

SOUTHTOWNS BASEBALL LEAGUE

Baseball Rules (16U division)

(AS OF 5/19/25)

- 1.) All games will **START at 6:00 pm** with a 15 minute grace period until 6:15 pm. Every effort must be made to start the games on time.
- 2.) Home team will supply baseballs for each home game.
- 3.) Each **Home Team** will be **responsible** for SCHEDULING AND PAYING the umpire **before the start of each game.**
- 4.) Team Roster **DEADLINE**: final rosters must be submitted to the *Josh Haeick at jhaeick@villagehamburg.com* on or before **Friday, June 13, 2025**. Roster is to include: Player's first and last name and date of birth. Age cutoff for our league is April 30, 2025.
- 5.) No players may be added to the roster after the roster deadline. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

ALL GAMES WILL BE PLAYED ACCORDING TO NFHS RULES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FOLLOWING:

- 1.) **DEFENSIVE PLAYING TIME:** Every player on a team roster will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs. Free defensive substitutions are allowed throughout the game. Every player who shows up before the start of the second inning of a game must receive playing time according to this rule.
- 2.) All teams are required to bat the order of their full roster of players who are present and available.
- 3.) Every team's game day roster/scorebook line-up must include **FULL NAMES (FIRST AND LAST) AND JERSEY NUMBERS** of all players in the lineup for that game. Each team must submit all of the above to the opposing team at least 5 minutes before the scheduled start of the game.
- 4.) **PITCHING RULES:**
 - "A WEEK" runs Monday through Sunday
 - During the lineup exchange at least 5 minutes before each game, coaches must provide the opposing team with player names, jersey numbers and total pitches thrown during the current week of all pitchers who have pitched up to that point in the week.
 - **Pitchers may pitch no more than 75 pitches in one game** (must be consecutive pitches/ NO RE-ENTRY for pitchers AS A PITCHER after being removed as a pitcher).
 - If 75 pitches are reached during an inning, the pitcher can complete the current AT-Bat and then be removed from the game as a pitcher.
 - **Pitchers may pitch no more than 100 pitches in a week** (see "a week" above).
 - If 100 pitches are reached during an inning, the pitcher can complete the current At-Bat and then be removed from the game as a pitcher.
- 5.) Each team must have a minimum of nine (9) players by the end of the first inning or they will forfeit the game. After playing the first inning with a complete lineup, if an injury reduces the number of available roster players to less than (9) a team may continue with (8) players but must keep the same batting order. An out will be recorded each time the vacant spot in the lineup is called to bat. No team may continue with less than (8) players.

Calling-Up Players from a Younger/Lower Division:

- ALL call-ups must be from a lower division (12U) of the current year/season and on a team roster from YOUR OWN organization/association.
- Call-ups must wear the team jersey of their regular division/ team, not the team jersey they were called-up to.
- Call-ups cannot be used as Pitchers, Catchers or Infielders.
- Call-ups must bat LAST in the batting order and play the OUTFIELD!
- If a call up player **unexpectedly** gives a team more than the minimum amount of players needed, DO NOT send the player home. In this case, the called up player will play less innings in the field than all roster players, and follow the rules above as well as all rules of play.

6.) **NON-COLLISION RULE:** A base runner must avoid contact at all times. Any attempt to injure or make contact with a fielder will result in an out for the runner. Runners may head-first slide at any base EXCEPT for home plate.

7.) All games will be seven (7) innings in duration. An official game will consist of a minimum of four (4) completed innings or three & one-half (3 ½) innings if the home team is leading.

No new inning will start after 8:30PM

- If a game is called by the Field Supervisor/Umpire because of weather (*after it is an Official Game*), and the home team is trailing and has not batted or completed their bottom half of an inning, the game will revert back to the completion of the last full inning of play. If the score is tied when a game is called, completed, or has been reverted back, the game will be considered a tie in the standings.

8.) Mercy Rule: There will be 15 run rule after five (5) complete innings.

9.) If an umpire fails to show up for a game, the home team will provide an umpire from the crowd.

10.) Concerning Rain-Outs and Cancellations:

MOST IMPORTANT – GAMES WILL ONLY BE RESCHEDULED DUE TO WEATHER RELATED CANCELATIONS!

WNY Umpires requires a two (2) hour notice of any game cancellations, or else the umpire must still be paid. The home organization responsible for the facility where the game will be played must cancel a game due to unplayable conditions no later than 3:30PM on game days. If a home organization fails to provide notice of a cancellation, that home organization will still be responsible for paying the umpire for that game. Game cancellations must be texted or emailed into Josh Haeick at 716-812-4620 or jhaeick@villagehamburg.com

11.) **THUNDER & LIGHTNING POLICY:**

*The policy below will be enforced keeping in mind one thing...SAFETY!

*NOTE...the presence of thunder and lightning DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY CANCEL A GAME!

*Southtowns Baseball League will follow the NYSPHSAA policy on thunder and lightning... Thunder and lightning necessitates that contests be suspended. The occurrence of thunder and/or lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion - thunder is thunder, lightning is lightning.

*When thunder is heard and/or when lightning is seen, the following procedures should be adhered to by the Field Supervisor OR the head umpire (in the absence of a Field Supervisor).

- a) Suspend play and direct participants to go to shelter, a building normally occupied by the public or if a building is unavailable, participants should go inside a vehicle with a solid metal top (e.g. bus, van, car).
- b) Do not permit people to stand under or near a tree; and have all stay away from poles, antennas, towers and underground watering systems.
- c) After thunder and/or lightning have left the area, and wait 30 minutes after the last boom is heard or strike is seen before resuming play or competition.

- 12.) **CATCHER SPEED UP RULE:** This rule is in effect, but may ONLY be applied with 2 outs and a pinch runner may be called upon in place of the catcher ONLY if the player will be playing the catcher position in the **NEXT HALF INNING OF PLAY!**
- 13.) **MAKEUPS/ RESCHEDULING GAMES:** Both head coaches must communicate and **decide on a mutually agreed upon makeup date within 48 hours of the cancelled game.** It is highly recommended that coaches reschedule games within a 10 day time frame to avoid backlogged games if there are multiple cancellations in a season.
- 14.) **GAME SCORES:** **THE WINNING TEAM OF EACH GAME** must email Josh Haeick and Michelle Dhanantwari at jhaeick@villagehamburg.com and mdhanantwari@villagehamburg.com at Village Rec. with the score of your game within 24 hours of the end of your game.

IN-GAME POINTS OF EMPHASIS:

BALKS: Balks will be called, so we highly recommend to coaches to teach the proper way for pitchers to operate out of the stretch. Umpires have been directed to call balks, and particularly egregious and blatant moves that mislead and put the baserunner(s) at a disadvantage.

GAME EFFICIENCY: There are ways to ensure an efficient game that all coaches should apply with their teams:

- Players hustle in and out each half inning
- Catcher speed up rule in effect
- Catchers have some equipment on once there are two outs (shin guards at least).
- If for whatever reason the catcher is NOT ready for warmup pitches, a bench player or coach should wear a mask and warm up the pitcher.
- All teams/ players vacate the field of play to bench areas by 5:50pm in anticipation of the home plate pre-game meeting.
- Umpire/ captain/ coach mtg should take place at 5:50pm, so that a 6:00pm FIRST PITCH happens promptly.
- Pitchers use the MINIMUM number of warm up pitches before inning begins.
- Defensive timeouts and trips to the mound should be short and to the point.

COACHES & UMPIRES:

Only the head coach (identified prior to each game) may speak with the umpire regarding any disputes, rule questions, etc. Players, assistant coaches, scorekeepers, spectators, etc. may not speak to umpires at any time for any reason! This will be strictly enforced, and the head coach is responsible for making sure this rule is followed! All coaches, assistants, players and fans are bound by the Code of Conduct for Youth Sports set forth by the Village of Hamburg Recreation Dept. This code is attached to these rules.