

2023 Spring Park Sharon -- Minor League Rules

Rain Outs:	Games terminated due to weather will be made up as soon as possible. PSAA policy on inclement weather controls.
Time Limits:	6 innings. No new inning started after 1 hour 50 minutes. The time limit will apply to all regular season and tournament games except the Championship Game. The Championship Game will be 6 innings unless called earlier due to the “Run Rule.” Ties are allowed during the regular season, but not playoffs. A game must reach 3.5 or 4 innings played to be considered a regulation game.
Baseball Bats:	The bat may not exceed 33” in length, and the bat barrel may not exceed 2 5/8” in diameter (NO 2 3/4” bats). Only 2 1/4” – 2 5/8” barrel non-wood bats marked with the new USA Baseball stamp will be allowed. All bats for games, playoffs, and practices must have the USA Baseball stamp on them. <i>Note: Solid one-piece wood bats are permitted for use in all divisions</i> PENALTY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the illegal bat is discovered prior to a batter completing his “at bat”, the bat is simply removed from play and the “at bat” continues. • A player who uses an illegal bat or non-conforming barrel dimension and hits a fair ball will be ruled out. No advancement on the bases will be allowed, and any outs during the play shall stand. <u>This is an appeal play.</u> The “at bat” will be considered legal once a pitch is thrown to the next batter. • Any bat discovered prior to the game that does not conform to the above rule shall be directed to be removed immediately and not be allowed for use during the game.
Coaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every team shall have 1 Manager/Head Coach and 2 Assistant Coaches. • If any coach is ejected from a game due to their own behavior, they will be suspended for one (1) game. If it happens a second time in the season, they will not be permitted to coach at PSAA for the remainder of the sport season in any age group and will be disqualified from coaching an PSAA-sponsored “All-Star” or “Challenge” team. If this behavior is repeated in multiple seasons, the coach will be banned from coaching at PSAA. • Any coach may address an umpire respectfully. Any “appeal” of a call must be done by calling time out and approaching umpire PRIOR to the next pitch immediately after the “contested” call. It is not appropriate to yell at an umpire across the field. Disrespectful or improper behavior will not be tolerated. • It is required that after each game the winning coach email the score of the game and the pitchers’ names and number of pitches thrown for both teams. These emails are required to get to the coordinator within 24 hours of the end of the game. Failure to comply with these 3 times will result in a 1 game suspension for the head coach. Local Rule

<p>Dugouts & fields</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Home team has 1st base dugout and is responsible for operating the scoreboard. Please make sure both dugouts are cleaned up and equipment is removed promptly after each game. ● The infield shall be a 60-foot square. It is recommended the distance from home plate to the nearest outfield fence or other obstruction be a minimum of 200 feet, however, the playing field need not have an enclosing fence surrounding the outfield playing area. The distance between the front side of the pitcher's plate and home base (rear point of home plate) shall be 46 feet. The coaches' boxes shall be 4 feet by 8 feet and shall not be closer than 6 feet from the foul lines. The pitcher's plate shall be six inches above home plate.
<p>Playing Rules:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Except as set forth herein, the Cal Ripken 60' Division will play by the Official Playing Rules of Baseball except for instance lead-offs and balks. ● No player may sit out consecutive innings, and no player may sit out a second inning if a player on the team has not sat out yet. This rule applies across games. Coach must use best efforts to follow spirit of this rule adjusting for when players miss games. ● Coach has the authority to "bench" a player for disciplinary reasons which occurred prior to game day only with approval by the league commissioner or league president. Coach shall have the discretion to "bench" a player for disciplinary reasons during a game so long as (a) every effort is made to rehabilitate and return the player to the game and (b) the league commissioner is notified immediately after the game of the reason and duration – number of innings – of the "benching." ● Innings 1 through 4 will have a 5 run limit. Innings 5 and 6 will have unlimited scoring. A 10 run "mercy rule" applies after 4 innings. ● Continuous bat rule in effect. All players bat. ● Games may be started with 8 players-Under no circumstances can there be fewer than 8 players from the scheduled team on the field. ● If a game is started with less than 9 players, the missing 9th player in the rotation will "not" be an automatic out. If the 9th player arrives late they will be inserted at the bottom of the line-up. ● If a player is injured during the game and unable to continue as determined by the umpire the game can continue with less than 9 players and the automatic out rule will not be in effect. ● If a player starts a game and leaves without injury the automatic out rule does not apply. ● The Umpire is empowered to enforce local rules. ● If only 1 umpire is at the game, play should continue as scheduled. If no umpires are present, game may be delayed up to 15 minutes while an umpire is sought from another game or the park. If no umpire is found, 1 party from each team will be chosen to call the game from behind the pitcher's mound. Each volunteer will call the game during their team's offensive half of an inning. ● If you do not have 9 players and need to get another player, you may use a player from the Machine Pitch division. Borrowed players must bat at bottom of the order and can not pitch. Borrowed players are not allowed during the End of Season Tournament.

<p>Pitching Rule:</p>	<p>The MLB Youth Pitch Smart guidelines will be used to manage pitch count and mandatory rest days. These guidelines apply to all games including postseason.</p> <p>https://www.mlb.com/pitch-smart/pitching-guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each team must chart the number of pitches thrown by each pitcher for their team. It is encouraged that each team also chart the pitches thrown for the opposing team and confirm the number thrown after each inning. Local Rule · Games in which an ineligible pitcher has been used shall be declared forfeited. The withdraw of an ineligible pitcher after the pitcher is announced or after a warm-up pitch is delivered but before that pitcher has pitched a ball to a batter shall not be considered a violation. ● If a game is called before it has become a regulation game and the umpire declares it “no game” the pitching eligibility is the same as it was prior to the beginning of the “no game” situation. ● If a coach makes a second trip to the mound in the same inning to the same pitcher, that pitcher must be removed from the game as a pitcher only. <i>Note: A coach will NOT be charged a mound visit if a pitcher appears to suffer an injury on a play and requires attention. Confirm with umpire it's an "injury visit" while approaching pitcher.</i> ● THIS IS A “NO BALK” LEAGUE. ● No dropped third strike rule. If a third strike is dropped, the batter is out. ● No pitcher shall wear white long sleeves, nor shall his glove or any other part of his uniform be unnecessarily distracting. ● Intentional walks will be permitted (meaning an automatic awarding of first base), four balls must be thrown for a walk to be awarded. Local Rule ● Once a pitcher is removed from the game as a pitcher, he may not be re-entered in that game as a pitcher. A pitcher removed during an inning cannot catch in the inning of his removal. He can play any other position except pitcher and catcher immediately after removal. Local Rule
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Catchers:	<p>Must wear a protective cup.</p> <p>CATCHER'S MASK, HELMET AND THROAT PROTECTOR – Any player warming up a pitcher shall wear a mask. An extended throat protector is considered part of the catcher's mask. If the catcher refuses to wear this equipment, he shall be removed from the game.</p> <p>DROPPED THIRD STRIKE – There is no dropped third strike rule.</p>
Player Safety:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No head first slides except back to base. Keep bats and gear off the playing field. ● NO SLASH BUNTING: If a player squares, they must either bunt or pull back. If a player shows bunt and then swings, the player will be called out automatically. This is a "dead ball" out - no runners advance. ● CONTACT RULE -- If a runner attempting to reach home plate intentionally and maliciously runs into a defensive player in the area of home plate, he will be called out on the play and ejected from the game. The objective of this is to penalize the offensive team for deliberate, unwarranted, unsportsmanlike action by the runner for the obvious purpose of crashing the defensive player, rather than trying to reach home plate. Obviously, this is an umpire's judgement call. ● PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR shall be worn on deck, at bat, while a base runner, and by players in the coach's box, during practice and all games. Such headgear must cover the top of the head and have extended earflaps, which covers both ears, and properly fit the player wearing it. If a player refuses to wear headgear, he shall be removed from the game. ● BALL/BAT BOYS/GIRLS must wear helmets while out of the dugout in both local league and tournament play. ● No equipment is allowed on the field during play. Keep everything behind the fences. This includes buckets. There are to be no buckets on the field during a game. This means no sitting on buckets in the field. ● ALL MALE PLAYERS MUST WEAR A CUP AT ALL TIMES.
Conduct:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All parties must conduct themselves in accordance with the PSAA Code of Conduct. ● Players must not leave the dugout without the permission of the coach. Only the players and coaches of a team are allowed in the dugout or on the field of play. No siblings or parents or other teams' players will be allowed during the game unless the coach designates the appointee.
Protests:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All protests must be clearly announced to the opposing coach and the umpire PRIOR to the next pitch following either the "contested" play or any other protest grounds. Protest must be brought to the attention of the League Coordinator and the Director of Baseball within 24 hours of the game. ● All protests will be handled by a committee of 3 people who are not involved in the protest and having nothing to benefit from the outcome of the protest. ● Judgment calls by the umpire are not grounds for protest.
Forfeits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Obvious violation of the rules or continued violation of the rules after being brought to the coach's attention shall result in the forfeit of the game.

<p>Base Running</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher’s plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher’s box ready to receive delivery of the ball, base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and has reached home plate. ● The violation by one runner shall affect all other runners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. When a base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball has reached home plate and the batter does not hit the ball, the runner is permitted to continue. If a play is made on the runner and the runner is out, the out stands. If said runner reaches safely the base to which he is advancing, all runners must be returned to the base occupied before the pitch was made, and no out results. b. When a base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball has reached home plate and the batter hits the ball, the base runner or runners are permitted to continue. If a play is made and the runner or runners are put out, the out or outs will stand. If not put out, the runner or runners must return to the original base or bases or to the unoccupied base nearest the one left. In no event shall the batter advance beyond first base on a single or error, second base on a double or third base on a triple. The umpire-in-chief shall determine the base value of the hit ball. c. When any base runner leaves the base before the pitched ball has reached home plate and the batter bunts or hits a ball within the infield, no run shall be allowed to score. If three runners were on the bases and the batter reaches first base safely, each runner shall advance to the base beyond the one they occupied at the start of the play except the runner who occupied third base, which runner shall be removed from the base without a run being scored. Except that if at the conclusion of the play there is an open base, paragraphs (a) and (b) will apply. ● COURTESY RUNNER -- You can substitute a runner for your catcher or pitcher during the inning as long as there are 2 outs. You must use the player who made the most recent out. If that player is already pinch running use the player who made the out before him. The player must be replaced immediately after the play is stopped.
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No parents except for coaches are allowed in the dugout. Any coach in the dugout MUST have a completed background check and signed the Cal Ripken Code of Conduct. ● Parents are not to address any coach or umpire in a negative way during the game. If they do, they will be immediately asked to leave the park. ● No substitute players from another team are allowed after a game has started.