

# Portage Youth Baseball Club, Inc.

## *Minor League Local Rules/Guidelines*

### *46/60 Little League*

Equipment questions, needs or concerns, contact Jim Belschner at portageyouthbaseball@gmail.com or 608-712-6928.

Scheduling umpires, to reschedule, or for problems/concerns with umpires, contact Josh Brandsma at 790-4558 or brandsmajosh@hotmail.com.

**Coaches are NOT to argue with or belittle an umpire under ANY circumstances.** Civil discussions about rule interpretation may occur, but coaches, players and fans may not argue umpire judgment.

It is the team Head Coach's responsibility to get sponsors gifts delivered to them. Our sponsors are key to the success of this league, this token of "Thank You" is the least we can do! These are to be delivered NO LATER THAN 1 week after delivery of pictures. If anyone needs assistance with this requirement, contact Andy Wagner at [andy.m.wagner@gmail.com](mailto:andy.m.wagner@gmail.com) or 612-817-8695

Final pitch count sheets will be initialed by both coaches. (Scorekeeper will turn pitch count binder in to the Concession Stand).

After each game, coaches and players are to assure that dugouts and grounds are clean. Both team coaches are responsible for raking/grooming the field. If you are the last one to leave the park, make sure all doors on locker room and restrooms are locked.

### **Rules of the Park**

*It's all of our responsibilities to clean-up after ourselves - this park belongs to us all, pitch in and keep it clean!*

*Good sportsmanship must be displayed at all times by players, coaches, officials and fans! The following behavior will not be tolerated, including but not limited to:  
Swearing, throwing a tantrum, throwing bats, helmets or other equipment -  
Taunting, intimidating, or being mean and disrespectful to other players, umpires, coaches and team fans! Coaches are to address this behavior with players immediately upon offense. Violations herein will be subject to the Sanctions Policy.*

*Unsportsman-like conduct of any manor may cause immediate ejection from the park grounds, removal from position, and/or any other sanctions deemed necessary from the league Board.*

### **Rules of the Field**

1. All players and coaches are to be in uniform (team hat and shirt) for games. NO shorts or open toed shoes may be worn by players. NO open toed shoes are to be worn by Coaches.
2. Athletic supporters are required for all male players. A supporter and cup is required for all male catchers. ***Although cups not required for all positions, it is strongly encouraged for all male players.***
3. A catchers mask must be used by players when catching and warming up pitchers in the bullpens.
4. Jewelry of any kind may not be worn during games and/or practice.
5. The **HOME TEAM** is the second team listed on the schedule and will occupy the **1st base dugout**. The Home team will have use of the batting cage from 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm while the Visiting team will have use of the batting cage from 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm. At conclusion of the game – **both teams coaches** are responsible for field care and clean up.
6. A game may not start nor finish with either team having less than 8 players.
7. An adult **MUST** be in the dugout at all times. (use of an approved volunteer OR if not available, and team has only one coach, coach must remain in dugout and use players as base coaches). Each team will have no more than 3 Coaches in the dugout at one time. When a coach is requesting a time out – the ump needs to approve the time out before the coach may set foot on the field of play.
8. All players must stay in the dugout while the game is in progress, unless they have permission from the coach. Only team members and approved coaches are allowed in the dugouts/field of play during games
9. There will be no on-deck circles, no on deck batters and no bat rings are allowed. On deck batter **MUST** remain in the dugout. Bats are to remain in bat tender until batter is ready to leave the dugout. Batters/Base runners **MUST** leave batting helmet on until they have entered the dugout.

### **Rules of Play**

***BATS – All bats must be 2 5/8 barrel or smaller. Non-wood bats must be labeled with a USA Baseball stamp. Solid wood bats do not need to have the USA baseball stamp.***

1. Each player must play at least every other inning (3 outs) on defense.
2. Each player is expected to play an infield position and an outfield position during the game unless the coach feels it would pose a safety risk.

3. Each player must bat in rotation, whether they are playing defense or not.
4. A coach must use a courtesy runner for the catcher with two outs. The player who made the last out will be the runner.
5. If the catcher has caught for 3 or more innings, he/she cannot pitch in the same game.
6. If a pitcher has pitched 41 or more pitches he/she is not eligible to catch the rest of the day.
7. A new inning begins when the home team's 3<sup>rd</sup> out is called.
8. Games are six innings, unless shorter due to time limits.
9. Games tied after 6 innings will be recorded as a tie, however, **WILL** be extended to a 7<sup>th</sup> inning **ONLY** if the time requirement in item #8 is adhered to.
10. Game times:

**First game** of a 2 game night starts at 5:00 pm. Even if started late, no new inning will start after 6:20pm– *Umpires' time runs the field.*) Game will be called at 6:30 pm and field prepped for the second game, if in the middle of an inning, the score will stand even if the home team has not batted.

**Second game** starts at 6:30 pm, a new inning may NOT start after 7:50 pm – *Umpires' time runs the field.* (Should the game start late, the 7:50 pm rule still applies) Game will be called at 8:15 pm, if in the middle of an inning, score will stand even if home team has not batted. NO revert back rule. No exceptions!

11. The 5 run rule per inning will apply in all innings, EXCEPT the last inning may be unlimited runs. If the last inning is announced when the home team is batting, the home team will be restricted to 5 runs as the visiting team was. **Run Ahead Rule:** 15 after 3 innings, 10 after 4 and 8 after 5 = ends the game.
12. Sliding – **All players are encouraged to slide but MUST avoid contact with the defense if there is a play at the base.**
  - a. (Umpire calls "Play at Base" NOT coaches. "Play at Base" = Defense, Offense, Ball & Base.)
  - b. All players encouraged to slide into bases to avoid tags (except 1<sup>st</sup> base).
    - The other option a runner has is to attempt to get around the defender attempting the tag. (Runner can only move up to 3 ft. left or right to remain legal)
    - Defensive players may not block the base unless they have the ball. (obstruction may be called = runner safe)

- Except when a runner is returning to a base, head first slides are NOT permitted.
13. **Slash Bunts are NOT ALLOWED** – A batter showing bunt CANNOT pull back and swing at pitch. Batter and Coach shall receive 1 warning, if batter does again, he/she is immediately out, without consideration of number of strikes on him/her. Ball either hit or missed is dead immediately, runners do not advance.
  14. A team must use 4 outfielders if they have 10 or more players. All outfielders must play at least 10 feet in the outfield grass.
  15. For the purpose of instruction, the defensive coaches may coach from the outfield grass.
  16. No leading off base. Baserunners may leave the base upon the pitch reaching the front edge of home plate. If a runner is deemed to have left early by the umpire, all defensive outs stand and no offensive batter/runners are allowed to advance-they will be returned to last occupied position prior to the pitch, unless put out.
  17. Stealing: The runner will be allowed only the base he/she was heading to on an errant throw from the catcher. If the throw goes into the outfield the runner **MAY NOT** advance to another base.
  18. Stealing:
    - a. No Stealing home unless a play is being made on the runner at 3rd base. (only can go home if catcher tries to throw out runner at 3rd base by throwing it.)
  19. ***Player Development Rules – First full week of games***
    - a. During these games, there will be no walks. After 4 balls are called on the pitcher, the offensive coach will step out and pitch to his/her own batter. Any strikes stand in the count to the batter and the Coach pitches from the rubber until there are 3 strikes (swinging strikes are NOT required) or a pitch is batted in play.

**COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING PITCH COUNTS STRICTLY!!!**

Pitch counts are in place and **REQUIRED** for the protection of the player – Coaches and/or parents are not allowed to override or ignore these requirements.

Be mindful of pitches in warm-ups and practices too...they add up and put strain on the players arm as well.

**PITCHING RULES**

**Any player may pitch a maximum of 50 pitches per day. We have lifted the “inning limit” to allow pitchers who pitch to 1 batter, for example, to end an inning be eligible for a subsequent inning(s).**

**Upon reaching limit, Pitcher must be removed from this position but may remain in the game, EXCEPT...**

**if 41 or more pitches delivered in a game, player cannot play catcher for the remainder of that day.**

All pitchers age 16 and under must adhere to the following pitch count vs. days of rest

Pitches (in a day)	Days of rest required
36-50	2
21-35	1
1-20	0*

Pitchers that pitch in consecutive days are required to rest on day 3 regardless of # of pitches thrown in those two consecutive days.

1. Coach is allowed 2 visits to the mound in 1 inning, 3 for the entire game. Any visit in excess requires pitcher to be removed. If a pitcher is removed on a visit, it does not count toward visit total for game.
2. Once pitcher is replaced during the game, he/she may not return to pitch in that game.
3. If pitcher hits 2 batters in 1 inning OR 3 batters in a game, he/she must be pulled for rest of the game. (Pitching only, can play other positions as allowed.)
4. Breaking balls (curve or slider) are not allowed in league play. Acceptable pitches are fastballs, change ups and knuckleballs. If an illegal pitch is thrown, the pitcher will given 1 warning and the offensive coach will choose a ball to the batter or the result of the play. Upon a second illegal pitch, the pitcher will be removed from the pitching position.

PYB Board President - Jim Belschner

Rules Director - Josh Brandsma

Revised 5/2/21