

**ALYBF**

**MAJOR/MINOR**

**AMENDED  
RULES**

**April 2011**

**Avon Lake Youth Baseball Federation (ALYBF)  
Major and Minor Leagues**

**Organizational Outline and Amended Playing Rules**

**April 2011**

**All rules governing the ALYBF Major and Minor Youth Baseball Program shall be in accordance with the official rules of Little League Baseball, Inc., with the exception of items listed herein.**

**This list and outline of rules supersede any and all previous rules and outlines, written or implied.**

**All questions regarding interpretation of this outline and list of rules should be referred to the ALYBF Major and Minor Rules Committee.**

**(A) ORGANIZATION**

1. The Minor league of the program may consist of players who are nine (9) through twelve (12) years of age while the Major league will consist of players who are ten (10) eleven (11) and twelve (12) years of age. League age will be determined as follows: Players shall be at least nine years of age and not more than twelve years of age on or before April 30th of the playing year.
2. Players are required to be registered with the ALYBF (*or with an affiliated organization*) and are responsible for their own medical insurance. A waiver or accidental injury claim, signed by the parent or guardian is required at the time of registration.
3. Each league will be divided into divisions or conferences. The number of teams will be based on the total number of registrants. All players must reside in Avon Lake (*except affiliated teams from a neighboring city & exceptions granted by the ALYBF*).
4. Major/Minor teams will consist of an equal number of players, the total depending on the total number of registrants.
5. The rules governing the Major and Minor Leagues will be the same, except where noted.
- ~~6.~~ Major and Minor teams of the same name will be affiliated. It is the hope of the ALYBF that the Major and Minor managers of affiliated teams will cooperate with and assist each other.

**(B) TEAM SELECTION**

The following are the guidelines for the Major/Minor team selections:

1. Children who played the previous season will be evaluated by their manager and assigned evaluation points.
2. Children who did not play the previous season will be evaluated at a ratings session held prior to the start of the season.
3. Distribution of the players will be handled in the following manner:
  - a) Returning twelve year old Major players stay with their respective teams.

- b) Returning ten year old Minor players stay with their respective teams.
- c) A draft will be held to distribute nine through twelve year old players who did not play in the Major/Minor program the previous year.
- d) Teams will draft in the reverse order of their finish in the final regular season standings from the previous year.
- e) Teams will equalize to the number of children in each category when possible.
- f) Expansion teams will pick from the pool of draftees and equalize to the lowest number of returning players on an existing team in each age category. Expansion teams will get the first pick in each round of the draft.

## **( C ) ROSTERS**

1. Rosters are deemed final when the draft is completed and dismissed, for so long as Major and Minor rosters are determined by age limits. A player of Major league age may be placed on a Minor team if requested in writing by the parent(s) and notification is made to the league director, who may take the matter to the executive board of the ALYBF for final approval.
2. All players on a permanent Major roster in Avon Lake the previous year must play in the Major league in the subsequent year, unless the player and parent both agree, in writing, that the player may be assigned to the Minor league affiliate. Any other changes must be approved by the ALYBF.
3. No Major or Minor league team may borrow players from another Major or Minor league team, except as follows: If a Major team's roster falls below the set number of players for any reason, that team may borrow players from first, its affiliated Minor team or, second from an unaffiliated Minor team (if the affiliated Minor team has a scheduling conflict) up to the roster maximum. This call-up of a Minor player will be on a single game basis only. That player must then return to the Minor league. The Minor manager has the option to reject sending players to the Major team in the event of a league schedule conflict. Players called up to the Majors must play the minimum time in accordance with Rule D-4. If a Minor player is called up and the Major team finds that it can already field their set number of players, that Minor player must still be accorded minimum playing time. Any innings pitched counts toward that players pitching record.
4. A player may only be brought up if a Major roster drops below ten (10) players. A player may only be brought up for a maximum of three (3) Major league regular season games, and one (1) playoff game.
5. Minor managers of all players called up to play in a Major league game must be notified. Major Managers are responsible for accounting for and enforcing rule 4 above. Penalty – Game(s) in which illegal players were used may be forfeited.

## **(D) PROCEDURE**

1. Lineups will be given to the official scorer and the opposing team manager prior to each game. The official scorer must be provided by the home team in both the Major and Minor leagues. The official score should be kept on a line score sheet. The official starting time (first pitch) of the game should be noted on the official score sheet.
2. A Minor league team may field four players in the outfield. Position of the players is at the discretion of the coaches, but it must be an outfield position.

3. Each player that shows up for a scheduled league game in proper uniform must play a minimum of six (6) defensive outs (**ideally, all players should receive equal playing time and play different positions**) and will bat according to the following guidelines:

All players shall be scheduled to bat in a set batting order which shall not be changed during the game, except when a player is physically unable to bat or he/she is ejected from the game at which time the official scorer shall be notified of any changes.

Defensive substitutions may be made at anytime on a “free substitution” basis with the exception of substitutions for the pitcher, **who may return to the game in any position except he can not re-enter a game as a pitcher once he has been removed as a pitcher.** A player arriving after the lineups have been submitted to the official scorer shall be placed in the last spot in the batting order.

The above playing and batting rules shall be adhered to unless a player is being disciplined by the team manager, or acting manager, for unexcused absences or misconduct. Also, if the player is not present at the start of the game then that player need not be played.

4. If a Major league game cannot be started because of the inability of either team to place eight (8) players (for 2010 only) on the field, the team or teams with insufficient players shall forfeit the game. Minor league games must have a minimum of seven players on each team at all times. In a Major game if the roster falls to eight (8) players because a player is physically unable to bat or ejected, a team may finish the game with the vacant spot in the batting order counted as an automatic out.
5. Regular season games shall be limited to 1 ½ hours duration in the Major league (**except when playing at Oster field – Sheffield Lake where games are limited to 2 hours in duration**) and to 1 ¾ hours duration in the Minor league, with the following exceptions:
  - a) Any inning started before the time limit will be completed in its entirety.
  - b) If a game is tied before the time limit is up and a full six innings is completed, both teams must continue to play until a winner is determined or the time limit expires.
  - c) In the event of a game delay of more than five (5) minutes, the game shall be extended for a like period of time up to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes.
  - d) When a pitcher takes position at the beginning of each inning, that pitcher shall be permitted to pitch not to exceed eight preparatory pitches to the catcher during which play shall be suspended. Such preparatory pitches shall not consume more than one minute of time. If a sudden emergency causes a pitcher to be summoned into the game without any opportunity to warm up, the umpire-in-chief shall allow the pitcher as many pitches as the umpire deems necessary.
  - e) **Minor division games will end at 9:00 PM on a school night. If the necessary number of innings to make it a complete game have been played then the game will be considered complete. Example – Team A is home team and leading team B the visiting team by a score of 5 – 4. Team B scores 2 runs in the top of the 5<sup>th</sup> but the game ends at 9:00 PM before Team A has a chance to bat then the game is reverted to the last full inning and Team A wins 5 – 4. If the game ends before a complete game then that game would be resumed from the point at which it was stopped.**

6. If a player is injured while on base, a substitution will be made using the player who made the last offensive out for his team. If this player is scheduled to bat sooner than fifth in order after the player to whom the injury occurs, then the last player who has scored a run in the injury inning will be substituted. If the catcher for the next inning is on base with two outs, he may be replaced for base-running purposes by the player who has made the last offensive out. If this courtesy is taken, the replaced player is required to catch for at least the next three defensive outs.
7. All innings of regular season Minor league games will be limited to three (3) outs or nine (9) batters, whichever comes first, except that no inning shall end on a walk determined to be intentional by the home plate umpire. When the ninth batter comes to bat a two out situation will automatically exist. The batter limited inning ends when a third out is made or the ball is in the possession of a player standing on home plate after the ninth batter has completed his/her bat. The official scorer shall notify the home plate umpire and both managers of the ninth batter.
8. Stealing of home plate will not be allowed in Minor league games.
9. The “must slide” rule is in effect. A player must slide, or give up, or attempt to avoid being tagged while a play is being made on him. No player/runner will initiate any other contact with another player. Penalty: The player is out and, in the judgment of the umpire, if the contact is deemed to be flagrant; the offending player will be ejected. **The intent of this rule is to minimize a players risk for injury. Remember – “Slide, Give-Up or Go Back”!!!**
10. No batting practice is permitted on a game field prior to one-half hour before the game at which time each team is allowed 15 minutes of pre-game warm-ups.
11. Makeup games will be scheduled in order of rain outs (see schedule) on the Saturday immediately following the rain out game except in the situation where both coaches come to an agreement, notify the league director, then the game can be put off to the second weekend. If, at any time a mutual date cannot be reached, the League Director will schedule the game.
12. Teams may employ no more than three (3) coaches and a scorekeeper during league play. Two adult coaches may function as offensive base coaches, in lieu of players. Coaches should remain on the outfield side of the dugout. All coaches must have had a cleared background check.
13. No spectators are permitted to stand directly behind the backstop.
14. Adults ejected from a game must vacate the area or risk forfeiture of the game by their team.
15. Any umpire’s decision which involves judgment, such as, but not limited to, whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or a ball, or whether a runner is safe or out, is final. No player, manager, coach, or substitute shall object to any such judgment decisions.
16. No team may carry a “bat boy” on their team. Such duties will be performed by team members.
17. No emblems, lettering or other matter will be permitted on team uniforms or caps without ALYBF approval.
18. Each manager is responsible for keeping a record of the uniform number issued to each player. Each Manager is also responsible for collecting and returning all uniforms, within one (1) week following the end of the season or on a scheduled return date as required by the League. This rule must be strictly adhered to because of large expenses incurred in the past due to loss of uniforms. The league

director will notify manager shortly before the end of the season regarding where and when to turn in their uniforms and equipment. An ALYBF committee will check the equipment and uniforms against that originally issued. All items must be accounted for. Any manager not returning equipment or uniforms will be assessed charges to cover the missing materials.

19. Interrupted Games – Any game interrupted or stopped due to rain or other conditions in which at least one inning has been completed shall, schedule allowing, be completed from the point it was stopped. All lineups will be the same as used on the original date (modifications on missing players may be taken into account). Coaches should compare notes on pitchers used and in the game at the time of stoppage.
20. If after four (4) innings, three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead one team has a lead of twelve (12) runs or more; the manager of the team with the least runs may concede the victory to the opponent.
21. Players must have their helmet on while on the field of play unless a time out has been granted by the umpire. PENALTY – 1) Verbal warning to the player and team, 2) Out assessed against violating team, 3) Ejection of a previously warned player.
22. There is no infield fly rule in the Minor league.
23. **Avon Lake major/minor divisions do not allow for on deck batters. No player other than the actual batter may have a bat in their hands while a team is within the field of play (including warm-ups).**

**24. KISKIN RULE – No player may be intentionally walked more than one time in a game.**

**(E) PITCHING RULES - Note: Violation of any rule may result in forfeiture of the game in which it occurs.**

**Little League Pitching Rules are followed in the Major division. In the Minor division no pitcher may pitch more than three (3) innings in any game or six (6) innings in a calendar week – Handout Provided to all Major Managers.**

**(F) ALL-STAR GAMES**

1. An All-Star game will be played in the Major and Minor leagues.
2. The Major All-Star teams will be comprised of all the twelve (12) year olds participating in the Avon Lake Major/Minor leagues. *(An eleven year old All-Star game will be held at the discretion of the League Director)*
3. Selection of players in the Minor league will be by a vote of the players on each team. Three (3) players from each team will be chosen, those being the three (3) with the most votes. All three will participate in the All-Star game. Results of player selection will be submitted to the league director no less than ten (10) days before the All-Star game date. The director will provide rosters to the participating managers no later than five (5) days prior to the game. In the event that any of the players selected are unable to participate in the game, then the Minor manager will select the replacement(s).

4. Managers for the All-Star teams will be the previous year's league championship winners, provided they still are managing; or alternatively, the manager of the teams in first place one week prior to the All-Star game.
5. All players must play a minimum of six (6) defensive outs.
6. A player may pitch a maximum of two (2) innings.
7. Innings pitched in the All-Star game will not count towards a pitcher's six innings per week or consecutive games.
8. The Minor All-Star game will consist of nine (9) innings or a three hour time limit. If two Minor League All-Star games are played then each game will consist of seven (7) innings and a two (2) hour time limit.

## **(G) PLAYOFFS**

1. A single elimination playoff involving all teams will be held at the conclusion of the regular season. The structure of the playoffs and home field advantage will be determined by a team's finish and by the number of teams in each league.
2. League standing will be determined on the basis of two (2) points for a win (or forfeit). One (1) point for a tie and zero (0) points for a loss.
3. If two or more teams finish the season tied in the standings, the following criteria in order of importance will be used to break all ties:
  - A. Head to head competition
  - B. Divisional Record (% basis)
  - C. Coin Toss
4. All prior pitching records shall be disregarded at the start of the playoffs. Once the playoffs have started, all regular season pitching rules apply. In The Championship game, all pitchers will have a clean eligibility slate.
5. A minor team must have a minimum of seven players to compete, if the participating team has at least seven players but less than nine then the eight and/or ninth spots in the batting order will be counted as automatic outs.
6. In the Major league, the semi-finals and championship game will be played six innings (no time limit is in effect).
7. *A minor league playoff game cannot end on walk to the ninth batter!*

## **(H) PROTESTS AND GRIEVANCES**

1. Protests shall involve RULE interpretations only.
2. Protests must be made to the home plate umpire at the time of the dispute, and also to the official scorer who shall note the protest and the point it occurred on the official score sheet.

3. If a hearing is desired, a written description of the alleged misinterpretation of the rules must be filed with the ALYBF president, with a copy for the league director within twenty-four (24) hours of the conclusion of the game being protested. A ten (\$10) dollar filing fee is required, which will be returned if the protest is upheld.
4. The ALYBF president will set a date for the protest within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the written protest, and establish a Board of Review of three (3) members made up of ALYBF membership. Managers and assistants are ineligible to sit on the Board of Review involving the league in which they are participating.
5. A protesting manager or his assistant may appear before the reviewing board to argue the protest and answer any questions.
6. The home plate umpire shall attend the Board of Review, if at all possible, to answer questions.
7. The opposing manager has the option to attend the Board of Review and shall be notified of the time and place.
8. The reviewing board's decision is final and binding on all parties.
9. Grievances not dealing with interpretation of the playing rules, shall be submitted in writing to the ALYBF president for consideration by an appointed Board of Review of three members. Concurrence by this board is required to authorize submission of the grievance to the Umpire Director or to the Avon Lake Recreation Department.