

# **OFFICIAL RULES OF INTERLEAGUE ALLSTAR/BAYB/BYB/JENKS OPEN BASEBALL a.k.a. ARKANSAS RIVER VALLEY BASEBALL**

## **Managers and Coaches Requirements and Information**

**Managers and coaches who do not attempt to carry out the rules, policies, and intentions of this organization are subject to forfeiture of games, suspension, termination, fines, and/or probation as determined by the Interleague Board.**

**NOTE:** Any member of the Interleague Board, Facility Manager, person or persons who the Interleague Board of Directors may appoint or designate, shall have the authority to delay, cancel, or suspend scheduled games or games in process as they deem necessary.

(1) The Interleague Board shall publish online for each manager of each team to download copies of these rules.

(2) Any player, manager, or coach ejected from a game shall be ineligible for the next scheduled game (including make-up) subject to Interleague Board review.

(A) Managers are responsible for the actions of players, coaches. Umpires may eject a manager for the actions of a player or coach if they feel the manager fails to gain control of their player or coach. If this occurs, the manager is eligible to participate in the next game pending report and recommendation by umpires. This will not be considered a second ejection unless the manager is ejected for a second offense/action.

(B) Any manager, coach or adult spectator ejected from a game, must leave the playing field and go to the parking lot within three (3) minutes and not reenter the park for the remainder of that day. Any player ejected shall remain in his/her team's dugout for the remainder of that game and shall refrain from making personal remarks toward the umpires or other team.

(C) Persons ejected during games which are rained out and are not "official" shall sit out the next scheduled league game and the make-up game when applicable.

(D) Persons ejected during games, shall sit out the next scheduled game to be played in that league regardless of location. .

**EXAMPLE:** A player is thrown out at the BA fields. The next game is scheduled for Bixby. The player is required to sit out the game in Bixby.

(E) Umpires are required to file a written report on the same day as the occurrence of an ejection of a player, manager, coach, or spectator with a Interleague Board Member. If no written report is received the suspension for the next game rule shall not apply.

Each park will notify the other interleague parks of any suspensions.

- (F) Appeals of ejections must be in writing and filed by noon of the following day of the occurrence with any Interleague Board Member or submitted to the Park Office. E-mails are acceptable.
  - (G) Any coach, manager, player or spectator ejected two or more times during a season may be placed on suspension for the remainder of that season from all parks.
  - (H) Escalation Prevention Rule: Upon the 2<sup>nd</sup> ejection of any person (player, fan, coach) from 1 team for any reason in the same game, the umpire will declare a forfeit against the offending team. This also will result in Forfeiture of any remaining games to be played that day.
  - (I) Behavior outside of games that during games would result in ejections shall result in suspension from games as specified for ejections during games. A second ejection will invoke the Escalation Prevention Rule in (G) above and result in Forfeiture on the teams next game. Should a parent, grandparent, or coach be ejected outside of game play their immediate player (son, granddaughter) will not be allowed to participate in the teams next game (they may sit in the dugout).
  - (J) Any persons involved in physical assault (Fighting, punching, etc.) shall be suspended until reinstated by the Interleague Board.
  - (K) Managers are responsible for the actions of fans, should a fan be ejected the team manager is ejected as well. If this occurs, the manager is eligible to participate in the next game pending report and recommendation by umpires. This will not be considered a second ejection unless the manager is ejected for a second offense/action.
- (3) Managers, team officials, and spectators must not razz, abuse, or embarrass players of his or the other team. Players are not to razz players or cast slurring or personal remarks at the opposing team. The practice of yelling “cut”, “strike”, or “swing batter”, or any other words that are designed to cause a batter to swing at a pitch, against his will, or the heckling of the opposing pitcher, in any manner, will not be allowed. The coach should strive to coach in such a way as not to distract the opposing pitcher in any manner. This is considered unsportsman like conduct, against the rules, and is prohibited. Managers who do not attempt to secure order may be reported by umpires or other persons to league officials for further action.
  - (4) Manager or other team officials will absolutely refrain from comments or actions that disparage the decisions of any umpire before, during, or after the game.
  - (5) Managers, team officials, spectators, or umpires will absolutely refrain from making remarks about or threats of physical harm to any manager, team official, spectator, or umpire.

**PENALTY:** Violators will be ejected from the game, game will be forfeited, and the violator will be suspended from managing, coaching, scorekeeping, speculating, or umpiring the remainder of the baseball season and will be subject to review by the Interleague Board of Directors. In severe cases, the Interleague Board may issue fines, probation, or suspensions for a period to exceed one (1) year. The maximum fine is set at \$500.

- (6) The use of foul or profane language is prohibited by managers, coaches, players, spectators, umpires, Interleague Board members, and management.
- (7) The use of tobacco in any form in seating areas, dugouts, and playing fields is prohibited.
- (8) Managers may have one (1) person, either coach or player, in each coach's box while his team is at bat. Players must wear a regulation, safety approved batting helmet while in the coaches box.
- (9) A manager or coach of a defensive team must not delay the game to confer with a player or players on the field more than one (1) time during one (1) inning.

**PENALTY:** Should he/she delay the game a second time by conferring with a second player or players during one (1) inning, the player or players shall be removed from the game unless when such player is the pitcher, then he is removed from the mound. Violations of this rule must be determined before the next ensuing pitch. If a player is removed because of a violation of this rule, for re-substitution, refer to Player Re-substitution Rule. Insistence on the part of either manager to delay the game or have conferences in any manner is considered grounds for the umpire to declare a forfeit.

- (10) After the manager or coach has had one (1) conference with a player or players, and they enter the playing field for the purpose of removing a player or players from his position, or attending to an injured player, or for the purpose of making a substitution, it will in no way mean that the manager or coach has had a second conference with his/her players for the purpose of Rule 9.
- (11) Managers are required to submit a line-up and roster to the opposing manager before play is started. Substitutions must be reported to the plate umpire and opposing scorekeeper before being made.
- (12) Managers must have records of each game in a permanent bound official scorebook. This requirement is necessitated by the fact that he may be called upon to prove the eligibility of a re-substituted player. Failure to maintain such records may result in a team forfeiting games that they have won.
- (13) Managers shall meet at the pre-game conference with the umpires. Umpires will request that coaches present their coaching certification card at this pre-game meeting.

(14) No player shall be enticed, recruited, or otherwise approached in reference to playing for another team other than their assigned team without written permission from the player's respective manager. The intent of this rule is to eliminate recruiting during the season and further is to be honored by ALL teams, coaches, manager, players, parents, and representatives.

**NOTE:** Upon protest and review by Interleague Board, Manager is subject to game forfeiture, suspension and/or probation. This rule is intended to include all tournaments but not summer/fall leagues.

(15) Open Managers and coaches require certification through ASEP, PCA, NYSCA, Doyle, or OK state certification. Any manager and/or coach not certified/sanctioned by an organization approved by the Interleague Board will be suspended until they are, (meaning they cannot help coach). Additional certification/sanctioning may be imposed at anytime.

(16) Managers shall allow no more than 3 certified coaches (including her/himself) on the field unless otherwise specified by rule. All coaches shall remain within arms length of the dugout entrance unless otherwise permitted by the rules of the game (coaches boxes, trips to mound, conference called by umpire, etc.).

(17) Managers shall attend the preseason coaches meeting for their league or designate a team representative to attend. Failure to attend may result in fines, forfeiture of games, or suspension as determined by the Interleague Board. The initial minimum fine is set at \$200.

(18) Managers are to notify their age rep and the interleague age coordinator at least 72hrs in advance of scheduled game times should their team not be able to play. Teams that do not meet this rule are subject to a \$75 per game fine to cover costs of umpires, field preparation, and rescheduling. The fine must be paid within 48 hrs or additional penalties will be imposed.

(19) All Managers must have a valid signed contract in place with their respective park on or before Feb 12<sup>th</sup> of the current year. All managers and coaches contracts expire per the date stated on the contract.

(20) Managers are responsible for their team parents and players adherence to the rules. This includes the player eligibility rules and age limitations.

(21) Managers or coach representing the team must wear their coaches certification card (Doyle, NYSCA, BAYB) outside of clothing visible on the torso. They are to wear it to the umpires pregame meeting and at all times during the game. Umpires will address the coach that attends the meeting as the team manager. If no signed manager or coach is present with their certification card, the umpire shall declare a forfeit and rule 20 above will apply. The 15 minute grace period rule is in effect (i.e Manager has 15 min after scheduled start time to produce the card.)

(22) Fields are for game play only. Managers may request practices or scrimmages on fields and pay associated fees, however, use of fields is solely at the Interleague Boards discretion.. Managers shall inform players and parents that pick up games and practices are not allowed on fields.

(23) Managers are responsible for checking their teams schedule daily. Weather and other reasons occasionally require that the Interleague Board reschedule games. If a game is rescheduled and published 96 hrs or more prior to its play date/time, managers will not receive additional notice. If within 96 hrs of rescheduled time managers will be contacted by e-mail or phone. Rescheduled games are not negotiable, teams are expected to play as scheduled/rescheduled.

**OFFICIAL RULES OF INTERLEAGUE ALLSTAR/BAYB/BYB/JENKS OPEN**  
**a.k.a. ARKANSAS RIVER VALLEY BASEBALL**  
**General Rules for all Leagues**

(1) Games

- (A) Regular season games are not to be scheduled on Sunday. Rainouts, make-up games and /or any Tournament games may be scheduled on these days.
- (B) Refer to the Major League rule 4.10, with the following exceptions: Games must start no later than fifteen (15) minutes after Official start time. Official game time shall be recorded immediately after the first pitch by the umpire's watch or his/her designated time keeper except for the first game scheduled for the day. See rule 4 below. Note: The 15 minute grace period is to ensure teams have enough players to start a game. Provided enough players are present and at least 1 signed and certified coach is present then the game is to start on time, or be subject to forfeit.

(2) Scorekeepers

Home team scorekeeper is official scorer. Both scorekeepers are responsible for coordination and cooperation so that all scores, substitutions, outs, etc., are recorded properly. Lineups SHALL be submitted with last and first names, and numbers.

(3) League Championships

A Play-off game shall be scheduled should there be a tie for any league championship after all tie breakers have been applied. Tie Breakers (in this order): Head to Head, Runs Allowed in Divisional Games, Runs Allowed in Non-Divisional Games, Runs Scored in Divisional Games. These tie breakers may be amended by the age group coordinator or Interleague Board provided they do so in writing before the season begins.

(4) Regulation Games (Game time begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch unless otherwise specified)

8 and Under time limit is one (1) hour and 15 minutes or 6 innings.  
9 - 10 Year Olds time limit is one (1) hour and 30 minutes or 6 innings  
11 - 12 Year Olds time limit is one (1) hour and 30 minutes or 6 innings  
13- 14 Year Olds time limit is one (1) hour and 45 minutes or 7 innings

**NOTE:** A new inning shall officially start immediately after the third out of an inning is made for the home team. Official game time begins on the first pitch regardless of scheduled game time, except for the first game scheduled for the day.

Note: in the case of make up games or games threatened by inclement weather the Interleague Board may alter game times to facilitate playing of all games; specifically game times may be reduced to 1 hr or other time as deemed necessary.

(5) Early Game Termination

No game shall end before all innings have been played unless:

- (A) The game shall be considered an official and/or legally completed game if the time limit expires in the bottom half of the inning with the home team leading, regardless of number of innings played.

**EXAMPLE:** Open division time limit 1 hour 45 minutes. Visiting team scores 28 runs in the top of the first inning. Home team scores 25 runs in the bottom of the first inning. The third out is made after the time limit has expired. The game is official and the visiting team wins 28 to 25.

- (B) In case of early termination because of adverse weather, the losing team must have completed four (4) times at bat. League games terminated early because of adverse weather conditions that have not become official, shall be rescheduled and played from the point of suspension.

- (C) Both coaches desire to terminate game upon game becoming an official and/or legally completed game.

**NOTE:** A game is legally completed when the last required inning is played or the losing team cannot tie or win because of the run limit rule (recreational league) or the run rule has been reached in the open league.

(6) Ties at end of Regulation Game

In case of a tie, if time remains the teams may play one additional inning. If ended in a tie each team will be credited with one-half game won and one-half game lost.

(7) Protesting Games

- (A) No protest shall ever be permitted on judgment decisions of the umpire.

- (B) Protests shall not be accepted unless umpires are notified at the time the play under protest occurs and before the next pitch is made or a runner is retired. Umpires shall have appropriate place of protest noted in scorebook, and;

- (C) Any acceptable protest that a manager desires to make must be made in writing to the age coordinator (both interleague coordinator and local Interleague Board) or the Interleague Board President within 24 hours of occurrence and accompanied with a \$100.00 cash deposit. If protesting, you must notify the umpire immediately (upon violation and prior to next official pitch) so that the protest can be recorded in the official scorebook. If the protest is upheld the deposit will be refunded. Otherwise the money will go into the general fund of the Interleague program as appropriate.

**PENALTY:** The Interleague Board of Directors Protest Committee will determine the penalty and actions to take on upheld protests.

(D) Appeals of Protest Committee rulings will be filed and accompanied by an additional \$100 deposit to be heard by the entire Interleague Board or Interleague Board. If the appeal overturns ruling, deposit will be refunded. Otherwise, the money will go into the general fund of the Interleague program as appropriate.

(8) Protective Equipment

(A) Helmets with full head and ear protection shall be worn while batting and running bases. Such helmets shall comply with all Federal and State laws including but not limited to, safety inspection labels and safety warning labels.

(B) Pitchers and catchers shall wear protective cups. This rule is not mandatory for 8 & under.

(C) Any player in a crouched position warming up the pitcher on or off the playing field shall wear a face mask and appropriate throat protection.

(D) Catchers shall wear approved protective headgear along with face mask and appropriate throat protection. Ages 12 and below must wear headgear with ear protection. No skull helmets in ages 12 and below.

(9) Bat. Refer to the official baseball rule 1.10 with the following exceptions:

(A) Commercially available metal or composite bats, stamped or otherwise marked by the manufacturer as baseball bats, are approved.

(B) Softball bats are not approved.

(C) Altered and/or experimental bats are illegal and are not permissible. Taping of the grips or repair of grips shall **not** be considered altering of the bat.

(10) Bat Throwing

The first instance of a bat throwing will be a team **warning to that team**. The next instance may require the batter to be called out, dead ball, and all runners to return to the last base occupied before the occurrence. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the act was intentional, flagrant or considered unsportsmanlike, said batter should be called out and ejected from the game.

**NOTE:** This is a judgment call and cannot be argued or protested.

(11) Footballing Prohibited

Whenever a tag play is evident, a runner must slide or seek to avoid contact with the fielder and / or catcher. Attempting to jump, leap, or dive over the fielder and / or catcher is not interpreted as seeking to avoid contact. Malicious contact shall supersede all obstruction penalties.

If the umpire judges that there is an act of malicious contact, or conduct, he shall immediately call "time", call the runner out, and then eject him. Ejected players would be ineligible for the following interleague game (see rules for Managers). All runners would return to the bases occupied at the time of the infraction unless they scored or were put out before the infraction was called. If in the umpire's judgment the malicious contact was the cause of the defensive player, the same ejection rule will apply. The act of malicious contact supercedes the Obstruction Rule (see 7.06 of Official MLB Rules).

(12) On Deck Batter

The on deck batter will always be in the on deck circle behind the batter.

(13) Starting Pitcher

If a pitcher (starter or relief) vacates the pitching position (is replaced by another pitcher) they may not return to the mound in that game.

(14) Ball. Official ball of Interleague is the nine (9) inch in circumference, five (5) ounce ball made by Diamond, unless otherwise specified. DOL-A or better balls are acceptable. All other balls are prohibited.

**Note:** that the Diamond DSS-1, are a better quality ball than the DOL-A.

(15) Field Dimensions

(A) Coach pitch. The distance between bases shall be sixty (60) feet.  
Pitching distance shall be thirty-five 35 to forty six (46) feet.

(B) 10 and Under. The distance between bases shall be sixty-five (65) feet.  
Pitching distance shall be forty-six (46) feet.

(C) 12 and Under. Distance between bases shall be seventy (70) feet.  
Pitching distance shall be fifty (50) feet six (6) inches.

(D) 13 and 14. Distance between bases shall be eighty (80) feet.  
Pitching distance shall be fifty-four (54) feet.

(16) Automatic Out

A game may be started and played with eight (8) players on a side. The last batting spot shall then be an automatic out. Leagues which require ten (10) players; when only eight

(8) players are present, only the last position shall be an automatic out, not two (2) outs.  
NOTE: No automatic out will be accessed in ten (10) player leagues for fielding nine (9) players.

(17) Team Sponsors

Any team may have sponsors. Sponsor's name and/or logos may not be on uniforms (or otherwise displayed) unless approved by the Interleague Board of directors.

(18) Players shall wear shirts with sleeves during games. Tank tops and vests without sleeved undershirts are prohibited. Player will not participate until uniformed appropriately.

(19) **Player ejections:** See Rules for Managers and Coaches (2).

(20) Boys and Girls may play.

(21) Major Leagues rules inherent to the Major League game are not enforced.

This includes rules such as home team security, not mingling with fans, no advertising on uniforms, requiring dozens of baseballs, bases coaches must be in uniform, etc.. The homerun minimum distance traveled [rule 6.09(d)&(h)] is also not enforced.

(22) Smoking is not allowed within player and fan areas.

For clarity smoking areas are defined at each park.

(23) Protection from infectious diseases: Any player who is bleeding, has an open wound, or has blood on his uniform, clothing, or body may not practice or participate further in a game until appropriate treatment has been administered; secretions on the body are covered or removed; lesions or wounds are covered. If the umpire considers the above can be done in a reasonable amount of time, the individual does not have to leave the game.

(24) Use of players not officially registered in the league (on team rosters) will result in a game forfeiture for every game in which the ineligible player has played. A three game suspension of the coach will be imposed on the team's next league games.

(25) Summer and Fall League rules take precedence over these rules during those seasons.

(26) FEES; Each open team shall pay the following:

(A) A non-refundable deposit of 50% of the league fee which is applied to the league fee.

(B) Balance of league fees: **\$475 for 8s and 700 for 9 and up**, non-refundable team fee

(in addition to the deposit). Total league fees are \$950 for 8s and \$1400 for 9 and up.

(27) Participation

- (A) No individual player/s will be allowed to participate in any scheduled league game that is currently playing with another team (**open or rec.**) without Interleague Board approval.

**EXAMPLE:** A player shall not participate in any BYB open league and recreational league at the same time.

**PENALTY:** Upon notification and verification to any Interleague Board member, games in which said player participated shall be a forfeit.

- (B) Managers shall sign all players in accordance with requirements and rules of the local park, and such contract shall be signed prior to any league game or the player is ineligible.
- (C) Each team shall pay the player registration fee and team deposit in full no later than February 12<sup>th</sup>. No player may play without a player registration form signed and turned into the office.
- (D) Any open player desiring to return to the recreational league must do so before May 1, and return to a player pool, with Interleague Board approval.
- (E) There will be no cut off date for adding players to open rosters for league play.
- (F) Managers accept the sole responsibility of verification of player's birth certificates to ensure the proper age of all his/her players before said player(s) participate in any games. Only certified state birth certificates are to be used for verification purposes. Any other age certificate must meet Interleague Board approval. Managers violating the age limit rule will be immediately suspended from coaching on the field until said manager meets with the Interleague Board and is cleared to continue coaching or face further reprimand.
- (G) A player may only play for one team for which he has signed a league roster. A player shall be considered released by such team when a standard release, as designated by Arkansas River Valley Baseball management (Interleague board) is filed with the respective ballpark. Such player will become ineligible to sign with any other team in the league upon filing of said release.
- (H) A player may make one move to another interleague team, with official release form, up to 15 May. Any additional moves or moves after 15 May require written approval from the Interleague Board.

**OFFICIAL RULES OF Interleague, Allstar/BAYB/BYB/Jenks Open**  
**a.k.a. ARKANSAS RIVER VALLEY BASEBALL**  
**Game Rules**

**I. Rules:** The official baseball rules published by Major League Baseball will be the rules followed by this league with the following exceptions. Note that interleague, USSSA, and Super Series default to the Major League rules for issues not specifically addressed in their respective rules. Interpretations are to follow Interleague, then Major League Rules, then the Park rules where the game is being played.

**II. Game Play Rules**

(A) Run Rules

12 runs after 3 innings  
10 runs after 4 innings  
8 runs after 5 innings

(B) Player Participation

(1) Defensive team shall consist of 9 players and coaches retain the choice of all eligible players will bat, only 9 players bat, or use of an extra hitter (see Rules for Open Leagues 3F).

(2) Teams batting 9 or 10 are restricted to substitution rules per MLB rules and Interleau rules governing courtesy runners.

(3) If a game is started with 9 or 10 batting positions: A player who leaves the game may be re-substituted but must reenter into his original position in the batting order. The player currently in that batting spot (that replaced the returning substituted player) is then ineligible to play the remainder of the game.

(C) Courtesy Runners: At the offensive teams option **with 2 outs**, a player not in the game defensively at the time, may be used for the catcher or pitcher of record as a courtesy runner. If no players are available who are not in the game defensively, then the runner must be the player who made the previous out. If batting the entire line up, all players are considered to be in defensive positions also. Thus a courtesy runner must be the last out.

(D) Designated Hitter

Designated hitter may not be used. See rules for Extra Hitter (rule F).

(E) Any team who is unable or refuses to place at least eight players on the field within the 15 minute grace period or after game has started (at any time), umpire shall determine the game a forfeiture.

(F) For regular season only, teams starting the game with 9 players may finish the game with eight (8) players, the missing players batting spot shall be recorded as an out. In all age divisions an EH option will be allowed at each Manager's option for each game. This will give a team a 10 man line-up which must be used the remainder of the game. If a team is unable to continue a 10 man lineup for any reason, that slot will be an out. The EH cannot be added or dropped from the roster after the game has begun. This factor should be considered before using an EH. The player in the EH position, while not actually playing a defensive position, will be treated as though they are for substitution purposes. The re-substitution rule applies for the EH.

**EXAMPLE:** Bill is the EH and batting 4th. John is the catcher and batting 7th. Bill can become catcher and John the EH. Both players would remain in their batting order. All players can move freely in defensive positions. The EH is considered a defensive position.

(G) Pitching Rules for All Open Division Age Groups

1. There are no pitching restrictions for the Leagues. However, Managers, Coaches, Parents, and Players should use good judgment in protecting player's arms.

**2. We strongly recommend that managers, parents, and coaches limit a pitcher's weekly game pitches (not including warm ups) to that recommended by USA Baseball below.**

Age	Pitches per Game	Pitches per Week
9-10	50	75
11-12	75	100
13-14	75	125

Over 14 should limit pitchers to 85 pitches per game and 125 Pitches per week.

(H) Official Game Lineup. Each team is required to submit a player lineup to the plate umpire, official scorekeeper, and opposing team prior to the beginning of the game. This lineup shall include all eligible players inclusive of substitutes as well as starters. No additions to this lineup will be allowed when the game has started.

(I) No player under signed contract in the office, may play with another team in tournaments from preseason tournament through July, without that players manager's written permission or Interleague Board approval.

III. Age Specific Rules

(A) 8U Open Interleague Rules

1. Play is stopped when lead base runner is stopped.

2. All teams will bat the bench. Late arrivals will be inserted as the last batter on the line up card.
3. Maximum of six (6) runs scored per ½ innings will be allowed. Once a team scores six (6) runs, the team batting will go on defense, regardless of the out count.
4. Five (5) pitches to hit or 3 swinging strikes. If the last pitch is fouled the batter will receive additional pitches **until he hits, swings & misses or lets the ball pass.**
5. Pitching coach must throw over handed.
6. Coach Pitcher may not be closer that 35 ft from home plate.
7. Position pitcher must have both feet within the pitchers circle.
- 8. Any batted ball that hits the pitching coach is dead. The pitch does not count.**
9. Ten (10) players will play in the field. **A team must field eight (8) players to start the game.**
- 10. If any team falls below 9 players, the game will be a forfeit.**
11. Coaches may interchange defensive players.
12. Time limit – 1hr 15 min or 6 innings.
13. Run Rule – 12 after 3, 10 after 4, and 8 after 5.
14. Game times – 6:00pm & 7:30pm.
- 15. No bunting.**
- 16. No infield fly rule.**
- 17. Catcher must field position behind home plate.**
- 18. No stealing.**

(B) 9U – 14 U Open Interleague Rules

Games will be played per the Major League Official Baseball Rules as modified by these Interleague Rules (See previous sections). Rules for leading off, stealing, running home on pass balls, infield fly, balks, etc. are enforced per this rulebook and the Major League Rules. The dropped third strike rule is also in effect for 9U open leagues.