

VALLEY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION MAJOR LEAGUE RULES 2011

In general, we will be using official Babe Ruth Bambino Rules, with modifications as described below.

Majors will be play on a 70 foot playing field

Each player must play 1/2 the defensive game. Every other inning in the field. The only exception to this rule will be made at the manager's discretion where there is a real discipline problem:

1. Discipline for major behavior problems
2. Missing scheduled practices or games without valid reason, or without proper notice to the team manager or coaches.

All players present will be included in the batting order at the beginning of the game.

Players arriving late will be included at the bottom of the batting order.

If a manager does not play a player the minimum amount of time, the manager will be suspended for 2 full games and the player/players that did not play the minimum amount of time will start and play the entire next game.

Only the Manager will exchange viewpoints with the umpires, or with opposing managers. The Manager is responsible for the order conduct of all players and coaches on the team. Only Managers, Coaches and Players are permitted in the dugout during a game.

Not permitted in the dugout:

- Non-Team members
- Swinging Bats
- Throwing baseballs or equipment
- Eating

Minimum Players

All games must be played with a minimum of 9 players to be a regulation game. If the home team is short players, there will be a 10 MINUTE WAITING PERIOD. If they are still short players, a forfeit will be called. If the visitors are short, the games will start at the scheduled time. If they do not have the minimum 9 players at the end of their bats, or the 10 minute grace period is over, the game will be a forfeit. The game will be played as an exhibition game.

Batter

Any batter hit in the head/helmet with a pitched ball must have a runner substitute. The runner substitute does not count as an official substitute and the batter may retake a field position at the end of the 1/2 inning. The substitute runner will be the last out.

If a batter fake bunts and swings the bat, the player will be called OUT.

There will be no intentional walks.

Runners

Runners may not take leads until the ball crosses home plate. If the runner leaves early and is out, the play will stand. If the runner that leaves early is safe, all the runners will have to return to the original base.

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There are no restrictions when stealing 2nd, 3rd or home.

There is no drop 3rd strike.

Time limits

The playing time for ALL major games will be as follows. There will be a 1:45 time limit to all games. No inning can start after the 1:45 time from the SCHEDULED STARTING TIME, unless the umpire was late. If an inning is started at 1:44, the inning will be finished. A 15 run rule will also be implemented, if after 4 innings, a team is leading by 15 runs or more, the game will be stopped.

Substitutions

Special substitution rule - The Babe Ruth substitution rule will be relaxed. The starter and substitute may appear at a maximum 2 times in the batting order. A player may reenter once after 2 full innings and a full rotation of the batting order. Substitutions may only be made at the end of each ½ inning except for injuries. There will also be FREE DEFENSIVE SUBSTITUTION, EXCEPT PITCHER.

Slides / Leads

Head first and take out slides are not permitted, and a runner doing so may be declared out at the umpires discretion. If the runner does not slide on a close play and contact is made with the fielder, it is the umpires decision whether he interfered with the fielder and the call will be made based on his decision.

Tie Games

If at the end of six innings a tie occurs extra innings may be played if there is enough daylight or time available.

Ejections

Players ejected from the game will be replaced using the injury rule as defined in the Babe Ruth Rule Book. You must have nine players to continue the game or forfeit.

Courtesy Runner

A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher with 2 outs. The runner must be the player that made the last out.

All Star Points

Managers of the winning teams will call game scores, all star points & pitching to the league coordinator within 24 hours after the completion of the game. In case of ties, the home team manager will call in the scores.

Moving up during the season:

Some players may be called up to play in the leagues games during the season. These players are not allowed to pitch in the league they are called up to. If a coach pitches any of these players it will be considered an illegal pitcher and the coach will be suspended per the illegal pitcher rule. No exceptions. No majors will be allowed to move up to the 13-15 leagues.

Playoff format.

All teams will make the playoffs. They will play a double elimination tournament type playoff