



Madison Baseball Association
Madison, Alabama

2023 4U Division Rules

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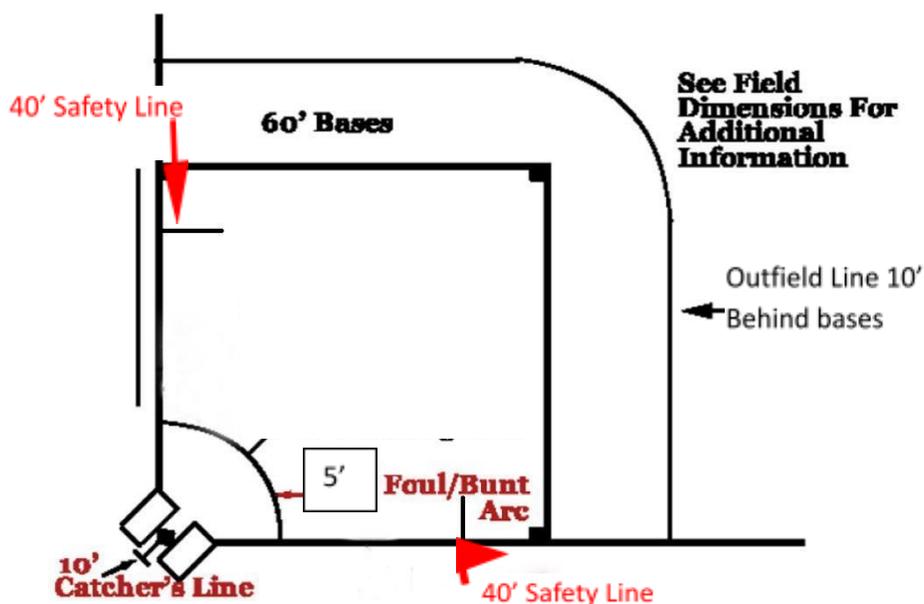
Madison Baseball Association Local Rules and Regulations

4U Division (4 Year Olds)

Unless amended by the following rules, Major League Baseball rules apply.

1. PLAYING FIELD

- 1.1. First base (1st) and third base (3rd) shall be sixty (60) feet from home plate.
- 1.2. The distance from the point of home plate to second (2nd) base shall be 84 feet, 10 inches.
- 1.3. The pitching circle will be ten feet in diameter and the center will be 46 feet from the back of home plate.
- 1.4. There will be a 5-foot chalked arc from the first base line to the third base line in front of home plate.
- 1.5. A 40' Safety Line will be placed on the 1st and 3rd base lines.



2. EQUIPMENT

- 2.1. All players must be in full baseball uniforms supplied by the league which includes baseball pants, socks, baseball cap and team jersey. Protests on uniforms shall not be allowed.
- 2.2. Player in pitcher position is NOT required to wear a protective face mask. A mask will be provided by MBA upon request.
- 2.3. Protective Equipment
 - a) A NOCSAE-approved protective helmet with full ear flaps, a facemask, and chinstrap will be worn by all batters, base runners, bat boys and ball shaggers (coaches are not required to wear a helmet).
 - b) A player refusing to wear a helmet will not be allowed to continue as a player in the game.
 - c) A Standing Catcher may be used and must stay a safe distance from the bat and batter (near the backstop) and must be equipped, at a minimum, with a helmet with face guard, chin strap and chest protector.
- 2.4. A player is not allowed to play any position or to bat without his shirt being tucked into his/her pants in the proper manner.
- 2.5. The bat shall be an unaltered baseball bat (not softball) meeting the following conditions:
 - a) All non-wood bats MUST meet 1.15 BPF (Bat Performance Factor) for the life of the bat and MUST possess a clearly identifiable manufacture's certification stamp. This will include 2 1/4, 2 5/8, and 2 3/4-inch barrel bats.
 - b) BBCOR bats are legal to use.
 - c) Bats that are broken, cracked, dented or deface the ball are not allowed.
- 2.6. T-ball baseballs or equivalent shall be provided by the home team for each game.
- 2.7. Metal cleats will not be allowed in 4U Division.
- 2.8. All casts, splints and braces must be padded.
- 2.9. Home team is responsible for providing a tee for the game.

3. RE-ENTRY SUBSTITUTION

- 3.1. All players present must be placed in the batting line-up (i.e. continuous line-up). Therefore, there are no substitutions into and out of the batting lineup. Any regular team member arriving after the beginning of the game shall be added to the bottom of the batting order.

4. MANAGERS AND COACHES

- 4.1. At least one (1) certified coach for each team must be present at all times.
- 4.2. Only coaches and players shall be allowed on the field or in dugouts during the game. Each team is allowed one (1) head coach and three (3) assistant coaches in the dugout. In addition, a designated "team parent" may be present in the dugout.
- 4.3. Two (2) adult coaches may coach from the baselines in the designated coaching boxes when their team is at bat. Only one (1) coach is permitted outside the dugout (but must remain

within three feet of dugout opening) when on defense. One (1) offensive coach should assist the batter.

- 4.4. Two (2) defensive coaches may assume positions behind 1st and 3rd bases in designated coaches' boxes (8 feet behind the bases in foul territory), and one (1) defensive coach may assume a position in the outfield grass, making certain to not interfere with play. All other managers and coaches must remain standing or kneeling, within three feet of the dugout opening of their appropriate dugout.
- 4.5. The head coach is responsible for the conduct of his coaches, players and fans.

5. REGULATION GAME

- 5.1. A regulation game will consist of four (5) innings.
- 5.2. The time limit for games is 1 hour (Hard Stop). No new inning shall start after 50 minutes. Note: A new inning is considered to start immediately after the final at bat of the previous inning.

6. PITCHING RULES (FOR COACH PITCHING)

- 6.1. Coach pitching is NOT permitted in 4U.

7. FORFEITURE, APPEALS, AND PROTEST

- 7.1. There is no minimum number of players required to play a regulation game. No forfeit shall be called due to number of players present.
- 7.2. No league standings are recorded for 4U Division. Please make MBA aware of any issues.

8. SCHEDULE

- 8.1. MBA determines league schedules including make-up games and league tournaments.

9. SPECIAL RULES

- 9.1. Number of playing participants per team shall meet the following conditions:
 - a) A defensive team shall consist of a maximum of 7 infield players including two pitchers and catcher. The balance of the roster shall be positioned in the outfield.
 - b) If a runner must be removed from the game for any reason, the last player to record an out shall take his place on the bases.
- 9.2. A baseball player, manager, coach, umpire or game official will not be allowed to use tobacco products, alcohol or profanity during the ballgame.
- 9.3. If a player or manager or coach conducts himself/herself in an unsportsmanlike manner or commits any act which may maim or injure an opposing player, please notify an MBA Board Member.
- 9.4. No manager, player, substitute or coach shall at any time, whether from the bench, the coach's box or on the playing field or elsewhere:

- a) Incite or try to incite by word or sign a demonstration by spectators.
 - b) Use language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, coaches, an umpire or any spectator.
 - c) Call “time” or employ any word or phrase or commit any act while the ball is alive and in play for the obvious purpose of trying to make the pitcher commit a balk.
- 9.5. No artificial noisemakers allowed. Penalty: Offender will be warned and then removed after subsequent violation.
- 9.6. The home team has third base dugout.
- 9.7. Both teams may take the field for warm-up as soon as it is available, each getting half the field. The home team gets from second base to the center field fence and around left field to the fence in foul territory on the left side of the field. The visiting team gets from second base to the center field fence and around right field to the fence in foul territory on the right side of the field. The home team can use third base and take infield on the third base side of second base. The visiting team can use first base and take infield on the first base side of second base. Neither team is allowed to use second base.
- 9.8. During the coaches meeting, the visiting team will immediately leave the field and get in their dugout and the home team may take the field.
- 9.9. No use of Replacement Players is necessary or allowed in 4U.
- 9.10. The following MLB rules shall not apply:
- 3.07-A
 - 4.01-D
 - 4.01-F
 - 4.04
 - 4.05
 - 4.06
 - 4.07
 - 4.08
 - 5.10-A, B, C, D, E, I, J
 - 5.11
 - Penalty for violation of any part of 6.02 (c) (2) through (7) and comment
 - 7.01
 - 7.02
 - 7.03-A(1), B, C & D
 - 8.04

10. OFFENSE

- 10.1. A half inning will be complete when the offense has batted ½ the players present for the game. The three (3) out rule per ½ inning is not in effect.
- 10.2. Each player shall hit the ball from a tee. There are no strikeouts. A batter will continue batting until a fair ball is hit.
- 10.3. Any ball that is hit must advance to a point on or beyond the fair ball arc. This fair ball arc will be clearly marked with chalk from a location five (5) feet from the point of home plate

down the first base foul line, across the playing field in an arc to a location five (5) feet from the point of home plate down the third base foul line. The ball must be on or past this line to be fair; if not, it is a foul ball.

- 10.4. The batter is required to swing the bat at the ball. Bunting the ball is not allowed.
- 10.5. The tee shall be located directly on top of and in line with home plate. It is the offensive coach's duty to remove the tee after the batter hits the ball and leaves the box.
- 10.6. If a player slings a bat, coaches are to immediately correct the player.
- 10.7. Headfirst slides are not permitted.
- 10.8. Players are not allowed to steal or lead off bases. (PENALTY: The runner is declared out.)
- 10.9. While the three (3) out rule per ½ inning is not in effect, if an offensive player is declared out by baseball rules (other than strikeout), the out will be honored and the player will return to the dugout.

11. DEFENSE

- 11.1. A defensive team shall consist of no more than 7 infielders including the catcher and two pitchers. The balance of the roster shall be positioned in the outfield.
- 11.2. All outfielders must be "in the grass" at the time the ball is hit by the batter.
- 11.3. All infielders must stay behind the 40' Safety Line until a ball is put in play.
- 11.4. A catcher must be used at all times when the defensive team has at least 10 players present.
 - a) **4U:** A standing catcher may be used, and must stay a safe distance from the bat and batter (near the backstop) and must be equipped, at a minimum, with a helmet with face guard and chin strap and chest protector. This player cannot make a play on a batted ball (i.e.: bunt and/or foul ball), but can make a play at home (i.e.: if a batter hits the ball to another player on the catchers team, and that player chooses to throw the ball home, the catcher can be involved in the play at the plate).
- 11.5. The player pitcher(s) must maintain at least one foot within the pitchers circle until the ball is hit by the batter.
- 11.6. A player may not play more than 1 full inning at the pitcher position until all players on that team have played 1 inning.
- 11.7. A batter/runner may advance to each available base until the ball is ruled dead. A dead ball will result when in the judgment of the coaches in the field; a reasonable effort has been made to throw a runner out at any base. If the ball is missed, and continues into foul territory, base runners may advance a maximum of one base at their own risk.
- 11.8. The Infield Fly Rule is NOT in effect.
- 11.9. Players cannot intentionally (in the judgment of coaches) roll the ball (overhand or underhand) to get the runner out. (PENALTY: The runner is safe.)
- 11.10. When the baseball is in the infield in the possession of a fielder and the lead runner has stopped running, the ball becomes dead. Other runners may advance to the next base only, provided they were running when the ball was declared dead. Coaches should call "time".

Date	Revised By	Comments
11/03/2015	Matt Olive	Changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Added 40' safety line. ● Clarified rules for participation. ● Clarified All Star Team. ● Updated 4U rules with standard MBA language / revisions from the MBA Rules meeting on 10/28/15.
1/13/19	Graves	Added Rule that Home Team is Responsible for Tee.
1/25/20	Graves	Changed Regulation Game to 5 Innings
6/24/22	Graves	Removed Dizzy Dean Reference and Changed League Name