

15U

The purpose of Roanoke Area Youth Baseball Association's 15U division is to provide an enjoyable organized baseball experience under adult supervision for youth in the area. The program is organized to promote sportsmanship, cooperation, and fair play at all times while developing knowledge and skills of the game. The RAYBA 15U league rules are guided by the "National Federation of State High School Associations" rules and regulations which will apply except as modified herein.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A child must play for the booster club / recreation department that represents the area in which he or she resides.
- All players must be registered with the booster club and/or Recreation Department before he or she is allowed to play in a game.
- Age Classification: Playing age is the age attained by a player on September 30th of the current year.

SEASON RULES

- There will be no more than two mandatory practice sessions held in a week. Once games begin, there can be no more than three "events" per week. A double-header counts as one event. Practices can only be two hours per session.
- The season may begin as early as April 1, and games may begin as early as April 15; however, the season traditionally will work around the local school sports schedule. This means games may not start until May, and extend the season into June.
- Overall win/loss record will determine the season champion. In the event of a tie, the following tiebreakers will determine the division champion:
 1. Head to head.
 2. Least combined number of runs allowed during head to head competition.
 3. Least combined number of runs allowed for all games played during the season.
 4. Coin flip.

PLAYING FIELD

- Bases: 90'
- Pitcher's Mound (to the toe plate): 60'

EQUIPMENT

- Bats: In the 15U division, any bat is legal as long as it does not exceed 34 inches in length and meets one of these weight-to-length requirements:
 - A maximum drop weight of -5.
 - A BBCOR certification of -3
 - A comparable wooden bat.

All barrel sizes, including 2 ¾-inch barrels, are permitted.

RAYBA Rules

Updated: 1/21/2026

- Helmets: All batters and baserunners must wear a helmet. Face masks are not required.
- Baseballs: Official high school baseballs, i.e. McGregor 78 or age-appropriate leather bound equivalent
- Catchers: Must wear shin guards, chest guard, cup, helmet, and facemask with throat guard for protection from thrown bats and passed balls.
- Cleats: Metal cleats are allowed

TEAM ROSTERS

- Any rec club fielding more than one team per age group must place players on teams by using the County drafting procedures.
- Transfer of players during the season is prohibited, although teams may borrow players to field the minimum number to play a game, contingent on the player rule.
- At the rec club's discretion, children are allowed to be moved up if they are not yet 13 years old. Once a player is moved up they may not move back down for the duration of the playing season.

PLAYING SHORT

- Teams must be able to field a minimum of 9 players to begin play.
- Teams will be provided up to 15 minutes from the original start time of the game to field this number. Teams which are unable to do so will be required to forfeit the game.
- Teams must maintain at least 8 available players to continue a game under any circumstances. If a team is playing short for any reason, the team will receive an out for each missing batter's turn through the lineup.
- Teams may borrow players from other teams when they know ahead of time they are playing short. When borrowing a player from another team, said player(s) have to play in the outfield and bat at the bottom of the order. You must have at least 7 players and less than 9 in order to borrow from another team.
- The coach needs to notify the other team's coach prior to the game and document it by email to his/her baseball director.

UMPIRES

- Two umpires will be assigned per game. It is the host team's (rec club) responsibility to provide umpires for home games.
- One umpire shall be sufficient to play a game.
- No team shall have the right to refuse an umpire.
- Five minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game, the head coach of each team will meet with the umpire crew to exchange line-ups and address/clarify any rules or questions. **Prior to the game, coaches must present proof of their team's most recent pitch counts at the plate meeting. Acceptable documentation includes a GameChanger report or a physical copy of the pitching affidavit.**
- Umpires are authorized and required to enforce all rules and may order a player, coach or spectator to refrain from interfering with the umpire's ability to administer these rules.

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- The umpire has the authority to eject any player, coach or spectator from participating or observing the game, for objecting to calls, using abusive language, improper gestures, or physical contact, or other unsportsmanlike conduct not specifically listed in these rules.

HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- Home teams will provide two new game balls for play and have the ability to provide additional game worthy balls should those become unusable.
- They will accurately operate the scoreboard (when applicable).
- The home team bookkeeper is the official scorekeeper for the game and should communicate with the visitor after each half inning to confirm accuracy of the official book.
- The home team will report game scores to the league coordinator within 24 hours of completion of the game.

DUGOUT ASSIGNMENT

Home teams will occupy the third base dugout and visitors shall occupy first base dugout with spectators encouraged to follow suit by sitting on the same sideline.

WARM-UP TIME

If the field is unoccupied prior to the game, the home team will be given up to ten minutes of on field warm-up time 25 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game and the visiting team will be given ten minutes of warm-up time 15 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. If the field is occupied 25 minutes prior to the game neither team will be given on field warm-up time but may elect to warm-up outside of the playing area or in the outfield should the field become available prior to the start of the game.

REGULATION GAME

- A game is considered complete when both teams have batted five times, or four times when the home team is leading.
- Tie games are allowed in all divisions where a score is kept, providing both teams have batted an equal number of times and the minimum number of innings has been played.
- Games not meeting the minimum inning requirements will be not be considered an official contest and will not count towards either team's win/loss record.
- The maximum length of a **single game** is 7 innings. No new innings will begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the scheduled start of the game. New innings begin immediately following the conclusion of the 3rd out of the bottom half of the inning. The home plate umpire is the official keeper of time.
- **Double-headers** will be played as two 5 inning games with a one-hour and 30-minute time limit on each game. No new inning can start after one-hour and 30-minutes for doubleheaders.
- **Interrupted games:** In the event a game is suspended for a weather-related, darkness or legitimate reason other than the time limit, the game will be resumed later unless considered complete as listed above. Interrupted games will resume from the point at which the game was suspended.

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THE “10 RUN RULE”

- 10 Run Rule: A game will be considered final when a team is ahead by 10 runs after 5 innings have been completed (4 1/2 if the home team is winning).

PLAYING TIME/BATTING LINE UP

- Every player in attendance must play a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least once.
- If a player in the initial lineup has not batted, he cannot be subbed.
- Mandatory Substitution Rule: All substitutions must be made in the fourth inning for seven inning games and the third inning for five inning games.
- If any player is benched for disciplinary reasons, the opposing coach and the official scorer must be notified prior to the start of the game.
- All teams will bat their entire lineup in a continuous order to begin the game. Once all batters have batted once, teams will revert to 9 batters. Teams have the option of continuing to bat in a continuous order. This will be discussed and decided upon prior to the game at the home plate meeting between coaches and umpires.

BATTING

- A batter may run on a third strike if the ball is not caught by the catcher and there's less than two outs and first base is not occupied, or first base is occupied with two outs.

BASERUNNING

- Leading off and base stealing are permitted.
- Courtesy runners will only be allowed for catchers. Runner must be a player who made the last out. Runner does not lose eligibility as a defensive substitute.
- Avoiding Home Plate Collisions: All players must attempt to avoid contact when a play is being made at home plate. If no attempt is made, the runner is out and all players must return to their last base touched.

PITCHING

- Rest time starts at the scheduled first pitch of the game (the scheduled game start time).
Pitch count and rest rules are defined as follows:
 - 1-50 = No rest
 - 51-75 = 24 hours rest
 - 76-max = 48 hours rest (from game start time)
- If a team uses an illegal pitcher (pitcher does not meet the required rest rules), the coach will be ejected from that game and serve a one game suspension the next game.
- Balks are in effect.
- Rest time requirement starts from the official first pitch/official start of the game.
Example: Scheduled game time is 8:00 (regardless of a rain delay), then rest time starts at 8:00PM.

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- Prior to the game, coaches must present proof of their team's most recent pitch counts at the plate meeting. Acceptable documentation includes a GameChanger report or a physical copy of the pitching affidavit.
- 12u/15u ONLY: If a pitcher hits two (2) batters in an inning OR three (3) batters in one game, that pitcher may no longer pitch for the remainder of the game. If it is a double-header, that pitcher may not return to the mound for the second game (cannot return to the mound during the calendar day).

PROTEST

- Protests on a rule interpretation, not a judgment call, must be filed with the booster club's athletic director/recreation department who will then submit the protest in writing (within 48 hours of the game) to the Parks and Recreation office. The following information must be included: Date, time and location of game, names of officials, scorers, teams, coaches and others involved, and the rule interpretation being protested, along with a detailed explanation of the circumstances.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The purpose of the Youth Recreation League is to provide an enjoyable experience for each youth participant, while developing character, skills, sportsmanship, and to promote goodwill among all players, coaches, parents, officials and recreational staff.

- Any person involved in, or taking part in, any valley youth baseball event who damages or destroys property while using the facilities will be subject to indefinite suspension and will be responsible for the cost of required repairs.
- Any coach found to be using an illegal player, an unidentified borrowed player, an assumed name, falsifying a roster, or giving false information to an official or Recreation Department staff may result in the individual being suspended for up to one year.
- Misconduct by players, coaches, spectators, officials, scorekeepers or supervisory personnel will not be tolerated. Misconduct can be defined as improper gesturing, aggressive verbal or physical contact, and the use of alcohol, smoke or smokeless tobacco and illegal substances.

Founded misconduct will result in the following actions and/or penalties:

- NON-PHYSICAL MISCONDUCT
 - Any player, coach or spectator who gestures or verbally abuses an official, coach, player, spectator or supervisory personnel will be removed from the game and is subject, upon the written report, to suspension. Each Parks and Recreation Department has the authority to suspend a player, coach or spectator from one (1) to three (3) games or, in severe cases, a ban from the league. A suspended player, coach or spectator is on probation for the period of one (1) year after the violation. Any further abuse will result in being banned from the league.
- PHYSICAL MISCONDUCT
 - Any player, coach or spectator using aggressive or improper misconduct such as striking or pushing a player, spectator, official or supervisory personnel will be

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subject to being banned from the league. Any player, coach or spectator fighting among each other before, during, or after a game, or anytime during a game, will be subject to a suspension from his or her home specific Recreation Department. The official's, club's, or site supervisor's report will determine the length and severity of the penalty.

- **UNPROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT**
 - Any personnel such as officials, scorekeepers or supervisory personnel under the direction of the host Recreation Department, or a specific recreation club acting in an official capacity, should act in a professional, ethical or unbiased manner. The penalty and length of disciplinary action will be determined by the host recreation department.
- **USE OF ALCOHOL, SMOKE OR SMOKELESS TOBACCO AND ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES**
 - It is considered misconduct for coaches, players, officials, recreation volunteers or employees to use any of the substances listed above in the presence of children. Penalty for using these substances may result in suspension or being banned from the program, which will be determined by the host recreation department.