHS RULE 8 BASERUNNING**

*Append NFHS Rule 8 to include the following Section 5 CVBA BASERUNNING RULES:*

### **SECTION 5 CVBA BASERUNNING RULES**

**ART. 1.** . . The CVBA further restricts NFHS base running rules for the 8U and 9U Leagues. The following baserunning restrictions shall take precedence over any conflicting rules:

- a. **8U League Baserunning Restrictions** – Stealing of any kind is prohibited, including squeeze plays. Lead-offs are prohibited, meaning that base runners are not permitted to leave their occupied base until the ball is batted into play or they are required to advance to the next base by force (i.e. force event such as a base on balls, hit by pitch batter, etc.)
- b. **9U League Baserunning Restrictions** – Runners are not permitted to leave their occupied base in an attempt to steal until after a pitch ball crosses home plate. Attempts to steal home plate are prohibited.

## **NFHS RULE 9 SCORING – RECORD KEEPING**

*Append NFHS Rule 9 to include the following Section 8 CVBA SCORING, REPORTING, STANDINGS & LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS:*

### **SECTION 8 CVBA LEAGUE SCORING, REPORTING, STANDINGS, & LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS**

**ART. 1** . . .All teams will be required to participate in the regular season game scheduling procedures specified by their league commissioner. All regular season games must be scheduled and entered into the CVBA website in accordance with the schedule and deadlines specified by the CVBA Board and each League's commissioner. The maximum number of league games per team during a season shall be no more than 24, unless authorized by the CVBA Board.

**ART. 2** . . .The official game score will be kept by the home team.

**ART. 3** . . . The winning team is responsible for recording the official score on the league website. Scores are required to be recorded by the winning team within 48 hours of the completion of the game. If a game score is reported after the 48-hour period, the winning team may only receive 1 pt. (losing team will still receive 1 pt.).

**ART. 4** . . . In the event of a game rainout, the home team must inform the league commissioner (by email) that their game has been rained out. All makeup games need to be RESCHEDULED (but not necessarily played) within 7 days of the original rainout date. If a mutual reschedule date cannot be reached between the teams within 7 days, the league commissioner or a CVBA officer must be engaged to assist in rescheduling the game. An unscheduled makeup game may be deemed a forfeit by the CVBA if, in the opinion of the CVBA, good faith

efforts to reschedule a game has not been made by one or both teams involved.

**ART. 5 . . .** League standing will be determined by a point system. Teams will receive the following points for games played, completed, and reported in accordance with the rules - Wins = 2 pts. Loss = 1 pt. Ties = 1.5 pt. Teams awarded forfeits points by the CVBA board will receive either 1 pt. or 2 pts at the discretion of the CVBA Board.

**ART. 6 . . .** Final regular season standings will be determined by the point totals accrued by teams within a league as of the final date set by the CVBA board for regular season games. In the event that two or more teams within a league are tied in final regular season point totals then the following tie breakers will be applied in the order listed until the tie(s) are broken: 1) Head-to-Head Record, between tied teams; 2) Head-to-Head Record, with common opponents; 3) Least number of runs allowed, between tied teams; and finally, 4) Play off or Coin toss at the discretion of the league commissioner.

**ART. 7 . . .** At the discretion of the CVBA Board, season end League Tournaments will be held following regular season play. The CVBA board will provide tournament trophies (1st place and runner-up), two (2) new game balls per game and reasonable umpire fees for up to 9 tournament games per league. Historically, a league tournament would involve approximately 33% of the league's teams, however league commissioners have the discretion to increase the number of teams permitted to participate in the tournament to suit the tournament format. League commissioners will be responsible for establishing the tournament format and for tournament coordination. When possible, efforts will be made to hold separate Community and Community Plus/Open tournaments. The CVBA board and commissioners will approve and determine sites and game times of all playoff and tournament games as necessary. Teams with a forfeit game or several uncompleted regular season games may be excluded from participation in a season end League Tournament by the CVBA. League playoff and tournament games will be treated as suspended games if the game is not completed. All eligibility protests occurring in a tournament game must be resolved on the field by either the umpiring crew or a CVBA official (if in attendance or available by phone).

The league Commissioner will, at his/her discretion, establish timelines and/or dates for a team's commitment to participate in the end-of-year CVBA tournament to be received prior to the tournament start date. Any team committed to participation in a CVBA tournament but subsequently failing to participate in any scheduled tournament game shall surrender their \$120 non-completion fee and replenish it prior to participating in any subsequent CVBA game. Tournament seeding will be established based on regular season point totals, and if necessary tie-breaker criteria, as of the date prior to Tournament established by the Commissioner. All results of regular season games must be posted to the CVBA website by midnight of the day before the established Tournament seeding date.

## **NFHS RULE 10 UMPIRING**

### **SECTION 1 GENERAL**

*Append NFHS Rule 10, Section 1 to include the following CVBA rules 10-1-10 thru 10-1-12:*

**ART. 10 . . .** The umpire requirements for all CVBA games are detailed in the table below:

**TABLE 10-1-10**

| <b>League/Age Group</b> | <b>No. of Umpires</b> | <b>Umpire Qualifications</b>                                  |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 8U & 9U                 | 1                     | Qualified and assigned by a CVBA approved Umpire Association. |
| 10U thru 13U            | 2                     | Qualified and assigned by a CVBA approved Umpire Association. |
| 14U thru 18U            | 2                     | OHSAA High School certified                                   |

**ART. 11 . . .** The home team has the responsibility of scheduling, providing, and paying the fees of the umpires required as listed in CVBA rule 10-1-10.

**ART. 12 . . .** If, for reasons beyond the control of the home team, only one umpire is available to start a game in 10U-18U leagues then the visiting team: 1) may agree to allow the game to begin with only one umpire and allow a second umpire that may arrive to be added to the game either immediately upon arrival or at the top of next inning of play; or 2) may request that the start of the game be delayed no more than 15 minutes to allow the home team's second umpire additional time to arrive. If the visiting team chooses the latter option, the second umpire does not arrive within 15 minutes of the official game start time, and the game has not been already started with one umpire, the visiting team will make the decision to allow the game to proceed with only one umpire or to cancel and reschedule the game entirely. A mutually agreed decision between teams to start a game with only one umpire is irrevocable. If a second umpire arrives after a one-umpire game is already underway, **the game must continue and cannot be restarted or reversed in any manner**. If agreeable to both teams, the late arriving second umpire can be added to assist in officiating at a mutually agreeable point in the game.