

NORTH EDISON

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Rules and Regulations

Minors Spring Ball Baseball Rules

A. Game Setup:

- a. **Field Dimensions:** Bases will be placed 60 feet apart. Pitching rubber is at 46 feet.
- b. **Defense:** Nine players will be positioned in the field on defense.
- c. **Inning Limit:** Each half-inning consists of 3 outs. **Note:** There are no maximum runs per inning in this division.
- d. **Game length:** 6 innings
 - i. Tie-breaker: if tied after 6, play continues until time expires.
 - ii. Mercy Rule: 10 runs after 4 innings (3 ½ innings if home team is leading)
- e. **Time Limit:** No new inning after 1:45
 - i. Note: The new inning starts the moment the 3rd out is recorded at the bottom of the previous inning. There is no "hard kill" time.
- f. **Umpire:** One Cadet Umpire is used at this level.
- g. **Coaching:** No defensive coaches are allowed on the field. All coaches must remain behind the dugout fence. Offensive coaches are allowed in the 1st and 3rd base coaches boxes.
- h. **Sportsmanship:** No arguing of balls and strikes is permitted. No heckling pitchers or batters (chanting, fence shaking, or loud outbursts during the windup) is allowed. Umpires may warn or eject the head coach for team or spectator behavior.

B. Pitching Rules & Safety:

- a. **Pitcher Limits:** (See Roadmap for limits).
 - i. One pitch thrown = 1 inning counted on the record.
 - ii. **Rest Requirements:**
 1. Pitch 1+ inning: 1 calendar day of rest.
 2. Pitch 2+ innings: 2 calendar days of rest.
- b. **Consecutive Days:** No player may pitch more than two days in a row, regardless of inning count.
- c. **Hit Batters:** Any pitcher who hits **2 batters in a single game** must be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of that game.
- d. **Re-entry:** Any pitcher removed at the manager's discretion is **not** eligible to return to the mound later in that game.
- e. **Penalty:** Violation of rest or inning requirements results in an **automatic game forfeit**.

C. Base Running and Stoppage of Play:

- a. **Stealing:** Stealing is **unlimited** and includes stealing of **Home**.
- b. **Bunting:** is allowed.
- c. **Secondary Lead:** Runners cannot leave the base until the ball has passed home plate.
 - i. Penalty (Early Start): The runner is called back and the pitch counts.



- ii. Appeal Rule: On a ground ball where a runner left early, the manager may appeal to the umpire before the next pitch. If the umpire judges the early start helped the runner reach safely, the runner is out.
- d. **The "Kill Play" Rule:** Play stops when the pitcher has the ball and is at or near the pitching rubber. (Umpire discretion applies).
- e. **Missing Players Rule:** If a player is not available to field an outfield position, balls hit to that position are an automatic ground rule double.
- f. **Overthrows:** Runners can advance freely on an overthrow at their own risk (The Rookie "No Running on Overthrows" rule does **not** apply here).
- g. **Pinch Runners:**
 - i. May be used for an injured player.
 - ii. Catcher Rule: A pinch runner may be used for the catcher at any time to speed up the transition to defense.
 - iii. The pinch runner must be the "last batted out."

D. General Safety & Restrictions:

- a. **Sliding Rules:**
 - i. **MUST SLIDE OR AVOID CONTACT:** Whenever a play is being made at a base, the runner must slide or attempt to avoid contact. Deliberate contact can result in an out and/or ejection.
 - ii. **No Headfirst Slides:** Not permitted except when returning to a base.
 - iii. **No Sliding into 1st:** Runners may not slide into 1st base from the batter's box (will be called out).
 - iv. **Equipment:** Maximum bat diameter is 2 5/8" inches, bats must be marked with a USA Bat stamp. No metal spikes.
 - v. **Illegal Bat Penalty:** If an illegal bat is discovered before the next pitch to a batter of either team, the batter is out, and runners return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
- b. **Infield Fly Rule:** This rule is not in effect for the Minor division.
- c. **Uncaught Third Strike:** This rule is not in effect (Batter is out on the 3rd strike regardless of the catch).

E. Developmental Roadmap Dates:

Effective Date:	Max Innings per Outing	Max Innings Per Week	Pitching Distance
April 11 (Start)	2 Innings	4 Innings	46 ft
April 25	3 Innings	5 Innings	46 ft
May 9 (Final)	3 Innings	6 Innings	46 ft