



Monroeville Baseball Association Rules

Coach Pitch League (7-8 year olds)

Length of the Game:

- 1.) The first game at a field on a weeknight will start no later than 6:30 pm unless otherwise designated by the MBA Executive Commissioner. The MBA Executive Commissioner has the right to change game start times as he/she deems necessary to accommodate MBA's game schedule at Monroeville Park West/East. Lights are available at these locations so later start times are possible for all divisions.
- 2.) Forfeit time for games will be 30 minutes after the scheduled start time.
- 3.) Four Innings will constitute a game. Three- and one-half innings shall constitute a legal game if the home team is ahead. A legal game tied is a complete game and will not be rescheduled. Legal games suspended in mid-inning revert to the last complete inning at restart.
- 4.) There will be 6 innings in a game. Extra innings will be played only if time allows.
- 5.) A 10-run rule is active for each game played. The team with a 10-run lead by the end of the 5th inning (4 ½ if the home team is ahead), or any time thereafter, will be declared the winner.
- 6.) No full inning will begin after 2 hours and 15 minutes from the start of the game. Once the game begins, a consensus among head coaches and umpires (if used) shall determine if the game can continue because of darkness or field/whether conditions. Do not play with lightning present – see below.
- 7.) In the event of visible lightning in the vicinity of the field, both teams should discontinue play and seek shelter until 10 minutes past the last lightning strike.
- 8.) Suspended games not yet legal will resume from the point the game was suspended.

General Rules:

- 1.) A team shall consist of at least 7 players, of which 2 must be outfielders. Late arriving player will be placed at the end of the lineup in the order they arrived. Coaches should exchange a line-up prior to the start of the game. No pitcher will be required while playing 7 players.
- 2.) A team must field a catcher if 9 or more players are present.
- 3.) All decisions of the umpires are final.
- 4.) The home team manager will determine if the weather conditions permit the starting of the game. Please give an effort to bring the field into a playable condition before the game. If games are cancelled and not made up, each time will get 1 loss. Please make a decision at least one hour before the scheduled start of the game so coaches can notify parents/guardians before they leave for the game.
- 5.) The home team is listed second on the schedule and occupies the first base line of the field.

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- 6.) When fields (auxiliary fields only) need lined for games there will be no practicing on the field. The home team is responsible for lining the field and must do so 15 minutes prior to the start of the game.
- 7.) The head coach of the winning team is responsible for notifying the commission of the score by 2:00pm on the day following the game. Any discrepancies or arguments during the game must also be reported.
- 8.) Scheduling and rescheduling of games will be the responsibility of the commissioner of the league with collaboration of the MBA Executive Commissioner to ensure field availability. It is the home team's responsibility to notify the league commissioner of rainouts. The league commissioner should then immediately contact the MBA Executive Commissioner to reschedule the game as soon as possible.
- 9.) Headfirst slides are PROHIBITED and sliding into first base, while not illegal, is highly discouraged.
- 10.) No team shall play more than 11 players in the field (6 infielders, and 5 outfielders)
- 11.) Only 4 coaches including the head coach are allowed on the bench during a game. Exceptions to this rule will be made in certain circumstances and should be discussed with the MBA Executive Commissioner prior to game time. The MBA Executive Commissioner will then communicate the exception was made to the head coach of the other team.
 - a. If a parent/MBA member has volunteered to manage the bench during the game this will NOT count as a coach and may assist as needed.

Playing Rules:

- 1.) Base runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit. One warning per player per game will be given. Any subsequent time that base runner leaves early will result in an immediate OUT.
- 2.) The batter must swing hard. No bunting or half swings.
- 3.) No infield fly rules are active in coach pitch games. Any infield fly ball does not require tagging when hit in the infield. A caught infield fly ball will result in all runners returning to the base they previously occupied.
 - a. Tagging up is only required on balls hit and caught by an outfielder only.
 - b. Runners may attempt to advance after tagging one base at their own risk in each situation.
- 4.) Base runners may not advance on overthrows from the infield. Play shall cease and the runners will return to the base they last occupied.
- 5.) If a ball is hit to the outfield, the runners can run freely around the bases until the ball is brought under control by an infielder. Under control is defined as an infielder having the ball in their hand or glove with 1 foot in the infield within the foul lines. At this point, a play can be made at a base to get the runner out. If the runner is out, he/she is out. If the runner is safe, it will be to the umpires to determine which base the runner is

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awarded. The deciding factor of which base the runner should be awarded will be the position of the runner when an infielder has the ball under control. If the runner had left the previous base he had safely acquired, then the runner will be awarded the next base if safe. Only one extra base will be awarded if a ball is deemed "out of play."

- 6.) All players present at the game will be in the field at once. Outfielders must be evenly spaced – no rover is allowed. Those players that exceed the normal positions will be placed a minimum of 30 feet beyond the infield diamond. No outfielders may advance inside the infield space until the ball is hit. All players must play their position in a reasonable vicinity of that position. Violations of the above rule will be a judgement of the umpire. Players must stay within 3 feet of the base line and pitchers inside the 10-foot diameter circle at the mound.
- 7.) Rotation of players: Coaches are required to rotate defensive player positions throughout the game. Players must play at a different position each inning. No player is permitted to play all-infield or all-outfield. Exceptions to the player rotation rule by each coach's judgement based on safety and ability who is permitted to play first base. Any exception must be discussed with the opposing head coach PRIOR to the games start.
- 8.) Every player must play an infield position (1st, 2nd, SS, 3rd, P) at least two innings per game. Every player MUST play an outfield position at least two innings per game. The only exception would be if a parent requests, in writing, that their child NOT PLAY THE INFIELD. This document must be presented to the head coach of the players team, the league commissioner, and MBA Executive Commissioner. This "no infield" designation should be exchanged with the opposing head coach as a courtesy prior to the start of the game. All players must play in the infield before the start of the 5th inning so that they don't miss their opportunity because of being on the losing visiting team. Coaches should try to prepare a fielding line-up prior to the game so that the transition from offense to defense goes smoothly and quickly. The catcher's position is considered half an inning. Due to safety a coach may play the safe player at first base 2 innings per game.
- 9.) Outfielders may not enter the infield and take control of a base.
- 10.) From the top of the 1st inning to the bottom of the 5th inning, each team can score 6 runs per inning or three outs, whichever comes first. Tie games will result in a ½ win and ½ loss to each team.
- 11.) In the 6th inning, 3 outs must be recorded in the top and bottom of the inning. There are no run limits in the 6th inning of any game.
- 12.) No batter shall throw the bat at the end of a swing. That is when it is not deemed an accidental release of the bat (for example, slipping out of the batter's hands). A discussion will be held between the head coaches in these situations. A warning will be issued on the first bat throw. A second offense will result in an automatic out. A thrown bat is dangerous or potentially dangerous to players and coaches. SAFETY FIRST.

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- 13.) If a player is frustrated with the at bat and throws equipment a warning will be issued by the head coach of that players team. A 2nd offense of the same kind will result in the player being ejected from the game.

Pitching Rules:

- 1.) All players will be pitched to. The head coach, assistant coach or MBA member will do all the pitching for their teams or in the case of an MBA member pitching the entire game. The coach must pitch on or behind the 40-foot line.
 - a. Exceptions should be voiced during the coaches meeting at the plate prior to the games start. Exceptions will only be allowed to be made up until the 5th game played. At this point (game 6 and beyond) all players must receive pitches from the standard distances described above.
- 2.) All players will receive a maximum of 7 pitches in which to hit the ball or have 3 strikes. NO WALKS ARE PERMITTED even if the player is hit by the pitch. If the 7th pitch is fouled off, an additional pitch will be given. This will continue if the ball is fouled with all subsequent pitches until the ball is hit, no swung at or is a swinging strike. Batter will not be called out on a foul ball unless it is caught by the defense.
- 3.) Pitches must be straight with some form of velocity. Throws that have a significant arch and decreased speed have a negative impact on the development of players for the next level.
- 4.) The adult who is pitching will make every effort so as to not hinder, obstruct, or impede an infielder from making a play on a ball that is put into play. The adult pitcher shall not make a play on a ball nor attempt to make a play on a hit ball. If a ball is batted "at", "to" or "toward" the adult pitcher and the ball is redirected or becomes trapped the adult pitcher shall immediately release the ball and let it fall free. At this point, the umpires will call for a replay of the entire at bat. No strikes or pitches will be held against the batter. A clean slate will be granted. The entire at bat will be replayed. The umpire's decision is FINAL. An adult pitcher can protect themselves during game play.
- 5.) Once a ball is hit into the field of play the adult pitcher should make any attempt necessary to not interfere with the play. If an adult pitcher does not make a clear attempt to avoid interference the runner will be called out, but all advances will remain.

On Deck Batters:

- 1.) The on-deck batters will be given the opportunity to warm up within the warmup cage or a circle made depending on the field at which the game is played. If a player warming up swings outside of the warmup cage or circle, he/she will be pulled from the game for 3 innings upon the first offense. A 2nd offense will result in ejection from the game. The same rules will apply for players that walk into or through the warmup cage or circle.

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- 2.) Repeated infractions of this throughout the season will result in the head coaches' position being review by the MBA Board of Directors. The decision of the MBA Board of Directors will be given to the head coach in question and may not be protested.

Equipment:

- 1.) League equipment will be issued to each head coach and will be the responsibility of that head coach until its return.
- 2.) Players must always be in full uniform during game play. Hats are considered part of the uniform but if a child arrives without his/her hat the opposing coach will be notified, and the child will be allowed to play.
- 3.) Metal spikes are PROHIBITED at all games.
- 4.) Inclement weather may result in alternation of standard uniforms. When possible, the jersey should be work on the outside of all other clothing.
- 5.) Players can use their own bats as guided by MBA bat requirements
- 6.) Cups are optional for both adults and players.
- 7.) All pitches MUST wear a protective helmet with face shield and chest protector/heart guard.
- 8.) All catchers must wear full equipment
- 9.) Batters and base runners must always wear helmets.

Sidelines:

- 1.) No throwing of balls on the sidelines once the game has started.
- 2.) All players must always be under control. Teams should assign an adult/coach to manage the bench during game play.
- 3.) Under no circumstances during a normal game situation should a couch touch a player while the ball is in play. This includes pulling a player back onto the base or pushing him toward a base. Voice and hand signals only.
- 4.) Teams playing defense may designated one coach to roam the field to assist with positioning, game direction, and safety. That coach shall follow the same rules regarding play interference as the adult pitcher follows.

Umpires:

- 1.) Each team will supply an umpire for the game. The home team will supply the first base umpire and the visiting team will supply the third base umpire.
- 2.) Please remember that Coach Pitch umpires are volunteer parents/coaches. Coaches should fine umpires that will call the game fairly and consistently. Mistakes may happen and should be handled responsibly by the active coaches of each team. Any significant disputes will need to be addressed by the league commissioner. If no decision can be made at that point the MBA Executive Commissioner shall make the final decision on the play.

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- 3.) If two umpires are present the one closest to the bag shall make the call.

Safety:

- 1.) Please remember these are children. Raising of your voice is permitted to convey the point you are trying to make; however, no swearing is allowed. If swearing is overheard the coach will be immediately ejected from the game.
- 2.) Coaches are not babysitters; however, they are volunteering their time and effort to give the children a positive experience playing baseball while learning to play in a safe way. The rules set forth in this document are to protect the players and the game. A parent/guardian must always be present at each game/practice and is responsible for their player. If no adult is present the player will not be able to participate until an adult is present.

General Conduct:

- 1.) Any player, coach or parent who provokes or participates in a fight either before, during, or after an MBA game will be subject to disciplinary review by the league commissioner and MBA Executive Commissioner. Any coach or parent who is ejected by an umpire or commissioner will immediately cease the argument and leave the field of play or face further disciplinary action by the MBA Board of Directors. Coaches must report all incidents in writing to the league commissioner within 24 hours after the game is completed. The incident will be subject to review and further action as deemed necessary by the MBA Board of Directors.
- 2.) All head coaches will control their players so as to not harass or hinder other players, coaches or umpires. Coaches are responsible for their own benches and fans.

Miscellaneous:

- 1.) Field specific ground rules will apply as agreed upon, prior to each game, during the coaches' conference at the plate.
- 2.) Coaches must not leave the field until all participating players have been picked up and have ride homes.
- 3.) The home team is responsible for marking the field as necessary and providing the games balls for the game unless otherwise state by MBA rules or policies.
- 4.) No coach, player or fan will be allowed behind the backstop.
- 5.) Under no circumstances will MBA members/coaches/players be allowed to dig trenches for water draining at auxiliary dirt fields.
- 6.) Alcohol is prohibited.
- 7.) An instructional league player may play as a "call up" if a team has less than 7 players. That player must be an outfielder and bat last.
- 8.) Each team is responsible for cleaning up their dugouts after each game.

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Protests:

- 1.) There are no protests in Coach Pitch

Monroeville Baseball Associations Board of Directors Approval: 02/01/2021