

MONROEVILLE BASEBALL & SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION PLAYING RULES

The actual playing rules in our league will be governed by the Official Baseball Rules as published by Major League Baseball. In addition, these rules will be supplemented by our own local playing rules as determined by the League Commissioners. These rules contain those exceptions to The Official Baseball Rules, which are necessary in a youth program.

Playing Field:

1. Distance from the pitchers rubber to home plate is 50 feet.
2. The bases will be 70 feet from the tip of home plate < the back of the plate>.
3. A rectangular batters box (4 foot wide and 6 foot in length) will be installed. All batters must stand inside the box when hitting.
4. The distance from home plate to the middle of second base is 99 feet.

Length of the Game:

1. The first game at a field on a weeknight will start no later than 8:00pm unless otherwise designated by the MBSA Executive Commissioner.
2. Forfeit time for games will be **15 minutes** after the scheduled start time.
3. Four innings will constitute a legal game. 4 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. In a legal game, if the game is called by the umpire before the end of a complete inning, the game score will revert back to the last completed inning.

Example:

- At the end of 4 complete innings the home team is winning 5-4
 - The visiting teams scores 6 runs in the top of the 5th (score is now 10-5 with the visitors in the lead)
 - The home team has scored 1 run in the bottom of the 5th, and has 2 outs with no one on. (score is now 10-6 with the visitors still in the lead)
 - It gets very dark and begins to rain very hard.
 - The umpire calls the game.
 - The score reverts back to what it was at the end of 4 innings and the home team wins the game 5-4.
4. **No full inning will begin 1 hour and 45 minutes after the game begins.** Once the game begins, it is the umpire's responsibility to call the game because time, darkness or field/weather conditions.
 5. Suspended games not yet legal, will resume from the point that the game was suspended. Tie games not rescheduled will count as ½ win and ½ loss.

General Rules:

1. **A minimum of 9 players is needed for a game to begin and complete. A team must play and finish with a minimum of 9 players. Penalty result is game forfeiture, unless loss is due to an injury or illness during the game.**
2. All decisions of the umpires are final.
3. 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 team will get 1 loss. Please decide at least one hour before the start of the game, so coaches can notify parents before they leave for the game.
4. The HOME team is listed second on the schedule and occupies the first base side of the field.
5. When the field is being lined for games, there will be no practicing on the field. Home team is responsible for lining the field.
6. There will be 7 innings in a game. Extra innings will be played if time allows.
7. The manager of the winning team is responsible for notifying the commissioner of the score by 2:00 PM the day after the game. Games not reported will be recorded as ½ losses for each team. Any discrepancies or arguments during the game must also be reported.

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8. Scheduling and rescheduling of games will be the responsibility of the MBSA Executive Commissioner based on field and umpire availability. The commissioner will schedule any playoff games.

Playing Rules:

1. Stealing of any base is permitted.
2. **Lead offs are permitted.**
3. The infield fly rule is in effect.
4. Play is dead if a pitch or throw passes through the backstop. Runners advance one base. NO CHEAP HOME.
5. **There is a 10 run rule in effect after 4 ½ innings.**
6. Free player substitution, except pitchers.
7. All available players must play a minimum of 4 innings in the field for each game.
8. A continuous batting order will be used. Late arriving players will be placed at the bottom of the order. All individual MBSA field rules shall apply.
9. Unlimited advance on an overthrow is allowed at any base, including home, and also during a base stealing attempt.
10. On a ball thrown out of the field of play, runners are awarded the base they were attempting to gain, plus one extra base.
11. Head first slides are prohibited – the offending player will be called out. **The only exception to this rule is if a runner dives back to a base.** Sliding into first base while not illegal, should be discouraged.
12. If in the umpire's judgment, a runner intentionally runs into a fielder to avoid a tag, or to jar the ball loose, the runner will be called out. Runners should be encouraged to slide on close plays at the plate to avoid dangerous collisions.
13. The ball is live and the players must ask for and be given time.
14. NO batter shall throw the bat at the end of a swing. Penalty – will be a player warning. The second infraction during the same time at bat will be an out. **This rule, after the second infraction, will remain in effect for the rest of the game.** A "thrown bat" is that which is dangerous or potentially dangerous to players and coaches. Remember, SAFETY FIRST.
15. Batters and base runners must wear helmets. Catchers must wear full equipment.

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Pitching Rules:

1. A Pitcher shall not pitch in more than **9 outs** on the same calendar day, or throw more than 65 pitches, whichever comes first. (the innings in any game must be consecutive)
 - If a pitcher throws his 65th pitch in the middle of a batter he will be allowed to complete that at-bat and then be removed from pitching for that game
2. Pitchers, when pitching more than one game on the same calendar day, may pitch any combination of those 9 outs – NO MORE. The pitcher also shall not exceed the pitch count stated above for that day, if he pitches in more than one game.
3. **A pitcher shall pitch no more than 18 outs per calendar week (12:00am Monday – 11:59pm Sunday), if the team plays in 2 games during the week. If the team must play a third game during the week, the maximum number of innings is 20 outs.**
4. A pitcher who pitches **9 outs** in a day must have one day rest before he can pitch again. Pitching **9 outs** in a day means the pitcher cannot pitch the next day.
5. **One pitch** constitutes an **out**. A pitcher removed from the game prior to getting his first out will count as **3 outs**. A game ending in prior to the pitcher getting his first out will count as **3 outs**.
6. If a pitcher warms up on the mound during a game, that pitcher must pitch one pitch and will be charged an inning.
7. A player may be removed from pitching and placed at another position EXCEPT to pitch again in the same game.
8. A pitcher must be removed after hitting a 3rd batter in a game.
9. Any pitcher, by the umpire's judgment, who intentionally throws at a batter, will be ejected. The umpire and opposing manager will submit in writing to the MBSA Executive Commissioner the violation and the circumstances will be reviewed for disciplinary action.
10. A second trip to visit the same pitcher in an inning will cause that pitcher's automatic removal. Generally a "trip" is considered as a manager or coach coming onto the field of play. However, what constitutes a "trip" or "intent" will ultimately be the UMPIRE'S JUDGMENT.
11. The balk rule will be in effect. However, the purpose is to teach the correct way to pitch, therefore, the result of the called balk will be a ball on the batter with no base for the runner.
12. Winning team must report names of all pitchers, innings pitched, and the pitch counts to the commissioner by 10:00pm of the day of the game.

Batters Circle:

1. A batters circle shall be made of such a radius as to allow for the purpose of warming up by taking practice swings.
2. Any child swinging a bat outside of the designated circle will be pulled from the game for 3 innings on first infraction. Any child walking through this circle while a player is warming up is just as guilty and is also fined 3 innings.
3. Subsequent infractions, penalty will be the expulsion from the game. No exceptions. A team found to have several infractions of this rule will have its coach reviewed by the commissioner and executive board.

Equipment:

1. League equipment will be issued to each team manager who will be responsible for its return.
2. Players must be in full uniform at all times. Hats are considered part of the full uniform, but if a child arrives at the game without it, opposing coach will be notified as such and the child will be allowed to play.
3. **Metal spikes are prohibited.**
4. Pitchers are not allowed to wear wristbands, jewelry, or a batting glove under their fielding glove. These are distractions to the batter. If inclement weather is a problem, the uniform jersey must be worn outside of all other clothing.
5. Players are allowed to use their own bats provided they meet MBSA specifications **USA BATS**
6. **(2 5/8 " barrel).**
7. Intentional and flagrant throwing of equipment - automatic ejection.

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Sidelines:

1. No throwing balls on the sidelines.
2. All players must be under your control at all times. Assign an adult to control your bench and maintain control of your players when your team is at bat. We suggest you have parents assist with the batting order, positioning players on the field, and helping players with equipment and generally encouraging these young children.
3. Under no circumstances during a normal game situation should a coach touch a player while the ball is in play. This includes pulling a player back on to a base or pushing him towards a base. Voice and hand signals only.

Umpires:

1. Home team manager or their designated coaches are responsible for the umpire fee, CASH ONLY. Managers will be issued the entire game fee amount from the MBSA Treasurer.
2. In case of rainouts, cancellation must be communicated to the MBSA Executive Commissioner
3. Keep accurate records in the game score book.
4. The umpire can leave with payment 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the game, if the field or the team is not ready.
5. All judgment calls are final and not available for a protest.
6. Remember, the home team manager is responsible for making the decision to cancel a game, and must call the following people in case of a cancellation.

Safety:

1. Please remember these are children - raise your voice but **NO SWEARING**.
2. You are not babysitters. You are however volunteers giving your time and effort to your children and your neighbor's children. The rules protect you, the children, and the game. Make sure there is always an adult present who will be responsible for each child, otherwise the child does not play. How will you deal with an emergency on the field if a parent is not present? Insist on parental involvement and follow the rules.

General Conduct:

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

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Miscellaneous:

1. Field specific ground rules will apply as agreed upon, prior to each game, during the umpire conference at the plate.
2. Managers or coaches must not leave the field until all participating players have been picked up and/or have rides home.
3. Home team is responsible for marking the field and providing two game balls to the umpire.
4. No manager, coach, player, or fan will be allowed behind the backstop. Managers and umpires are responsible for enforcement and umpires have the right to hold up the game.
5. Under no circumstances will we be allowed to dig trenches for field drainage. If raking and pushing water with brooms cannot bring the field to playable condition, then the game should be cancelled.
6. All managers should carry field permits to all games and practices.
7. **Alcohol and Smoking are PROHIBITED.**
8. **A Mustang player may play in any game if a team has less than 9 players. This player must bat last and play the outfield. If a regular Bronco team player arrives at the field after a Mustang player has already arrived, the Mustang player must be used in the game as if he was a regular member of the team.**

Protests:

1. A protest may be considered by an appointed Protest Committee of the MBSA when based upon a violation or interpretation of a playing rule. To begin the process for consideration, the following must occur:

The game stopped at the occurrence, the protest noted in the official scorebook, and signed by the umpire with phone number. A written protest must then be filed to the MBSA Executive Commissioner within 48 hours for evaluation. The game will resume as normal and completed. Based on the review of the protest the MBSA Executive Commissioner will make a final decision that is final.

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BRONCO LEAGUE

Approved Spring 2023 Season

Josh Plassmeyer

MBSA Executive Commissioner