



# **NEW PALESTINE YOUTH LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS**

*Revised January 2025*

The following regulations, as established by the League Rules Committee, will serve as the basic guidelines under which all activities related to the “Youth League” (NPYL, Inc.) programs will be conducted. Their interpretation by the Rules and Grievance Subcommittee will be considered final authority for any action, which is questioned or protested by members of the League. The rules set forth in the recognized “ASA Softball”, “Babe Ruth”, “Babe Ruth Cal Ripken” and “Cal Ripken League” Rule Books, respectively, will apply. These regulations will not be amended or revised during the current league year and will remain in force until repealed or amended by a succeeding Rules Subcommittee.

## **OBJECTIVE OF NEW PALESTINE YOUTH LEAGUE**

1. The objective of NPYL, Inc., shall be to instill the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and reverence into the children of the community, so that they may be finer, stronger, and happier children.
2. This objective will be achieved by providing supervised, competitive, athletic games. The supervisors shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skills or the winning of games is secondary to the prime objective of molding upstanding adults of the future.

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## **SEVERE WEATHER/LIGHTNING POLICY**

*This policy applies to recreational and travel leagues utilizing NPYL Facilities.*

Lightning has the capability to travel up to 10 miles outside of a storm's perimeter and by the time thunder is heard, a storm is closer than you think. NPYL will adopt the following regarding lightning safety.

**In general: “If you hear it, clear it.” “If you see it, flee it.”**

- At first sound of thunder or sight of lightning by an NPYL Officer of the Day, umpire and/or other league officials, the fields will be cleared via an announcement by the Officer of the Day. All players and spectators will need to return to their vehicles and remain in the parking lot until games are either canceled or resumed. If no vehicle is available, the two buildings on NPYL premises that are considered “substantial” dwellings are the main concession stand and the restrooms by Diamond 7 – players should be directed there. Managers will report to the umpire garage to await further direction.
- Make sure the teams clear the fields completely. This includes playing gear in case games are postponed.
- Play will be suspended for 30 minutes after the first sound of thunder or sight of lightning and if more is seen or heard, the clock will “restart.” The number of times the clock will be reset will depend on the situation of the day of play. Weeknight games and Saturday games will have different needs and capabilities in terms of the time needed to complete postponed games if the weather clears.
- If the Officer of the Day utilizes lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. Under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.
- Tournaments will have more extenuating circumstances in the need to continue postponing rather than canceling games. This will be at the discretion of the Officer of the Day for all regular recreational season and recreational tournament games. For travel ball and weekend tournaments, this will be at the discretion of the tournament directors. Games are considered postponed until the Officer of the Day or tournament directors determine the games cannot be finished. At this time, there will be an announcement made.

## **EXTREME HEAT**

The heat index is the main determinant in appropriate outdoor activity. While it is important for athletes to stay hydrated in all circumstances, in extreme heat, it is essential that coaches, parents, and league officials provide a safe environment for play.

- When the heat index exceeds **95 degrees**, the Officer of the Day will make frequent announcements (approximately every 30 minutes) to remind coaches, umpires and parents to make sure the athletes are taking breaks and taking in fluids.
- When the heat index exceeds **105 degrees**, it will be at the discretion of the Officer the Day to cancel or reschedule games as they feel appropriate and safe.
- The Board may elect to reschedule activities based on local school precedence, but is NOT required to follow the same stipulations.

## **MANAGER AND COACH INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION**

1. Smoking, vaping, and chewing of tobacco or other products will not be permitted on the premises at NPYL ballpark. (same as New Palestine Community Schools district rules)
2. Each participant and spectator will be responsible for the clean-up of their dugout and adjacent spectator area. The League Director will schedule clean-up days prior to the start of the season. During the season, it

will be the responsibility of all teams to remove trash from the dugout and the surrounding area after each game and practice.

3. Protested games:
  - a. Judgment calls by the umpire(s) cannot be protested.
  - b. If, in the opinion of the team manager, a rule has been violated, he must inform the umpire that the game will continue under protest. This notification of intent to protest must be made and recorded in the official scorebook (HOME TEAM) prior to delivery of the "pitch" following the said infraction. The official written protest must be delivered to the respective Division Director not more than 24 hours after the protested game's completion. The specific rule violated must be stated in the protest.
4. Rainouts will be rescheduled by the Board and must be played when scheduled.
5. No child can be a non-starter in consecutive games and must play a minimum of three (3) completed innings in a six-inning regulation game.
6. The umpire will have the authority to rule on any situation not specifically covered by these rules or in the Official Rule Book.
7. Unsportsmanlike conduct by a player, a manager, a spectator or coach in the form of profanity, thrown objects, etc., could result in ejection from the playing field by the umpire or a board member.
  - a. If the ejected individual is a manager/coach, that person will not be allowed at their next game. The ejected individual must meet with 3 neutral board members, appointed by the NPYL Board President before he/she will be permitted to resume his/her role in the League.
  - b. If the ejected individual is a player, a parent (or a team manager) must accompany him/her when appearing before the committee.
8. A player can be considered resigned after missing three (3) consecutive practices, or two (2) consecutive games, without notification to the team manager. The player's name must be given to the Division Director, and a Board member will contact the player and the player's parents for confirmation of the player's resignation. After notification, the player will be dropped.
9. In case there is a tie in the division standings at the end of the season, the tie will be broken by the following criteria (listed in priority order):
  - a. Wins are worth two points and ties are worth ½ point.
  - b. The winner of the head-to-head contest(s) during the season will be placed in the higher position.
  - c. Provided the tying teams have completed the same number of games, then refer to "d" below. If they have not, then the schedule must be completed so that each team will have completed the same number of games. If for some reason, this would not be possible, the Board will name the tying teams as co-champions.
  - d. The team with the lowest total "runs scored against" will be placed in the higher position. If the teams are still tied, then refer to "e."
  - e. The teams involved in the tie will meet in a one-game playoff to determine the winner. This will only take place if the teams involved are in consideration for Seeds 1, 2, or 3. All lower-seeded ties will be decided by a coin flip.
10. Umpire Responsibility:
  - a. The Umpire Director is responsible to select, train, and certify individuals to be game (home plate) umpires for the Baseball, Babe Ruth, and Softball Divisions. He/she will schedule umpiring assignments so that each regular season and postseason tournament game will have a certified game umpire. If the league provides for the hiring of a specific group of umpires, then the Umpire Director will coordinate the scheduling of umpires with the representative of that organization.
  - b. In the event that a game does not have a (home plate) umpire or the umpire is unavoidably detained, the Umpire Director, Officer of the Day, or another Board Member will have the responsibility to locate a reasonable replacement.

- c. The Umpire Director and the League Director will coordinate with each other to insure that all games are adequately staffed with umpires.
11. Home teams prepare the field for play, such as lining the diamonds. The home team will also be responsible for the official scorebook (GameChanger is acceptable). The home team will be in the third base dugout. The visiting team will rake the field after the game.
12. Both the home team and the visiting team will be required to clean up their dugouts and the surrounding areas after each game and practice.
13. Mandatory slide will be in effect on any close play at any base. This will be a call based upon umpire judgment. The intent of this rule is to prevent injuries.

## **UNIFORM REGULATIONS**

1. Players' shoes must be tied at all times. Play will be stopped for this reason.
2. Catchers must wear all protective equipment. Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a catcher's mask, including the warm-up areas. Boys are strongly encouraged to wear protective cups.
3. All players in an offensive position must always wear helmets. An infraction of this rule will be corrected immediately, or the umpire will call the player out or eject the player from the game.
4. Steel spikes will only be allowed in 14U and Junior/Senior. Junior/Senior pitchers are required to wear non-metal molded cleats, turf shoes, or tennis shoes only.
5. All players should have their shirts tucked in during play. Hats must be worn forward while in the field or batting. Softball teams are strongly encouraged to wear face masks while in the field.

## **LATE REGISTRATION**

The NPYL Board President, Vice President, League Director and Division Directors will place late registrants on teams with vacancies in draft order. In the event that no vacancies exist at the time of his/her registration, the registrant will be placed in a player pool. As vacancies develop, assignments from the pool will be made according to age, by the earliest registration date.

## **TEAM COMPOSITION AND PLAYER ASSIGNMENT**

Responsibility for player distribution and assignment will rest with the NPYL Board President, Vice President, League Director, and Division Directors. Their primary consideration is that all teams will be as equally balanced as possible to allow each player the opportunity to play, learn, and improve or enhance his/her baseball/softball skills, and to enjoy participation in the New Palestine Youth League program.

The method to be used will be considered by league and division areas with a view toward the overall league structure to preclude the possibility of imbalances, which might result from a blanket policy.

## SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS

Teams without the minimum required players to field a team can utilize substitute players assigned by the Division Director. All Divisions will utilize a lateral substitute player system unless determined by the Division Director to utilize a Call Up from a lower division. Coaches are NOT permitted to find their own substitute players.

Substitute players for absent members may be obtained only through the following procedure:

1. Each Division Director maintains the list of eligible lateral substitute players.
  - The Division Director will ensure that all players have had a chance to substitute prior to using any player as a substitute a second time.
2. A team will be eligible for substitutes when the number of players is Eight (8) or fewer.
  - Any team may be brought up to a maximum of nine (9) players if utilizing substitutes.
  - Note: In Divisions with Ten (10) players allowed on the field, there will only be Three (3) outfielders, if utilizing a sub
3. In order to receive substitute players, the head coach must contact the respective Division Director or League Director, in that order, in advance.
  - Minimum 24 hours notice preferred.
4. In the event four or more players must be subbed to fill in for one team, the board will review and make final decision.
5. If a substitute situation arises at game time, the Division Director, the League Director, or the Officer of the Day, in that order, will try to find a substitute player at the field.
  - If this is not possible, the team will play with the number of players it has unless they decide to forfeit.
6. Lateral Substitutes must be for a player with a similar ability to the player being substituted.

Substitute Player Gameplay Restrictions:

1. All substitute players can ONLY play the outfield.
2. All substitute players must play a minimum of one (1) complete inning.
3. All substitute players will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.
4. If a regular player arrives late, he/she will be entered into the game at the next half inning.
  - a. If the regular player completes the 9<sup>th</sup> roster spot, the substitute player will be done for the game.

Note, as in any game, an automatic out will be recorded for each batting position when the offensive team is batting less than nine (9) batters in the line-up. But a team can play with Eight (8) players.