

Marysville Junior Baseball & Softball Association (MJBSA)

6U Transitional League Baseball Rules

(Rev. March 2026)

NOTE: Any rules listed in red/highlighted indicate changes or clarifications from the previously approved rules.

MJBSA started the Transitional League in 2011. The focus of this instructional league is to enable the players to become better acclimated to 8U baseball **or 8U softball**. If during the course of the season there are rules that need to be adjusted for the betterment of the game, MJBSA may and will choose to do this with input from the coaches.

Age Qualifications

- The 6U Transitional league is open to boys and girls who are not more than 6 years old. Must be 6 years old (or under) as of January 1st of the current registration year. Players should have completed one year of Tee Ball. A player can be considered for 8U if they go to the 8U Evaluations. MJBSA will advise the parent if that player would be a good option.

Field Dimensions

- Pitching rubber: 35 feet from the back of home plate
- Basepath: 60 feet
- Distance from home to 2nd base: 85 feet

Player Participation

- Each player in attendance of any game must play defense and bat at least once.
- For the 6U Transitional League, each defensive player will be required to play at least 2 complete innings at an infield position per game.
- The entire roster will be the batting order. All batters must follow the batting order as established by the coach. If there are only eight players the ninth position will not be an out. - **I say we remove this automatic out**
- If a player is placed on disciplinary restriction by the coach, notice must be given to the opposing coach prior to the start of the game.
- The two inning participation rule can and should be waived in event of injury.
- Players who are not under restriction but not allowed to play innings due to a shortened game will start the next game and play the entire game.

Insufficient Number of Players

- A team may start and play with a minimum of 7 players in 6U Transitional League without penalty. No outs will be given for absent batters. - **No outs in the batting order should ever apply in my opinion.** Catcher can be assigned to an outfield position if less than 10 players are present. **If there are 10 or more players, a catcher must be assigned.**
- Late arriving regular team players will be added to the end of the batting order in 6U Transitional League.
- If a team has an insufficient number of players at game start time or after the game starts, no more than 15 minutes will be given to find eligible pick-up player(s).
- If a base runner is injured on the field and cannot continue and player number drops below 10 for 6U Transitional League, the player who made the last offensive out will pinch run for the injured runner.
- Teams are allowed to finish a game with 7 players in the event of an injury and there are no eligible pick-up players to be found. No outs will be issued if the injured player is due to bat.
- Pick-up players are permitted to be used throughout the regular season as long as the following stipulations are met:
 - The opposing coach are notified prior to the start of the game.
 - The pick-up player plays in an outfield position only.
 - The pick-up player bats last in the lineup.
 - Pick-up players may be from the 6U Transitional League or the league lower (Tee Ball).
 - Pick-up players must be current members of the MJBSA or a participating association, in good standing.
 - Players that choose to "play up" as regular players on the roster of a MJBSA affiliated team in an older age league are ineligible to play as a pick-up player in the lower age group even though they are age eligible.

- No more than (2) pick-up players can play per team, not to exceed a starting line-up. (ie: 6U Transitional League can pick up two players to a maximum of 10 players)
- Coaches do not have to play late arriving player(s), if the player(s) arrive after the 3rd inning has been completed.
- Late arriving team player(s) that have been substituted by a pick-up player(s), must replace the pick-up player(s) upon arrival, unless the late arriving player(s) have already been suspended due to disciplinary action. All disciplinary actions must follow the guidelines as stated in Article IX; Formal Hearings of the MJBSA Constitution.

Equipment

- All batters must wear NOCSAE (National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment) approved batting helmets with NOCSAE approved face guard. Batters must wear a batting helmet with approved face shield at all times when on the field of play (on-deck circle, batter's box, base paths, or any location where batting is taking place) during all MJBSA sanctioned practices or games. This protective equipment shall cover both ears and temples. It is illegal to wear any other headgear when batting or running while participating in MJBSA. Chins straps are mandatory and must be fastened at all times when wearing this protective equipment. A team warning will be issued to both teams – **should change warning to offending team individually** - for any MJBSA player not intentionally wearing specified protective head-gear on the first offense. Offending player must take corrective action immediately or player will be declared out after the play is over. Player will be declared out immediately on the second offense once the player enters the batter's box.
- Baseball cleats are restricted to rubber only.
- The home team will be responsible for providing (2) new game balls, at the start of each game. MJBSA will provide game balls which shall be issued at the beginning of the season.
- **The pitching machine will be supplied by the HOME team. - Remove**
- Each player must wear a baseball glove.
- Bats may be made of wood, aluminum, and other materials manufactured specifically for baseball play.
 - Bats used in the 6U Transitional League shall not have a diameter greater than 2 5/8".
 - Bats that meet "USA Baseball" standards are strongly recommended.



- Figure 1 – USA Baseball Stamp

- USSSA Bats are not permitted.



- Figure 2 – USSSA Logo – Bats that have this stamp are not permitted.

- Any player that walks onto the field with the purpose of using a bat in a game that does not meet MJBSA requirements will be called out immediately.

- Safety items - both coaches must be notified of all medical protective items prior to the start of the game. Prior release from the attending physician must be available for review.

Offense

- The entire team's roster is the batting order. All batters must follow the order established by the coach.
- There is no run rule, however a team can score no more than 7 runs perinning.
- The offensive side is retired after 3 defensive outs have been recorded.
- Bunting is not permitted.

Defense

- There will be no more than 13 defensive players allowed on the field. They are to be positioned as follows:
 - 4 - 6 must be positioned in the outfield
 - 4 - 6 must be positioned in the infield
 - 1 must be positioned at the pitcher's mound
 - 1 must be positioned at the catcher's position
- There will be open substitutions.
- Defensive players in the infield, except the pitcher and catcher, must not be more than 5 feet in front of the baseline until the ball is hit.
- Throwing the ball to the circle does not guarantee a time out. Time outs will be awarded at the discretion of the coaching staff.
- The infield fly rule will not be enforced in 6U Transitional league.

Coach Pitching

- Coaches pitch in this league. A chalk mark or pitching plate will be used to mark thirty-five (35) feet from the back edge of home plate. **The coach must pitch. – Remove for redundancy**
- The player playing the pitching position must be even with the pitching rubber when the ball is pitched.
- Each batter has 4 pitches. If the ball is not hit by the 4th pitch then the bat is recorded as an out. If on the last pitch the ball is fouled off an additional pitch is awarded.
 - If batter is hit by coach pitched ball then batter will receive another pitch.
- The coach who is pitching may not coach any players once the ball is pitched.
- If a batted ball hits a coach/pitcher the ball is declared dead, all runners return to their positions and the pitcher may re-pitch the ball (the original pitch that was hit will not be counted against the batter's count).

Catchers

- Catchers are required to wear the following:
 - NOCSAE protective head gear and face protection with throat protector
 - Chest protector
 - Shin guards
 - A gender appropriate athletic supporter and protection

Base Stealing, Running & Sliding

- The Transitional League is an instructional league and therefore must be played to promote skill development.
- All fair-batted balls will be defined as an infield or outfield ball. An infield ball is defined as a ball that stays on the infield area of the playing surface, regardless of whether it is fielded by an infielder or an outfielder. An outfield ball is defined as a ball that reaches the outfield area of the playing surface, again regardless of whether fielded by an infielder or an outfielder.
- If the grass outfield is within a reasonable distance (appr 10 feet) it should be used as the dividing mark. If not, the coaches need to agree upon a reasonable distance.
- On an outfield ball, runners may advance at will. Once the ball reaches the infield area and is controlled by an infielder within the infield area, the player may continue to the next base with the liability of being out. The intent of this rule is to allow and encourage the defense to attempt the correct defensive play. **– I say we change to two base max (that is how I always coached and my fellow coaches did the same – avoids balls sitting in the outfield and teams running all over each other while also still promoting the idea of making a correct defensive play)**
- All runners must stay on base until ball is hit. There is no leading off or stealing.
- There will be no head-first sliding in the Transitional league while trying to advance to another base.
- Base runners must avoid interference with a fielder in the process of fielding a ball or making a play at a base. OFFENSIVE INTERFERENCE is an act by the team at bat which interferes with, obstructs, impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder attempting to make a play.
- Base runners approaching 2nd, 3rd, or home plate, when a play is imminent, will be declared out if there is a

collision between the runner and the fielder attempting to catch the ball or making a tag or force out if no attempt to slide is made.

- Fielders may not obstruct a base runner in the process of running the bases. If the fielder is not in the process of fielding the ball or making an out attempt directly at a base. OBSTRUCTION is the act of a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball and not in the act of fielding the ball, impedes the progress of any runner. The runner will be awarded the base they were advancing to in the event of obstruction.

Safety Concerns & Equipment Abuse

- Any player identified as throwing or abusing any equipment, be it accidental or intentional, will be issued a team violation as follows:
 - FIRST OFFENSE - Team Warning. Both head coaches will be notified.
 - SECOND OFFENSE - Offending player will be called out.
- Penalties will be assessed to each team independent of any violations by the opposing team. Exception to the above is a player who intentionally throws a bat. This player may be ejected from the game at the discretion of the coaching staff.
- A player can be called out and/or ejected from the game if the player's action(s) is to intentionally harm another player, coach or fan.

Other General 6U Transitional League Specifications

- Coaches must remain in the dugout during play unless they are designated base coaches (1st or 3rd base coaches) or are defensive coaches (maximum of three), in which case they must remain behind the outfielders. Coaches or parent volunteers may also be used behind the catcher to retrieve balls and assist with batting instruction.
- Only the Head Coach may approach the other Head Coach to clarify a call or ask a question.
- Players should remain in the dugout except when they are playing. Players should not be standing in the dugout opening where they could be hit by a foul ball or errant throw.
- The official MJBSA 6U Transitional Ball shall be an official Indoor/Outdoor Tee Ball.
- Within five minutes of the recording of a 3rd out of any at bat, all players from both teams must be in position and ready to resume play.
- A complete game is four innings with no new innings starting after 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- No standings will be kept in this league. There will be no umpires provided. Calls will be made by the coaches.
- Scorebook/scores should be kept by each team. It is strongly recommended that teams utilize the GameChanger score keeping functions to better acclimate to 8U baseball/softball. This will prepare coaches, parents and players for the next level of competition.
- At the coaches' discretion, it may be necessary to call a game for safety reasons due to impending weather or darkness. If lightning is seen or thunder is heard during course of game, game will be over. Coaches will decide if they need to reschedule for another time.
- Per Article XII; Section A of the MJBSA Constitution. The MJBSA reserves the right to modify and change rules as needed throughout the year. Changes will be referenced in the MJBSA's Board of Directors meeting minutes and conveyed by memo to the coaches, umpires, other officials and interested persons.