



2026 Elk River Youth Baseball

National/American League Rules

Note – any rules not addressed here can be found on the MYAS website for 9U travel. Any rules below override the MYAS rules.

Base and Pitching Distances:

- Bases are 60 feet apart and the pitching mound is 46 feet from the back of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.

Players In-Field:

- National League: Can play 10 fielders with 4 outfielders.
- American League: 9 players in the field.
- Teams may start with 8 players and finish with 7
- A forfeit is a 1-0 game, but the game can still be played for fun with borrowed players.
- No player will sit more than 2 innings per game outside of injury or restroom breaks.
- No player will sit back-to-back innings.
- All players should play a minimum of 2 innings in the IF and 2 innings in the OF per game.
- Any player that stops playing during a game may not re-enter to play in that game. In the batting order that player's position is an automatic out from that point on. This is all predicated on the batting order.

Batting:

- Max diameter 2 3/4, length and drop are unlimited. (See MYAS/Gopher State Bat Standards.)
- A continuous batting order involving all players on the team must be used in all games.
- Bunting is NOT allowed.

Base Running:

- Stealing is NOT allowed.
- Sliding is permitted but ONLY feet first. However, if a player over runs a base he can dive back to that base head-first. If a runner purposely runs into the defensive player at a base, and it is determined by the umpire that he should have slid, the player will be called out.
- A batter who hits a ball into the outfield may advance bases until the ball is secured in a player's glove in the infield. Once the ball is in possession in the infield, the batter and all runners must stop at the **next** base they are running towards.
- There is no tagging up on any ball caught in the infield.
- Infield fly rule is NOT in effect.
- If a ball goes out of play, each base runner may advance one base.
- Please do not turn the game into a track meet. Coaches show some restraint and respect for the integrity of the game.

Game Play:

- Games are 6 innings long and start at 6:15, with no NEW inning starting after 8:00 pm
- Any inning already in progress at 8:00 will be completed.
- The only exception to completing the inning will be if the time limit is reached while the home team is on offense and ahead, the game will be halted once the time limit has been reached.
- Coaches and umpires should use common sense when adverse weather and/or poor light conditions present safety concerns.
- A maximum of 5 runs can be scored per inning.
- A 10-run mercy rule is in effect after 5 innings (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead).
- Rain Outs: Games are considered a complete game after 4 innings (3 ½ if the home team is ahead). If games are rained out prior to 4 innings, it is the coach's responsibility to reschedule games by contacting the opposing coach and League Director.

Umpires:

- Umpires will be assigned to all games. (AL only)
- Calls are final and there should be no arguments from anybody.
- Before each game, coaches will meet with the umpire and should review the game rules and ground rules for the field.

Pitching:

- All games will be kid pitch.
- **National League:** 6 balls will be at mound for each batter. Pitcher will throw three pitches, and coach will throw 3 pitches. If batter takes a called strike from pitcher that will count against the 3 pitches he is entitled to receive from the coach. Goal is to get kids swinging at strikes thrown by the player and not simply wait to swing until coach pitches. A designated coach will be behind the plate to pick up passed balls to keep the game moving.
- **American League:** A walk is a walk.
- A player may pitch a maximum of 1 inning per game OR 50 pitches, whichever comes first.
- A pitcher may not pitch more than 75 pitches in a week.
- Tournament rules: 2 innings/50 pitches per game, 4 innings per day, and 8 innings/100 pitches in a tournament.
- An inning consists of three (3) outs recorded while pitcher is on the mound.
- Any pitcher may re-enter as a pitcher once.
- No balks will be called.

Reporting Scores (AL only):

- **After each game**, the coach or manager of the **WINNING team** must report the game score via the ER Baseball website. (Details to come)
- **Both coaches will also report** jersey number and number of pitches pitched for pitchers on both teams to the league commissioner.
- When the season ending playoffs begin, seeds shall be based on the regular season standings.