



MAJOR LEAGUE RULES

Effective Date: February 24, 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL RULES

- 1. Teams**
- 2. Coaches**
- 3. Player Eligibility**

DRAFT

- 1. General**
- 2. The Blind Draft**

PRE-SEASON

- 1. General**
- 2. Practices**
- 3. Opening Day**

GAMES

- 1. General**
- 2. Game Sportsmanship**
- 3. Home Team Responsibilities**
- 4. Playing Time**
- 5. Pitchers – Pitch Count Rule**
- 6. Ground Rules**
- 7. Game Rules**
 - 1. Pitching**
 - 2. Pitchers – Pitch Count Rule**
 - 3. Batting**
 - 4. Baserunning**

PLAYOFFS



MAJOR LEAGUE RULES

Effective Date: February 24, 2019

GENERAL RULES

1. Teams

1. QYBA board will review the number of teams and players per team in the Major Division yearly and make the final call based on registrations. The number of teams will be based on making the Majors competitive and not affecting the Minor League. Any returning Major League player is guaranteed to remain in the Major League.
2. Returning Head Coaches will remain with the team name they were associated with the year before.
3. No smoking is permitted within the fence surrounding the field, or in the dugouts. No smoking is permitted on QYBA fields, Quakertown School District fields or grounds used for practice.
4. No profane, vulgar or obscene language will be tolerated.

2. Coaches

1. Anyone wishing to coach in the Major Division must meet before the Board.
 - a. Coaching candidates must notify the QYBA Board of Directors of their interest.
 - b. The Board will consider all factors in choosing Major League Head Coaches, including but not limited to Assistant Major League Coaches, Minor League Coaches, seniority with QYBA, and coaching experience.
2. No longer will there be any securing of players for purposes of securing an Assistant Coach...the Assistant coach can only be assigned after the draft.
3. Coaches are only permitted to head coach one team in QYBA. They will not be permitted to head coach one team in the Major Division, and another in a different division.
4. Coaching responsibilities include:
 - a. Attending mandatory coaching clinics, player tryouts & tournament tryouts.
 - b. Always following the QYBA Code of Conduct.
 - c. Assigning a Team Mom (optional)
 - d. Securing umpires for ALL games their team is scheduled to ump.
 - e. Assure League playing time rules are strictly followed.
 - f. Secure team participation in "Field Work Day", a day designated by the QYBA Board of Directors to prepare the fields for the upcoming baseball season.
 - g. Enforce Code of Conduct with your team's players, parents and coaches.
 - h. All Coaches must produce a QYBA approved Background check to the Board before they can participate in practices or games.

3. Player Eligibility

1. All eleven- and twelve-year olds are eligible to play in the Major Division. Players must be 11 before May 1st and must not be 13 before May 1st.



MAJOR LEAGUE RULES

Effective Date: February 24, 2019

DRAFT

1. General

1. It is mandatory for each Head Coach to be present at the draft. The Blind Draft will be held after player tryouts, and sometime prior to Opening Day.
2. Head Coaches must be chosen, before draft begins, by the Board.
3. The top players as determined by the Major League Draft Board and the head coaches will enter the Blind Draft. There are no exceptions.
 - a. The number of teams will be determined based on registration and voted on by the board.
 - b. Returning players that played in the major division last year are guaranteed to play in the Major League the next year.
 - c. All 11-year olds and 12-year olds who have not played in the Majors should participate in tryouts.
4. Any siblings in the same division will be locked onto the same team, unless the parent requests otherwise. Once one sibling has been picked the other sibling will be assigned to the same team and the other coaches will assess his ability and assign him to the appropriate blind draft round.

2. The Blind Draft

1. The goal of the Blind draft is to have a balanced, competitive league by having each coach drafting teams that will in all probability not be their team. Each Head Coach will have an incentive to make sure that all teams are equal in talent.
2. The Blind Draft will be conducted by The Major League Draft Board which will consist of the League President, the Vice President and the Major League Coordinator. If a Draft Board member is a Head Coach in the Major Division, then the board will choose an independent third-party replacement.
3. Each Head Coach's child prior to the draft will be assigned a draft ranking as voted on by the Head Coaches and Major League Draft Board. If a Major Head Coach does not have a child, he will be assigned a child based upon the average ranking of the other Head Coaches children's ranking.
4. Final Coaching assignments will be determined by lottery after the top 10-11 players per team are drafted. Each Head Coach's Child or assigned player will be assigned to the same team at that time.
5. The first few rounds will be for assigning the top players evenly among the teams. This will be assigned in a snake format, i.e., 1 and 8, 9 and 16, etc., and the placement will be determined by the Head Coaches and Major League Draft Board.
6. After the first few rounds coaches will draft in snake order to fill the rosters. All picks will need the majority vote of the other coaches and in a tie the Draft Board will vote.
7. At the end of the draft the Major League Draft Board will reassign players based on the draft rankings of the coach's child. This is to correct any disparity of the teams created by the assigning of the coach's sons at the end of the draft.
8. The draft will start promptly at 7:00pm on the date designated by the QYBA Board of Directors.



MAJOR LEAGUE RULES

Effective Date: February 24, 2019

9. Only the top players will be drafted, the number of players will depend on registration numbers.
 - a. Rounds will continue until each team has 10-11 players. Once 10-11 players are reached on the team roster, the team's drafting will be completed.
 - b. Any eligible 11- and 12-year-old players not drafted will be assigned to the Minors for drafting and placement on a team.
10. Once the draft is completed, rosters will be distributed to each team.

PRE-SEASON

1. General

1. Each team, upon completion of the draft, will have no more than eleven players.
2. Each coach is responsible for contacting all players on their roster. Each coach should communicate the following to each player:
 1. Introduce themselves.
 2. Tell each player the time and location of the first practice.

2. Practices

1. Coaches are responsible for securing their own practice fields; the League will not assign practice fields.
2. The QYBA Pony, Minors, and Majors fields will be closed from field day to opening day in an effort to make sure the fields are in great shape for the season. Practices can occur on any field outside of the above fields, or in the batting cages.
3. Each team is encouraged to practice at least two to three times per week prior to opening day.
4. Each team is encouraged to continue practices after the start of the season.

3. Opening Day

1. The QYBA Board of Directors will designate opening day.
2. All teams are required to be part of Opening Day ceremonies at the QYBA Major League Fields.

GAMES

1. General

1. Schedules will be created and published on the QYBA website prior to opening day.
2. The QYBA Board will publish two schedules to each team. A Major League game schedule and an Umpire Schedule.
 - a. The Major League will contain the dates, times, and field locations for games to be played, the home team, the visiting team, and the scheduled umpires for every game.
 - b. The Umpire schedule will dictate the date and the field that your team is responsible for supplying umpires.



MAJOR LEAGUE RULES

Effective Date: February 24, 2019

3. An official game is 6 innings. If rain or darkness occurs, every attempt will be made to complete the game. If the game must be halted before the home team has completed the 4th inning, the game is postponed and must be continued from that point ASAP. If it is halted after the home team completes the 4th inning, the game will be considered official.
4. No game can start with less than 8 players.

2. Game Sportsmanship

1. Good Sportsmanship will be expected during all games
2. Each Head coach is responsible for enforcing the QYBA Code of Conduct for his team.
3. Arguing, nagging, and harassing of umpires will not be tolerated. The umpire is required to give one warning, and then he / she may eject the offending player or coach.
4. Arguing and harassing of opponents will not be tolerated. The umpire is required to give one warning, and then he / she may eject the offending player or coach.
5. Any player or coach that is ejected for any reason will automatically be suspended from their team's next game.
 - a. Any incident warranting an ejection of a coach, player or fan will be brought to the attention of the Major League Coordinator and the President of QYBA. If deemed necessary by the President, the Disciplinary Committee may be contacted to review and make a recommendation for further punishment based on QYBA's Code of Conduct.
6. Coaches are expected to make every attempt at controlling fans from harassing umpires or opposing players.
7. Although QYBA recognizes that winning is important, running up the score is highly discouraged. Every attempt must be made to ensure that an opponent is not embarrassed in a game.
 - a. There is a 12 Run Rule in effect for the Major Division. If a team is winning by 12 or more runs by the end of the 4th inning, the game will end. If the Home team is winning by 12 or more at the middle of the 4th inning, the game will end before they bat.
 1. If both teams and the umpire agree after the 12 Run Rule has been implemented and the game is official, the teams may continue to play with the scoreboard turned off. The current pitchers must be removed. All pitching rules will still apply (refer to section 5 on pitching below).
8. All uniforms are to remain unaltered. No names or patches may be added or alterations made without the approval of the board.

3. Team Responsibilities

1. **The Home Team** is responsible for field preparation before the game. This may include:
 - a. Gathering Umpire equipment for the umpire.
 - b. Supplying two game balls.



MAJOR LEAGUE RULES

Effective Date: February 24, 2019

- c. Lining the field
 - d. Turning on the scoreboard and lights if necessary
 - e. The equipment needed is located in the shed behind the backstop.
 2. **The Visiting Team** is responsible for Scoreboard operations when available & Post game responsibilities which include:
 - a. Raking field and picking up trash. When raking the fields, always rake in the direction that the players run. Never rake perpendicular to the grass line.
 - b. Emptying the trash buckets from dugouts into property trash cans
 - c. Putting all equipment away properly.
 - d. Turning off lights and scoreboard
 - e. Locking up.
 - f. Staying until the Snack Stand staff has left.
 3. **Inclement weather**
 - g. The QYBA Board of Directors has final responsibility for canceling a game due to inclement weather.
 - h. If a game is postponed, the Home Team Head Coach is responsible for calling the Major League Coordinator.
 - i. The Home team head coach is also responsible for rescheduling the postponed game, agreeing on a date with the visiting team head coach and the Major League Coordinator. The game must be rescheduled ASAP (within in 14 days from the date of cancellation).
 - j. The ultimate responsibility for rescheduling falls to the Major League Coordinator...and he / she must ensure that games are rescheduled in a timely manner ASAP.
 4. **Playing Time**
 1. The fielding positions are the standard nine fielding positions.
 2. No player can sit on the bench more than six outs per game nor can they be consecutive innings. Free defensive substitution is permitted and encouraged.
 - a. The only exception to this rule is illness, injury or disciplinary action. The opposing head coach and lead umpire must be notified.
 3. Penalty for non-compliance of the mandatory playing time rules is forfeit of game. All cases will be reviewed by the QYBA President to determine if a further penalty is needed.
 - a. Each major team may pull up a Minor team player if necessary by contacting the Majors Coordinator or the Call up coordinator. See Call up rules.
 5. **Pitchers – Pitch Count Rule**
 1. QYBA uses a Pitch Count Rule.
 2. Pitchers will be limited to 85 pitches per day (11- and 12-year olds).
 - a. Pitchers must adhere to following rest requirements based on the number of pitches in a day:
 - If a player pitches 66 or more pitches, 4 calendar days rest required
 - 51-65 pitches, 3 calendar days rest required
 - 36-50 pitches, 2 calendar days rest required
 - 21-35 pitches, 1 calendar days rest required
 - 1-20 pitches, 0 calendar days rest required



MAJOR LEAGUE RULES

Effective Date: February 24, 2019

Once a pitcher is removed, they may not re-enter the game and pitch again. They are only permitted to re-enter at another position.

- b. A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play catcher for the remainder of that game
 - c. If a player plays catcher, even for 1 pitch, they can only pitch a maximum of 40 pitches if they enter the game as a pitcher.
 - d. If a pitcher reaches his allotted pitch count during an inning the pitcher will be allowed to finish the current batter and then must be removed from the mound.
3. Each team's scorekeeper is responsible to keep their own and the opponent's teams pitch count. At the end of each inning the scorekeepers will verify the total pitches for each pitcher. All discrepancies will be resolved by the head coaches and umpires.
 4. A player is not allowed to pitch in more than 1 game per day.
 5. NO player may pitch more than 6 innings in one Calendar week (SUN – SAT) if there are no more than two games scheduled.
 - a. If there are three or more games scheduled, then a pitcher may pitch 8 innings in one Calendar week (SUN – SAT). All pitch count rules remain in effect.
 6. Penalty for violating the limit on pitcher's innings is forfeit of game. All cases will be reviewed by the QYBA President to determine if a further penalty is needed.

6. Ground Rules

1. The Pitcher's Rubber is 50 feet from home plate.
2. The bases are 70 feet apart.
3. The Home Team will occupy the first base dugout; the Visiting Team will occupy the third base dugout.
4. Coaches MUST stay behind the fence or in the dugout. They are not permitted to stand in the playing area anywhere.
5. Each team is permitted to have 4 adults (coaches) in the playing area.
6. On deck batters must be in the separate On-Deck area, located next to their team's dugout. The only players permitted to have a bat in their hands are the player on the field batting, and the player in the on-deck area.
7. Pitcher's or other players that need to warm-up may do so down the outfield lines, in foul territory with a player or coach watching play, to protect the players warming up.
8. There is no food permitted in the dugouts.
9. Dugouts must be cleaned up after games and trashcans emptied.
10. Everything inside the fence is in the field of play, excluding the dugouts. If a ball enters a dugout, it is considered out of play, and any runners are awarded one base. This means the base they were headed to, plus one additional base.
11. At any time, if a ball goes over the fence or through the fence on a throw, the ball is considered out of play. Any runners are awarded one base. This means the base they were headed to, plus one additional base.
12. If a batted ball goes through the outfield fence in fair territory, or bounces over the outfield fence, the batter is awarded a ground-rule double and runners get two bases from the base the play started from.



MAJOR LEAGUE RULES

Effective Date: February 24, 2019

13. Parents and spectators are not permitted to be in contact with players during scheduled games, except in the case of illness or injury. Parents may not check with and / or console a player during a game. Parents and Spectators are not permitted to enter the field of play or a dugout with the exception of illness or injury.
14. The Infield Fly rule is in effect. With runners on first and second, or the bases loaded, and less than two outs an automatic out may be called at an umpire's discretion.
15. There is no "automatic" time out. Time out is only awarded when the umpire calls "Time". Never assume "Time Out".
16. No player may wear metal spikes.
17. Players must be in full uniform to play in scheduled games. This includes matching team hat, shirt, game pants, and socks.
18. Batters are not permitted to unintentionally toss their bats (throwing the bat). First offense will result in the umpire warning the batter and the Head Coach. If there is a second offense, the batter will be ruled out. If there is a third offense, the batter will be ruled out and ejected from the game.
19. Any batter throwing equipment in an angry manner will receive a warning from the umpire. If there is a second offense, that player will be ejected from the game and suspended from the next game.

7. Game Rules

1. Pitching

- a. Pitchers will be limited to 85 pitches per day (11 and 12-year olds). Refer to section "5. Pitchers – Pitch Count Rule" for pitch count requirements.
- b. A player is not allowed to pitch in more than 1 game per day.
 1. Once a pitcher throws one pitch in an inning, that constitutes a whole inning pitched.
 2. Once a pitcher is removed, he may not re-enter the game and pitch again. He is only permitted to re-enter at another position.
- c. There are two visits by a coach (any) to the mound. On the third overall visit at any point in the game, the pitcher must be removed, and another pitcher must enter the game. The mound visit rules are per pitcher.
- d. Pitchers must have a foot on the pitching rubber. An umpire will warn a coach and the pitcher once, and, after that, then call a ball for every pitch thrown without the pitcher's foot touching the rubber.
- e. Balks - after 1 warning from the umpire for an "obvious" balk, the base runner or runners will advance to the next open base on the next "obvious" balk called. Warnings from the umpire are 2 per pitcher in a game.
- f. A Pitcher is not allowed to throw a curve ball or any similar breaking pitch.
 1. Any pitch thrown that the umpire determines is a curve ball and the ball is not batted into play, the umpire will call a "Dead Ball" and the pitch will be called a ball.
 2. If the ball is batted into play and all runners reach base safely the play will stand. The umpire will notify both coaches and the pitcher that a curve ball was thrown, and any further curve balls will be called balls.
 - i. If the batter or any runner is called out on a batted curve



MAJOR LEAGUE RULES

Effective Date: February 24, 2019

ball the play is dead, all runners will return to their original base and the batter will continue with his at bat. The curve ball will be called a ball.

2. Batting

- a. The Line-Up will be a Continuous Batting Order – all Players will be in the Line-Up.
- b. All Batters must wear NOCSAE-approved Batting Helmets.
 1. Note: Each team will be provided with a one-size fits all helmet with a facemask as part of the team's equipment bag upon request.
- c. Bunting is permitted.
- d. No "Slug Bunts" are permitted. A slug bunt is when a player squares around to bunt, or shows bunt, and then takes a full swing at the ball. Any batter deemed slug bunting by the umpire will be ruled out.
- e. Only League approved bats are permitted to be used.
- f. Bats may not exceed 32" in length. BATS WITH A DIAMETER OF 2 5/8" or less CAN BE USED.
- g. If a team has less than 9 batters they will write in a fictional batter at the end of the lineup for each missing batter under 9 and be penalized an out each time that batters turn comes up.
- h. Each team must bat a minimum of 9 batters.
- i. A batter may advance to 1st base on a 'dropped 3rd strike' if: 1st base is unoccupied; or if there are 2 outs (regardless if 1st base is occupied).

3. Baserunning

- a. No headfirst slides are permitted. Diving back to a base is permitted.
- b. All baserunners must wear helmets.
- c. A player may steal any base on any pitch.
- d. There is unlimited leading.
- e. Contact is to be avoided on the base paths at all times. If a play is being made on a runner, the runner may slide or avoid contact.
- f. Any player that does not slide and makes contact with the fielder when a play is being made on him / her will be ruled out.

PLAYOFFS

1. Standings will be determined by Winning percentage.
2. All teams will make the playoffs.
3. Tie-Breaking rules are as follows:
 1. Head to Head record.
 2. Record's against highest seeded team, then next highest seeded team, etc.
 3. Coin toss.
4. Highest seeded team is always the home team, except in the Championship game. Winners bracket team will be home team in game 1 of the Championship. If a second game is needed a coin flip will decide home or visitor.
5. Playoffs will consist of a double-elimination tournament – adhering to the pitch count rules used during the regular season. Should there be rainouts, we will extend playoffs to allow for them to finish. We will reserve the weekend at the end of Championship week to finish the playoffs if all of the weeknights have been taken by



MAJOR LEAGUE RULES

Effective Date: February 24, 2019

rainouts. That final weekend we will allow a double-header if needed to complete Majors playoffs.

6. There are no rules regarding maximum innings/week for the playoffs. Pitch Counts and Days rest are what determines a pitcher's eligibility during playoffs due to the double elimination format.
7. Both teams in the Championship game will be awarded trophies.
8. At the beginning of Playoff week, all pitch counts are erased. Each pitcher enters the Playoff week with "0" pitches.
9. Playoff games will be played in their entirety except for the 12-run rule. If a game is called because of unsafe playing conditions the game will resume from the point of stoppage as soon as conditions permit.



MAJOR LEAGUE RULES

Effective Date: February 24, 2019

AMENDMENT HISTORY

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Description:</u>
4/4/2011	<i>Initial approval at Board Meeting</i>
12/19/2011	<i>Addition of dropped 3rd strike, double elimination playoff tournament; change lead line to unlimited leads, change number of teams to 7 or 8 (77 or 88 players).</i>
2/4/2013	<i>Change number of teams to 6, 7 or 8 (66, 77 or 88 players).</i>
1/20/2014	<i>Removed references to a fixed number of teams. Replaced with a more generic statement of teams will be based on registration. Number of kids per team was changed to 10-11, instead of a static number of 11.</i>
2/22/2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pitch counts and days rest updated to reflect Little League Guidelines</i> • <i>Playoff Innings/Week rule eliminated and in playoffs pitch counts and days rest are the guidelines</i>
2/15/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Games, 1. General, 1. Changed to reflect schedules made available on website. 2. C. changed to allow game to complete if home team is ahead</i> • <i>Games, 1. General, rule 2 regarding opening day removed</i> • <i>Games, 1. General, minimum 8 players rule added</i> • <i>Batting a. – league-approved changed to NOCSAE-approved</i> • <i>Games, 7. Game Rules, 1. Pitching, e. – number of balk warnings reduced from 2 to 1.</i> • <i>Miscellaneous spelling, grammatical errors corrected.</i>