



2025 Ventura Adult Baseball League (VABL) Rules

Official Rulebooks:

- **Primary:** VABL Local Rules (this document)
- **Supplement:** NABA Managers Rulebook (v2025) - Available at dugout.org
- **Reference:** MLB Rules (2025; used as a baseline, but superseded by VABL Local Rules and NABA Managers Rulebook)

Local Rules:

1. Umpire Fees:

- Two-man crew: \$120 per game per umpire (cash, paid before the game; 2024).
- One-man crew: \$150 (cash, paid before the game; 2024).

2. Game Length:

- **Regular Season:** No new inning may begin after 2 hours and 45 minutes. A 3-hour and 15-minute drop-dead time limit is in effect. If the home team is losing and hasn't completed its at-bat when the time limit is reached, the league management board and commissioner will determine if the score reverts to the previous inning or the game is continued later. Umpires will announce the official time. Games tied at the time limit will end in a tie. *Exception:* If time remains in a tied regular season game, extra innings may be played (see below).
- **Playoffs:** Playoff games cannot end in a tie and must use extra innings rules.
- **Extra Innings (All Games):** All extra innings will begin with a runner on second base and no outs. The runner will be the last recorded out from the previous inning.

3. MLB Rules:

The 2025 MLB rules regarding time clocks, shifts, extra-large bases, mound visits, pitcher disengagements, etc., are **not** used in the VABL.

4. Non-Runners:

- 18+ Division: 2 non-runners
- 35+ Division: 3 non-runners
- Non-runners must be declared on the lineup card submitted to the umpire at the pre-game meeting. The last recorded out will be used as the runner.

5. Runner for Catcher: Teams are encouraged to use an optional runner for the catcher with two outs to save time. Runners should be ready. Umpires will allow a maximum of 30 seconds to find a runner. If a runner isn't readily available, the batter/runner will run. The last recorded out will be used as the runner.

6. NABA Managers Rulebook: Managers and players are responsible for knowing the NABA Managers Rulebook. Umpires and the Commissioner are not expected to have it memorized. Familiarity with the rulebook will help resolve issues quickly. No extra time will be allowed for protests based on rulebook lookups. Managers should have a digital or printed copy of the NABA rulebook available. If a rule interpretation is questioned, cite the specific rule from the NABA rulebook to the umpire.

7. Dugouts: The home team uses the 3rd base dugout, and the visiting team uses the 1st base dugout, unless mutually agreed upon by both managers.

8. Score Reporting: Both teams must promptly report the game score to the league app or website within two hours of the game's completion.

9. Player Registration: All players must be registered on the league website by 8:00 PM on the Friday before their first game.

10. Forfeits:

- Forfeiting teams must pay the umpire fees for both teams. At least one umpire fee must be paid at game time, and the other before the forfeiting team's next game. Failure to pay one umpire fee at game time will result in a one-game suspension for the manager.
- Two forfeits in a season will make a team ineligible for the playoffs.
- A third forfeit may result in the team being dropped from the league for the remainder of the year or longer.

- Contact the commissioner before 8:00 PM on the Friday before the game to avoid paying umpire fees in case of a forfeit.
- Teams must have at least eight qualified players listed on the lineup card and ready to play at the scheduled game time. A five-minute grace period is allowed for late arrivals, but a one-run penalty will be assessed. No additional time will be granted.

11. Protests:

- Protests must be reported to the umpire before the last out of the game is recorded, specifying the exact rule being protested (no blanket protests).
- A \$100 filing fee, payable to the Commissioner, is required within 24 hours of the game's start time for a protest to be heard. This fee is refunded if the protest is upheld.
- NABA and MLB rules should be consulted before filing a protest.
- There is no fee to have a protest recorded by the umpire.

12. Bats: All divisions are wood bats only. Composite-wood and metal-wood bats (with a wood barrel) are permitted.

13. Rosters: Team fees cover a maximum of 15 players and one manager (16 total). An additional fee of \$35 per player is charged for each player over 16, payable to the Commissioner within seven days of adding the extra player.

14. Playoff Eligibility: Players must have participated in at least 33% of regular season games to be eligible for playoffs. Participation is defined as: at least one at-bat, pitching at least three outs, or playing at least two innings on defense. Pitchers' and defenders' names must be recorded in the scorebook. Notifying the opposing team is recommended. It is recommended to track games played per player on the league website.

15. Playoff Teams:

- 18+ Division: TBD
- 35+ Division: TBD.

16. Sportsmanship: Poor sportsmanship (fighting, cursing, verbal abuse, throwing equipment, etc.) will not be tolerated. Ejections may result in additional game suspensions, as determined by the Commissioner.

17. Suspensions and Expulsions: The VABL Management (Commissioner/Franchise Owner and Advisory Board) reserves the right to suspend or expel any member whose behavior negatively affects the league.

18. Rule Changes: The VABL Management reserves the right to change these rules as needed. Managers will be notified of any changes.

Field Preparation Procedures:

Field Specific Procedures:

- Conejo Creek Park: No field preparation is required. Home team manager must lock 3 locks after the final game including: bathroom, first base dugout gate, third base dugout gate. ALL TEAMS/PLAYERS - NO GUM, NO SEEDS, NO TOBACCO ON THE FIELD OR IN THE DUGOUTS. After the last game, the home team sweeps the third base dugout and the visiting team sweeps the first base dugout. Remove trash from the respective dugouts and surrounding fan areas after each game.
- Fillmore HS: Prepare the field *after* your game. The field may also need preparation *before* the first game of the day (see below for duties).
- Harding Park: Prepare the field *after* your game. The field may also need preparation *before* the first game of the day (see below for duties). The last team of the day must brush loose dirt from the infield grass onto the dirt. The home team manager for the last game of the day is responsible for locking the Harding bathrooms. Unlock the men's and women's restrooms using the provided combination (align the numbers with the mark). Close the doors, reset the door hasp in the locked position, replace and close the lock, and spin the combination dials. If city park workers are present, they will handle this.
- Huntsinger Park and Camino Park: Prepare the field *before* your game. After the last game, the home team prepares the mound, and the visiting team prepares home plate (see below for duties).
- Villanova HS: Prepare the field *after* your game. The field may also need preparation *before* the first game of the day (see below for duties). *Parking rules to be confirmed. All players and fans will not be*

allowed on campus until after 8:30 am and must vacate the campus prior to 4:30 pm. NO

FRATERNIZING WITH STUDENTS!

- Other fields may be added.

Home Team Duties (exception Conejo Park):

- Rake and water the mound.
- Drag and water the left side of the infield and the 3rd base line.
- Bases: The first game team installs all three bases; the last game team returns all three bases to the storage box.
- Remove trash from the dugout and surrounding fan areas after each game.
- The last team of the day must sweep the home dugout.
- Managers are responsible for ensuring all equipment is put in the storage box. Home team manager must ensure the equipment storage box is locked. Report any missing or damaged equipment (photos helpful) to the Commissioner via text. Report any field issues (city/school responsibility) to the Commissioner.

Visiting Team Duties (exception Conejo Park):

- Rake and water home plate.
- Drag and water the right side of the infield and the 1st base line.
- Remove trash from the dugout and surrounding fan areas after each game.
- The last team of the day must sweep the visitor dugout.
- Managers are responsible for ensuring all equipment their team used is returned to the box. Report any missing or damaged equipment (photos helpful) to the commissioner via text.

Dugouts: Teams must clear the dugout (including all equipment) within five minutes of finishing their game.

The next team may enter the dugout 10 minutes after the prior game.

Equipment: Each team has access to one drag, one rake, one broom, and one hose for field prep. A hose nozzle and dual-hose Y-connector (for connecting two hoses) should be installed *without* hoses attached initially. Then attach your hose. Care should be taken with the equipment.