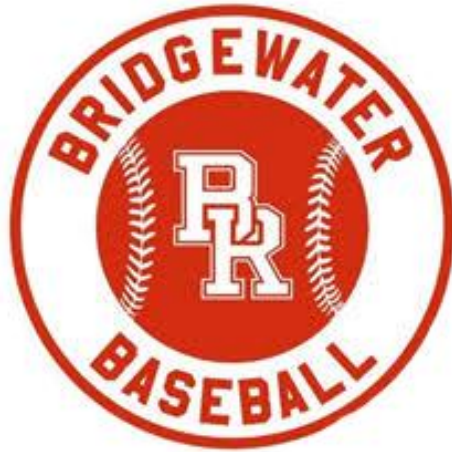


Bridgewater Baseball (BBSI)



Pony / Senior Leagues

Rulebook

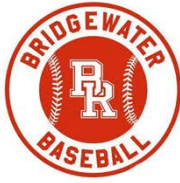
2025 Season

(v.1.2)



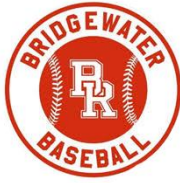
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Contacts

League	Name	Email / tel #
Co-Commissioner (Pony/Senior, Upper League)	Steve Lang	stevelang24@gmail.com
Upper League Chair	Steve Lang	stevelang24@gmail.com
VP, BBSI	Dan Pan	dppan@comcast.net
President, BBSI	Mike Brewster	mikebrewster80@gmail.com



Important

- Please make sure to follow all COVID-19 protocols (check our website for the latest information at www.bridgewaterbsi.com)
- Please remind your parents that the Medical Release forms and Code of Conduct forms were completed during the online registration and they should be updated as necessary
- Managers should also carry a complete contact list of players, parents, all managers, and Pony / Senior League commissioners.
- Make sure that you have a first aid kit with you at all times. Always make sure you have ice packs.
- Please keep a record of injuries by submitting an accident report to the commissioner of the league.

Please be patient with players and parents.

Please teach the kids how to play correctly.

Please encourage good sportsmanship

THANK YOU for volunteering your time to be a volunteer coach!



Welcome

Welcome to Bridgewater Baseball! We are thankful to you for volunteering your time to support the league and the players. It should be a rewarding experience for coaches, players and parents.

Bridgewater Recreation teams are formed by the commissioner based on player's school, skill level, and requests in order to create balanced competitive teams. We also have teams from out-of-town that play in the recreation division which are projected to compete at roughly the same level as the Bridgewater Recreation teams.

Pony / Senior Leagues continues from the Major 6th League as an instructional/competitive league where the primary goal for the season is to continue to teach advanced baseball fundamentals (pitching, batting, balls, strikes, stealing, throwing, catching and being a good teammate).

Standings are kept during the regular season where the winning manager will post the score on the website within 24 hours.

Both managers must email pitchers and their pitch counts to the league commissioner.

A Single or Double Elimination Tournament will be held after the regular season.



Manager/Coach Requirements

REQUIREMENTS

Each team will have a Manager and Assistant Coaches must have the following:

- Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. certification
 - Rutgers certification is good for life
 - Certification requirement also applies to all parents wishing to help out (i.e. inside the dugout, on the field, etc.)
- Background check
 - Must be checked every 2 years
 - Please visit our website at <http://www.bridgewaterbsi.com> and click on the BBSI tab, then "BACKGROUND CHECKS" for more information
 - Please DO NOT submit your background check application until you have been approved to be a manager/coach by your league commissioner

RESPONSIBILITIES

- To Request a practice field
 - Send your request to: ***scheduler@bridgewaterbsi.com***
 - Email must contain: Division (i.e. Farm AA), Team Name, Date, Time and Field, Requestor's name and cell number
- Rescheduling a Game
 - Send your request to: ***scheduler@bridgewaterbsi.com***
 - Coaches from both teams are responsible for identifying an available field by looking at the calendar
 - Email must contain: Division (i.e. Farm AA), Team Name, OLD GAME info (date, time, field #), NEW GAME info (date, time, field #), Requestor's name and cell number
- Scores

After each game, the winning manager will post the score on the website within 24 hours.



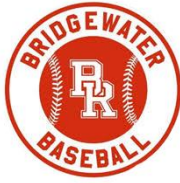
Schedule

1. Regulation games will be **7 innings**
2. Game is official after 5 innings, or after 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead.
3. **Time Limits for Games** – Due to only 2 hour time frames for weeknight games and 2-1/2 hours for weekend games, there will be different time limits for these games:
 - a. If a new inning starts, it must be completed.
 - b. There will not be any hard stop times.
 - c. The umpire will keep the official time and confirm each inning score.
 - d. **Weeknight games** – No new inning will start after 1:45 minutes (This includes all Bridgewater field locations).
 - e. **Weeknight games at other locations** – Use your best judgement based on home rules, location, if there is a game behind yours, or any other circumstance.
 - f. **Weekend Games** – No new inning will start after 2 hours (This includes all field locations).
 - g. Agree to time limit during the ground rules.
4. All games that are called due to a time limit (including darkness on unlit fields) after playing for at least two hours are official regardless of how many innings have been played. (As per local option as described on page 20 of the Babe Ruth League Baseball Rules and Regulations.)



General Rules

1. Except as otherwise noted, we will follow the **NJ High School Rules and Regulations**. All managers and coaches should be familiar with these rules.
2. No jewelry is allowed to be worn.
3. Standings will be kept during the season. After each game, the winning manager will record the score of the game and the number of innings pitched by pitchers on the "Results" tab on the BBSI web site.
4. Ground rules will be reviewed by the umpires before each game, keeping in mind adjacent fields which may have games in progress, equipment, benches and nets in various locations.
5. The **12-run rule after 5 innings** will be enforced unless both managers consent to continue playing. The umpire will decide when it is too dark to continue to play. If the umpire calls the game due to darkness, and the game is already official, the score will revert back to the last complete inning and the game is over. If it is not an official game, the commissioner will schedule the game to be resumed.
6. Regular season standings will be determined by a point system (1 for a loss, 2 for a tie and 3 for a win). In the event of a tie in the standings, the tiebreaker will be head to head competition. If necessary, the second tie breaker will be least runs allowed during those head to head games. If a third tie breaker is needed, the tie will be broken by a coin toss. Three-way or more ties will be broken by records among the tied teams, records among common opponents, or coin toss, in that order.
7. **A Single or Double Elimination Tournament** will be held after the regular season. The Commissioner reserves the right to change the format due to inclement weather.
8. The manager is responsible for his players, coaches and fans. All aspects of the game while the game is in progress will be between the umpires and the



managers. The umpire will control the game! Any player or coach ejected from the game must immediately leave the field and sit out the next game.

9. Any situations not addressed herein will be determined in accordance with Babe Ruth Baseball Inc. rules and regulations. Any other rule questions or disputes will be decided by the Commissioner and the Bridgewater Baseball Board of Directors.
10. Players must participate in at least 50% of the regular season games in order to be eligible for the playoffs. Any exceptions will need to be approved by the commissioner.



Rules of Conduct

1. All managers, coaches, and other volunteers must read, and abide with the Bridgewater Baseball Code of Conduct for managers and coaches at all times.
2. It is the responsibility of the manager to maintain proper decorum and behavior among the parents of the players as well as the players and coaches on his team.
3. Any abuse directed at a player or umpire by anyone involved with the team is ultimately the responsibility of the manager.
4. Only the **Manager** is allowed to discuss a call with an umpire. Clarifications of calls or rules are the only things that may be discussed with an umpire. The umpiring calls may not be disputed.
 - a. Any discussion with an umpire should be done when the ball is dead and be done face to face in a civil and non-threatening manner. Remember that this is an instructional league. The umpires are learning too.
 - b. Managers should notify the Umpire Coordinator if there is a very good or very poor umpire, so he can properly evaluate his talent pool.
5. Coaches or any other team assistants not coaching 1st or 3rd base must stay in the bench area.



6. Protests shall be made in accordance with NJ High School rules. The umpire must be notified immediately and before any succeeding play begins. A written protest must be filed with the commissioner within 48 hours. Good sportsmanship dictates that every effort must be made to resolve the dispute at the time it occurs.
7. Alcohol, tobacco or foul language on or around the playing field will not be tolerated. If for any reason during the course of the season, winning becomes the primary concern over the wellbeing of the players, the Commissioner reserves the right to suspend and/or terminate the offending party, team standings, and/or the playoffs.

***** Manager/Coaches – Important *****

This is a game for the kids. We are volunteers here to support the kids. Let's be patient. Mistakes will be made. Let's set a good example for the kids on how we handle them. Encourage good sportsmanship and be positive.

Report any incidents to your commissioner immediately. They will be recorded and reviewed by the Board to see if necessary action needs to be taken during the season.

Any major incidents will be taken into consideration upon applying to manage or coach for the following season.



Roster Rules

1. Pony/Senior League “Play-Up” Rule

- a. The league’s goal is to have at least 9 players present on each team at every game, reducing the chances of forfeits, while enabling the parents to view the game as it was intended (minimum of 9 vs. 9).
- b. When a manager determines that he will only have 8 or less players for the next regular season game, he should contact the Majors 6th League commissioner for approved “play-ups”, in an effort to bring that team up to 9 players for the game.
- c. Players being called up from the Major League will NOT be allowed to pitch.
- d. As always, full roster batting applies.
- e. The manager will bat the Majors 6th Leaguer at the end of the lineup (9th batter).
- f. Major Leaguers will NOT be allowed to play in the Pony League playoffs.
- g. The league will only call up qualified players from the 12 year old A or tournament team(s).
- h. If a manager receives a “play-up”, and enough of his players show up for the game, he will be required to play that Pony Leaguer under the playing time guidelines outlined in the rules (i.e. no player sits twice until all players have sat once).



2. **During the regular season** if a team will be short players for a scheduled game, the team can borrow players from another town team in the league. Any player that is borrowed cannot pitch.
3. In the event that a team does not have 9 players on the field, the opposing team will provide "Shared Players" to accommodate the vacant field positions.
4. With the "Shared Player" process, there are no forfeits for any regular season game.
5. If a manager determines at game time that he will have less than 9 players for the game, that manager must contact the opposing manager to inform him that they will require "Shared Players" for that game.
6. Each team must have a minimum of 7 players in order to start the game.
 - a. If a team only has 7 players at the start of the game, the opposing team will be required to share up to 2 fielding players.
 - b. If a team has less than 7 players at the start of a regular season game, then the game will be rescheduled for another date and time.
7. If a team starts with only 7 players and an additional player gets injured during the game, which requires that player to exit the game:
 - a. That team can continue to play the game with only 8 fielding positions.
 - b. It is the option for the opposing team to provide a 3rd fielding player.
 - c. If that team loses any more players, only then, will a forfeit be allowed unless the game has completed an official 5 innings.
8. Shared Players are not permitted to pitch or catch.
9. There will be no "Shared Players" permitted for Playoff games. Teams must comply with a minimum 8 player roster to complete in a playoff game.
 - a. If a team with only 8 players in a playoff game drops a player during the game, that team will forfeit the game.
10. Only players on the official roster may be used for Playoff games.



FAIR PLAYING TIME RULE

No player may sit two innings until every player has sat one complete inning.

- a. The intent of this rule is to prevent players from playing the whole game while other players sit 2-3 innings a game.
- b. Except for injury, no player sits two consecutive innings.
- c. No player may sit more than two innings in any game including ones which go beyond the standard 7 innings.
- d. After eight innings a player may sit a third inning provided every player has sat at least two (2) innings already.
- e. If there is an exception, the manager will be expected to justify it
- f. **One allowed exception will be that pitchers may remain in the game up to their maximum of 5 innings. Once the pitcher leaves the game, they must sit the following inning if every other player on the team has sat for at least 1 inning.**

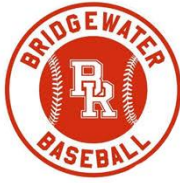
If a manager intends to sit a player for an entire game for disciplinary reasons or injury, this must be declared to the umpire and to the opposing manager before the game.

- a. If the reason is disciplinary, the player's parents and the Commissioner must be notified. Discipline problem is defined as a behavioral problem that occurs during a game or practice, and is unduly disruptive in the opinion of his manager.
- b. If a behavior problem occurs during a game, the player's manager must immediately notify the opposing manager and the umpire of the benching, and must notify the Commissioner that day.
- c. If a behavioral problem occurs during a practice, the Commissioner must be told before the next game about the intent to have that player sit out the game.



Batting

1. Full roster batting of all players present is required.
2. If a player shows up after the official start of the game, that player shall be placed at the end of the batting lineup, regardless of where the team left off after their last at bat.
3. If a batter is injured while batting and cannot continue his turn at bat, the next player in the batting lineup shall assume the count of the injured player. The player batting for the injured player bats only once. If the injured player is able to return during a subsequent time through the lineup, that player is reinstated to his original batting position in the lineup.
4. In accordance with Cal Ripken Baseball rules, Players may not swing a bat in the on-deck circle. The on-deck batter should have his helmet on, have his bat picked out, be standing in the designated on-deck area, and be ready to step up to the plate.
5. A batter **may attempt to advance to first base if the catcher does not catch the third strike** (applies when first base is unoccupied and/or when there are two outs).
6. All players remain on the bench when their team is up.



Base Running

1. Stealing of second, third, and home is permitted. Leading is also permitted.
2. A runner must slide into a base (except first) or avoid contact if there is any potential play at the base.
3. A player not sliding may be called out if he was required to slide (in the umpire's judgment) and does not.
4. The catcher cannot block the plate if there is no play at the plate.
5. Fielders should not simulate a play at a base if the ball is not there in order to get a runner to slide.
6. Head First Sliding is permitted at all bases **except home**.
7. A player who maliciously "bowls" over an opposing player, based on the umpire's judgment, may be ejected from the game and called out. Malicious conduct will be reported to the Commissioner for possible disciplinary action.



Pitching

Please remember that these rules are intended primarily for the safety and long-term health of the players. **ABSOLUTELY NO DEVIATIONS SHALL BE PERMITTED FROM THESE PITCHING RULES.**

1. Any player on the roster may pitch, except for “Play-Up” or “Shared Players”.
2. Once a pitcher has been removed he may not reenter as a pitcher.
3. A calendar week for the purpose of Pitching Rules is defined as **Monday - Sunday**.
4. Any number of 13, 14, or 15 year olds may pitch during the calendar week.
5. A player may **pitch a maximum of seven (7) innings or 125 pitches in a calendar week, whichever comes first.**
 - a. The innings limit applies to rec.
 - b. The pitch limit applies to rec plus travel (cumulative).
6. A player may **pitch a maximum of five (5) innings or 85 pitches in any one (1) one game**, whichever comes first.
 - a. The innings limit applies to rec
 - b. The pitch limit applies to rec as well as travel.
7. Delivery of one or more pitches during any inning counts as one (1) inning pitched.
8. Necessary days rest will be determined as follows.

# of Pitches	Days Rest
1 – 25	0
26 – 40	1
41 – 55	2
55 – 70	3
71+	4



9. Pitch counts will be recorded after each game by the team managers on a shared document.

10. **BALKS**

- a. During regular season, balks will be called after warning the pitcher once.
- b. Umpire has discretion to call a balk without warning when a base runner is put at a disadvantage by an obvious balk (e.g., stopping delivery of the pitch after the base runner has started running to the next base).
- c. In the playoffs, balks will be called without warnings
- d. Faking a throw to 3rd base (and throwing to 1st base) is considered a balk.

11. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, but before a ball is pitched, shall not be a violation of the rules.

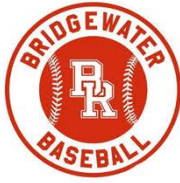
12. Innings pitched in recreation, scrimmages, or games declared "no contest" shall be charged against the pitcher's eligibility. If a game is resumed in a following week, the last pitcher in the game may continue up to the extent of his remaining eligibility for that week (max. 7 innings), regardless of the # of innings pitched previously in the game. However, the mandatory rest rules apply for the number of throws pitched that day.

13. At the start of the post-season playoffs, all players shall have maximum pitching eligibility, regardless of pitching during the regular season. However, the regular mandatory rest rules carry over and apply at the beginning and during the playoffs.

14. Strike zone is from letters to the knees, over the plate plus one ball width on each side.

15. Intentional Walks **are NOT permitted**. Any coach who intentionally walks a batter or "pitches around" a batter will be suspended and/or removed.

Violation of the letter and spirit of these pitching rules may lead to a manager's, coaches', or player's suspension or removal from the Bridgewater Baseball program.

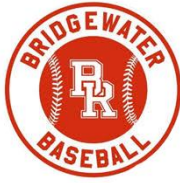


Catching

- Catchers must wear a protective cup (Not supplied by the league)

Fielding

1. A player may be switched from any position.
2. **Infield Fly rule is in effect** - If there are 1 or fewer outs with runners on 1st & 2nd or 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, and a batter hits a pop-up to the infield that is easily catchable by any member of the fielding team, the umpire may verbally announce "Infield Fly - Batter's Out" even before the ball is attempted to be caught. Then, even if the ball is dropped, the batter would be called out and the runners would be allowed to safely stay on their original bases as if this were a pop-up caught for an out.

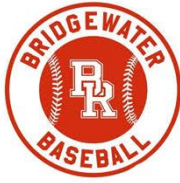


Equipment

1. All players are advised to wear a protective cup. (Not supplied by the league).
2. Players should wear their full uniforms (pants, shirt, socks, and hat) during games. Shorts are not acceptable.
3. Players must bring their own glove.
4. We strongly urge parents to write the players name and phone number on all equipment.
5. Metal spikes or rubber cleats are permitted.
6. Players can only use wood bat, USA Baseball drop 5 (-5), USA Baseball drop 8 (-8) or BBCOR (-3)

FOR FALL SEASON ONLY: BAT RULES for 7th Graders (and 8th graders who are age eligible for 13u)

- Players will be allowed to use any 2 5/8" or smaller bats
- **BBCOR .50 (a.k.a. BBCOR, BBCOR -3)** certified
- **USA Baseball (any weight)** stamp
- **1-piece solid wood bat** can also be used (no USA stamp required)
- Managers shall identify the 7th graders and age eligible 8th graders in the lineup card given to the opposing manager before the game.
- Managers are responsible for ensuring that 8th and 9th graders do not use the bats that are allowed for 7th graders.
- 7th graders are also permitted to use bats that are allowed for 8th and 9th graders.



FOR FALL SEASON ONLY: BAT RULES for 8th and 9th Graders

- Players will be allowed to use any 2 5/8" or smaller bats
- Length cannot exceed 34"
- **BBCOR .50 (a.k.a. BBCOR, BBCOR -3)** certified
- **USA Baseball (drop 5 or drop 8)** stamp
- **1-piece solid wood bat** can also be used (no USA stamp required)
- Managers are responsible for ensuring that 8th and 9th graders do not use the bats that are allowed for 7th graders.



Rain Outs & Lightning Policy

1. In order to determine if a game is cancelled due to weather, please check <http://www.bridgewaterbsi.com> or call the recreation department hotline at 908-526-7107, after 4:00pm.
2. The web site will say "Open" or "Closed". If closed, please contact the other manager to confirm the cancellation and then contact your parents. Email communication is the recommended way and probably the most efficient way to communicate
3. If games have not been canceled, the two managers should show up at the field or contact each other to make a determination as to whether the game could be played.
4. If you decide it cannot be played, call the Commissioner ASAP so the umpires can also be canceled.
5. To reschedule a rain out game, a Manager shall go to the Bridgewater Baseball website, find an open time slot and confirm the new date and time with the opposing manager. The Manager shall email the Commissioner (copy the opposing manager) with the new requested Date/Time/Field to reschedule the game.
6. In case of **LIGHTNING**, a thirty (30) minute postponement applies to all current games at a specific location. All people must seek shelter (in vehicles). If after thirty (30) minutes, lightning is still sighted, a Board Member, Commissioner, or a Senior Umpire can decide to cancel the game(s).
7. If lightning returns after play has resumed, the thirty (30) minute postponement starts over. The time limit for the game will remain in force during the lightning delay - no extra time will be granted for the delay for recreation games. The game(s) will automatically be cancelled upon the start of a second (30) minute lightning delay.
8. The cancellation of an earlier game, due to lightning, does not necessarily cancel all later games.