

Niwot Youth Sports General Recreational Baseball Rules

Updated 6/17/20

When a specific rule is not mentioned in the general or Age Specific Rules, the [Major League Baseball Official Rules](#) shall be in effect. Niwot Youth Sports General Rules shall supersede AACB rules and Age Specific Rules shall supersede General Rules when in conflict. The following definitions shall be in effect below:

- Baseball facilities: areas consisting of any and all areas used by spectators, players or other baseball personnel.
- Playing fields: areas contained inside the fenced area of a baseball field, to include fair territory, foul territory and the dugouts or benches used by teams.

General Rules

1. No smoking, vaping or tobacco use allowed within 100 feet of any playing field. No drug or alcohol use allowed anywhere in baseball facilities.
2. No profanity allowed anywhere in baseball facilities.
3. No fighting or aggressive physical contact is allowed in baseball facilities.
4. Taunting, ridiculing or in any way harassing ANYONE will not be tolerated and may lead to ejection of the player, coach or parent. Repeat or egregious infractions of this rule may lead to suspension, forfeit or other discipline as determined by Niwot Youth Sports board of directors.
5. Only players, managers, coaches, umpires or administrative staff are allowed on the playing fields.
6. Baseball equipment will be respected. No throwing or abuse of baseball equipment at any time.
7. Respect our umpires.
 - a. Umpire judgement calls cannot and will not be appealed.
 - b. Appeals to rules are permitted. When a rule appeal is requested by a coach or manager, both umpires will review the request and relevant rule and make an independent, final decision.
 - c. "Chirping," pestering or criticizing the umpires (by a coach, player or spectator) will not be tolerated. Repeat or egregious infractions of this rule may lead to suspension, forfeit or other discipline as determined by Niwot Youth Sports board of directors.
8. Any infraction of NYS rules by managers, coaches, umpires, parents or players may lead to ejection from a game and baseball facilities. NYS board of directors will review any ejections to determine if further discipline is warranted.
9. All players, coaches, assistant coaches and umpires must be approved by NYS. All coaches must complete a concussion awareness course and submit to a background check once per year.
 - a. In the event that there is no umpire for a scheduled game, both coaches must agree upon persons delegated to umpire, and said persons will be considered approved to umpire by NYS.
10. No jewelry may be worn by players during league play
11. Weather Rescheduling Policy:

- a. If playing fields are unplayable, NYS will post the closures on niwotyouthsports.org and will communicate to coaches and umpires. Coaches are responsible for communicating to players/parents.
 - b. If fields have not been closed by NYS, both coaches and teams MUST show up for their game or risk forfeit. Weather changes quickly, and rain in Longmont does not necessarily mean rain in Niwot.
 - c. Decisions to cancel games due to unfavorable conditions present at the beginning or during a game will be made by umpires with input and coordination from coaches.
 - d. If games are cancelled due to weather, and:
 - i. Two complete innings have been played (1.5 if home team is winning) or the game has lasted more than one hour, the game shall be considered completed and no make-up will be scheduled. The score shall revert back to the score at the end of the last completed inning. An inning in process is considered complete if the top half of the inning has been completed and the home team is winning.
 - ii. Less than two complete innings have been played and the game has lasted less than one hour, the game will be rescheduled and shall revert to the state of play when the game was stopped, excepting that the batter will re-start any in progress at-bat with a 0-0 count.
 - e. For lightning, please see the NYS lightning policy here: [Waiting on feedback](#)
 - f. All games cancelled due to weather will be attempted to be rescheduled, but in the case of excessive weather cancellations, NYS does not guarantee a set number of games for the season.
12. All batters, on deck players and base runners are required to wear batting helmets at all times. Players or coaches under the age of 18 acting as base coaches must wear batting helmets.
13. The only offensive players allowed in the area of play during an at bat are the batter, on-deck batter, and base runners.
14. All players present at the start of a game must be placed in the batting order. All players must bat in order, even if players are not currently playing in the field. The batting order must not change during the game except in cases of ejection, injury or a player leaving the game for any other reason. Players arriving late may be added to the bottom of the batting order if the coach allows them to play in the game.
- a. In cases of ejection where a team is left with fewer than 8 players, the spot in the lineup formerly occupied by the ejected player will be an automatic out for the remainder of the game.
15. Minimum Rosters:
- a. Bubblegum, Rookie & AA: Games may be played with as few as 5 players per team
 - b. AAA & Majors: Games may be played with as few as 8 players without penalty. A team may take the field with 7 players, but the 8th spot in the batting order will be recorded as an automatic out.
 - c. If a team has fewer than 7 players at the official start of the game, they may elect to wait 10 minutes before forfeiting if the coach believes another player is close to the fields/on their way. The official game clock will start at the sanctioned game start time nonetheless.

- i. Any AAA or Majors team that cannot field 7 players at any point during the game will forfeit the game and the score will be recorded as 7-0.
 - d. Seniors: Games can be played with no fewer than 8 players present within 10 minutes of sanctioned game start time.
- 16. Player Movement Procedures:
 - a. If a team knows they will not be able to field 9 players for an upcoming game, they may select to bring a player up from the division one level under the division of play (Majors team may bring up an AAA player, AAA may bring up an AA player, etc.). As many players may be brought up to play until a full roster of 9 players is created, but no more.
 - b. No player may be brought up if they have a pre-existing game at the same time at their normal level.
 - c. The coach must communicate directly with the coach of the player who is being asked to play up. Please reach out to the director of baseball if you need contact information for coaches.
 - d. The player playing up must wear their uniform from their regular division and team.
- 17. Free substitutions are allowed. Players may re-enter a game at various positions, excepting that once a player pitches, they are not allowed to pitch again once they have been removed as a pitcher.
- 18. Time limits:
 - a. Bubblegum & Rookie: No new inning shall start after 1 hour 15 minutes.
 - b. AA: No new inning shall start after 1 hour 30 minutes.
 - c. AAA, Majors, Seniors: No new inning shall begin after 1 hour 45 minutes.
- 19. Regular season games can end in a tie.
- 20. Scores and Standings:
 - a. Bubblegum, Rookie & AA leagues will not keep score and no standings will be kept.
 - b. AAA & Majors pitch counts and scores will be recorded and reported on the online pitch count/score form within 24 hours after every regular season game, and the same day as every playoff game. The home team will keep the official scorebook, and will confirm pitch counts and scores with the away team prior to reporting.
 - c. Seniors: The home team will keep the scorebook, and is responsible to report the score on the LBL site.
- 21. Equipment:
 - a. No metal spikes/cleats of any kind are allowed.
 - b. All bats must be marked with the USA or USSSA stamp. Certain older bats that do not have these stamps may be allowed on a case by case basis as determined by umpires. NYS does not have a length or drop restriction as long as there is a USSSA or USA stamp on the bat. Wood bats are allowed, as long as they do not appear to have discernable cracks or other hazards.