

## **PURPOSE AND MEMBERSHIP**

Listed below are a series of bylaws and local rules which are meant to provide direction and clarification for baseball operations. The purpose of this non-profit organization is to provide youth baseball to boys and girls between the ages of 4-12. This league shall be governed by an appointed Board of Directors in accordance with Cal Ripken Baseball. The members of this board shall conduct meetings to assess, monitor and, if necessary, alter standard procedure.

The Board of Directors, in accordance with Cal Ripken Baseball, shall set forth rules that will be assessed, voted on and approved with a simple majority vote by league officials. During the course of the season, if a modification to a bylaw or rule is recommended, a majority vote in favor of such change shall be required for modification of the existing bylaw/rule.

Santa Clarita Youth Baseball is open to all residents of the Santa Clarita Valley.

Santa Clarita Youth Baseball shall be governed by Cal Ripken Baseball International, 1770 Brunswick Pike, Trenton, NJ. 08

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Santa Clarita Youth Baseball shall be governed by a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Information & Social Media Officer, Player & Staff Development Officer, Facility & Equipment Officer, Umpire Crew Chief, Marketing & Advertising Officer, and Volunteer Coordinator. Additional positions may be added at the discretion of the presiding Board of Directors. Each bylaw, rule, regulation presented to the Board of Directors shall require a majority vote.

Any and all volunteers, to include but not limited to, the Board of Directors, Managers, Coaches and Umpires may be subjected to an annual background check. No local league shall permit any person to participate in any manner whose background check reveals a conviction or guilty plea for any crime involving or against a minor. A local league may prohibit any individual from participating as a volunteer if the league determines the individual is unfit to work with minors. A local league must conduct a nationwide search that contains the applicable sex offender registry data. The United States Department of Justice National Sex Offender Public Registry is free and available at [www.nsopr.gov](http://www.nsopr.gov).

## **BOARD MEMBERS / MANAGERS / UMPIRES**

It is recommended that a board member be at the fields whenever a scheduled game is played to ensure compliance of league bylaws/rules and to provide direction and arbitration as required. Absent a Director - Managers shall represent the Board of Directors and shall serve as a liaison to all membership present at the ballpark. It is the dual responsibility of each Manager/Umpire to assure that scheduled game(s) begin on time – absent inclement weather – and to ensure proper action is taken should an emergency and/or accident occur. On site Manager(s) and Umpire(s) shall decide if a scheduled game(s) will be played with consideration to inclement weather.

Given advance notice that a scheduled game(s) shall be postponed, all members shall be notified as soon as practical and such information shall be shared on social media. Should an emergency, accident or unforeseen circumstance occur, the Manager(s) shall cause proper notification to the Board of Directors as soon as practical. It shall be the responsibility of each Manager on each field to retrieve the equipment for that game and return this equipment upon completion of the game.

T-Ball Managers shall be responsible for setting up and returning league batting tees. T-Ball Managers shall utilize league designated tee balls only.

Rookie league Managers shall be responsible for setting up and returning league pitching machines.

Rookie, Minor and Major Managers shall be responsible for setting up and returning scoreboard equipment and maintaining the league scoreboard while games are in session. Rookie, Minor and Major Managers shall prepare the field prior to first pitch (home plate shall be raked and the batters boxes shall be painted.) Game balls will be provided by the league prior to first pitch.

## **MANAGERS**

Managers shall be approved for their position by the Board of Directors. Each Manager shall then be given the discretion to select their coaching staff. The Manager of the home team is responsible for scorekeeping and their scorebook shall be official. The Manager of the visiting team shall be responsible for preparing the field. Each Manager shall be allowed two assistants. Selection of a designated “Team Mom” shall be at the discretion of the Manager. Managers and staff of each team are responsible for dugout housekeeping after the completion of the game. Managers shall note that dugouts and/or batting cages left in unacceptable conditions (sunflower seeds, smokeless tobacco, any other debris) will be given a warning, then a 1 game suspension, then removal from the league.

*All Managers at the Minor and Major level shall designate a volunteer to keep an official scorebook. This documentation will be necessary for all ballplayers to be tournament team eligible. Managers shall maintain possession of their issued scorebook for the duration of the season and return their official book to the Board of Directors upon completion. Tournament team players must have participated in five baseball games during the course of the season.*

## SELECTION OF TEAMS

Santa Clarita Youth Baseball shall conduct an annual player evaluation process on a date to be determined. This evaluation process shall be attended by all Managers and/or a designated representative. The team Manager must select their assistant prior to the evaluation process and identify this assistant to the Board of Directors. The child(ren) of the Manager and assistant shall participate in the evaluation process and be assigned a draft round via opposing Managers. Absent a named assistant, a Manager shall only be afforded their own child during the draft. The player draft is for all players that will participate in league play. There will be no player evaluations and/or draft for T-Ball. Player evaluations and the draft shall be implemented for players in the Rookie, Minor and Major levels of play. Players that do not participate in the evaluation process shall be randomly selected at the conclusion of the draft.

### *SCYB AMENDMENT –*

*SCYB reserves the right to afford each Manager at each level one “At-Large” player selection to be stated prior to evaluations. This amendment shall be voted upon annually by the Board of Directors and all Managers shall be notified. Players tabbed, “At-Large-Selection” shall participate in the evaluation process and be assigned a draft round via opposing Managers.*

The Santa Clarita Youth Baseball draft shall be conducted in a serpentine order, this states that the Manager that selects the final pick of the first round shall be afforded the first pick of the second round. T-Ball teams shall be selected with consideration given to friend and/or Manager request.

Santa Clarita Youth Baseball will conduct a re-draft each season.

***Note that each season, player abilities will vary which will allow experienced ballplayers to be moved up a level and their inexperienced counterparts moved down (determined by the Board of Directors to ensure safe play and instructional development.)***

### *IN-SEASON PLAYER REASSIGNMENT*

If it has been recognized by the team Manager and/or parent that a player should be moved up or down in level of play, that Manager and/or parent shall bring such request to the Board of Directors for consideration of such movement. The Board of Directors shall consider each case and, if necessary, transfer the player to necessary level of play.

- It is strongly recommended by SCYB that this practice be utilized only in rare cases and only after it has been determined to be in the best interest of the child.

## **REGULAR SEASON PLAY**

T-Ball teams shall participate in a single, continuous season with no postseason. Scores and standings shall not be kept.

Rookie, Minors and Majors shall participate in a single continuous season that will conclude with a single elimination tournament with placement determined by overall record. Tie breakers to be determined by head to head record, head to head run differential, coin flip.

All teams shall be guaranteed ten games minimum in a calendar season per Cal Ripken standard practice.

Forfeit games will not be rescheduled.

## **RECORDING OF SCORES**

Scores of scheduled games within the Rookie, Minor and Major divisions shall be recorded by participating Managers, reviewed upon completion for any discrepancies and reported to the SCYB Information and Social Media Officer. SCYB's Information and Social Media Officer shall post the scores to the league website. Scores shall not be kept in T-Ball to promote fundamentals.

## **BALLPARK CLOSURES**

Ballpark closure is at the discretion of representatives from Los Angeles County – Department of Parks and Recreation. Inclement weather and/or unforeseen circumstances that dictate the closure of the facility and the cancellation/postponement of league activities shall result in timely notification to all members and such information shall be shared on social media. Absent such notification, members should assume scheduled events will take place.

## **TOURNAMENT TEAMS**

Santa Clarita Youth Baseball shall select tournament teams beginning with a 7U team and older. All baseball players within league designated boundaries shall be eligible. Should a particular age group warrant a second team than the league shall petition Cal Ripken Baseball for such - and if approved - shall enter multiple teams per age group into postseason play.

### **Cal Ripken State/Regional/World Series Tournament**

The Board of Directors shall select tournament team Managers for each level of play based on a majority vote. The selected tournament team Manager shall then select two assistants. Each Manager shall nominate players for tournament teams to the Board of Directors for selection.

Tournament team players nominated by their Managers to represent SCYB will complete a letter of intent (LOI) and shall report to a player evaluation process on a date to be determined. Tournament teams will be selected based on their overall performance during the season and their performance during tournament team player evaluations. The selected tournament team Manager will then present his/her final roster from the available pool to the Board of Directors for final approval. Rosters shall contain a minimum of twelve and not more than 15 players.

## LEVELS OF PLAY/RULES

### TIME LIMITS “DROP RULE”

- *SCYB reserves the right to determine and enforce a time limit on all games played at each level. Such limits shall be determined prior to each season by the Board of Directors. These limits will be determined based on enrollment and field availability. All Managers will be instructed of such limitations and the specifics of this rule prior to the start of each season. Such limits are referred to as “The Drop Rule.”*

**T-Ball – Boys/Girls between the ages of 4-6 (before May 1 of the calendar year).**

**This program may be co-sponsored with Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. Determination of such will be on a season to season basis. Rules may vary and enrollees will be notified prior to the opening of registration.**

### SCYB T-BALL PROGRAM

Games shall have a one hour and fifteen minute time limit. A new inning shall not begin after one hour. All players shall bat in a continuous lineup and all players shall assume a position in the field. It will be at the discretion of the Manager – based on ability - if the batter will be given three pitches or will bat directly from the tee.

If three pitches are selected and the batter does not hit the ball in play after such, the batter will be given two swings to hit the ball off the tee. Players only hitting off the batting tee shall be given three swings to hit a ball and then he/she will be afforded first base.

If the batter is unable to hit a ball into play after three pitches and two swings with the ball on the batting tee, the batter will be sent to first base. No outs and/or scores will be recorded. Baserunners shall only advance one base on overthrows and time shall be called. Each team shall have the necessary amount of coaches on the field to assure proper instruction and safe play.

There is no minimum required amount of players needed for a T-ball game.

**Rookie – Boys/Girls between the ages of 6-8 (before May 1 of the calendar year).**

*Note that an exceptional 5- year- old may try out or be selected for this division.*

Games shall be six innings in duration and the annual decided upon drop time shall apply. No new inning shall begin after 1:30, drop dead rule will apply/revert at 1:45. The pitching machine shall be utilized at this level. The pitching machine shall be located approximately 40 feet from home plate with a speed of approximately 35-40 mph. The pitching machine shall be calibrated to a power level of not less than 5 and not more than 6. Both Managers shall meet at the mound to assure a properly functioning pitching machine. The pitching machine shall not be adjusted during the game unless deemed inoperable and/or unhittable and only once it has been agreed upon by both Managers. The Manager (or designee) of the team batting shall operate the pitching machine. The pitcher shall take a position always to the rear and right/left side of the pitching machine. If a batted ball strikes the pitching machine the ball is in play. A batter will be recorded out after three swinging strikes or 5 pitches. If a batter hits a foul ball on the third swing or the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch, he/she will be given additional pitch(es) until an out or hit is recorded. Foul tips caught by the catcher on the third strike or fifth pitch shall be recorded as an out.

Managers shall utilize one continuous batting lineup and field ten players. The catching position shall be utilized (catcher may stand, kneel, squat at/around home plate). The catcher is not mandated to be in the catcher's box. All eligible players shall be substituted for adequate playing time in the field. For ten players in the field, four outfielders shall be placed beyond the infield on the outfield grass. Outfielders must throw the ball to an infielder to record force outs and double plays. Infielders must be placed on the infield dirt.

*SCYB AMENDMENT -*

*Players at the Rookie level shall only be permitted to play a dedicated position for three innings per game, this player must then be replaced. Both Managers shall enforce this rule during the game and failure to comply shall result in continuance of the game with the outcome deemed a forfeit.*

Each team shall be permitted two coaches on the field to assure proper instruction and safe play. Such coaches on the field shall be positioned on the outfield unless operating the pitching machine. Baserunners shall only advance one base on overthrows and time may be called when an infielder is in possession of the ball and in fair territory. Baserunners determined to be less than half the distance to the next base shall be returned one base (determination made by the Manager operating the pitching machine). A timeout may be called by a Manager and/or player once possession is obtained. Outfielders must throw the ball into an infielder. The Manager (or designee) operating the pitching machine shall serve as the umpire during that at-bat. Undecided calls will be given to the team playing the field. Each inning will be concluded after three outs or five runs scored. There will be no run limitations during the final inning.

There is no minimum amount of players needed for a Rookie league game.

No Infield Fly Rule.

**Minors –**

**Boys/Girls between the ages of 8-10 (before May 1 of the calendar year).**

*Note than an exceptional 7- year-old may try out or be selected for this division.*

**Dimensions: 46' pitching distance and 65' basepaths.**

Games shall be six innings in duration and the annual decided upon drop time shall apply. No new inning shall begin after 1:45 and the drop dead rule will apply/revert at 2:15. Players shall pitch and Cal Ripken Baseball pitch count rules shall apply (75 pitches or 6 innings per week). One pitch thrown equals one inning pitched. If a player pitches three innings he/she shall be afforded forty-eight hours of rest. Any player on the team roster may pitch and there is no limit to the amount of pitchers a team may use. New pitchers will be awarded eight warm up pitches and returning pitchers will be allowed five warm up pitches.

For the first three innings of all Minor games, an 8 run max rule shall apply. This 8 run cap shall not apply to the SCYB playoffs.

Dead ball rules shall be in accordance with established MLB regulations.

*SCYB AMENDMENT –*

*If a pitcher hits three batters during the course of the game, he/she shall be replaced by a new pitcher. A pitcher removed from the mound for any reason shall not be allowed to return to the mound. Managers shall be permitted two visits to the mound per inning with the second visit resulting in a mandatory pitching change. A new pitcher will permit a Manager two additional visits per inning.*

Managers shall utilize one continuous batting order and field nine players. Should a player exit the game due to illness/injury, his/her absent turn in the lineup shall not be recorded as an out. Should a player choose to leave the game by personal decision, his/her absent turn in the lineup shall be recorded as an out. At this level, all players shall play a minimum of two innings in the field.

Baserunners may not lead. Baserunners may steal second and third base only after the pitched ball has crossed homeplate. Baserunners may not steal home. One Umpire will be selected for all minor games. Only a Manager will be permitted to meet with an Umpire. The scores shall be kept by the opposing Managers, reviewed at the completion of the game for discrepancies and reported by both Managers to the SCYB Information and Social Media Officer for posting to the league website. A team must have eight players available to begin a game.



*Additional rules have been approved by the Board of Directors.*

- 1. No squeeze bunt (suicide or safety)*
- 2. No head first sliding.*
- 3. No Infield Fly Rule.*

### **Majors –**

**Boys/Girls between the ages of 10-12 (before May 1 of the calendar year).**

*Note that an exceptional 9 year old may try out for this division.*

**Dimensions: 50' pitching distance and 70' basepaths.**

Games shall be six innings in duration and the annual decided upon drop time shall apply. No new inning shall begin after 2 hours and the drop dead rule shall not apply. Players shall pitch and Cal Ripken Baseball pitch count rules shall apply (75 pitches or 6 innings per week). One pitch thrown equals one inning pitched. If a player pitches three innings, he/she shall be afforded forty-eight hours of rest. Any player on any roster may pitch and there is no limit to the amount of pitchers a team may use. New pitchers will be awarded eight warm up pitches and returning pitchers will be allowed five warm up pitches. Managers will be allowed two visits to the mound while their team is in the field. Counts will be recorded by the home plate umpire, batters may walk or advance to first on a dropped third strike.

Dead ball rules shall be in accordance with established MLB regulations.

Baserunners may lead and steal within this division. Balk rules apply. One Umpire will be selected for all major games. Only a Manager will be permitted to meet with an umpire. The scores shall be kept by the opposing Managers, reviewed at the completion of the games for discrepancies and reported by both Managers to the SCYB Information & Social Media Officer for posting to the league website.

A team must have eight players available to begin a game.

### **SCYB AMENDMENT –**

*Major games shall feature a continuous lineup and all players must play two innings in the field. Should a player have to exit the game due to illness and/or injury his/her absent turn in the lineup shall not be recorded as an out. Should a player choose to exit the game by personal decision, his/her absent turn in the lineup shall be recorded as an out.*

*If a pitcher hits three batters during the course of the game, he/she shall be replaced by a new pitcher. A pitcher removed from the mound for any reason shall not return to the mound for any reason. Managers shall be permitted two mound visits per inning with the second visit resulting in a mandatory pitching change. A new pitcher will permit a Manager with two additional visits per inning.*

*Home plate shall be open to baserunners advancement on wild pitches and passed balls only (no straight steal of home).*

*Additional Rules have been approved by the Board of Directors*

- 1. No squeeze bunt (suicide or safety)*
- 2. No head first sliding. (exception – runners diving back to a base on pickoffs)*
- 3. No Infield fly Rule.*

### **SCYB REGULAR SEASON PLAYOFFS**

A single elimination postseason tournament shall conclude play for all teams at the Rookie, Minor and Major levels of play. Once an inning begins within the allotted time at all levels, that inning shall be completed. This tournament shall determine a league champion for these levels of play. Playoff games will be played on weeknights/weekend during the final week of the regular season and no practices shall be held. The schedule will be completed after all regular season scores have been recorded. *Please note that Cal Ripken Baseball Tournament Pitching Requirements shall be enforced –*

<b>AGE</b>	<b>MAX PITCHES PER DAY</b>	<b>REST (Calendar Days – not hours)</b>
7-8	50	1-20 (0 days), 21-35 (1 day) 36+ (2 days)
9-10	75	1-40 (0 days), 41-65 (1 day) 66+ (2 days)
11-12	85	1-40 (0 days), 41-65 (1 day) 66+ (2 days)

### **SUNDAY BASEBALL**

The Santa Clarita Youth Baseball governing board shall meet and confer each season to determine the feasibility of hosting one or more club/travel/advanced/academy baseball teams. Should the Board of Directors vote to host this level of play then club/travel/advanced/academy baseball teams shall be allowed to register (SCYB Club) and compete against each other and/or outside club/travel/advanced/academy baseball teams only. The Board of Directors shall meet and confer to determine the rules and regulations for this level of play. Club level baseball players that meet Cal Ripken tournament team requirements shall be eligible for tournament team consideration.

### **CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL IMPLEMENTED STANDARD PRACTICE**

Santa Clarita Youth Baseball has implemented a 10 run mercy rule. If a team holds a 10 run lead and the team trailing has batted four times, the game shall be concluded.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Santa Clarita Youth Baseball has adopted the following standard procedure to monitor, record and administer discipline regarding player, coach, volunteer and/or parent behavior.

1. The first act of inappropriate conduct, determined as such by the Board of Directors, shall result in a verbal and written warning to the involved party and/or parent (if a minor). The involved party shall acknowledge in a verbal and written manner that such discipline has been imposed.
  2. The second act of inappropriate conduct, determined as such by the Board of Directors, shall result in a one game suspension. This level of discipline shall be communicated in a verbal and written manner to the involved party. The involved party shall acknowledge in a verbal and written manner that such discipline is to be imposed. While serving a mandated suspension, the involved party shall not be on the premises nor in contact by any means with his/her team/staff.
  3. The third act of inappropriate conduct, determined as such by the Board of Directors, shall result in removal from the league for the remainder of the season. This level of discipline shall be communicated in a verbal and written manner that such discipline is to be imposed. The involved party that has been removed from the league shall not return to the premises. Reinstatement shall only be considered the following season and must be approved by the Board of Directors.
- Each step of the disciplinary review process shall be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration and shall require a majority vote before discipline is imposed.
  - Only the Manager is allowed to address the umpire.
  - Managers are responsible for the conduct of their players and assistants.
  - Managers are responsible for the cleanliness of the field after each practice and game.
  - Managers shall be responsible for returning all gear to the equipment shed.
  - Managers shall notify the Board of Directors of any player, parent, legal issues.

Note that any Manager ejected from the game by the Umpire shall immediately leave the facility and is automatically suspended for the next game. This Manager may attend scheduled practices. Any Manager ejected twice in one season will be removed from the league.

Involved Umpires shall notify the Board of Directors immediately.

Above stated verbal and written communication policy shall be adhered to by the Board of Directors and the involved party for suspensions/removals due to Umpire ejections.

## **SAFETY RULES**

All batting helmets must meet Cal Ripken Baseball standards. All batters, baserunners, player/coaches must wear helmets. No on deck batters allowed. Catchers must be properly equipped with Cal Ripken approved catching kits, athletic cups and throat protectors. The Managers and Umpires shall assure all players are properly equipped and that equipment meets Cal Ripken standards. Baseball bats must meet current Cal Ripken Baseball specifications. Please note that amendments to standard practice may be amended by the Board of Directors. All players/teams/managers shall be advised of such changes prior to the start of the season.

## **THE BALLPARK**

Los Angeles County, Department of Parks and Recreation and the Castaic Sports Complex will be the host site for Santa Clarita Youth Baseball. Representatives from SCYB and Los Angeles County will negotiate any/all lease agreements.

Please be mindful that the league is a tenant – this includes all players, parents, staff and volunteers. Managers shall be responsible for the condition of their dugout (games and practice) and it's advised that volunteers, parents and all of our players be responsible for the cleanliness of the ballpark at/around the baseball diamonds, batting cages, bleachers, concessions, restrooms and parking lots. Please be advised that all pets must be on a leash while at the ballpark.

The SCYB Board of Directors has mandated that the only items permitted in the dugout, bullpens, batting cages is baseball equipment and ice water. This includes a ban on sunflower seeds, chewing tobacco, sports drinks and any/all team snacks. Please support our concession vendor as they will have most anything you may need before or after the ballgame.

Ballpark operating hours have been set at 4:00 PM – 10:00PM, Monday - Friday and 8:00AM – 10:00PM Saturday - Sunday. Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation shall be responsible for all property, including but not limited to stadium lights, restrooms and field maintenance. The ballpark is open to all members of the public.

Should there be an emergency cancellation of an Umpire(s), the teams have the option to play a practice game.

## **RULES OF PROCEDURE NOT PROVIDED HEREIN**

Managers, Umpires and any/all volunteers shall refer all procedural matters to the Board of Directors for consideration and shall be guided by the Cal Ripken Baseball rule book for baseball related rule clarification that may arise.

*Please allow common sense and sound judgment to preside.*

---

*President, Santa Clarita Youth Baseball*