2018 BUSHKILL VALLEY BASEBALL GENERAL RULES

I. Coaches and umpires are responsible for demonstrating proper behavior and good sportsmanship. Acts promoted by coaches to cheat the spirit of the rules or to intimidate opponents or umpires will not be tolerated. Likewise umpires shall perform their jobs professionally and refrain from "side show" antics and behavior. It is the responsibility of the coaches to ensure that there is no use of inappropriate language (Trash Talk) directed at opposing coaches, players or umpires. After the first occurrence the player and coach will be warned that any subsequent occurrence will result in the ejection of the offender.

No one shall use alcohol or any illegal substance. If a player or coach uses alcohol or an illegal substance or even smells of alcohol the player or coach shall be ejected and suspended until he receives a hearing before the league representatives who will determine his future in the league.

II. A player or coach who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from further participation in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual would not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is the umpire's judgment. A player who must leave the game shall sit out at least to the conclusion of that half inning and then may return and the reentry rule shall not apply. If there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed or be taped over before the individual participates again.

III. Malicious contact is prohibited. Players risk serious injury anytime a runner purposely tries to run over another player. Runners should slide or attempt to avoid making contact with a fielder. A player who maliciously runs into another player is automatically ejected, and is declared out, unless he scored prior to the contact.

IV. Protests shall be considered only when based on a violation or misinterpretation of a playing rule or the use of an ineligible player. No protest shall be considered on a decision involving an umpire's judgment. Any
protest for any reason whatsoever against the rules, must be reported to the league president (unless he is involved, then another officer shall handle the protest) within 24 hours of the occurrence and a written report must be in the hands of the president within 72 hours, along with a check in the amount $25.00 made out to the Bushkill Valley Baseball League. If the game is a playoff game, everything must be in the hands of the president within 24 hours. The president will determine when the protest will be heard. If he deems it so, the protest will be held at the next scheduled meeting, or if in his opinion, it must be held sooner, he will convene a committee to hear the protest. The umpireinchief shall submit a report at the president’s request. The other team shall be contacted and at their discretion shall also submit a report. The president shall appoint a committee of three coaches not involved to hear and resolve the protest. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be refunded. If the protest is denied, the fee will be turned over to the league treasury. If there is a protest over a player’s eligibility, the protest must be submitted as soon as the infraction is known. All other provisions apply. If the player is declared ineligible all games he participated in shall be forfeited. The ineligible player may not participate in any games for the remainder of the season. If a coach plays such a player, the president shall be notified and he shall declare the game forfeited and all the teams remaining games are forfeited. The team doing the forfeiting shall pay the umpires and the coach and community will be brought before the league for whatever action it deems necessary.

V. Rosters shall include names, addresses, phone numbers, date of birth and Grade the player is currently in. Any player that is “double-rostered” shall be indicated on the roster. Enough copies shall be submitted to the league so that there is a copy for each team, the president, secretary, and league statistician. Players must permanently reside at the address on the roster. No additions may be made to the roster after it is submitted unless approved by the league at a league meeting. Rosters for knee-hi are due at the April meeting. A copy of birth certificates are required to be submitted to the league secretary by the knee-hi organizations at the same time as rosters are due. At the same time as rosters and birth certificates are submitted, each community must submit a certificate of insurance and maps of how to get to their field(s).
VI. Waivers. A team requesting a player outside their assigned boundaries must obtain a waiver. The following procedure will be followed. A written request will be given to the president. If the player lives in another team's territory that team must give approval. Then the communities that have teams in that league must approve all waivers by a majority vote. This procedure includes players who live in areas that do not have teams in the league. No waivers will be approved unless the player lives in an adjoining community. All waivers must be approved before rosters are submitted. Waivers must be approved each year. They cannot be carried over from one year to the next. **Teams conducting cuts will not be allowed any waivers.**

Two waivers per team are allowed unless the team roster is less than 14 players. Then up to a maximum of 4 waivers are allowed but the roster may not exceed 14 players.

VII. Voting. Each **community** has one vote for items that pertain to the overall league. When voting on individual age bracket (knee-hi or intermediate) matters, each **team** will have one vote. The league representative or his designee will have that vote or votes.

VIII. The visiting team must be given the field for practice 30 minutes prior to the start of the game and must clear the field 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. The home team must take the field immediately, while the umpires are being given the ground rules.

IX. There will be a 15 minute grace period for the designated starting time, to any team not having 9 players. After 15 minutes the game shall be forfeited. The team forfeiting the game shall be responsible to pay the umpires. The home team shall pay the umpires and the forfeiting team shall reimburse that team prior to playing its next game.

X. All games canceled due to inclement weather must be rescheduled within 48 hours and replayed within 10 days, unless approved by a league officer. The rescheduled date should be agreed upon by the respective coaches and must be reported to the umpire assigner and the league statistician. It is the responsibility of the home team coach to make the contact. If the coaches
cannot agree, the home team coach will contact the president, who will then schedule the game. If either team fails to play the game on the scheduled date, the game will be forfeited. All regular season games must be played before the date set by the league for playoffs. *All games not completed, are considered forfeited.* All forfeited games will be subject to the rule pertaining to fines. The president may delay the start of playoffs, if the last scheduled game is not played due to weather conditions.

Once the season begins, no games may be rescheduled for non-weather related reasons without permission from the President. If permission is granted to reschedule a game, it is the *home team’s* responsibility to notify the statistician and umpire assigner.

The first time permission is granted to reschedule a game, free charged for the reschedule. Each subsequent request from a team to reschedule a game will result in a $25.00 fee if the request is granted.

Failure to notify the statistician of any cancelled/rescheduled game will result in a fine against the offending team.

XI. Regular meetings are scheduled for the third sunday of each month starting in January and running through July. Each community is expected to have at least one representative at each meeting. Failure to attend a meeting will result in a fine for that community. Between the March and April meetings, a special meeting will be called to discuss the preliminary schedule. The purpose of this is to clear up as many scheduling conflicts as possible. This meeting also requires attendance by every community. For this meeting, it is desirable to have the coaches attend.

XII. *both* team is responsible to report the game statistics to the league statistician (this includes the score, the names of the pitchers and the number of innings pitched by each, one pitch constitutes an inning. A fine will be assessed to a team for each violation if the above is not reported within 24 hours after the completion of a game, or the cancellation of a game.

XIII. Levied fines will be incremental. The first fine levied against a team
 will be $5.00. The second $10.00, the third $15.00, etc.

Exceptions to this rule are as follows:

If a forfeit occurs, the offending community will be fined $100.00. In addition, if the umpires cannot be canceled in time, the offending team must pay the umpires in full.

If a manager or coach is ejected from any games the fine is as follows: The first ejection is a $50.00 fine and the second ejection is a $100.00 fine. In addition, upon a second ejection, the manager/coach will be expelled from the league for the remainder of the season.

XIV. The umpire assigner will furnish two umpires for each game. They must be paid by the home team, when the game becomes official.

*See item G in the Umpires Contract for disclaimer.*

XV. All weather related cancellations must be reported to the umpire assigner and the opposing team by the home team, as soon as possible. In all cases this must be at least 1 hour prior to the start of the game. If the game is not cancelled at least an hour prior to the start time, and the umpire appears for the game, he is to be paid $25.00 for travel expenses.

XVI. League championships and playoffs. In the event there is a tie for first place or for the last playoff position, a sudden death playoff game will be played to decide the final standing. Unless the two coaches mutually agree otherwise, league ties will be played on a neutral field and a coin flip will determine the home team. For all other playoff positions the following criteria will be used: 1) results of head-to-head competition, 2) total runs scored against team tied with, and 3) coin toss. If a game is required to be played to determine the final standings, the playoff games will be delayed one playing date for everyone. In playoff games, each team will supply a new ball and pay for one umpire (home team will pay plate umpire, visiting team will pay base umpire).
Game Rules: PIAA rules apply with the following exceptions:

1. New in 2018! Pitch count has been voted on and accepted. No longer is innings pitched the criteria. Its Pitch count. 95 pitches max per game. The following breakdown will determine the amount of rest days that will be required before a pitcher may pitch again. Rest day 1 starts the day after the game. The penalty for violation of this rule is forfeiture of the game in which the violation occurred.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Pitches</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 - 20</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 - 35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 - 50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 - 65</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66 +</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

95 max. A pitcher may finish out the batter he is facing and not be penalized for throwing extra pitches over the maximum number IF THE COACH informs the other coach and umpire that they are taking out he pitcher after that at bat. Example is pitcher is approaching 35th pitch. Coach announces that they taking out pitcher after this batter because of threshold. He then throws 39 pitches. That pitcher will be credited with 35 pitches and require only 1 day not 2 day rest. If coach fails to notify other coach and goes beyond the 35 then he will be credited with full amount and require 2 days not 1 day rest.

2. Free substitution: A player in the starting lineup who has been removed for a substitute may reenter the game once, provided he returns in the same place in the batting order. Once the pitcher leaves the mound for another position or is substituted for, he cannot return
to the mound.
3. Games will be 7 innings in length.
4. A team must play only as many ball players as the opposing team has for that particular game. This applies only when either team has 15 players or less. If a team has not played the required number of players within the time frame of a complete 7-inning game, that team shall forfeit the game. (a team need to protest this game to the umpire the moment the game ends and before the umpire leaves the field)
5. If more than 15 players are present for both teams, a minimum of 15 must be played by each team. If a team has not played the required number of players within the time frame of a complete 7-inning game, that team shall forfeit the game.
6. a) In the event that all the players of a team have been in the game and an injury occurs, the team manager may choose any player on the bench to replace him, providing the injured player is physically unable to continue in the game. No injured player may reenter the game.

   b) In the event that all the players of a team have been in the game and a player is ejected from the game, the manager can choose a replacement to be able to field 9 or 10 players, whatever the team started the game with. In this case, the next time the batting position of the ejected player comes up, an automatic out will be recorded. In all subsequent at bats the substitute will be allowed to bat with no penalty.

   c) In either case above, if there are not 9 players available, a team may finish a game with 8 players. (There must be nine players available to start the game).

7. Home teams are responsible for the condition of the field.
   a. The field should be lined from home plate to approximately 100 FT. past the first and third bases.
   b. There should be a foul line marker (a flag, a pole, or some other object) down the right and left field foul lines.
8. Grace period - see general rule IX.
9. Rained out game - see general rule X.

10. There are no suspended games. Any game that is called before becoming official, be it darkness, rain, etc. must be replayed in its entirety. In this case both teams shall share the expense of the umpires (home team – plate umpire, visiting team – base umpire).

If a game is official and is called because of darkness, rain, etc and the score is tied, it shall be called a tie game.

Because of this rule, standings will now be determined on a points basis (and not a winning percentage basis). Each team will be awarded two points for a win, no points for a loss, and for a tie, each team will be awarded one point.

Exception to this rule: Suspended games are permitted during the playoffs. Any playoff game that is called before becoming official will be resumed from that point, at the earliest possible date thereafter.

11. All scheduled weeknight games will start at 5:45 pm unless later start time is mutually agreed upon (ex. games being played under the lights).

12. For all games that start at 5:45 pm at a field with lights, the lights will be turned on to finish the game, however no inning will be allowed to start after 8:45 pm.

13. Umpires have the right to eject any manager, coach, or player from the game who conducts himself in an unsportsmanlike manner. See General Rule XII, for penalty for being ejected (coach or manager). The League will enforce this fine with Community Rep.

14. Any player or manager/coach who is ejected will serve a one game suspension for the next regularly scheduled game.

15. Each team must have a first aid kit. The home team will be responsible to see that a kit is at the game.

16. Before each game, opposing scorekeepers must exchange lineup
cards, which will include available substitutes and player uniform numbers. Managers are responsible for seeing that players entered in a game are reported to the opposing scorekeeper. The home team scorebook will be the official score book and must show the number of innings pitched by each pitcher.

17. Reporting of game - see general rule XI.
18. Umpires - see general rule XII.
19. All teams must notify (by March meeting), their intention of participating for the up-coming season and which division they intend to play in.
20. Each game shall begin with two new official league balls (Diamond AL2 or better) supplied by the home team.
21. Cancellations - see general rule XIII.
22. Rosters - see general rule V.
23. Protests - see general rule IV.
24. Appeal:
   a. A batter shall be called out, on appeal, when failing to bat in proper turn. The defensive team must appeal before a pitch is thrown to the next batter. Appeal is verbal to the umpire.
   b. If ball is caught, and a runner fails to retouch the base before said runner or base is tagged and if a runner fails to touch or retouch bases in the proper sequence, including home plate. The Appeal is verbal. Any coach or player can ask umpire for appeal. They must ask umpire prior to next pitch to batter. If player or coach asks for timeout prior to the verbal appeal, the appeal will be disallowed.
25. Per PIAA rules, A team can intentionally walk a batter by telling the plate umpire. No pitches need to be thrown. So it is understood if this occurs the ball is dead and runners on base cannot advance a base.
2601. Courtesy runners may be use with two out for the catcher and a courtesy runner can be used for pitcher ANY TIME during the inning. If team has more then 10 players then courtesy runner must be a bench player.
27. Run rule (Mercy rule)
   a. The game is finished at the end of 5 full innings if either team leads by 10 runs or more. If not, game ends when one team takes a 10 run lead at any time after the 5th inning.
b. The game is finished at the end of three full innings if either team leads by 15 runs or more. If not, the game will end at any time that one team takes a 15 run lead during the 4th or 5th inning.
c. Each manager will have the prerogative to have a batting order of 9 or 10 players. Each manager must decide on his intentions when lineups are exchanged. The plate umpire shall be notified prior to the start of each game.
d. The number of batters in the lineup may not be changed during the course of the game. Exception: Only 10 players present and a player is injured, the team may continue with 9 players/batters.

e. "Extra Hitter" will regarded as "EH" and will be given same consideration as a starting player. Anyone in the lineup as an "EH" shall have at least one complete plate appearance.
d. "EH" may be substituted for and may re-enter as a starter would.

e. At no time will an "EH" be treated or interpreted as a "DH".
f. An "EH" may enter the game in a defensive position. At such a time as this occurs, the defensive player being replaced will become the "EH", or a substitute may be inserted to become the "EH". In any event, the original "EH" does not change his position in the batting order.

Player Eligibility:
1. A player cannot be 16 years old before May 1 of the current year and must live within the area of the sponsoring organization. Any exception must be cleared through the league.
2. Player waivers - see general rule VI.
3. Boundaries for each entry must be approved by the league prior to the April meeting.
4. A player is allowed to play Bushkill Valley and Legion ball at the discretion of the sponsoring organization.
5. Bushkill has a Middle School (7/8 grade) and players that are still 15 after April 30th can play.
6. When the rosters are set up and given to all teams, If a player is
playing High School baseball they still can play Bushkill AFTER the
high school season is completed. Once the High School season is
completed, players are allowed to play for their Bushkill team and
Play ANY POSITION including Pitcher! The High School player
must be on original roster. Late addition to Rosters will not be
allowed. If a player ineligible

Uniforms & equipment

1. All players must wear matching caps.
2. All players must wear a shirt of the same kind (color).
3. Complete uniforms are optional
4. Catchers must wear full protective gear, including helmet, throat
   protector, and cup. Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a face
   mask, throat protector, and cup.
5 All batters and runners must wear helmets with over the ear
   protectors. If a runner deliberately removes his helmet when running
   the bases, the umpire may call him out.
6. Trousers must be worn to cover the knees for sliding protection.
7. Bat rule: starting in season 2018 both divisions will be required to
   use -3 BBCORE or wood bats ONLY.

Coaches
1. Shirts and caps should be worn to represent the team.
2. If a player coaches a base, he must wear a helmet.

Playoffs
1. Pitching rules do not carry over from regular season into playoffs.
   They do re-start once the playoffs are underway. This means a
   pitcher can pitch the last game of the regular season and then pitch
   the first game of playoffs. Innings pitched in first playoff game do
   carry over to second playoff game.
   3/24/2010

2. Format: Every year at start of winter meetings the playoff scenario
will be discussed and by the start of the season the playoff format will be finalized. This format can change from year to year. The one stable rule is that the championship series will be best of 3.

All Star Game
   1. Date and site will be set by the League.

   2. Pitching does not count toward league record. A pitcher may pitch a maximum of 2 innings.
   3. Coaches of 1st and 2nd place teams will be the head coaches. They are responsible for asking other coaches to assist.
   4. Coin flip will determine home team.
   6. Every player will be in the batting order.
   7. Player Representation
      a. 18 players to a team. (optional)
      b. Players must come from teams as designated. If a team is unable to send a player he cannot be replaced by a player from another team.

League sponsored awards for each Division
   The league will present a trophy to the team that wins the regular season championship.

   The league will present a trophy to the team that wins the post-season playoffs.

   The league will present individual medallions to each member of the playoff championship team and each member of the runner-up team.
A. Rates: 2018 umpire pay $55/ $45

B. Assignor fee shall be $50.00 per team in the League for 2018.

C. If one umpire works alone, he shall receive $100.00.

D. Playoffs or All-star games shall be the same as regular season pay.

E. All umpires shall be paid when the game becomes official.

F. All umpires shall receive full pay in case of a forfeit.

G. One half pay will be paid if the game is called before it becomes a legal game. If the game has continued for at least 1.5 hours and is still not an official game, the umpires shall receive full pay.

H. Coaches must call the umpire assignor by 5:00 PM to call off a game.

I. If a game is called off after 5:00 PM, and the umpire shows up, he must be paid $25.00 for travel expenses.

J. If a game is protested and the league upholds the protest and the game is to be replayed at the point of the protest the same two umpires must work the game at no further compensation. If the umpires were not at fault then they shall receive regular compensation.

K. ALL UMPIRES must honor all assignments. They must give the assignor 24 hours notice unless there is an emergency and then it must be discussed with the assignor.

L. Any time an umpire ejects a player or a coach he must notify the assignor within 24 hours.
M. Any time a game is protested the home plate umpire must notify the assignor within 24 hours with all particulars. The assignor will then notify the League President.