



Official Fall Playing Rules

All League Rules

Minor League (3rd & 4th grade)

Overview:

- Up to 9 player rosters formed by coach, then free agents are placed onto teams
- Coaches can select up to 9 players for their team using these team formation rules:
 - No more than 5 older players selected (Mustang may all be same age)
 - No more than 3 travel players per team
 - No more than 5 travel / tournament team / All Stars combined per team
- Practices begin 1-2 weeks prior to the first game
- First games begin mid-August and season ends mid-October
- Games played in St. Charles, Geneva, North Aurora and Batavia during the week and weekend to the best of our shared scheduling ability
- No games scheduled over Labor Day Weekend
- 10-12 game season with end of season single elimination tournament

1. ALL LEAGUE RULES:

- a. Games must start within 10 minutes of scheduled time except umpiring or field difficulties. Before the game, the umpire shall announce the start time in collaboration with the Managers.
- b. Umpires have complete control and authority of games. Prior to the game, the home team shall rule on field conditions and the umpire governs safe playing conditions.
- c. Umpires and coaches responsible for keeping bats and all unused equipment off the playing field during games.

- d. Only the designated Manager, or active players, can ask the umpire for a time out.
- e. Home Team uses 3rd base dugout. Visiting team uses 1st base dugout.
- f. Adults can coach on base paths and, for the purpose of instruction, may include a helmeted player in the coach's box.
- g. Home team responsibilities include lining the base paths and batters' box, placing bases, and providing 2 game balls prior to start of the game. Visiting team to assist when necessary.
- h. A minimum of 8 players must always be fielded during the game. Late arriving players added at the end of batting order.
- i. Only league registered players can participate in practices or games.
- j. Jewelry shall not be worn, except religious or medical medals. Items must be taped down and worn under uniform.
- k. Games are considered "Official" if played for 4 full innings (3.5 if home team is winning). A new inning begins when the third out, in the previous inning, is made. Games stopped prior to becoming official will resume at the exact point they left off.
- l. If extra innings and no time limit restrictions, the teams proceed with "California Rules" (start with last out on second base, 1 out and a 1-1 starting count for each batter) for the remainder of the game.

2. PITCHING RULES:

- a. Pitching Eligibility Rules vary by league. Age-based limitations based on the age on the registration form and not chronological age.
- b. Pitchers may not return to the mound after removed.
- c. Pitchers shall not wear non-prescription sunglasses, wrist bands, or light-colored shirts under uniform.
- d. The Pitcher must be removed after a second coach visit to the mound in the same inning.
- e. If a pitcher hits 2 batters in one inning or 3 batters in a game, that pitcher must be removed from the mound.

3. HITTING RULES:

- a. All team members present will bat in continuous rotation.
- b. Continuous batting lineups are to be and submit prior to the start of the game. No designated hitter (DH) allowed. Late arrivals placed at the end of the order.
- c. Dropped third strike and bunting rules vary by league.
- d. Slashing is not allowed (show bunt then swing at same pitch). The batter will immediately be called out and the ball is dead.
- e. BAT RESTRICTIONS: Bats must be stamped BPF 1.15, USSSA or made of wood with a maximum diameter allowed is 2 $\frac{3}{4}$. If a player uses an illegal bat, they will be called out and bat removed from the dugout.

4. BASERUNNING RULES:

- a. Base path distance, stealing and leadoff rules vary by league.
- b. Players must avoid contact with players by sliding (except at first base). If a player does not slide when there is a "play" at a base, they will be called out and the play is dead.
- c. No headfirst sliding allowed (except returning to a base). If a runner slides headfirst, they will be called out and ball is dead.
- d. Catchers may have a courtesy runner if they are on base with 2 outs. The courtesy runner must be the player who was the most recent out.
- e. Any player who intentionally removes a safety helmet while in the field of play will be called out. The play treated as hit baserunner.

5. DEFENSIVE RULES:

- a. All players present at a game will not sit out 2 consecutive innings. Nor will sit out a 2nd inning before all other players have sat out 1 inning.
- b. Except for an injury, no player will sit out more than 2 times during a 6-inning game and 3 times in a 7-inning game.
- c. Coaches are encouraged to utilize players in many different positions for instructional purposes. Care must be taken in assigning players, keeping in mind safety, skill, and ability.
- d. Injuries, illness, early leaving are exceptions to these rules.
- e. Colt league exempt for these defensive rules.

6. CALL UP RULES:

- a. If a Manager determines the team will be short players, they may call-up players from lower league or as a **last resort** borrow players from another team at that same league level.
- b. Replacement players must be announced at the start of the game, bat last in the lineup, can only play outfield positions and will not play more defensive innings than a rostered player.
- c. Only league registered players can be considered for call up and replacement players cannot go over travel player limitations.

7. PLAYOFFS:

- a. Playoff seedings will be determined at the beginning of the season and communicated to the applicable leagues.
- b. All playoff games must be complete games with no time limit.
- c. Call up player rules strictly enforced for playoffs.
- d. All other regular season and conduct rules apply.

8. CONDUCT RULES:

- a. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. (unethical or dishonorable behavior: disrespectfully addressing an official, any flagrant behavior, intentional contact, taunting, criticizing, or using profanity directed toward others).
- b. No smoking, vaping or alcoholic beverages on or in the vicinity of the playing field, dugouts or stands.
- c. Managers, coaches, players, and fans may not argue or complain about an umpire's call. Any player or coach ejected from a game is not eligible to participate in the next game played.
- d. Managers are 100% responsible for the conduct of their coaches, parents, and players. Parents, coaches, and players are to be informed of the rules before the season begins.
- e. No protests allowed unless a team believes an intentional and deliberate violation of the rules occurred.
- f. Each team is responsible for the removal of all trash from their respective dugouts, spectator areas, and the field.

MINOR LEAGUE

AGES 8 & 9: The player must turn 8 by 9/1/2021.

PURPOSE: This is an early learning competitive league with the emphasis on teaching skills and sportsmanship.

1. Games will be 6 innings. An inning consists of 5 runs or 3 outs (whichever occurs first) in the first 4 innings.
2. The 5th, 6th and extra innings have no run limits.
3. No inning will start 1:45 Minutes after the start of the game. Attempts shall be made to play as many innings per game as possible.
4. The pitching rubber shall be **44 feet** from the furthest point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber. Bases **60 feet** apart (dictated by field used).
5. Players are required to play at least 2 innings in the infield and 1 inning in the outfield within the first 4 innings.
6. Players cannot play the same position more than 3 innings except during extra innings.
7. No Infield-Fly-Rule, intentional walks or leadoffs allowed.
8. Base stealing of 2nd base allowed. No stealing of 3rd Base or home and players stealing 2nd base cannot advance on an overthrow during the steal.
9. Players must maintain contact with the base until the pitched ball reaches the batter. A player may steal only 1 base after any pitched ball.
10. Baserunners may advance 1 base on an overthrow while the ball is in play (excluding during steals Rule 8). Cannot advance home on an overthrow.
11. A baserunner can only score from 3rd base when the ball is put into play (hit ball) or a bases loaded walk.
12. 1 coach permitted in the outfield, for instruction purposes only.
13. Play considered “dead” when the ball reaches the infield AND is in control by a fielder. Emphasis is on teaching fundamental base running to prohibit additional bases taken, when common sense would dictate that, with older players, no attempt would be made.
14. 15-run mercy rule is in effect after 5 innings (4.5 if home team is winning) and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat.

15. PITCHING LIMITATIONS:

- a. A pitcher can pitch no more than 2 innings per game, and no more than 6 innings per calendar week. A single pitch thrown counts as 1 inning pitched regarding this limitation. Each week begins Monday and ends the following Sunday at Midnight
- b. Coaches to declare pitching Option A or B prior to the start of the game; otherwise, Option A is in effect. Cannot switch during the game.
 - 1) OPTION A: Teams limited to 2 innings of 2nd year players during the first 4 innings. Any appearance by a 2nd year pitcher counts as an inning towards this limitation (A 1st year pitcher replaced by a 2nd year pitcher counts towards your 2 innings of a 2nd year pitcher).
 - 2) OPTION B: Teams may elect to pitch a 1st year player 1 inning during the first 3 innings. They will then be limited to 1 inning each of 2nd year players for the duration of the regulation game. Limitation lifted in extra innings.