

PICKERINGTON YOUTH  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (PYAA)

JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL (JLB)

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

# PYAA Policies and Procedures

## 1.0 League Schedule

**(a) Unscheduled Practices:** Unscheduled Practices, whether at PYAA facilities or offsite, are unauthorized. Combined team practices and scrimmages are allowed if one of the teams is the scheduled practice team. Use of the batting cage is a first come first serve basis and must be scheduled with the Scheduling Coordinator. If the batting cages are open during a scheduled practice time the teams practicing at that time are free to use them.

**(b) Post Season Playoffs:** Post Season playoffs are authorized and encouraged, at the discretion of the League Director and JLB President.

**(1)** The format will be established each season by the respective League Director, based upon number of teams, field availability, and seasonal conditions.

**(2)** Post Season seeding will be determined by Team Record; Head-to-Head; Winning Percentage; Total Wins; Runs Against; Runs For; then Coin Toss.

**(3)** Innings, time limits and rule modifications for tournament games will be authorized as proposed by the respective League Director and approved by the JLB President.

**(4)** In the absence of a post season playoff, League Champions and Runners Up will be determined by: Team Record; Total Points; Total Wins; Runs Against; Runs For; Head-to-Head; then Coin Toss

## 1.1 Coaching

**(a)** Game start time will be considered your scheduled start time not your actual start time (e.g. Schedule start time 5:30 and actual start time 5:38, start time would be 5:30): **Note:** If the umpire is not there at scheduled start time game time will start when they arrive.

**(1)** Coaches and players should be at the field at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.

**(2)** Coaches must have line-ups prepared and exchanged with the opposing Coach at least 5 minutes before each game.

**(3) Scorekeeper:** The home team is required to provide an Official Scorekeeper, who will maintain the official scorebook. Additionally, the visiting team must also keep a scorebook. The game is NOT to begin until these duties are properly assigned.

**(a)** Home Team will sit on the first base side, visitors on the third base side.

**(b)** In the absence of a Coach, Parents and/or Players are allowed to coach either base.

**(c) Reporting Scores:** Both the home team and the visiting team will report scores to their respective League Director. The League Director will record scores. Coaches should verify scores with each

other after each inning to ensure no disagreement. League standings will be posted weekly, at the discretion of the League Director.

**(d)** At the conclusion of each game, participating teams are **required** to pick up trash and clean up the bench, dugout, and bleacher areas.

## **1.2 Cancellation, Stoppage, Suspension of Play**

**(a) Cancellations:** The JLB President, or his designee, will cancel games. The decision will be placed on the PYAA JLB Facebook Page and an email or text to all League Directors will be sent. League Directors will then email or text the coaches of their respective league. Please do not assume a game is called because it is raining. Coaches are expected to notify the parents and players. As much notice as possible will be given to allow Coaches adequate time to notify parents. The Coach should coordinate with their respective League Director to get games rescheduled.

**(b) Darkness:** The Umpire or any on-site JLB board member can stop a game at his/her discretion due to darkness. (*Games on fields without lights will be scheduled with adequate time to complete a normal game.*) If the game is stopped due to darkness, the game is considered official, regardless of the number of innings completed. NOTE: The score reverts to the previously completed inning unless the home team is ahead or tied in the bottom half of the shortened inning. If the “reverted to” score is a tie, the tie stands.

**(c) Weather/Field Condition:** The Umpire or any on-site JLB board member can delay or suspend a game at his/her discretion due to weather or unsafe field conditions. If the game is delayed by rain/unplayable field conditions, and cannot be resumed within a reasonable time, the game will be suspended and rescheduled, unless considered an official game. If the stoppage occurs in the bottom half of the inning and the score is a tie, the game will conclude with a tie score and not be rescheduled.

**(d) Lightning/Thunder Policy:** In the case of lightning or thunder, the game will be immediately suspended for at least 20 minutes, before restarting. Any subsequent lightning or thunder will reset the 20-minute delay. If the delay last longer than 30 minutes, the game will be suspended and rescheduled, unless considered an official game. If the stoppage occurs in the bottom half of the inning and the score is a tie, the game will conclude with a tie score and not be rescheduled. If anyone at the fields sees lightning, please notify an Umpire, who will in turn notify all other Umpires for games going on at the time. Games must be stopped and then resume at the same time. Everyone must go to their vehicles until it is deemed safe to resume games.

**(e) Official Game:** A game is official:

**(1)** After three and a half or four innings; or

**(2)** If shortened by weather; or

**(3)** Unplayable field conditions; or

**(4)** Any other circumstance not specifically addressed in the rules.

**NOTE:** The score reverts to the previously completed inning unless the home team is ahead or tied in the bottom half of the shortened inning. If the “reverted to” score is a tie, the tie stands.

**(f) Suspended Game Procedures:** If a game is suspended due to weather, field conditions, etc., the game will be rescheduled accordingly. The game will pick up from the time of suspension, to include innings, outs, runs, batter, and runners. The batter will assume his/her count. A Coach is required to continue with the batting order/lineup or as close to it as possible. Additional players will be added to the bottom of the lineup.

**(1)** In the case of a player missing from the original lineup and an extra player available, the extra player will assume the missing players offensive role, to include batting order, base runner, at bat, etc. In the case of a player missing from the original lineup with no extra player available and the number of remaining number of players does not violate each league's respective shorthanded rule, the missing players spot in the batting order will be skipped without penalty. If the missing player was at bat, the next batter in the batting order will assume the batter's count. A courtesy runner can be used for the missing player by rule.

### **1.3 Officiating**

**(a) PYAA JLB Umpires will officiate all games when Umpires are utilized. If for any reason an Umpire is not available, Coaches or parents are to perform this function. The appointed Umpire from each team will officiate the game when their team is playing offense. For safety reasons, the appointed Umpire will officiate from behind the pitcher, unless they have proper equipment.**

**(b) An expanded Strike Zone will be utilized; Shoulders to the bottom of the knees and one ball width on either side of home plate.**

**(c) Malicious Contact will be strictly enforced in all leagues. The offending player will be ejected without warning. Outs, bases, etc. shall be awarded in accordance with NFHS Rule 3.3.1.n Penalty.**

### **1.4 Disputes**

**(a) Judgement Calls:** Any Umpire's decision which involves judgment, such as, but not limited to, fair or foul, safe or out, obstruction, interference, or malicious contact is **final**. No player or Coach shall object to any such judgment decision. Only Head Coaches are permitted to interact with Umpires during a dispute. No Assistant Coach, player, or spectator is to interact with the Umpire on decisions.

**(b) Non-judgment Calls/Rules:** If there is reasonable doubt that an umpire's decision may conflict with the rules, a Head Coach may, with permission from the Umpire and with current rule book in hand, question a call or ruling at home plate with the opposing Head Coach. All disputes must be settled within three minutes by the Umpire. The Umpire's decision at the end of the three minutes **IS FINAL**.

**Protests are not allowed.**