Muscatine Youth Baseball

Minors Rules

Forward:

The Board of Directors (BOD) wants to extend our words of **"Thank You"** for volunteering to help with the Muscatine Youth Baseball (MYB) program. In the spring season of 2022, MYB has transitioned fully to use USSSA rules. However, the BOD has reviewed the rules and has made some amendments out of the best interest of the players in our organization. Those amendments, as well as other general rules and helpful information, are found in this packet. The following rules you hold in your hands need to be reviewed prior to the start of the season and if any problems arise, this can be used as a quick reference. MYB has the right to change or make amendments to the rules at any time being that we are a private organization. At any time, changes to the rules or amendments are made; they will be brought to the attention of all volunteers within the MYB program. If you have any questions regarding any of the rules or other topics, please feel free to contact the MYB-BOD. We wish you the best of luck in the upcoming season and **"Thank You"** again for volunteering your time for the youth of Muscatine and our surrounding counties.

1. Volunteers:

A. All Volunteers in order to help/work with MYB must:

1. Register on MYB
2. Submit information for Background checks
3. Read "Zero Tolerance"
    - Located on MYB Website
4. Read "MYB Child Protection Plan"
    - Submit, signed agreement

B. Each team can up to five (5) volunteers

5. One (1) Manager/ Head Coach
6. Three (3) Assistant Coaches
7. One (1) Scorekeeper

A. A scorekeeper can be run by an assistant coach if needed.

C. During Games only three (3) volunteers are allowed in the dugout at one time.

D. All volunteers must complete all parts of section 1A before they are allowed inside the dugout.

E. The head coach must let the MYB know who they will have in the dugout, and a background check must be done on everyone. If they do not have background check done, they will not be allowed in the dugout till background check is done

2. Game:

A. Home Team will be in the third (3rd) Base Dug-out- Visiting Team first (1st) Base Dug-out

B. Game shall run 6 innings or an hour and 30 minutes, whichever comes first

1. No new inning can be started after an hour and 15 minutes

2. Once an inning is started, it will finish unless Mercy Rule (see section 2.E) goes into effect.

C. Scorekeeper must be next to the dug-out during the game, within a close distance of the dug-out.

D. A Team may score a maximum of seven (7) runs per inning

E. Mercy Rule

1. The game is over, when the opposing team is mathematically eliminated from scoring enough runs to win or tie the game

Run Differential Chart:

Length of Game	Run Differential	Started Inning
6 Innings	15	4th Inning
6 innings	8	5th inning

F. Teams may start a game with a minimum of eight (8) players; the ninth (9) batter shall be declared an out each turn at bat.

G. The "infield Fly Rule" shall not be in effect at anytime

H. No third (3) drop strike

I. All team equipment shall be maintained in the dugout, not with-in the playing field

1. Responsibility for keeping bats and loose equipment off the playing field of play is assigned to the team's manager or coach

J. Substitution is allowed if team is less than (8) players under the following:

1. Subs can be used if less than nine (9) players

2. Subs must be a registered MYB player

3. Coaches must contact the President or Vice President of the MYB before the start of game to get approval of who is substituting for the game. The substituting player must be from a MYB team that is registered in that division.

4. Coaches can have a maximum of 2 Subs per game but cannot go over the 9th players. A team that needs any subs can use the same subs as long as nobody else has offered to sub.

5. Coaches that need a sub must go on GroupMe app for their league coaches chat and simply ask that they need a sub, and the other team coaches will ask players parents for a sub.

6. If a player on the team is late and shows up during the game, the substitute player must sit for the remainder of the game on the bench. The team player will bat at the substitute place.

7. The substitute player bats in the last position of the batting order.

8. The substitute player can only play in the outfield position.

9. If a coach does not abide by the substitution rule the team will forfeit the game and the coach will not be allowed to substitute the remaining season

K. The umpire shall call "Time" after every play and declare the ball dead

10. "Time" shall be called as soon as all of the runners are not attempting to advance

11. "Time" does not have to be called by the defense for the purpose of this rule

12. Runners may continue to advance until the ball is under control (Held by infielder, the infielder must be in the infield and not the grass beyond the dirt)

L. The MYB will have a home plate Umpire for each game. The Base Umpire must be provided by the away/visiting team.

1. Base Umpire must an adult over the age of eighteen (18)

2. Home plate umpire will have an extra counter for the Base Umpire (provided by MYB).

M. One Coach must always remain in the dugout during the game if one is available

1. A parent volunteer is also acceptable as needed only if a person with a completed background check in unavailable

1a. If this person continues after a single game to help in the dugout, a background check will need to be done for this person, to continue their volunteer status.

N. Players may not wear watches, rings, pins, earrings, etc. during practices or games

1. Medical devices are allowed but must be notified to the umpire, so they are aware of safety purposes.

O. Players must be in the correct uniform for all games; this includes Jersey, hat, and pants. Players must have shirts tucked in. A player may wear closed toe athletic shoes if the player does not have cleats**. If a player fails to have a complete uniform, they will not be allowed to play.

1. Steel cleats are not permitted, only molded.

P. All Players are required to play a minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs and minimum of one (1) at bat per game

1. First infraction: Warning to manager
2. Second infraction: One game suspension of the Manager

Q. Home Team manager or head coach shall report results, and pitch counts of each game via GroupMe, NO LATER THAN 10:30pm the night of the game or it will be considered a forfeit for the reporting team in effort of keeping the standing updated on MuscatineBaseball.com.

3. Weather

A. Coaches will be notified as soon as possible concerning weather-related delays or cancellations. Please do not contact Muscatine Parks & Rec. A MYB member will reach out to you concerning any weather-related cancellations or postponements.

1. You also can subscribe to receive information regarding park closures via the Muscatine Parks and Rec website. But this information will be forwarded to you from the BOD.
2. Please Forward this information to all parents

B. Play will pause as soon as lightning is detected, and players are to move into dugouts off playing field.

1. Play may resume 20 minutes from last nearby lightning strike with a flash-bang count of no less than 20.

C. In the event of server weather; players must move to an enclosed building (restrooms)

D. Game Postponements/Cancellations due to weather:

1. In the event of a postponement/ Cancellation, a member of the BOD will reach out to you with the information regarding the time of the rescheduled game and location.

E. If the game is called due to rain, weather, light failure, or other acts of nature and cannot be resumed it shall be a regulation game if:

1. For a six (6) inning game, if three (3) innings have been played or if the home team has scored more runs after two and a half (2 1/2) innings, the game shall be declared a completed game.

2. If the game didn't meet the required 3 innings, that game will need to be made up, and will be considered a postponed game.

4. Pitching

A. Pitching circle shall be ten (10) foot diameter circle with the front edge at forty-two (42) feet from the rear point of home plate

B. The pitching coach must be an adult at least eighteen (18) years of age

C. The pitching coach shall not verbally or physically coach while in the pitching position

1. If the coach violates this the umpire will give:

A. First offense: Warning

B. Second offense: They will be removed and no longer able to pitch the remainder of the game

D. The pitching coach shall position himself/herself as not to be an obstruction to the defensive team on any possible play once the ball is hit.

1. If a coach violates this rule after the ball is pitched, obstruction shall be called

2. If a coach violates this rule before the ball is pitched

A. First offense: Warning

B. Second offense: Removal of coach from pitching position for remainder of game

E. When a batted ball hits the pitching coach, the following shall apply:

1. If in the Umpire's judgment, the coach did not make a legitimate attempt to avoid contact, the batter is declared out, and no runners shall advance.

2. If in the Umpire's judgment, the coach did make a legitimate attempt to avoid contact, the ball becomes dead, and a no-pitch is declared.

5. Batting:

A. The Batting order shall constitute all present players on the team roster at the beginning of the game. Late arrivals shall be inserted at the bottom of the batting order.

B. All players on the roster shall bat before returning to the top of the batting order.

C. Teams may start a game with eight (8) players; the ninth (9) in the batting will be declared an out.

D. Batting order shall remain the same during the game.

1. If a team bats out of order, Defensive Coach can notify other coach/ umpire of the infraction. They then can challenge the at bat if the order is not corrected.

E. Late arrivals shall be added to bottom of the batting order and will bat once their turn to bat returns.

1. Must notify the opposing team of late arrivals, as soon as possible to be added to batting order

F. Batters must wear approved protective helmets during all practices and games.

G. Bunting is not allowed

H. The batter shall receive a maximum of six (6) pitches or three (3) swinging strikes

1. The at bat is extended if the last pitch is foul

I. A player may only be 'Intentionally Walked' once per game by an announcement by the defensive team.

J. All bats for any division must have the USSSA or USA label on them. The use of any bat being used is ultimately up to the home plate umpire. If the bat appears to be altered in anyway, or not labeled with approved labels, that bat may be removed from the game.

6. Base Running:

A. Runners are not allowed to lead-off or steal bases.

B. If a runner is deemed to have left early by the umpire before the ball is hit or reaches home plate, that runner will be called back and a warning is given.

1. When a runner stands off a base and "Jukes" or "feints" back and forth, "Time" will be called by the umpire and shall communicate with the runner to return to the base

C. Head first sliding is not permitted except when returning to baseg is not permitted except when returning to base

1. Please use caution with letting your players slide if they slide at all.

D. Runners may advance until the ball is under control (held by infielder)

E. A courtesy runner for catcher of the recorded previous inning may be used.

1. The Courtesy runner shall be the player that made the previous out. If no out has been recorded in the game, the courtesy runner shall be the previous batter not on base.

2. If the team batting has not played defense yet and a courtesy runner is used for a player, the player that was run for, must assume the catching position the next inning. This scenario only applies in the first inning for the visiting team.

7: Defense:

A. Coaches may have one (1) coach in the outfield to help the kids

B. Ten (10) defensive players shall play in the field with four (4) outfielders

1. The four (4) outfielders shall stay in the grass

2. The four (4) outfielders shall not assume an infield position

C. Teams may use free substitution on defense at any time.

D. The team on defense may have one (1) coach to shag balls while the opposing team is at bat

1. If a team does not have enough coaches to fill this location a parent may fill in to cover this position

E. The defensive player listed as the pitcher shall not leave the pitching circle until the ball is hit

1. The play continues after the play has ended. The offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or call no pitch

A. First offense: Player receives a Warning

B. Second offense: Removal of the player from pitching position for the remainder of the game

F. Catchers must wear catcher's helmet (throat guard is optional), Chest protector, shin guards (protective cup is encouraged but not mandatory. This is up to the desecration of the players family) always during practices and games. NO EXCEPTIONS!

1. Managers are responsible prior to allowing a child to play in this position.

2. If you do not have the right equipment for your catcher, please notify the MYB Equipment manager as soon as possible to rectify the situation.

G. The catcher shall receive the pitch in the catcher's box in a normal baseball manner. If in the umpire's judgment, the catcher is not receiving the ball in a normal manner, there shall be a warning issued. If the act continues after the warning, the offense team's manager shall be ejected

8: Conduct:

A. MYB is a 'Zero Tolerance' organization

1. Abuse of Umpire, Coach, BOD or other volunteers of MYB is strictly prohibited. of Umpire, Coach, BOD or other volunteers of MYB is strictly prohibited.
   A. This includes but not limited to verbal or physical abuse

B. Managers are responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, and parents which includes physical and/or verbal conduct. Managers should handle the situation. If additional help is needed Contact the MYB Board.

C. All players, coaches, managers, sponsors, and spectators are expected to always conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.

D. Only the team Manager/ Head Coach can talk to the umpire or other teams Manager/Head Coach if a call or discussion is needed

1. An assistant coach may call time to the umpire to make Head coach aware of a question regarding a rule or a questionable call

2. If in the event that a Head coach is gone or is ejected from the game, an assistant can be appointed to act as a head coach for that game

3. If any other volunteer talks to the umpire of other teams coaches the following will happen:

    A. First offense: a warning will be issued

    B. Second offense: Volunteer will be ejected from the game, and a one (1) game suspension will be enforced

E. Only the league President, Vice President or an umpire has the authority to remove anyone from the event at any time for unsportsmanlike conduct. If a coach has a concern, he can contact the League President or Vice President, and they will handle the situation.

F. Any player, coach, manager, sponsor, or spectator whose conduct is unbecoming or abusive shall at a minimum be reprimanded with a warning.

G. If warranted, the offending party shall be ejected from the game at the discretion of the Umpires and/or league.

H. Any Player, coach, manager, sponsor, or spectator leaving their position or base, in the field, on the bench, in the dugout area or in the grandstands to participate in a fight, brawl or altercation shall be immediately ejected from the game and maybe disbarred/ suspended.

I. Any coach, manager, sponsor, or spectator ejected from a game shall immediately remove themselves from the vicinity of the playing field and/or grandstands for the remainder of the game. If they do not remove themselves from the area, a board member will be called down, and further implication shall be taken. If they continue to refuse to leave the area, the Muscatine Police department will be contacted to safely remove them from the vicinity so does not cause more issues with-in the confines of the ballpark.

J. Any player ejected from the game shall immediately remove themselves from the vicinity of the playing field for the remainder of the game or be confined to the dugout area for the remainder of the game at the discretion of the league.

K. Additional penalties may be assessed at the discretion of the league; in the event it continues after the initial event.

L. Under no circumstances shall anyone argue with an umpire over judgment calls (Safe/out, fair/foul, etc.)

M. If you believe the umpire has made a mistake on a ruling, signal an appeal, and only the manager/head coach can question the call. They must then be able to show in the rule book where demonstrating call was incorrect, as soon as issue arises during game.

N. In all leagues, any player, manager, coach, ejected from a game is also suspended from the following scheduled game.

O. The actions on or off the field of players, managers, coaches, umpires and league officials must be above reproach

P. Anyone involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct at the game site or any other MYB activity may be subject to disciplinary action by the board of Directors. (Still shall include online and social media)

Q. Any injuries either first aid or hospital visit, the coach must fill out an incident report and turn it into a member of the MYB board within 24 hours of incident.