

# BUSHKILL VALLEY BASEBALL GENERAL GAME RULES

## Game Rules

The following document is Bushkill Valley Baseball Associations Official Game Rules. The Rules are broken down into 3 sections for easier understanding and is written for clarity and the conduct of each game played with in season.

### Bushkill Valley Spring Season Rules:

#### 1. Pitching:

Each pitcher is allowed 100 pitches max per game. The following breakdown will determine the amount of rest days that will be required before a pitcher may pitch again. Rest day 1 starts the day after the game. Example: Pitcher pitches Monday and pitches 40 pitches. That Pitcher will be eligible to pitch again on Wednesday.

# of Pitches	0	1	2	3
1 - 35	X			
36 - 55		X		
56 - 75			X	
76 +				X

A pitcher may finish out the batter he is facing and not be penalized for throwing extra pitches over the maximum number IF THE COACH informs the other coach and umpire that they are taking out the pitcher after that at bat. Example is pitcher is approaching 35th pitch. Coach announces that they are taking out pitcher after this batter because of threshold. He then throws 39 pitches. That pitcher will be credited with 35 pitches and require no rest. Regardless of pitch count, once a Coach has informed the umpire that the pitcher is coming out after the said batter, the pitcher must be removed and cannot return to pitch.

Example - 1-day rest. If coach fails to notify other coach and goes beyond the 35 then he will be credited with full amount and require 1 day not 0 rest.

Intentional Walks are allowed. The manager can just tell the umpire that he is walking the batter.

If a team(s) is playing a double header for any reason during the season they are allowed like fall rules, 100 pitches for each player for the day. They can pitch 100 pitches between both games. For example: Game 1 a player pitches 60 pitches then that pitcher is allowed 40 more in the next game. If a pitcher pitches 100 pitches in game 1 for example then that player will be unable to pitch the 2nd game.

If a team violates any of the pitch count rules listed above the following penalties will be enforced without exception. If the violation is determined after the at bat the coach of the offensive team can either take the results of the at bat or replay the at bat with a new pitcher. Please note that with multiple violations penalties will accumulate.

- First violation - The player in violation will be unable to pitch for 5 days. So if they pitch on Monday and violate the rule the player cannot pitch again until Sunday
- Second violation - First violation plus one more week and the coach will be suspended for 1 game.
- Third Violation - Second violation plus the pitcher will not be allowed to pitch rest of the season and the team will be ineligible for playoffs.

## **2. Player Eligibility:**

The Junior division is or ages 13 - 14 years old. Cannot be 15 before April 30th to be eligible to play. The Senior division is for ages 15 - 16 years old. Cannot be 17 before April 30th to be eligible to play. Any player that makes their respective Middle or Freshman high school team is eligible to play too. Each school district has its own rules if they can play during their season or must finish their season first before competing in another league. Best to check with your school athletic director to determine.

Bushkill uses a roster system. For a player to be eligible to play at the bushkil level they must be on the roster. Any team can add a player to the roster up to May 18th. Players can only be added to roster after May 18th due to a injury that will result in injured player to miss rest of season. For a player added to roster to be allowed to play they must inform the board 24 hours prior to game. Roster need to include name, address, phone number, date of birth. If the player on the roster is doubled roster must be indicated on roster.

## **3. Free substitution (starters only):**

A player in the starting lineup who has been removed for a substitute may reenter the game once, provided he returns in the same place in the batting order. The player that substituted the starter will be taken out and cannot reenter the game again. If the starter is removed for a 2nd time , the starter is also out for the rest of the game. Once the pitcher leaves the mound for another position or is substituted for, he cannot return to the mound.

## **4. Innings/Time limit Per Game:**

Games will be 7 innings in length or 2 hour and 15 minute time limit. No new inning can start after 2 hours and 15 minutes.

## **5. Players being Played:**

- Bushkill Valley League will not be involved in playing time mandates. The organizations will determine the playing time for their players.

## **6. Courtesy runner:**

Courtesy runners may be used for pitcher or catcher once they reach base. The courtesy runner must be last player to make an out. If this would occur in the first inning with no outs the courtesy runner will be the last batter in the lineup. Bench players are not to be used for this manner.

## **7. Run Rule (Mercy Rule)**

- a. The game is finished at the end of 5 full innings if either team leads by 10 runs or more. If not, game ends when one team takes a 10-run lead at any time after the 5th inning.
- b. The game is finished at the end of three full innings if either team leads by 15 runs or more. If not, the game will end at any time that one team takes a 15-run lead during the 4th or 5th inning.
- c. REMINDER the game ENDS immediately upon a team reaching the run threshold listed above once each team bats 5 times.

## **8. Batting Rules**

Each manager will have the decision to have a batting order of 9 or 10 players. Each manager must decide on at the plate visit prior to the game with the umpires. Once the lineups have been exchanged and the plate umpire knows of either 9 or 10 batters that must stay like that for entire game.

## **9. Extra Hitter:**

The Extra Hitter will be regarded as "EH" and will be given same consideration as a starting player. Anyone in the lineup as an "EH" shall have at least one complete plate appearance. "EH" may be substituted for and may re-enter as a starter would.

- At no time will an "EH" be treated or interpreted as a "DH".
- An "EH" may enter the game in a defensive position. At such a time as this occurs, the defensive player being replaced will become the "EH", or a substitute may be inserted to become the "EH". In any event, the original "EH" does not change his position in the batting order.

## **10. Game becomes official:**

Game will become official once the game reaches either 5 innings, mercy rule, or 90 minutes has passed. Game becoming official only means that if weather, darkness or time limit intervenes the game will end with a winner, loser or tie. We will do our best not to have suspended games during the regular season. There is one exception to the rule and the following is the breakdown : If a game is interrupted by rain and/or Lightning and the game cannot be completed we will use the following criteria: (one must is that the time limit is not been reached. If time limit of 90 minute was reached and rain or lighting stopped the game then the results will be final)

- If weather stops the game is in the 1st, 2nd or 3rd inning the game will be called and will be replayed from the beginning at a later date.

- If weather stops the game is in the 4th inning and the score difference is less than 10 runs the game will be played at a later date from the point that it was stopped.

- If weather stops the game is in the 4th inning and the score difference is greater than 10 runs the game will be declared over and the team leading will be declared winner. Consider this a RAIN mercy rule.

11. - Bushkill valley will be using the international extra inning rule. The first 2 extra innings the innings will start with a runner on 2nd base with no outs. If the game would go beyond 2 extra innings, those innings will start with a runner on 2nd and 3rd base with no one out. The runners for the teams will be determined by where they are in the batting order. For example if a team is in the 5th slot of the order then the 4th slot in the order will be the designated runner.

#### **12. After game ends:**

BOTH teams are to meet at the plate and verify all the information is correct. BOTH teams are then required to send the score of the game, pitchers LAST NAME, Pitchers NUMBER and how many pitches they threw. This information can be emailed to [badlands43@yahoo.com](mailto:badlands43@yahoo.com) or can text the information to 484-695-7362. This information must be sent no later than 9 am the following morning. Home team is the official book if any issues arise.

#### **13. Reschedule game due to cancellation:**

Once the schedule is set and ready to be played the following procedure will be used for rescheduling :

When a game is moved for any reason during the course of the season the teams will use the following protocol:

New for 2022, the coaches will have one attempt to reschedule a game. Both teams will have 24 hours to come up with a make up date. Once agreed on they must contact Barry to confirm. The game is not official until Barry confirms with both coaches. If the rescheduled game has to be moved again for any reason the league will reschedule the game for the teams.

Once the new date has been set if one of the teams cannot play for any reason than the other team will get win by forfeit. If both teams cannot play then the game will not be played. This can/will hurt teams with the point system so we encourage all teams to play a full 18 game season. Forfeits will be a tiebreaker for teams when it comes to playoff seedings.

#### **14. Dugout and coaches rule:**

Once game begins each team is allowed a total of 4 coaches in the dugout during the game. Manager, first base coach, third base coach and scorekeeper. Prior to game the teams may have as many coaches helping out but once game starts the 4 coaches max must be followed. Umpires will be instructed that if this rule isn't followed a team will get one warning and after that the game could result in a forfeit.

#### **15. Bat rule.**

Bushkill valley baseball players 13 years or older can use either WOOD or -3 BBCORE bats ONLY. No other bat will be allowed including the META BBCORE bats.. If you have a player in a game that is 12 or younger they are allowed to use up to -10 drop. They must inform the umpire and the opposing team prior to the game starting.

#### **16. All Star Game:**

The game will be played during the season. Time and Place TBA

1. Pitching does not count toward league record. A pitcher may pitch a maximum of 2 innings.
2. Coaches of the top seeded teams will be the head coaches. They are responsible for asking other coaches to assist.
3. Coin flip will determine home team.
4. Every player will be in the batting order.
5. Player Representation
  - a. 18 players to a team. (optional)
  - b. Players must come from teams as designated. If a team is unable to send a player, he cannot be replaced by a player from another team.

## **SECTION 2**

### **Rule clarification of PIAA Rules which are used by Bushkill Valley Baseball Association**

This section will include PIAA rules that can be hard to understand thus needing some clarifications.

#### **1. NO CATCH and CARRY**

The ruling on this is very simple. If a player catches a ball in play and the momentum would take that player out of play the ball will be declared dead. Batter will be OUT and anyone on base will be rewarded one base.

## **2. MOUND VISITS**

Each team is allowed 3 “Free” visits to the mound for the ENTIRE game. A “Free” visit means a coach visits the mound and does not remove the pitcher. If a coach visits the mound and removes the pitcher then that is NOT a “Free” visit. Once a team uses all 3 “Free” visits in the game every visit after that must result in the removal of the pitcher.

## **3. SUBSTITUTIONS**

If a team has 10 or more players at a game the team must follow rule 3. With that in mind substitutions are much different than youth leagues. When a team begins to sub players out they have to follow the following protocol. Sub must be announced to the other team on what starter they are replacing. That sub must be put in the lineup where the starter was in the lineup. The starter is OUT of the game for the amount of time the sub is in for them. If the starter is reinserted into the game that starter must be inserted back into the original spot in the lineup. The sub then is ineligible to play the rest of the game. If another sub would enter the game for a starter that has been reinserted already then, the starter is ineligible to play the rest of the game. (simple terms... starters are allowed to be reinserted ONCE a game and bench players (subs) are allowed to be inserted once a game and cannot be reinserted once taken out.

## **4. BALKS**

Each pitcher is allowed one balk warning per game. This rule will be used thru the entire year including playoffs.

SECTION 3

PLAYOFFS

Pitching will reset after the regular season is completed. Once playoffs start the pitching will not reset again throughout the playoffs including the championship series.

- A. Will have 10 team playoffs.
- B. Reseeding between each round will determine your opponent.
- C. Single elimination until 2 teams left and then a best of 3 championship series.

- 10 teams will have 4 rounds. Round 1 will be top 6 bye and 7 thru 10 will play. Round 2 will be all 8 teams playing (quarterfinals) Round 3 will be 4 teams left (Semi-finals) and Round 4 will be the championship series.

D. No suspended games in the playoffs. Game picks up at point it was stopped. Playoffs games have their own set of parameters. Mercy rule and innings completed count but there is no time limit on games and must be played to completion.

**BUSHKILL VALLEY LEAGUE UMPIRES & ASSIGNOR  
CONTRACT (SPRING RATES).**

- A. Rates: SPRING ONLY —> umpire pay: \$60/\$50.
- B. Assignor fee shall be \$50.00 per team in the League.
- C. If one umpire works alone, he shall receive both amounts (\$110.00)
- D. Playoffs or All-star games shall be the same as regular season pay. Paid by the league.
- E. All umpires shall be paid when the game becomes official. home team pay plate and base umpire until playoff start.
- F. One half pay will be paid if the game is called before it becomes a legal game. If the game has continued for at least 1.5 hours and is still not an official game, the umpires shall receive full pay.
- G. Coaches must call the umpire assignor by 5:00 PM to call off a game.
- H. If a game is called off after 5:00 PM, and the umpire shows up, he must be paid \$25.00 for travel expenses.
- I. If a game is protested it must follow the following criteria. Game must be protested at that time of the violation and the home plate umpire must be notified and the scorebook for both teams must be signed by both coaches and the home plate umpire. A protest can only be done for a misinterpretation of a baseball rule. If the protest is upheld the game will start at the point of the protest.
- J. Any time a player is ejected from the game they must sit in the dugout for remainder of the game. Any time a coach is ejected they must leave the field of play before the game can continue. Any player or coach who gets ejected must also serve a one game suspension. If a coach gets ejected the origination will be fined \$50.00 payable to the league.

