

Minor League Rules

Age

All children ages 9 to 10 may play Minor League baseball. Baseball age is established as of May 1st. Exceptions can be made to the age restrictions by contacting the Minor League Commissioner.

Purpose

To provide a safe, fun, competitive environment for kids to learn about and enjoy the game of baseball. Hitting, fielding, running the bases, and baseball strategy are the primary coaching objectives of this league

Field Dimensions

Bases set 60 feet apart; home to 2nd base 84 feet 10 inches. The front of the pitching rubber will be 46' from the back of the plate.

The Game

There will be a maximum of 6 innings per game. The team with the most runs at the end of the game will be the winner. All games that end in a tie score at the end of six innings or official games that are ended prematurely due to inclement weather with the score tied shall be reported as a tie game. In the playoffs, additional innings will be played to determine a winner.

No inning shall start after 2 hours past the scheduled start time of a game. No play may be continued after 2 hours and 15 minutes past the scheduled start time of the game. If a game has to be stopped between innings due to time limits, the score will revert back to the last full inning played.

A game is considered an official game if at least 4 full innings have been played with the home team trailing, or 3 ½ innings with the home team winning. If a game in progress is called due to inclement weather or nightfall and is not an official game as described above, the game must be rescheduled and played from the beginning (including playoff games).

A game may be played with as few as 8 players. Any less than 8 players and the game will be considered a forfeit. There is no penalty for playing with 8 players.

Any warm ups or infield practice should be complete before your scheduled game time so the game starts on time. **MAKE SURE YOUR PARENTS KNOW TO ARRIVE EARLY FOR WARMUPS.** If your game starts late, your end time does not change.

Each team should take about five to ten minutes of infield practice before a game.

Game results are to be reported to the League Commissioner by the winning team. It is the responsibility of the League Commissioner to enter the game results on the EYO baseball website.

Scorebooks **MUST** be maintained and should contain FULL NAME and UNIFORM NUMBER for each player.

Pitcher/Catcher

Pitching distance is 46 feet.

A calendar week for is the Minors league is Monday through, and including, Sunday. A pitcher may pitch six (6) innings per calendar week.

If a pitcher pitches one (1) pitch in an inning he shall be charged for one (1) inning pitched.

A pitcher cannot pitch more than three (3) innings in any game but (2) innings is ideal.

A pitcher must have two (2) calendar days rest between pitching assignments if he pitches in more than two innings in any one game. NOTE: This means if a pitcher pitches three (3) innings on Saturday he **IS NOT** eligible to pitch Monday.

A pitcher must be removed if he hits three (3) batters in one game. The pitcher cannot return to pitch later in the game.

Pitcher re-entry is not allowed. A pitcher that has been removed from the pitching position cannot re-enter in the pitching position.

No balks will be called. The coaches should work with the pitchers to ensure they do not stutter or otherwise stagger their motion in a manner that could confuse the batter.

The catching position is used in this league. All catchers must wear a protective cup.

Balls

Little League or Cal Ripken cushioned cork center balls will be used for game play.

Batting

Cal Ripken baseball rules apply.

Each player on the team will be placed in the batting order.

There is no bunting allowed. If any batter squares to bunt at a ball, a dead ball will be called immediately and a strike will be called against the batter.

There is no infield fly rule.

There is no dropped third strike rule.

Batters may only use bats with a maximum barrel size of 2 ⁵/₈ inches. A barrel size of 2 ³/₄ inches may be used only if it is a "USA Baseball" sanctioned.

Any youth player on the field (batters, base runners, and coaches) must wear a helmet at all times.

Base Running

Cal Ripken baseball rules apply.

Baseball rules clearly spell out the meaning of dead ball. Coaches are strongly encouraged to teach their players how to stop the lead runner.

Runners may attempt to steal second and third bases only. Runners cannot attempt a stolen base until the pitched ball crosses the plate. Any runner who is caught leaving early will be called out. There will be no warning.

A catcher may be replaced on the base paths in order to "speed up" the game, with two outs. This replacement should happen during the course of a normal stop in play, and time should NOT be called, just to substitute the catcher.

No leading off base is permitted until the baseball crosses home plate.

Scoring

An inning is over when 5 runs have been scored in the inning or 3 outs have been made. There is a 5-run rule for each inning, with no continuation. If the 5th run scores during an at bat, the play will continue until an out is made or all the runners cross home plate (including the batter-runner). Any runs scored over the 5-run limit will not count.

There is unlimited batting/scoring in the last inning. In the case of an abbreviated game due to darkness, coaches should predetermine the last inning prior to its beginning. In the event of an extra inning playoff game, the 5-run rule does not apply to the extra inning(s).

Fielding/Defense

There will be a maximum of 10 players on defense. There can be as many as: 4 outfielders, 4 infielders, 1 pitcher, and 1 catcher. The League Commissioner will set this policy before the start of the season. If not formally communicated, there will be 9 players on defense with only 3 outfielders.

There will be unlimited substitutions on defense (with the exception of pitchers as defined in the pitcher/catcher section).

It is strongly recommended that all players be given the opportunity to play the infield (1st, 2nd, 3rd, catcher or pitcher), unless a coach feels that the safety of a particular player could be an issue if he/she is placed in the infield, the commissioner must be notified in advance if such a player is not being placed in the infield for a minimum of two innings each game. Each player should sit out (1) inning on defense before any player sits out (2) innings on defense.

Umpires

Umpire(s) will be provided for each game.

Teams should wait no longer than 10 minutes following the scheduled game start time to play a game in the absence of an umpire. A team's assistant coach or trusted member thoroughly familiar with the rules of baseball should act as the umpire.

ONLY COACHES SHOULD HAVE COMMUNICATION - RELATED TO THE GAME AND ON FIELD ACTIVITIES - WITH THE UMPIRES. PLEASE ADVISE YOUR PARENTS AND PLAYERS NOT TO GET INTO DISCUSSIONS ABOUT CALLS ON THE FIELD WITH THE UMPIRE.

Post Season (Spring baseball season only)

Post-season games will begin at such a time so that the championship game will be completed not later than the end of the school year unless weather dictates otherwise.

End of season standings will determine post-seasons seeding. Tie breakers will be established as follows:

- 1) head-to-head games played
- 2) total runs allowed
- 3) total run differential
- 4) coin flip