



## Minneapolis Youth Baseball Association – House League

### 2026 Oliva League Rules

#### I. EQUIPMENT AND SPECIFICATIONS

- a. **Field Dimensions** – All games will be played with base lengths of 75 feet and pitching distances of 52 feet
- b. **Shoes** – Molded cleats and cleat-less shoes such as tennis shoes are legal. Metal cleats are not allowed
- c. **Bats** - Metal or wood bats permitted. All bats must possess either the USSSA BPF stamp or the USA Baseball stamp.
- d. **Baseballs** – 1 new ball will be used per game, provided by the home team. Teams are expected to retrieve foul balls hit into their respective foul territory. Should extra balls be needed, teams will provide previously used baseballs in good condition.
- e. **Batting Helmets** – All players must wear a batting helmet while batting. The batting helmet may be of any color but may not have a reflective coating. The helmet must protect both ears but otherwise may be of any design.
- f. **Other Mandatory Equipment** – All players for whom a protective cup is anatomically appropriate must wear one.

#### II. PREGAME

- a. **Warm-ups** – Teams are not permitted on the infield until 25 minutes before game time. At this point, each team, beginning with the visiting team, will have 10 minutes to take infield warm-ups. Both teams will clear the infield 5 minutes prior to game time. If field conditions are even remotely wet, please conduct warm up in grass area or outside of the baselines.
- b. **Umpires Meeting** – 5 minutes before game time, the umpire will conduct a brief pre-game meeting with both head coaches to discuss ground rules and any special points of emphasis. Home teams are listed on schedule and will have last at bat.

#### III. PLAYING RULES

- a. **Minimum Roster Size** – Each team must have 8 players to start and play the game. Rather than forfeiting, teams are encouraged to reschedule prior to the game if they believe they will not have 8 players. If a team's roster is reduced to less than 8 after the game begins, the game may continue using borrowed players from the opposing team in the outfield. When the departed player(s)' spot comes up in the batting order, it will be recorded as an out.
- b. **Continuous Batting** – All teams will use continuous batting (all players hit regardless of whether they play the field in any given inning) and free substitution.
- c. **Walks** – If a batter is issued 4 balls, that batter is issued a walk to First Base. If the bases are loaded at that time, the runner on Third Base at the time of the walk scores.
- d. **Fielding Rule:** Each player plays once in the infield/outfield minimum per game. If a coach believes a player should not be in the infield due to safety concerns, the coach must discuss the concern with the player's parent(s) and receive approval from the House League Co-Commissioners to not use the player in the infield. Defensive positions

are Pitcher, Catcher, First Base, Second Base, Shortstop, Third Base, Left Field, Center Field, and Right Field.

- e. **Outfielders** – Teams will use a maximum of 3 outfielders.
- f. **Pitching Limits** – Players may pitch a maximum of 50 pitches per game. Players may only go over 50 pitches in a game in order to finish an at-bat. Rest day requirements are as follows:
  - 1 - 25 Pitches = 0 Rest Days**
  - 26 – 40 Pitches = 1 Rest Day**
  - 41-55 Pitches = 2 Rest Days**
  - 56+ Pitches = 3 Rest Days**
- g. **Pitching Limit Violations** – Coaches are expected to track pitches during the game and report them after the game. Violations will be handled as follows:
  - i. **Sportsmanship Principles** – MYBA assumes coaches operate under a code of sportsmanship. If a coach is aware the opposing team is about to use an ineligible pitcher, the right thing to do is notify the opposing coach they are about to commit a violation. However, this does not absolve coaches from monitoring their own Innings Pitched and, should a violation occur, that pitcher's coach is ultimately accountable.
  - ii. **If the violation is discovered during the game** – Once it is determined a player has exceeded their maximum pitches for the game or has not taken the required rest days, they will be immediately removed from the game. The umpire will eject the coach for the remainder of the game and report the violation to the League Co-Commissioners. Please see rules III.f.iv through III.f.vi for additional protocols for disciplining the offending coach.
  - iii. **If the violation is discovered after the game** – If a violation is identified after the game, the pitcher in question will be ineligible to pitch for the remainder of the week AND for the entire next week. The game will be forfeited with a score of 5-0.
  - iv. **Coach Discipline, First Offense** – The first offense, whether reported during or after the game, will be assumed to be an honest mistake. The League Office will discuss the matter with the offending coach, but no other action will be taken.
  - v. **Coach Discipline, Second Offense** – We expect no coach will commit two pitching limit violations but, should it happen, the offending coach will be suspended for the next game.
  - vi. **Coach Discipline, Third Offense** – Pitching limits are fairly straightforward and reasonable. Any coach who commits 3 violations of these limits does not align with MYBA's philosophy for the Oliva League program and will be relieved of their coaching duties for the remainder of the season.
- h. **Other Pitching Restrictions**
  - i. **Legal and Illegal Pitches** – Fastballs, change-ups, and knuckleballs are all legal pitches. All other pitches are illegal. Umpires are expected to understand that young players' pitches may naturally tail or inadvertently curve. However, if the umpire feels certain the player threw an illegal pitch, upon the first infraction, the pitch will be called a ball and the pitcher will be warned. Upon the second infraction, the pitch will be called a ball and the pitcher will be removed for the remainder of the game.
- i. **Leading Off**– Players may lead off at any time. A runner may also be picked off at any time.

- j. **Stealing** – Pursuant to Rule 3i, players may lead off and steal at any time. Stealing is therefore not limited to wild pitches and passed balls. It should be noted that a runner attempting to steal 3<sup>rd</sup> may attempt to score on an overthrow from the catcher during the steal attempt, and a runner may advance to home on a wild pitch or passed ball.
- k. **Advancing on Wild Pitches** – Players may advance to any base on a wild pitch or passed ball.
- l. **Advancing on Batted Balls** – Runners may continue to advance on the basepaths at any point. The ball is not deemed dead simply by being returned to the infield and/or the pitcher.
- m. **Advancing on Throwing Errors** – Should the ball be thrown out of bounds (not just into foul territory) by the fielding team when attempting to make an out, all baserunners will advance one base. If a throw goes into foul territory but not out of bounds, advancement by baserunners is not similarly limited.
- n. **Dropped Third Strikes** – The batter may advance on a dropped third strike if first base is unoccupied at the time of the pitch or there are two outs. If the batter does not attempt to run immediately, the batter is out. A dropped third strike is anytime the catcher does not catch the pitch before the pitch contacts the ground. If there are two outs, the batter may run and all other runners forced to run by the batter's attempted advancement must do so as well.
- o. **Tipped Third Strikes** – If the third strike is a tipped ball caught by the catcher prior to the pitch contacting the ground, the batter is out.
- p. **Other Base running Restrictions** – Players may advance on the return throw from the catcher to the pitcher and may advance on errant pickoff throws.
- q. **Courtesy Runners** – At any time, a courtesy runner may run for the catcher. The courtesy runner must be the last player to make an out.

#### IV. SAFETY NETS

- a. Portable net barriers have been purchased and are stored in the Armatage storage shed. Dibs opportunities are available for retrieving and setting up the safety nets in advance of games. However, coaches are responsible for making sure their team's barrier is in place prior to gameplay if playing on a field without dugout fencing. Use of the net barriers is mandatory. Any team failing to use the safety barrier while playing a game on a field without dugout fencing will forfeit that game. All players not in the field or batter's box should be instructed to remain behind these barriers at all times with their helmets on.

#### V. SCORE KEEPING AND TIME LIMITS

- a. **Innings** – Games are scheduled for 6 innings
- b. **Run Limits** – There is no run limit for any inning
- c. **15 Run Rule** – A 15 run rule will take effect in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning and beyond. If the home team leads by 15 or more after the visitors are retired in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, the game ends immediately. If the visiting team leads by 15 or more after the home team is retired in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, the game ends.
- d. **10 Run Rule** – A 10 run rule will take effect in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning and beyond. If the home team leads by 10 or more after the visitors are retired in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, the game ends immediately. If the visiting team leads by 10 or more after the home team is retired in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, the game ends.
- e. **Time Limits** – No new inning will begin after 2 hours have elapsed.
- f. **Extra Innings** – If a game is tied at the end of 6 innings and conditions allow for continued play, one extra inning will be played. If conditions are such that the game can't be continued, it will be recorded as a tie game.



