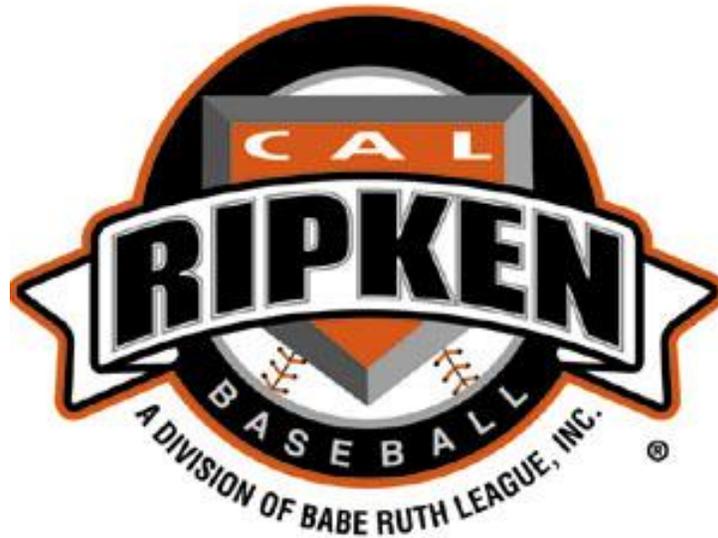


Marlborough Youth Baseball Association

2012 Playing Rules

(APPROVED – February 8, 2012)



**Major League
Major League Prep
Minor League**

www.myba.org

GOVERNING BODY

This guide is provided as a common framework on Marlborough Youth Baseball Association program rules of play. The MYBA Board of Directors retains final decision making authority for all matters pertaining to the program and may rule on issues and provide remedies not described in this document. Decisions by the Board of Directors are final.

PURPOSE OF MYBA

1. Foster the physical, mental, emotional growth of the youth of the community.
2. Develop an understanding and appreciation of sportsmanship and fair play.
3. Encourage citizenship and academic achievement.
4. Teach the fundamentals of baseball through qualified supervisors.
5. Provide worthwhile recreational activities to youths that may otherwise be denied the opportunity to participate in an organized baseball program.
6. Promote a spirit of self-reliance along with the spirit of teamwork.

MANAGING CONFLICT

Common sense and courtesy will prevent most conflicts, but situations that cannot be resolved on site should be referred to the League Director.

Refer to the following principles while resolving conflict:

- Foster the physical, mental, emotional growth of the youth of the community
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of sportsmanship and fair play
- The league is for kids to **PLAY** baseball. MYBA decisions will be resolved in a manner that require player safety and are biased towards player involvement and fun.

Aggressive, threatening and overly emotional behavior will not be tolerated. The mental and physical well-being of our players is our primary concern.

PLAYING RULES

MYBA Local Rules supersede Cal Ripken Rules.

Cal Ripken Rules supersede “Official Baseball Rules”.

- “Cal Ripken Baseball Division – Special Base Running Rule”
- “Cal Ripken Division – Local League and Tournament Play Special Rules and Regulations”
- “Official Baseball Rules Not Applicable to the Cal Ripken Division”

Remaining interpretations are based on the “Official Baseball Rules”

LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

1. 2 Hour Rule. No **new** inning may be started later than two (2) hours after the actual start time set by the umpire. Any game lasting 2 hours is an official game, regardless of the number of innings completed.
2. Substitution Rule. Free substitution between innings.
3. Batting Order. Fixed complete roster batting order. Late arrivals are placed at the bottom of the order.
4. Minimum Play Rule. All players present must play a minimum of three innings. Innings that the player is absent (late arrival, early departure) may count towards the players 3 innings.
5. No Slashing. Players may not show bunt during the pitch to draw fielders in and then swing away at the ball. The pitcher does not need to be in his windup for this to be valid. The first offense is an out, a repeat offense will result in ejection from the game.
6. No Head First Slides. A running head first slide is not allowed, regardless if you are advancing to a base or returning to a base. Infraction of this rule is an automatic "out" of the player involved. If taking a lead, a player may dive back. However, this dive may be ruled a head -first slide if, in the umpire's judgment, a slide occurs.
7. Contact Rule: All runners shall **slide or avoid contact** on all tag plays or force plays.
Penalty: Runner is out.
 - a. There shall be no penalty for incidental contact. (this is the umpire's discretion)
 - b. There shall be no penalty if there is no contact.
 - c. Runner will be ejected if the umpire rules the contact was malicious or with intent to dislodge the ball.
8. Official Game – A game shall become official when 4 innings have been completed or 3.5 innings when the home team is winning.
9. Sportsmanship Rule. Once a game becomes official (see rule #8) Any MYBA league game may be terminated if one team is ahead by **15** or more runs
10. Ineligible Players. Any team using any ineligible player or pitcher in a game will automatically forfeit that game. This rule is exempt from the time limit in Protesting
11. Base Running Clarification. When all runners have stopped their advance (**even if they continue to bounce around**), the pitcher is in possession of the ball and is in contact with the rubber, all runners must return to their respective bases. Note: As long as any runner continues his **advance (moving towards the next base)** the play is alive and runners do not have to return. It shall be the umpire's judgment whether or not the runners have stopped their advance.

Pitching

12. Appearance Maximums:

- a. Major League: 3 innings/game. 6 innings/week (week= Monday through Sunday; inclusive).
- b. Major League: Mandatory Rest Period: Players charged with a three (3) inning appearance are not eligible the following day and must observe a mandatory one day rest period. There is no mandatory rest period for 2 or fewer innings pitched.
- c. Majors Prep and Minor League: 2 innings/game. 6 innings/week (week= Monday through Sunday; inclusive).
- d. Penalty for Violation: Game Forfeited. No time limit on protest.

13. A Single Pitch Constitutes an Inning: A player is charged with an inning pitched during any inning he throws a pitch.

14. Removal by Rule: A second trip to a pitcher during the same inning must result in player removal as pitcher. Injury trips do not count.

15. Re-appearance: Pitchers removed from the mound may not pitch again in the same game.

16. Call-up Eligibility: Teams expecting 9 or fewer rostered players must call up from lower teams to complete rosters.

- a. Call-ups may not pitch.
- b. Call-ups are to be placed at the bottom of the batting line-up
- c. Call-ups cannot start ahead of a rostered player
- d. Call-ups cannot play more innings than a rostered player
- e. Call-ups must play a minimum of 3-innings
- f. A call-up player may only be called up a maximum of 5 times during the regular season. There is no limit for play-offs.

17. 12yo Major Prep League Player: 12 year old players are allowed to play in the Majors Pre League as long as the following requirements are met; The parents of the 12y.o. player must request and/or approve of him/her playing at the Majors Prep Level. 12 y.o. Players are not eligible to pitch in the Majors Prep League.

18. No Intentional Walks: If an umpire suspects an intentional walk has begun he shall rule the pitch a “no pitch” and give the manager and player a warning. If the intentional walk continues, all pitches shall be disallowed, the pitcher shall be removed from the mound and the manager ejected from the game.

19. No Breaking Balls: Curve Balls and Sliders are not allowed.

- a. Warning from Umpire on first offense
- b. Second Offense Pitcher is removed from mound for the rest of the game
- c. If this repeats in another game, the player must appear before the Disciplinary Committee.
- d. Any pitched deemed to be a curve ball by the Umpire will be called a “No Pitch”

20. Pitched Ball Out of Play: Runners advance one base if a pitched ball goes through the backstop or fence. The same rule applies if the ball becomes lodged in the backstop or fence.
21. No Additional Players in the Dugout during games: Only players who are listed on the official team roster are allowed in the dugout during a game. Bat boys and girls are also allowed. Managers are responsible for policing this rule.
22. Suspended Games: There shall be no suspended games during the regular season. Once the game becomes official (see rule #8 above), if the game must be stopped due to weather or time limit, the score will revert back to the last full inning. Any batting or pitching statistics will be recorded and any awards will be granted if such a game is ended. (In other words, players who hit home runs will count towards season statistics and any innings pitched will count towards total innings pitched.)
23. Postponed games: If a regular season game is ended for any reason before it becomes official (a postponed game), it shall be replayed in its entirety from the beginning at a later date. Any batting or pitching statistics (innings pitched, homeruns hit) will be recorded.
24. Repeat of Postponed Games: There will be a valid effort made to make up all regular season games in a reasonable time frame. However, if a regular season postponed game fails to be replayed after 2 attempts or cannot be scheduled by the end of the regular season, that game shall be declared a tie and each team will be given 6 runs and 1 point in the standings.

Additional Major League Prep and Minor League Playing Rules

25. Batter/Runner Cannot Steal on Walk: The batter/runner is limited to 1st base on a walk. Other base runners may advance at their own peril.
26. No Stealing Home: Runners may not steal home or advance to home on a wild pitch or passed ball. Runners may only score on a batted ball or when forced in on a walk/HBP.
27. Pickoff Rule: Base runners without the possibility to advance are **not** at risk of being picked off. Runners on third cannot be picked off, because they are not allowed to advance to home except by batted ball or force. When third is occupied, a runner cannot be picked off at second or third, and when second and third are occupied no runners can be picked off.
28. 10th Batter Rule: Teams may only send 10 batters to the plate in any given inning. Managers will notify their opponents and the umpire that it is the tenth batter. Play will proceed as normal, with the exception that if the 10th batter puts the ball in play the inning is over once the defensive team touches **any** base in front of **any** runner.

Additional Minor League Playing Rules

29. There will be no walks in the Minor League. Once a batter reaches 4 balls thrown by a pitcher, the coach may step up and throw soft toss pitches equal to the remaining strikes the hitter has. If the batter proceeds to strike out, he is out. If he hits the ball, the game resumes as usual.

30. 5 Run Rule: Instead of using the 10 batter rule, there will be a maximum of 5 runs allowed in any one inning. Once the batting team scores 5 runs, the inning is over and the teams simply switch, no matter how many outs there are.

31. Minors Sportsmanship Rule: Once a game becomes official (see rule #8) any MYBA league game may be terminated if one team is ahead by **12** or more runs.