

ROLAND PARK BASEBALL LEAGUES, INC.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE RULES

Revision 03/23/25

The official rules of organized baseball shall apply except in the following instances:

1. Length of Game – 5 innings, but no inning may start after 7:45 PM unless both managers agree otherwise prior to the start of the game. In a game scheduled on Saturday or Sunday, no inning shall begin after two hours have elapsed from the actual starting time of the game.
2. Scoring – The opposing teams keep score in this league. However, wins, losses, and league standings are not recognized in the International League.
3. Dimensions of the Playing Field – The basepaths are 55 feet.
4. Player Eligibility – A player must be 7 years old as of May 1st of the current season and may not turn 9 before May 1st of the current season to play in the RPBL International League. NO player may appear in any game (regular season or playoff) for a team unless he/she is a rostered player for that team or has prior consent from the RPBL Commissioner.
5. Coach Pitch – Each coach pitches to his/her team. The coach may pitch underhand or overhand. The coach may not field or interfere with a ball in play. A player will be assigned to field the pitcher's position.
6. Balls & Strikes – There will be no called balls or strikes. If a child swings and misses at 3 pitches or after 5 total pitches, the child bats off a tee.
7. "No Outs in April" – During games in April, an inning consists of batting once through the entire batting order, rather than 3 outs.
8. Substitution – Each player on hand at the beginning of the game must bat in order each time through the lineup. Players arriving after the start of the game may be inserted anywhere in the lineup.
9. Number of Fielders – Each team may use ten fielders. This will consist of a pitcher, catcher, four (4) infielders, and four (4) outfielders. Once the "No Outs in April" period is over, every child must play at least two (2) innings in the infield and one (1) inning in the outfield each game. (Pitcher and Catcher are considered infield positions.)
10. Scoring Limitation – Once the batting team has scored five runs during an inning, their turn at bat is considered complete and they will now take the field. If the batting team was losing as they entered the inning, they may score enough runs to even the deficit plus an additional five runs. All runs will count on the play when the batting team reaches the five-run maximum.

Example: The batting team has already scored four runs in the top of the first inning. The bases are loaded and the batter hits a grand slam home run. All four runs count towards the score which would be 8-0 as a result of the grand slam. Their opponent could score a maximum of 13 runs during their next at bat in the bottom of the inning. They would be allowed to even the deficit of the score plus the five-run maximum.

11. Base Running -

- a. Base stealing – Base stealing is not allowed. A runner may not advance to the next base on a wild pitch or passed ball.
- b. Limits on advancing – No runner may advance to the next base once the ball has returned to the infield. The ball does not have to be in the control of a fielder for the ball to be considered “dead”.
- c. Substitute runner – A substitute runner may replace the catcher on base in an inning with two outs.
- d. Safety Rule – A base runner must avoid colliding with a fielder who is attempting to make a play on the runner. If a collision occurs, the runner is automatically ruled out. If the fielder was found to be interfering with the path of the base runner, the runner is safe and an additional base may be awarded to the runner in the judgment of the coaches.

12. Required Equipment –

- a. Batting helmets with facemasks will be worn while at bat, on base, on deck or coaching a base.
- b. Long pants must be worn.
- c. Catchers must wear the full array of protective equipment while in the field. The equipment worn by the catcher is:
 - (i) Catcher’s helmet/face mask with throat protector
 - (ii) Chest protector
 - (iii) Shin guards
 - (iv) Protective cup
- d. Metal spikes or cleats are prohibited.

13. Bats –

- a. Bat barrels may not be more than 2¼ inches in diameter, and bats must have a BPF (bat performance standard) of 1.15 or less or meet USA Baseball Standards.
- b. Wooden bats may be used as long as the barrel diameter conforms to the same standards as Aluminum bats. If a wooden bat is damaged, it must be replaced, not repaired.

14. Foul Fly Ball – may not be fielded beyond the projection of the fence line. A player may reach over a fence and catch a ball.

15. Game Time –

- a. Weeknight games begin at 6:00 PM.
- b. Saturday games (with the exception of Opening Day) begin at 8:30 AM. Each subsequent game will start fifteen (15) minutes after the conclusion of the preceding game (if after or later than the scheduled time).