



## **Majors Baseball - In House Rules**

The official playing rules, with the exceptions and variations contained below shall be "Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Official Rules" completely revised, as released through the office of the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth League.

### **TEAMS**

- A. Teams shall consist of no more than 12 players, or no less than 9 players.
- B. Age, for the league purposes, means "league age," which is that age attained by a player as of April 30th of the season in question.

### **EQUIPMENT**

- A. Leather covered baseballs manufactured to appropriate specifications set forth by Cal Ripken Baseball will be used for league play and tournament play. Two new baseballs will be provided by the home team for each game.
- B. Rubber soled tennis shoes or rubber cleated shoes are permitted. Metal cleats are not permitted.
- C. Batting helmets are required to be worn by the batter, player in the on-deck circle, and all base runners. The helmets must be NOSCAE approved. Face mask are optional in this league.
- D. Catchers are required to wear a cup and proper protective equipment to include a mask with throat guard, chest protector, shin guards and protective headgear which gives protection to the top of the head when catching behind the plate.
- E. It is recommended that coaches make every effort to encourage the wearing of athletic supporters or a protective cup by all male players.
- F. Each player must be dressed in full uniform (hat, pants, numbered shirt). Shirts must be tucked into pants with hats facing forward.

### **THE FIELD**

- A. The field dimensions should be setup so that the distance between bases is 70' and the pitcher's rubber is 50' from the back of home plate.

- B. The home team is responsible for putting out the bases before the game and getting the field in shape for play.
- C. The home team is responsible for putting up the bases and raking in the "holes" around the bases, pitcher's mound, and home plate area after the game.
- D. The home team is responsible for making sure that the lights are turned off after the game.
- E. Both teams are responsible for removing all trash from their respective dugouts after the game.

### **BATTING**

- A. The entire roster of players present for the game shall bat in rotation. Players arriving after the start of the game will be added to the end of the batting order.
- B. Bats:
  - 1. Bats must be USA Baseball certified with factory "stamp". 2 ¼ and 2 ⅝ barrel sizes are allowed.
  - 2. Drop-3 BBCOR Certified Bats with factory "stamp" are allowed.
- C. No more than one (1) player is allowed in the on-deck circle.
- D. Bunting is allowed; however, once a batter gets into a bunting position/stance, the batter can either bunt, attempt to bunt, or pull back and take the pitch. The player can NOT pull back out of the bunting stance, lean back and swing away. If the player does pull back and swing away, the batter is automatically out.
- E. Dropped third strike rule is in effect. With less than two outs, the batter may attempt to reach 1<sup>st</sup> base if the base is open and not occupied. With two outs, the batter may try to attempt to reach 1<sup>st</sup> base whether it is occupied or not occupied.
- F. Infield fly rule is effect with less than two outs. The play shall be interpreted at the discretion of the umpire.
- G. The batter must keep one foot in the batter's box at all times in order to speed up play, unless granted time by the umpire.

### **BASE RUNNING**

- A. Base runners are permitted to lead off base.
- B. Courtesy runner for the catcher is permitted and recommended when there are two (2) outs in the inning and the catcher is on base. The player that made the 2<sup>nd</sup> out of the inning is the only qualified courtesy runner. If the catcher is relieved as the runner, that player must be ready in advance to take the field at the start of the next inning.

- C. If there is a play being made at Home plate the runner must slide. Running over the catcher at home plate is not allowed and will result in the player being called out. If determined by the umpire that a runner intentionally collided into the catcher with intent to do harm, the player will be ejected from the game.
- D. Runners are awarded one base on any ball that goes under a fence, under the backstop, in a dugout, etc. The umpire will set the field ground rules at the coaches meeting at the beginning of each game.
- E. Sliding is allowed with an emphasis on safety. Head-first slides are not allowed; except for a runner diving back to a base that has already been reached by that player safely. If a runner attempts a head-first slide into a base that has not yet been reached safely by that runner, the runner will be called out.

## **FIELDING**

- A. Free substitution is allowed throughout the game.
- B. Infield players are not permitted to interfere with base runners by lining up defensively in the base path(s). Additionally, defensive players shall not stand on bases while the ball is in play. Base runner interference will be determined by the umpire and a base will be awarded to the runner.
- C. At this age group, coaches are encouraged to allow kids to play a variety of positions throughout the season as it is too early to peg them as a pure infielder or outfielder. At the same time, use good judgement and keep players safety in mind by not playing the player at a position where they are likely to get injured.
- D. A player may not stay on the bench more than 1 consecutive inning when they are playing the field. Every player on the team does not have to sit out an inning. (Exceptions are disciplinary actions or game ejection penalty)

## **PITCHING**

- A. Pitching Distance: 50'
- B. Balks will be called on the pitcher after one warning. Each new pitcher is allowed one (1) warning. During Championship/Playoff games no warnings will be issued.
- C. For the following pitching rules, as soon a pitcher delivers one pitch to a batter the pitcher is deemed to have pitched in one inning.
  1. **Same Day Limit:** A pitcher may not pitch more than 75 pitches in one day.
  2. **Coach Mound Visits:** A pitcher must be removed from the pitching position if a coach makes two visits to the mound in one inning or after the third visit, to that pitcher, of a game.

3. **Pitch Count:** The maximum number of pitches that can be thrown by an individual pitcher in a single game is 75. If the 75th pitch occurs in the middle of an inning the pitcher must be replaced at that time. However, the pitcher is allowed to finish pitching to an individual batter if the 75th pitch is delivered in the middle of a count. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** When the pitcher exits the game, the pitch count for that game will be 75 pitches.  
It is suggested that each scorekeeper compare pitch count numbers after every inning for accuracy.
4. **Weekly Limit:** A pitcher may not pitch more than 135 pitches during a seven-day period beginning at 12:01AM Monday morning and ending 11:59PM Sunday evening.
5. **Rest Rule:** If a pitcher pitches 40-75 pitches, that player must rest 40 hours. (Example: If a pitcher throws 40+ pitches in a game on a Monday, that pitcher is eligible to pitch again on Wednesday) The pitcher does not need to be the starting pitcher to be subject to the rest rule.
6. **Pitcher cannot return to pitch** - Any pitcher withdrawn from the line up or substituted to a different position may not return to pitch.
7. **Ambidextrous Pitching:** If a pitcher changes pitching arms in the middle of an inning, they are MANDATED to change to the appropriate glove, for safety. This change can only take place at the start of an at-bat, and the pitcher must pitch with that hand for the duration of that at-bat. This change will constitute a coach mound visit as defined in *PITCHING, Rule C(2)*, listed above.

### **GENERAL RULES**

- A. A team must have 8 players to play an official game. However, an "out" will be recorded each inning when the missing 9<sup>th</sup> batter is due up. If a team starts a game with 8 players, and a player gets hurt...they may finish the game with less than 8 players; but will record outs for the missing players below nine.
- B. A team failing to field at least 8 uniformed players within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time of a game shall forfeit. A forfeit shall be recorded as a score of 6-0 (one run per inning). If a team has less than 8 players, a scrimmage game should be played. Substitute players may be allowed and the game will be "official" if both coaches agree in advance of the game to get to 8 players. Substitute players are not allowed in the post season.
- C. Substitute players are defined as; any player registered in the ELOC baseball program for the season in question that is in the Minor League if the coach and parents feel he has the skill set to play up. No more than two (2) substitute players are allowed.
- D. Substitute players can only play in outfield positions and bat last in the line-up. A player assigned to the team cannot sit out innings while substitute players play.
- E. Regulation games shall be six (6) innings in duration. An official game is four (4) innings (3.5 innings if the home team is ahead).

- F. The time permitted during an inning change-over is one minute. Umpires will be asked to enforce this rule. Coaches are asked to please have your teams ready to take the field at the end of each half inning. If a team is in violation of this rule, the umpire will issue one warning. On the second occurrence, the umpire will notify the coach that he will begin to call balls on the batter if the defensive team is in violation, or strikes on the batter if the offensive team is in violation.
- G. The Mercy Rule is in effect if a team is ahead by 10 or more runs after 4 innings (3.5 innings if the home team is ahead). In the Championship Game, we will not use a mercy rule.
- H. For game time, no new inning shall be started after 1 hour and 45 minutes of play. If the game is being played on a weeknight and is the second game of the evening on that particular field (start time after 7:30pm), no new inning shall be started after 1 hour 30 minutes of play. This includes two teams that are playing a scheduled doubleheader. Innings started prior to the time limit will be played in their entirety if necessary and conditions permit. If the inning is called for any reason, the score will revert back to that of the last full inning completed. In the Championship Game, we will play a full 6 inning game with no time limit.
- I. The home team will be asked to provide a scorekeeper. The scorekeeper will be given a batting order for both teams and is responsible for counting runs scored per inning and for the game. The scorekeeper is also responsible for recording the official start time of the game.
- J. If the game remains tied after the completion of 6 innings or within the 1:45 minute rule, the following procedures will be implemented during extra innings: Each team will begin the extra inning (and any subsequent necessary extra innings) with a player on second, no outs. The player on second will be the last out from the previous inning and the batting order will continue from the point of the next consecutive batter in the order. The batting order is not restarted and continues from the previous inning. This is not sudden death as each team has an opportunity to score in its half inning. Due to game times and play during school nights, only one tiebreaker inning will be allowed. Any game not decided under the tiebreaker rule within one additional innings is declared a tie. In the playoffs, in the event of a tie after the first extra inning, the above tiebreaker rule will continue in each subsequent inning until a winner is determined.
- K. The use of tobacco products, vaping, alcohol, or illegal drugs in any form by coaches or adult leaders in the dugout or on the playing field shall not be permitted. This rule also pertains to all parents and spectators. Coaches are asked to help police this activity for their respective fans.

## **PROTEST**

- A. The proper procedure for a protest of a call is to call "time" and for the umpire to grant you time. You may then speak with the umpire in a controlled and

subdued manor. You have the right to an explanation of a call or rule. However, you must understand and respect that much of baseball rules is left to the sole judgment of the umpire. Although you may plead your case, you must accept their decision as final. Any rule violations should be discussed with the umpire and the opposing head coach for clarification and/or correction, however games will **not** be played under protest. Only the head coaches (or the designated coach) shall enter the conversation/field of play during a time out. All other coaches are to return to their dugout. If the group is unable to come to an agreement about the ruling, the umpire will stop the clock and discuss the ruling with the age coordinator to come to a final decision before play is resumed.

## **WEATHER**

- A. If lightning is spotted during a game, the wait time is 30 mins from the last strike.
- B. If the game is delayed due to weather and 4 innings (3.5 innings if the home team is ahead) have been completed, the game is official, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. If the game has not reached 4 completed innings, it will be rescheduled. The game will begin from where it ended and the game is "as played" from the original date. Please have the umpire confirm and initial that the home scorebook is accurate as of the time of postponement. Pitchers cannot re-enter in the re-started game

## **UMPIRES**

- A. Head coaches may inquire about a call made by an umpire. It is normal procedure to ask for time, and then approach the umpire in a controlled manner. It is important to remember that you can only challenge plays based on the interpretation of a rule and not on judgment calls. You are entitled to plead your case, but accept that the umpire's decision is final.

## **GENERAL CONDUCT**

- A. A player that intentionally throws a bat, glove, or helmet in anger will be given a firm warning. Future incidents may result in being ejected from the game or future games.
- B. A player that throws a bat accidentally will be given a warning. The second offense will result in an out.
- C. Any coach/player/parent that is thrown out of a game, regardless of reason, will receive an automatic one (1) game suspension. The suspended coach/player/parent is forbidden from attending the next game as a participant or a spectator. In addition, the matter will be referred to the league coordinator,

commissioner of baseball and the director of baseball for review and possible further sanctions.

- D. Unsportsmanlike conduct, to include profanity, from players, coaches, parents, or spectators will not be tolerated and is subject to ejection or game suspension.
- E. Negative chatter (swing batter), chanting and taunting by anyone on or near the field will not be permitted. Dugout chatter should stop once pitcher is on the rubber.

### **COACHES**

- A. It is recommended that all coaches remain in the dugout during defensive play.
- B. Only 2 coaches are allowed on the field during offensive play. Those shall be the 3<sup>rd</sup> base coach and the 1<sup>st</sup> base coach.

Eddie Smith  
ELOC Majors Director

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