

# **LEAGUE DIVISION RULES**

## **MINOR LEAGUE AGES 9-10**

**(Updated February 2013)**

Listed below are some of the rules and information for the Minor League Division. These rules take precedence over those in the AABC Rule Book, otherwise AABC rules will apply.

1. Each game is 6 innings. In case of rain, darkness, etc., a complete game is declared at the completion of 4 completed innings or 3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead. If a game ends in a tie, at the completion of six innings, the game will continue if time allows. If due to time, darkness, or weather, a tie game will be continued at a later date to be scheduled by the division Vice President. If the Umpire must call a game in the middle of an inning, the score reverts back to the end of the previous full inning. Umpires will be encouraged to speed up play as deemed necessary and will report any abuse to the Minor League Vice President.

Mercy Rule:

15 Runs after 3 innings (2 ½ if Home team is winning)

12 Runs after 4 innings (3 ½ if Home team is winning)

10 Runs after 5 innings (4 ½ if Home team is winning)

There will be a 5 run per inning limit.

2. Generally, evening games will begin at 6:00pm. All game times will be specified on the division schedule. A 1:45 time limit applies to all games. No new inning may begin after the 1:45 time limit. If darkness sets in after an inning, then the score will revert back to the previous inning.

Any team with only eight players at game time may begin play and be allowed fifteen minutes for the ninth player to arrive. If after fifteen minutes a ninth player is not present, the game is continued with eight players and the 9th position in the batting order being an automatic out. Any team with less than eight players after the 15 minutes will automatically forfeit the game. Official time is determined by the Umpire.

3. Rainouts will be played on any day of the week, including Sunday. The 1:45 rule and the 15 minute rule in #2 above will also apply to Sunday games.

4. Before each game, the coach of each team should supply the opposing coach a list of his eligible players for that game and a starting batting line-up. If a player is being disciplined by the manager and will not appear in the game, the opposing coach must be notified prior to the start of the game.

5. Each player must be allowed 2 innings in the field. Each team is able to bat the entire lineup. This allows all available players on a team to bat in an assigned order. Coaches are able to alternate players into the field as they choose as long as each player plays in the field 2 innings. No player, unless due to injury, may leave a game before satisfying this rule.

6. Minor league uses 65 feet between the bases, with the pitching distance being 46 feet (front of rubber to back of home plate). (As recommended by AABC).

7. The home team will occupy the 3rd base dugout and will keep the official score. The home team is the second team listed on your game schedule and is responsible for lining the field and setting the bases each game.

8. Once a pitcher is removed from the game he cannot return to pitch.

9. After his initial appearance, in the game, a pitcher is allowed a maximum of 6 warm-up pitches between innings. (Initial appearance warm-up time as indicated by the Umpire).

10. A player may pitch no more than 2 innings per game. A player cannot pitch more than six innings in a calendar week. (A calendar week is Sunday through Saturday.) (The throwing of one pitch constitutes an inning).

#### 11. Protective Gear

The following rules and recommendations apply to both official games and practices.

A) All male players must wear an athletic supporter.

B) Cup recommended for all male players.

C) Cup mandatory for all male catchers.

D) Batting helmets are mandatory at bat, running the bases, in the on-deck circle, and for the catcher.

E) Metal spikes will not be allowed.

12. Bunting is allowed.

13. The infield fly rule will not apply in the Minor League.

14. "Stealing of Home" or scoring on a passed ball or wild pitch will not be allowed. A player can only score on a walk or a ball put into play by the batter.

15. The batter is out on dropped 3rd strike.

16. No leading off base is allowed and the runner will be called out after 1 warning. Runners can advance at their own risk after a pitched ball has reached home plate except as noted in rule 14 above.

17. The Umpire may eject a player, manager, or coach from the game for bad conduct (language, temper, etc.). Should a player, manager, or coach be ejected from a scheduled league game, there shall be a one game suspension imposed on him/her. During the one game suspension, said player, manager, or coach may not attend the next game. If a player, manager, or coach is ejected twice during the regular baseball season, a more severe action may be imposed by the Board of Directors.

19. No managers, coaches, or spectators are permitted to stand directly behind the backstop home plate area. The Umpire may order anyone to leave said area.

20. Any violations of the rules should be documented and reported immediately to the Minor League Vice President or President of the Association. Violations may result in penalties including, but not limited to: forfeiture of game in which the violation occurred, suspension for one or more future games, exclusion from post season/tournament play, expulsion from the league. All violations will be documented by the Minor League Vice President and submitted to the Board of Directors for review.

21. A few other comments follow:

-Make sure the dirt is cleaned out of the base supports at the ball diamonds. Use a spoon (in equipment box) to clean them out. **DO NOT JUMP UP AND DOWN ON THE BASES TO FORCE THE BASES DOWN!!!!**

-Runners should be instructed to slide into the bases (except 1st base) on close plays. Runners may be called out at the Umpire's discretion when the failure to do so causes an unnecessary collision.

-Since there is no leading off base, there are no balks. However, pitchers should be instructed by the Umpire and Coach about balk moves.

-In case of rain, the manager may call the SSBA Weather Hotline number between 3:30pm and 4:30pm. A decision will be made at this time and cannot be reversed. If it rains after that time, the decision will be made by the Umpire at the field.

-Equipment Bags to include helmets, bats and catching gear are available at the start of the season. A \$75 deposit must be made for the bags. The bags should be turned in upon the finish of the season and the deposit check will be returned.