

## **2025 PMELL LEAGUE PLAY RULES**

The following Rules will apply to all league play. Each Manager should be thoroughly familiar with its contents.

### **FIELD RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Without exception, managers, coaches, team volunteers and parents from each team are obligated to participate in field prep. No team practices will be able to take place until field preparation is completed.

*Pre-game responsibilities for the **HOME team** are as follows:*

- Rake and line the field and set bases in place
- Treat Puddles and/or muddy area
- Fill in holes around home plate, bases and pitchers mound
- Return Field Equipment to proper shed
- If necessary dampen (not soak) infield to eliminate dust
- Coordinating Umpires for the game and canceling umpires if game needs to be rescheduled

*Post-game responsibilities for the **AWAY team** are as follows:*

- Clean out the dugouts and bleachers and place any trash into the proper containers
- Empty Trash Containers into Dumpsters
- Rake and Drag infield
- Place any lost items left behind inside press box

### **Playing Conditions:**

Due to the potential safety issues and damage to the fields, rainouts may be determined by either the Township who owns the field, the coaches who are playing or any board member. Play will be suspended at the first sign of lightning. The umpire(s) shall be the sole judge as to whether and when play shall be suspended during a game due to lightning, weather, darkness, or unsuitable field conditions, and as to whether and when play shall be resumed after such suspension.

Games stopped due to rain or darkness will be regarded as an official game, if four innings (3 ½ innings, if the home team is winning) have been completed. Any game which does not become an official game will continue from the point where play was suspended. Pitching records will count towards the pitcher's pitch count. All postponed and stopped games will be rescheduled by a league coordinator in the order that they occurred on the first available date.

### **Umpires:**

The home team is responsible for coordinating the umpire. We have a major shortage of umpires while high school seasons are underway. Majors games take priority over Minors games for umpires. Each coach will receive umpire contacts to coordinate umpires for their games.

If an umpire is unavailable for a minor's game a coach or parent will call pitches from behind the pitcher's mound.

### **Rules of Conduct:**

All managers, coaches, players, and league officials of PMELL must conduct themselves in a professional manner. It is the responsibility of the coaching staff of each competing team to assure that their respective supporters do not intimidate the umpires or opposing players, or interfere in any way with the playing of the game. Any manager, coach, or player who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct, at the game site, is subject to disciplinary action by the Board, including dismissal. All altercations will be reviewed by the League President, Player Agent, League Commissioner, and the Umpire(s). Fighting will not be tolerated and each manager should inform their players about the consequences. Should a fight occur, the following punishments will be put into action: ·

First Offense: a one game suspension for all players involved. ·

Second Offense: a three-game suspension for all players involved and a one game suspension for the manager involved

Third Offense: a lifetime ban for PMELL and a three game suspension for the manager involved

When a manager, coach, or player is ejected from a game, he or she shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in the game. They may not sit in the stands and may not be recalled. Any manager, coach or player ejected from a game is suspended for his or her team's next game and may not be in attendance at the game from which they are suspended. If a coach or manager is ejected from a game a meeting with the league president and board members will be required before the coach or manager is allowed to return to coaching.

### **Rules of Play:**

A team must have a minimum of eight players to start a game. Unfortunately, the league is unable to accommodate cancellations outside of weather situations. This is due to the fact that we typically have multiple cancellations per season because of weather and eventually run out of open dates to make up games. In order to keep the in house schedules balanced and ensure we are providing enough games for all participants we have to make every effort to ensure we are playing games on days where weather is not an impact. Teams are encouraged to borrow

players from other teams within their division or call up a player from a lower division. All borrowed players must bat last in the lineups and aren't allowed to pitch. With the exception of utilizing a player in another division that isn't typically used as a pitcher. If you are unsure or have questions on how to proceed, please contact a league representative.

Free substitution will be in effect. A player may be inserted in the game defensively at the beginning of any inning.

**FOR MAJORS:** Every player must play a minimum of three defensive innings in a complete, six-inning game, unless the player arrives late to the game. Managers are strongly requested to play every player as equitably as possible at as many positions as possible. The league commissioner will address any violations of this rule at his or her discretion.

**FOR MINORS:** Infield and Outfield must alternate every inning excluding the pitcher and catcher. 4 Outfielders can be utilized in minors. Excluding the pitcher and the catcher, players may not play the same position in the field for 2 consecutive innings.

A continuous batting order will be used, composed of every player on the team.

If a player is injured, becomes ill, or must leave the game after the start, then the team will skip over the player's turn at bat without penalty. If that player returns, he or she is inserted into their original spot in the batting order.

If a player arrives late to a game, he or she will be added to the end of the lineup.

If a player is ejected, then the team must record an out when his spot comes up in the batting order.

Warm up swings or an on-deck batter is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Managers MUST keep players sitting on the bench while their team is batting.

Bat throwing will not be tolerated. Players shall be instructed on the danger of bat throwing. The umpire will warn a player throwing a bat on the first offense. After the second offense in a game, the player will be ejected from the game. Any player that is ejected from the game becomes an automatic out in the batting order.

Once a batter has squared around to bunt, he or she may NOT pull the bat back and take a full swing. The penalty is that the batter is called out and the runners cannot advance any bases.

Headfirst slides into an advancing base are not permitted. The penalty is that the runner is called out.

The runner may slide headfirst while returning to a previously occupied base, however, managers and coaches should explain the risks involved and strongly discourage any player

from sliding headfirst back to a base. If a runner attempting to reach home plate, or any base, intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player, the runner will be called out and ejected from the game. Any ejected runner becomes an automatic out in the batting lineup. This is done to penalize the runner for a deliberate, unwarranted, or unsportsmanlike action for the obvious purpose of crashing into the defensive player rather than trying to reach the base or home plate. In the event of a significant injury to a player, it is the responsibility of the manager to notify the league commissioner of league safety director immediately.

**10 RUN RULE:** A ten-run rule is in effect. After four innings (3 ½ if the home team is winning), if one team has a lead of ten runs or more, the manager of the team losing shall concede the victory. If the away team has a lead of ten runs or more, the home team must bat in its half of the inning. The manager of the winning team (or both managers, if they agree) must follow the procedures to report scores and pitch counts. The manager, or designated coach, must input the score and pitch counts to the league website within 12 hours of the conclusion of the game. In case of any violation of these rules, protests shall be made in accordance with Playing Rule 4.19 of the Little League Rule Book.

**Pitching Rules:**

It is the responsibility of each team to record the number of pitcher thrown by each pitcher and reconcile after each half inning with the opposing team.

**FOR MAJORS BASEBALL:**

A pitcher must be removed from the mound after he or she reaches the maximum number of pitches for his or her age group as noted below: ·

Ages 11 to 12: 85 pitches per game ·

Ages 9 or 10: 75 pitches per game ·

Ages 7 or 8: 50 pitches per game

If the pitcher reaches his or her limit while facing a batter, he or she can continue to pitch until that batter is retired, the batter reaches base, or the inning is completed due to an out a base. A player once removed as a pitcher may not pitch again nor be moved to the position of catcher. A player may not pitch in more than one game per day. If the pitcher has thrown 41 pitches or more, he or she cannot play the position of catcher in that same game. Any player, who has played the position of catcher in four or more innings in a game, is not eligible to pitch that day.

Pitchers MUST adhere to the following rest requirements before pitching again. These pitch counts and requirements include TRAVEL games.

They are as follows: ·

1 to 20 pitches No required day of rest ·

21 to 35 pitches One (1) day of rest ·

36 to 50 pitches Two (2) days of rest ·

51 to 65 pitches Three (3) days of rest ·

66 or more pitches Four (4) days of rest

These are full calendar days and do not begin till the day after the last pitch is thrown. Meaning if a pitcher pitches on Tuesday and requires 3 days rest the soonest they would be able to pitch again would be Saturday.

**FOR MINORS BASEBALL:**

A pitcher can pitch for **NO MORE THAN 6 consecutive outs** and 9 outs over 2 consecutive days They're not allowed to pitch 3 outs be pulled and put back in later for 3 outs it has to be consecutive. If a pitcher reaches his age appropriate pitch count before his 6 outs are recorded, the pitcher will be pulled once he reaches his threshold.

If a pitcher hits 3 batters he must be pulled

Runners may not advance on a loose ball on a throw from the catcher to the pitcher

Catchers need to be encouraged to throw down to bases on steal so runners may not advance another base on an overthrow and will be given the base they stole

As pitchers continue to learn control you can move them up on the mound 5ft especially younger ones

Only 4 Runs per inning

Stealing of home only once per inning

Catchers should be encouraged to try and pick off runners at first and third runners can not advance on an overthrow pickoffs may only be attempted once per at bat

**Dugout Rules:** The manager, two coaches, and team players are the ONLY people allowed in the dugout during the game. This rule be strictly enforced due to league insurance requirements and the need for security clearances to be obtained for each volunteer, who has direct contact with children as required by PA law. Parents are to refrain from entering the dugout or interfering with coaches during the game. If a parent is unable to refrain from entering the dugout or interfering with the coaches during the game a meeting shall be called with both the coach and parent and board members. If a parent continues to be a disruption to the game they will be banned from attending future games.

All players shall sit on their team's bench in the dugout unless participating in the game or preparing to enter the game. Players must remain in the dugout during the game and may not

wander around outside the dugout or go to the stands. If a player needs to leave the dugout for any reason they must obtain permission from one of the coaches.

The use of electronic equipment is strictly prohibited in the dugout, bullpen, or field (with the exception of a scorekeeping device i.e. - GameChanger). Alcohol and any form of tobacco products are absolutely forbidden in the dugout, stands or the playing field.

### **COACH PITCH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL:**

For Coach pitch baseball and softball All the same rules as minors apply PLUS:

6 pitches maximum this includes foul balls if a batter fouls off their 6th pitch they are out. for the first half of the season a tee can be brought out after 6 pitches in which the batter will get 3 swings

Coaches are allowed to be on the field and remain there to guide and instruct

### **By mid season at minimum coaches should be encouraging players to pitch**

Coaches are allowed to remain in the field and have pitchers throw from 25ft  
Players are permitted to pitch three balls to a batter If a pitcher is able to throw strikes that pitcher may continue to pitch more than three pitches to a batter. If not after three pitches the coach will take over

If pitchers are unable to throw strikes they are permitted to pitch to just the first three batters in an inning and then the coach will take over pitching. If they're throwing strikes they can continue to play more than just the first three batters but no more than 2 innings

Teams should try and position just 4 outfielders but can have up to 6 outfielders; they must be at least 10 ft beyond the base path and cannot go for a ball in the infield.  
Coaches should encourage outfielders to learn to backup bags for overthrows