



## **JR. HIGH Boys Baseball Bylaws 2026**

- By-laws may be altered by recreation staff as deemed necessary.
- If a league is combined with another city, they will use the host city's by-laws.

### **I. GAME FORMAT**

1. No new inning may begin after 85 minutes.
2. Running Clock
3. Games ending in a tie will remain tied during regular season play.
4. A half-inning ends after 3 outs or when a team scores 7 or more runs regardless of the number of outs. All runs will count until the completion of the play in which the seventh run is scored.
5. If the home team is losing by 11 or more runs, they will not have their last at bat due to the 7 run rule preventing them from winning.
6. First team listed is the home team. Home team starts the game in the field on defense.
7. 9 players will play defensively each inning.

### **II. EQUIPMENT AND FIELD**

1. Bases will be 90 feet apart.
2. Pitching rubber will be set 60 feet away from home plate.
3. Bats: 30"-32" bats are recommended
4. Ball: 9 in./ 5oz. baseball

### **III. UNIFORMS**

1. Each player will be given a jersey and a hat.
2. Players must wear pants or shorts. Pants are recommended for sliding purposes.
3. Athletic shoes must be worn and tied at all times. Metal cleats will not be permitted.
4. Hard casts or braces must be covered with a soft material.
5. All players must provide their own baseball glove.
6. If the pitcher has reflective glasses that hinder the ability of the batter to see the pitch they may be asked to remove their glasses.
7. Batters and base runners are required to wear batting helmets. Helmets will be provided.
8. Please bring a water bottle to every game and practice.
9. Catchers must wear a face mask with helmet, chest protector, shin guards, and must use a catcher's glove. Boys must wear a protective cup.

### **IV. SUBSTITUTIONS**

1. Teams may play with a minimum of 7 players and take automatic outs for the two team member not present. The coach may designate, prior to the game, where the automatic outs will fall in the line-up. Players arriving late may be slotted into the automatic out position.
2. Any team unable to take the field at the scheduled time will forfeit the game; forfeited games will be played for fun with the players present.
3. Substitutions may not be made in the middle of an inning. Players must play the entire inning defensively, unless injured.
4. No player will sit out 2 innings consecutively.
5. Each team has an unlimited amount of defensive substitutions provided it is done in between innings.

### **V. PITCHER RULES OF PLAY**

1. A starting pitcher once removed as a pitcher, may re-enter only once as a pitcher, but may continue to play any other position.
2. Any player is eligible to pitch

#### **VI. BASE RUNNERS**

1. Batting order consists of all team players present, each batting in the same rotation throughout the game. Batting order will resume where you left off each inning.
2. All players and coaches must remain in the dugout if they are not playing defense, batting, on deck, or base running.
3. Lead off is permitted. However, base runners may not advance to the next base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. **Penalty:** base runner may be declared out.
4. Base runners cannot steal home unless another base is played on by the defensive team, an overthrow is made, or the pitcher misses a catch.
5. Base runner must attempt to avoid contact with the catcher by sliding into home plate whenever there is a play at home (as determined by the official). **Penalty:** base runner may be declared out and may be ejected if the contact is deemed intentional by the umpire.
6. Dropped 3rd Strike Rule Will Apply. If the 3rd strike is dropped by the catcher, the batter will need to be tagged or put out at first base, as long as it is not occupied and there are less than two outs. On a dropped 3rd strike with two outs the batter, or forced runner, must be put out..
7. A batter hit by a pitch will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base unless it is called a strike or they intentionally try getting hit by the pitch.
8. A speed up runner for the catcher (from the previous inning) is allowed when there are two outs. The substituted runner shall be the last player on the team to make a batted out. The intent of this rule is to reduce delay between innings due to catcher equipment.
9. In Field Fly Rule will apply. If there are runners on 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> or bases loaded and less than two outs. If a fair fly ball (not a bunt/line drive) can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, The batter will automatically be called out regardless of whether it is caught. If the fly ball is ruled a foul ball the rule will not apply.
  - a. Runner Options: Runners may advance at their own risk. If the ball is caught, they need to tag up before running. If the ball is dropped, they can run immediately.

#### **VII. RESCHEDULING**

1. Conditions permitting, all games will be played when scheduled. If a game or practice is canceled, rescheduling is NOT guaranteed. However, the recreation department will strive to reschedule whenever possible.
2. It is the responsibility of the field supervisor to determine if the condition of the field or weather should stop play of the game.

#### **VIII. COACHES AND CONFERENCES**

1. One offensive coach is permitted in each coach's box. All other coaches must remain in the dugout. Coaches under the age of 18 must wear a helmet if they are in a coach's box.
2. Defensive Conference – While on defense, each team is allowed two conferences during a game. These conferences are used for coaches to confer with a defensive player(s).
3. In an extra inning game, each team shall be permitted one additional conference each inning while on defense..
4. Prior to accumulating two charged conferences, a conference is not charged if the pitcher is removed as pitcher. **PENALTY:** After two charged conferences in a game, the pitcher shall be removed as pitcher for the duration of the game.

#### **IX. SCOREKEEPER**

1. All line-ups must be submitted to the scorekeeper at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled game time.
2. The scorekeeper will keep track of individual runs, outs, and team score.

3. In the event that a scorekeeper is not available, the home team will keep the official score. After the game, both teams must approve the final score and it must be reported to the site supervisor.

## **X. SPORTSMANSHIP POLICIES**

1. The City Recreation Department is dedicated to providing quality recreational sports programs in a spirit of sportsmanship and fellowship for all of our families, friends and neighbors. It is expected that all players, coaches, parents, and spectators will strongly adhere to all rules of play and etiquette involving the program.
2. Any questions or concerns regarding the performance of a staff member should be brought to the attention of the Recreation Supervisor.
3. We encourage your constructive feedback on the program and expect that all participants conduct themselves in a manner supportive of fair play and kindness
4. There will be zero tolerance for unsportsmanlike conduct among players, coaches, parents and spectators. Offenders may be ejected and law enforcement may be called when deemed necessary. Anyone ejected from a game will not be permitted to attend the next game (minimum). They may be removed from multiple games and practices when deemed necessary by the recreation department.
5. Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game must schedule an appointment with the recreation supervisor within 24 hours of the game in order to participate in the program again.
6. Coaches will be expected to properly educate players the values of teamwork, character, and sportsmanship. Coaches shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct for players, team parents, and spectators.
7. **GOOD SPORTS CLINTON:** All players, coaches, and spectators are expected to follow the Good Sports Utah Initiative- to embody respect, leadership, kindness, sportsmanship and positivity. Umpires will give 1-2 players per team a “Good Sport Clinton” card at the end of each game. This card signifies their nomination to play in the post season Sportsmanship Game (All-Stars). Nominations will be recorded, and players with the most nominations at the end of the season will be selected to play in the game. The Sportsmanship Game will consist of two teams from each age division. Teams are compiled of players who exhibited the best sportsmanship throughout the season. Coaches will also be selected by their examples of good sportsmanship.