

# Pinelands Baseball League

## Cal Ripken Majors

### Rules and Regulations

All Pinelands (aka Indian Mills, Pemberton, Medford, Southampton, Tabernacle, Woodland) Cal Ripken Baseball League games will be played in accordance with the Cal Ripken Division of Babe Ruth baseball rules and the Official Baseball Rules with the following clarification's and exceptions:

#### 1. BATTING

- a) Batting helmet **MUST** be worn at bat and as a base runner.
- b) Protective batting vests and caged batting helmets are available for use by the batters upon request.
- c) All rostered players present for the game shall bat in a continuous, fixed rotation whether playing defensively or not. A player's position in the batting order can **NEVER** be changed.
- d) Bunting is allowed.

#### 2. PITCHING/CATCHING

- a) A pitcher may pitch *3 innings per game*.
- b) If a pitcher delivers one (1) pitch in one (1) inning, that pitcher will be charged with one (1) inning pitched.
- c) Any pitcher removed from the mound during an inning or taken out of the pitcher position between innings cannot return to the mound for the remainder of the game. On the second visit to the mound (in an inning) by a coach or manager, the pitcher must be removed from the pitcher's position for the remainder of the game. This rule applies to the end of season tournament as well. This rule is for the protection of the pitcher's arms.
- d) A player may catch a total of four (4) innings maximum per game.

#### 3. FIELDING

- a) All players **MUST** play three (3) full innings in the field and enter by the third inning.
- b) A game can be played with eight (8) players. An automatic out will **not** be called at the end of the batting order, when the ninth batter would normally come up to bat.
- c) Any team may add up to two (2) players from other major division teams or minor teams to field a team of eight (8) or nine (9) players and avoid a forfeit. This must be addressed before the start of the game with the opposing manager. The SUBS shall not play the positions of catcher or pitcher during the game and must bat at the bottom of the lineup. *A team may not borrow to make (10) players. If a team*

*borrowed to make (9) and a rostered player then becomes available at the beginning or during the game, it is up to the discretion of the opposing coach whether to allow the borrowed player to continue playing. A District caliber player may be borrowed only if he/she is replacing a District Caliber player.*

- d) A fielder is not allowed to fake a tag at a base or home plate that would cause the base runner to slide unnecessarily when there is no play on the base runner. The fielder at the discretion of the umpire will be ejected from the game for creating a dangerous play.
- e) The fielder is not allowed to block the baseline or home plate when there is NOT a play on the base runner. The fielder at the discretion of the umpire, will be ejected from the game.
- f) The infield fly rule is in effect and is a judgment call and will be determined by the umpire.

#### **4. BASE RUNNERS**

- a) Stealing is allowed including home.
- b) When a defensive player is in possession of the ball or is about to receive the ball, the runner is obligated to avoid collision with that player. If in the umpire's judgment the runner's failure to slide or veer results in other than incidental contact, he shall be called out, and if the contact is deemed to be malicious, the umpire shall eject the runner from the game. In either case, the ball is dead at the point of the collision and no runner may advance beyond the base occupied at the point of collision. **NOTE: If the runner fails to slide or veer, but causes no contact or only incidental contact with the fielder, no penalty shall be applied.** This is a judgment call by the umpire and as such, is not grounds for a protest by either team.
- c) NO head first sliding when a base runner is advancing to the next base, including home. Violation of this rule will result in an automatic out.

#### **5. RE-ENTRY**

- a) Free defensive and offensive substitution will be permitted.

#### **6. GAMES**

- a) **Ten (10) Run Rule** - A game is terminated once the losing team has had four (4) full times at bat and is behind by ten (10) or more runs. If the home team goes ahead by ten (10) runs while batting in the bottom of the 4th or 5<sup>th</sup> inning, the game will be terminated. If the visiting team goes ahead by ten (10) runs in the top of the 4th, 5th, or 6th inning, the home team must be allowed to complete an equal number of times at bat. If after completing the bottom of 4th or 5th inning, the home team remains at least ten (10) runs behind, the game is terminated.
- b) There will be a six (6) run limit per half inning. **EXCEPTION:** If an over the fence home run or ground rule double brings in runs beyond the six (6) run limit, the balance of the runs will count. Six (6) runs per inning is **WAIVED** for the last inning. If daylight will not permit the playing of a full six (6) innings, the managers must declare in advance the waving of the six (6) run limit for whichever inning is to be the

last inning. All regular season games will be six (6) innings. No extra innings will be played, game will end in a tie.

- c) No new inning will start after the two (2) hour mark of the game.
- d) Starting time for all evening week day games will be at 6:00 PM unless otherwise scheduled. The game is forfeited 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of any game if the opposing team fields less than 8 players or does not show.
- e) The home team manager is responsible for notifying the visiting team of game cancellations due to inclement weather, etc... at least one (1) hour to the scheduled start of the game. The home team manager will also notify the umpire association at least one (1) hour prior to the schedule start of the game.
- f) *Balks – There will be not penalty for a called balk during the month of April. The umpire/coach should explain to the pitcher the reason a balk was called. During the month of May, there will be one (1) warning given per pitcher, per infraction. If the same pitcher commits the same balk infraction then a balk is called and the appropriate penalty is enforced by the umpire. During the playoffs ALL BALKS ARE ENFORCED.*
- g) The home team manager will notify their Major Division Commissioner to reschedule any canceled or postponed games.
- h) The home team will occupy the dugout located on the third base line. The visiting team will occupy the dugout located on the first base line. IMAA is 1<sup>st</sup> base line.
- i) The home team will supply two (2) new baseballs for each game.

## 7. SUSPENSION RULE

- a) 1st unsportsmanlike incident. Players sit out remainder of the game and the next game on the bench. A manager or coach must leave the playing field for that game.
- b) 2nd unsportsmanlike incident. Players sit out remainder of the game and the next game on the bench. A manager or coach must leave the playing field for that game and will not be permitted to attend the next game.
- c) 3rd unsportsmanlike incident. Players, Managers or Coaches will be suspended for the remainder of the playing season.

**Please Note:** All unsportsmanlike incidents MUST be reported to the Major Division Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours of the occurrence for disposition. Any player, Manager, or Coach has the right to appeal the suspension to the Major Division Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours.

## 8. FIELD PROCEDURES

- a) The home team is responsible for lining the field and placing the bases.
- b) The home team will have possession of the field for warm up ten (10) minutes; thirty (30) minutes before the start of the game. The visiting team then has possession of the field for warm up fifteen (15)

minutes; twenty (20) minutes before the start of the game. The home team will then take the field five (5) minutes before the start of the game for a final warm up. It is important that the games start on time

- c) All players must remain inside the enclosed dugout. Only the on-deck batter is permitted outside this area and must wear a batting helmet. It is mandatory that both teams police the dugout and the surrounding area upon completion of the game. It is mandatory that the home team fill, rake, and tamp down the pitchers rubber area and home plate following every game.

#### 9. RULES FOR CANCELLING A GAME:

- a) It is recommended that games only be cancelled due to weather/field conditions.
- b) **ONLY** the Home team coach can cancel the game.
- c) Home team coach **must** call opposing coach to cancel game.
- d) Home team coach **must** call Umpire Director Jay Riches at 609-268-9556 to cancel.
- e) Home team coach cancels game on website **only after** opposing team and umpire have been called.

#### TO RESCHEDULE A GAME:

- a) Home team coach and opposing coach **must check availability** of fields, date and time on website(s) themselves and have an **agreed upon date before** calling in game.
- b) Home team coach **must** contact Umpire Director Jay Riches at 609-268-9556 to set game up.
- c) Home team coach **must** email IMAA scheduler at [dciliberti@farnath.com](mailto:dciliberti@farnath.com) to enter game onto website.
- d) ALL COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE TO ENTER THEIR OWN SCORES.

#### LEAGUE STANDINGS

- a) League standings will be determined by *each team's total points. Teams will be awarded 3 points for a win, 2 points for a tie and 1 point for a loss. Teams are awarded 0 points for a forfeit.*
- b) *The official standings will be posted on the IMAA website and can be found at the following link:* <http://www.imaabaseball.org/standing.php>.
- c) *The Manager of the winning team is responsible for entering the game scores on the IMAA Baseball website.*
- d) *In the event of a tie, the home team manager will be responsible for entering the scores.*
- e) *Failure to report your scores in a timely manner may adversely affect your seeding for the end of season tournament.*
- f) *In the event of a standings tie, the first (1<sup>st</sup>) tie breaker will be the head to head record. The second (2<sup>nd</sup>) tie breaker will be fewest runs allowed. The third (3<sup>rd</sup>) tie breaker will be the flip of the coin.*
- g) *Standings Keeper IM/Dave Ciliberti* [dciliberti@farnath.com](mailto:dciliberti@farnath.com).

#### 10. DIVISION PLAY-OFF'S

- a) At the end of the season, the Majors league will have a play-off to determine the League Champion.

- b) Seeding for the playoff's will be determined by the division standings at the end of regular season play.
- c) First round of the playoffs should be hosted by the highest seeded teams.
- d) Each team will supply two game balls. Each team will be billed for half the umpire fees.
- e) Trophies will be given to the first place and second place teams. Each team in the League will be assessed a fee for the trophies.
- f) The pitching rule will be the Cal Ripken District Tournament rule as far as innings are concerned. Each player will begin the tournament with his full pitching eligibility. No pitcher can pitch more than 3 innings per game. The local rule still applies concerning the removal of a pitcher from the mound, he may not re-enter again as a pitcher. Managers must sign the official book to verify a pitchers innings in each game.
- g) No extra players will be allowed to be used in tournament play. If a team cannot field a minimum of 8 Players, a forfeit will be declared. If a non-rostered player is used, a forfeit shall be declared. No out will be declared for the vacant ninth batting position.
- h) *The Balk Rule is in effect. No warning given.*