

2015 Majors 11/12 Rules

Whitpain Recreation Association (WRA) charters their entire league with the Babe Ruth League (Cal Ripken Division). WRA applies the following local rules:

General Rules

1. Teams are encouraged to have a minimum of 7 players ready to play within 10 minutes of game time. If a team cannot field 7 players within 15 minutes after the start of the game, then a forfeit is declared. A forfeit shall be recorded as a 6-0 victory for the team that is ready to play and a 6-0 loss for the team that does not have a minimum of 7 players. When playing with 8 players, the 9th spot in the line-up is recorded as an automatic out. When playing with 7 players, the 8th and 9th spots are recorded as automatic outs.
2. A player may show up late and enter the game. That player must enter at the end of the line-up.
3. Games will last 6 innings. A game is official after 4 complete innings. Unofficial games in the regular season that are ended prior to becoming official will be treated like a rain out and rescheduled. The rescheduled game will be played from the start. No resumed games in the regular season. Games may end in a tie. Extra innings are permitted if time allows. Both coaches and the umpire must agree on extra innings or the game ends in a tie. Play-off games cannot end in a tie. All play-off games must be played the entire 6 innings. Games that are halted by weather or loss of daylight will be resumed from the exact point that the game was halted. The batter, pitcher and ball/strike count resume from the moment that the game was suspended. If a batter or pitcher is unable to play the game at the moment of resumption, then the next batter or a new pitcher will take their place with the exact count in place from moment of resumption. If a game is resumed, then all of the pitching rules apply for the entire game, even if the game is resumed two or more days following suspension. This rule is put into place for the play-offs only. This rule may be discarded at the discretion of the AL commissioner due to considerations regarding lack of time remaining in the season (i.e.: There are not enough days or time to play out the season). In this case, the team that is ahead at the moment of suspension will be declared by the commissioner to be the winner of the game. Likewise, the commissioner may determine that up to 3 games may be played on a Saturday or Sunday of the play-offs in order to complete the season on time. ALL pitching rules apply to any situation involving 2 or 3 games in one day.
4. The five run limit rule per inning will apply, except for the last inning, wherein the three out rule applies. THE UMPIRE WILL DETERMINE THE LAST INNING. Both teams must be informed prior to the top of the inning that the next inning will be the last inning (3, 4, 5). If, due to time limitations, it is apparent that the 6th inning cannot be played, but the 5th inning has already begun, then the umpire shall have the discretion, with safety as the priority that the 5th inning will be declared the last inning and the unlimited rule will not apply. If the 6th inning begins and cannot be completed for safety rules, then the game will revert back to the end of the last completed inning (In most cases that will be the 5th inning). The 5 run limit is not in effect during extra innings.
5. Once the game begins, the game is in the umpire's hands.
6. Unlimited substitutions except for pitchers.

7. For any team with 11 or more players, every player must sit at least one inning. No player can sit 2 innings consecutively. No player may sit more than 2 innings. There are no requirements to play any player in the infield. This is for the protection of players who are not suited to play the infield.
8. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of players and parents. Any coach, parent, or player that is ejected from a game is barred from the next game (including playoffs). A one game suspension is mandatory. The second offense carries a maximum suspension of the remainder of the season. The term of the suspension will depend upon review of the umpire's report and the opinion of three other head coaches, the AL commissioner and the WRA Baseball Commissioner. Please make sure all parents are aware of this.
9. Coaches, players and parents are all required to abide by their respective WRA code of conduct. Each of these is available on the WRA website.
10. Umpires may eject players, coaches or parents. The umpire will clearly issue one (and only one) warning during a game. Commissioner(s) may issue suspensions.
11. If a player is seen by the umpire to throw or slam any equipment in anger or if the umpire hears a player yell any profanity, then there will be no judgment or discretion call. The umpire will issue an immediate warning. A second offense by that player will result in the immediate ejection of that player by the umpire. The player must leave the field immediately under the supervision of an adult. This is not a judgment call. The moment that the umpire hears or sees either of the above mentioned offenses, he or she must issue the warning and follow it with an automatic ejection upon the second offense.
12. Players may miss an at bat or field time due to injury or a good faith disciplinary decision by the player's head coach. The head coach must inform the umpire and opposing coach of this disciplinary action. That player's spot in the line-up will be skipped with no penalty.
13. Safety is to be the overriding factor in determining the last inning (i.e. darkness for night games). No new inning will start after 1 hour and 45 minutes after official game time from Monday to Friday. Saturday and Sunday games will have a firm 2 hour limit—No inning will start after the 2 hour mark. Game time for weekday games will be 5:30 or 6:00pm after May 1st. Saturday/Sunday game times will be decided based upon field availability. The home team coach decides if a game is rained out. He must notify both the visiting coach and the umpire at least one hour before game time if possible. At the moment the umpire calls "Play Ball", the game belongs to the umpire and not the home team coach.
14. The head coach, two (2) assistant coaches, and the scorekeeper are permitted in the dugout (no parents or player siblings). Only coaches that have been approved by WRA, including completion of a background check, are permitted in the dugouts. The umpire may remove anyone for cause.
15. No one is permitted behind the backstop.
16. All players must wear entire uniform, including hat, for each game. All male players must wear a protective cup.

Batting/Base Running

1. The entire line-up must bat.
2. No fake bunts followed by a full swing. No slash bunts. A player who does either will be declared out. No warnings. This is a safety issue. Any runners return to their original base.
3. Only bats that have "Little League Approved" are permitted. Limits are 2 ¼ barrel and 31 inches in length. For 2015, composite bats are still permitted. A violation of this rule while the player bats will result in the player using the bat to be declared out. Dead ball and no runners advance.
4. Stealing of any base is permitted. Leads are allowed. Runner may leave the base at any time.
5. Dropped 3rd strike is in play. Similar to our goals with the balk, the American League has the goal of teaching catchers and first basemen how to handle a dropped 3rd strike. Note that if, at the time of the dropped 3rd strike, first base is occupied with fewer than two outs, the batter is automatically out and cannot become a runner. This is to prevent the defense from deliberately dropping a third strike pitch and getting a double or triple play as a result, because of the possible force play at second, third base, or home plate in this situation.
6. Infield fly is in effect.
7. Two out courtesy runner for the catcher is permitted. The pinch runner must be the player who made the last out. The runner being replaced by the courtesy runner must catch the next half inning, unless unable to do so due to injury.
8. Intentional contact by the runner is not allowed. The catcher or fielder is not permitted to block a base or home plate prior to have the ball in their mitt. This is at the discretion of the umpire.

Pitching

1. The pitching week will run from Monday through Sunday.
2. A hybrid rule will be used to protect the health of the pitchers. A pitcher may not throw more than 65 pitches on a given day (pitchers are permitted to finish pitching to a batter that was started prior to the 66th pitch). In addition to the pitch limit, no pitcher may throw more than three innings in one day. The pitch limit and inning limit applies per day, even if a team plays a doubleheader. 6 innings per week per pitcher is the maximum number. While we will not mandate a period of rest between pitching, the following chart from the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons is provided as a guideline:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 65 or more pitches in a day: 4 days of rest from pitching• 51-64 pitches in a day: 3 days of rest from pitching• 36-50 pitches in a day: 2 days of rest from pitching• 21-35 pitches in one day: 1 day of rest from pitching• 1-20 pitches in a day: OK to pitch the next day. |
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3. A pitch thrown in an inning constitutes one inning pitched.

4. The American League has the goal of teaching pitchers how to pitch from the stretch and learn what constitutes a balk. Our goal is that when a pitcher graduates from the American League, they will be prepared to pitch on a full baseball field with standard baseball rules. Pitchers should understand how to pitch from the stretch properly without committing a balk. If a pitcher commits a balk, the first violation is a warning. This is per pitcher and not per inning. Following the first warning, all balks will be called. We encourage both the coach and umpire to TEACH the pitcher why they committed a balk.
5. A pitcher must be removed if they hit 3 batters in an inning or 4 batters during the game.
6. Once a pitcher is removed, they may not re-enter the game. This includes resumed games.
7. These pitching rules remain in effect for the play-offs. The over-riding issue is the pitcher's health.... not winning.

2-20-15/PD