

MOORESTOWN YOUTH BASEBALL FEDERATION

'A' League Rules (1st grade)

Amended March 2021

I. Introduction

The **1st Grade 'A'** League is meant to be instructional. The emphasis of play will be to introduce the players to the game and teach them the fundamentals of baseball. No umpires will be used but scores will be kept. While de-emphasizing winning/losing, we hope to gain the greater objective; that is, for all participants to learn the proper mechanics of hitting, throwing and catching. To help facilitate this learning atmosphere, team size should be limited to 12 or fewer players, each team playing a minimum **10**-game schedule.

The major objective of the Moorestown Youth Baseball Federation is to increase participation in the game of baseball. Our priorities are, in order of importance, to:

1. Have fun.
2. Learn the game of baseball.

In addition, it is incumbent upon the volunteer coordinators to:

1. Be alert to and correct dangerous situation.
2. Keep order among players and take appropriate disciplinary action.
3. Request spectators to desist from such practices as yelling at players and umpires in a derogatory manner.
4. Prohibit the use of foul language or inappropriate behavior by everyone involved in the game. Such language or inappropriate behavior will lead to disciplinary action.
5. Teach and allow only fair play, respect, and sportsmanship at all times.
6. Set an example for the players by your own actions.

II. Rules

1. **The manager, coach or designated adult of the team at bat will act as the pitcher. The coach pitcher will be positioned directly in front of the pitcher's mound and a distance of approximately 35 feet from home plate. The intent is to ensure that the majority of the children are comfortably hitting a pitched ball.**
2. **Each batter will be given 6 hittable pitches. A batter will not strike out on a 6th pitch foul ball but will continue to receive additional pitches as long as he fouls them off. (Must swing on 6th pitch and after any subsequent pitches that are fouled off). If the batter does not put the ball in play after the 6th hittable pitch (and subsequent foul balls), he/she is out.**
3. All players must wear appropriate helmets while batting and running the bases.
4. All equipment must remain off the playing field and players must remain on the bench when not in the game
5. All players must wear sneakers or rubber spiked baseball shoes, sweat pants or baseball pants, team sponsored tee shirts, team hat. No shorts are allowed.
6. Home team will occupy first base bench.
7. Coaches of both teams must agree that the field is or is not in acceptable playing condition and if the game is or is not to be played because of inclement weather. Once the game starts, the decision to delay or terminate play will rest solely with the coaches. Please contact the league commissioner to reschedule games which could not be played due to weather conditions.
8. Bunting is not permitted.
9. If, in the opinion of the coach, a batter throws the bat while swinging, the ball is dead and not a strike. The coach will warn the batter. On the second and any subsequently thrown bat, the batter is out and the runners return to their base of origin.
10. There will be no catcher position.
11. No base stealing is permitted. Runner will remain on base until the ball is hit.

12. A runner leaving the base before the ball is hit will result in a warning by the coach. Each team will be permitted one warning per game. Any further base violation will be declared an out by the coach.
13. There will be no sliding into 1st base. Any runner doing so will be declared out.
14. In the event of an overthrow, the base runners **may not** advance; play is dead.
15. While on defense, the **player** pitcher will **be positioned at least 3 feet to one side of the coach pitcher while being no closer to home plate**. All other players will remain at their normal playing positions until the ball is hit. Players must play within reasonable proximity to their normal playing positions as determined by the coaches. For example, the infielders should play no closer to the batter than 10 feet inside the baselines between first and second bases and second and third bases.
16. A player may not play more than two consecutive innings in the outfield. A player may not play the same infield position in the same game.
17. Base runners must hold at the base they are heading toward when a hit ball is returned to the infield dirt and controlled by an infielder.
18. **A batted ball striking the adult pitcher will be a dead ball and the batter and base runner(s) will advance one base.**
19. Distance between bases will be 60 feet.
20. Teams must bat the full roster in rotation. Five (5) runs or three (3) outs determine the end of an at-bat for each team per inning.
21. The Infield Fly rule does not apply in this league.
22. No one is permitted to stand behind the backstop. Coaches are responsible for enforcement of this rule. All players will remain seated on the bench during the game.
23. All home team coaches are responsible for dragging and lining the field prior to the game. When using the drags, coaches should begin on the outside part of the infield and end in the middle. The home team coaches are also responsible for the return of all equipment, and locking the equipment box.
24. Once an inning has started, a player's defensive position cannot be changed with the exception of injury or restroom emergency.

- 25. A minimum of 3 and maximum of 4 players can play the outfield in any given inning. If this creates a situation where players have to sit out, every effort should be given to avoid a player sitting twice in one game and no player should sit consecutive innings.**
26. The extra players must be positioned in the outfield no closer to the infield than 15 feet beyond the baseline between first and second bases and second and third bases.
27. No outfielder is permitted to cover a base after a ball is hit into play.
28. Two defensive coaches may position themselves in the outfield (behind 1st base and 3rd base) in order to lend coaching advice to the players.
29. Every game will terminate at the end of six (6) innings or when the players' interest begins to wane, whichever comes first. It is suggested that each game have a maximum one and one half (1 ½) hour time limit.
30. Courtesy rule. If a team has a player that hits the ball consistently hard, coaches should announce it at the time he/she comes to bat by yelling "hard hitter" or some other such warning to avoid accidents.
31. The offensive coach should announce "batter up" before each player starts his/her turn at bat. After that, the defensive coaches have the responsibility of keeping their team's attention on the game.
32. With the exception of these rules, the official regulations and playing rules of Bambino Baseball and Major League Baseball will apply.