

Monroeville Baseball Association (MBA) **Instructional League Playing Rules (≤6 year olds)**

These rules do not contain a complete set of rules governing play in each particular league. Play is generally governed by The Official Baseball Rules as published by Major League Baseball. A copy of these rules can be found at www.mlb.com. Type in "baseball basics-rules" at the search engine. These rules contain those exceptions to the Official Baseball Rules, which are necessary in a youth program.

Playing Field:

1. Distance from the pitcher's rubber to home plate is 46 feet. However, coaches will pitch from a line 30 feet from home plate as needed. The batter's skill level will determine pitching distance within the approved range.
2. 12 feet out from home plate there will be a radius from foul line to foul line.
3. The bases will be 50 feet from the tip of home plate (the back of the plate).
4. A rectangular batter's box 4 foot wide and 6 foot in length will be installed. All batters must stand inside the box when hitting.

Length of the Game:

1. Games will start at or after 6:00pm (on weekdays) 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 MBSA's game schedule at Monroeville Park West/East. Lights are available at these locations so later start times are possible for all divisions.
2. There will be no forfeits in the Instructional League. If there are not enough players to have a game the original game will be rescheduled as per field availability.
3. Games will be rescheduled by the MBA Executive Commissioner and Instructional League Commissioner based on field availability and input from the affected coaches.
4. No full inning will begin 1 hour and 15 minutes past the start of the game. Maximum time for games is 1 hour and 30 minutes.
5. The home team coach or the MBSA League/Executive Commissioner can call or suspend a game due to the weather or darkness. Suspended games will not be rescheduled if at least 1 inning was played. Disputes/Disagreements related to suspension of games will be settled by the MBA Executive Commissioner and will be final.

General Rules:

1. A team shall consist of all the players present for that game.
2. The HOME team is listed second on the schedule and occupies the first base side of the field.
3. The playing teams should make every effort to hold the game on the day it is scheduled.
4. All pitchers must wear protective equipment when playing the position. MBSA will provide all teams with a helmet equipped with a face mask and chest guard.
5. There will be no more than 3 innings in an official game.
6. There will not be catcher's equipment provided, therefore, MBSA suggests team have the pitcher cover plays at the plate. Coaches are not permitted to position a player as a catcher.

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Playing Rules:

Offensive Rules:

1. Players must bat from the batting box located at home plate every inning of every game.
2. A combination of coach pitch and a tee will be used for batting.
3. The batter must demonstrate sufficient effort in swinging. Incomplete swings or a lack of effort to pitched balls should result in the tee being used. There will be no bunting or half swings permitted.
4. A rectangular batter's box 4-foot-wide and 6 foot in length will be marked in some fashion by the coaches. All batters must stand inside the box when hitting.
5. Base runners are not allowed to steal or leave the base they occupy until the ball is hit.
6. No infield fly rule will be enforced; however, all other baseball rules should be taught in preparation for future divisions including tagging up.
7. Base runners may not advance on overthrows. Play shall cease and the base runners will go back to the base they last occupied if advancement after an overthrow occurs.
8. Balls that reach the outfield as a result of the hit allows the batter/runners to advance to a 2nd base. Once the ball is in possession of an outfielder play will cease and the runners will be allowed the base they are advancing to.
 - This rule allows coaches to teach the player to listen to their coaches when running the bases. Situational baseball is something that should be focused on at this Instructional Level.
 - If the ball travels to the outfield because of an error or redirection by an infield player no 2nd base will be allowed.
9. NO batter shall throw the bat at the end of a swing. The player will be given one verbal warning. The 2nd bat throw will result with the batter being called out. The verbal warning will remain through the rest of the game.
10. Batters and base runners must always wear helmets while inside the fencing.
11. On any play at the plate the batting tee will be removed by a coach/volunteer.

Defensive Rules:

12. All balls traveling more than 12 feet from the back of home plate are in play. Balls played on between home plate and the 12-foot line are judgement calls by the coaches as to whether or not the ball would have passed over the line. A pitched ball is in play even if it doesn't travel the 12 feet.
13. All players present at the game will play the entire game unless ill or injured.
14. All players at the game will be in the field at once. Those players that exceed the normal infield positions of pitcher, 1st, 2nd, SS, 3rd, will be placed a minimum of 15 feet beyond each base. No outfielders may advance inside this line until the ball is hit. All players must play their position in a reasonable vicinity of that position. Players will stay within 3 feet of the base line in the infield and the pitcher will play on the 46-foot line at the mound.
15. Coaches should determine positions for each player each game. At their discretion coaches can either position players at the same position during one game or rotate each player between innings.
 - If deemed necessary due to safety concerns the head coach can reposition any player at any time during play.
16. A continuous batting order is used. 3 outs will clear the bases; however, the team continues to bat until the last batter bats. An inning is over when every player in the batting order has batted.
17. This is an instructional league; therefore, we do not keep score or track wins and losses during the regular season.

Pitching Rules:

1. Coaches will begin each game pitching from an approximate distance of 30 ft away from

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home plate. Adjustments from this distance can be made based on the current batter's ability to hit the ball. Each player will get 5 pitches. If the ball is not put into play the tee will be used. The coach of the batting team should use their own judgement on if the player will receive more pitches based on player's effort and their ability to contact the ball.

2. Coaches may decide to use the tee immediately if the current batter does not possess the skills yet to swing safely at a pitched ball. These decisions will be left to the player's head coach or parent/guardian decision.

On Deck Batters:

1. On deck batters are permitted to use the practice area adjacent to the dugouts only when they are next up. All other players should be kept clear of that area until their turn to warm up by coaches. Instructional league encourages the assistance of a Instructional League Bench Assistant willing to manage the players in between plays while coaches are in the field.

Equipment:

1. League equipment will be issued to each head coach who will be responsible for its return per the MBSA Equipment Manager's drop off times and dates.
2. Players must be in full uniform at all times during games.
3. Metal spikes are **prohibited**.
4. If inclement weather is a problem, proper attire should be worn to protect the player.
5. Players are allowed to use their own bats provided they meet MBSA specifications (see MBSA website for more details).
 - Bats must have the authentic USA Baseball logo on the bat for it to be used.
6. Intentional and flagrant throwing of equipment will result in automatic ejection.
7. Jewelry (long necklaces, earrings, bracelets, etc) and other accessories should be limited as to prevent injury to the player during gameplay. Parents/guardians are advised to use discretion before sending their child into game play.

Sidelines/Dugouts:

1. No throwing balls on the sidelines or in the dugouts.
2. All players must be under control of the coaches/bench volunteers at all times. An Instructional League Bench Manager will be responsible for controlling the bench during game play. The Bench Manager will be responsible for ensuring the players are ready for them at bat with the proper equipment.

Umpires/Adults in the Field of Play:

1. Coaches will determine if players are out or safe and enforce all other rules during game play. No official umpires are needed for Instructional League play.
2. All adults on the field of play are to be registered MBSA members.

Safety:

1. Please remember these are young children. **To ensure the game is played in a positive manner the use of vulgarity, in any fashion, is strictly prohibited. Any profanity heard will result in that individual (coach, player, or spectator) being immediately ejected from the field. If the individual ejected is the sole care provider of a player that player will be forced to leave with their caregiver.**
2. MBSA Volunteers are not babysitters and are giving their time to help teach the game to the players. The rules stated above are meant to protect our volunteers, the players, and the game. Make sure there is always an adult present who will be responsible for each child, otherwise the child does not play.
3. Remember this is an instructional, non-competitive league, so **teach the players baseball** and be patient. The most important rule of this division is to instill a pride

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in the game of baseball in very young minds. The more fun the player has the more likely they will be to return to the game.

4. One of MBSA's most noteworthy goals is to get children playing baseball safely and having a ton of fun.

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 Division Commissioner. Any manager, coach, or parent who is ejected will immediately cease the argument and leave the field of play. Both managers must report all incidents in writing to the MBSA Executive Commissioner and Division Commissioner within 24 hours after game completion. The incident will be subject to review and disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the MBSA Board of Directors.
2. All coaches will control their players so as not to harass or hinder other players, coaches, or volunteers. Coaches are responsible for their own benches and fans.
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 onto a base or pushing him towards a base. Voice and hand signals only.

Miscellaneous:

1. Field specific ground rules will apply as agreed upon, prior to each game, during a coach's 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. No manager, coach, player, or fan will be allowed behind the backstop. Coaches are responsible for enforcement of all MBSA and Monroeville Municipality rules as it pertains to seating at any Monroeville field. Coaches can stop the game until the rules are followed.
4. Under no circumstances will MBSA 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 and rescheduled by the MBSA Executive Commission.
5. practices.
6. Alcohol and tobacco products are prohibited at all games.

Protests:

1. There are no protests permitted in the Instructional League.

**Monroeville Baseball Associations Board of Directors Approval: 04/16/2023
(pending board approval)**