



MINOR LEAGUE RULES

Effective Date: February 24, 2019

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PLAYOFFS



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GENERAL RULES

1. Teams

1. The Minor League will consist of a different amount of teams each year. The number of teams is not set as it is in the Major League.
 - a. The number of teams will be determined after registration is closed.
 - b. There will be as many teams as possible. Teams will have approximately 11 players per roster. The league will make every effort to make as many teams with 11 players as possible. No team *can* have less than 10 and no more than 12.
2. Any returning Minor League players will not be locked onto the team they played with the prior year. Instead, all players go into the Available Player Pool for the Draft.
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. Any returning Head Coach will remain with the team they were associated with the year before.
2. If there is not a returning head coach for a particular team, a new one must be selected.
 - a. Coaching candidates must notify the QYBA Board of Directors before the February Board Meeting of their interest.
 - b. The Board will consider all factors in choosing Minor League Head Coaches, including but not limited to Assistant Minor League Coaches, Pony League Coaches, seniority with QYBA, compliance to QYBA Codes of Conduct, Player evaluations, volunteer fulfillments and coaching experience.
 - c. The Board will vote on all Minor League coaching vacancies after the completion of Registration and once the number of Minor League teams for the year is decided.
3. There is no longer any securing of players for purposes of securing an Assistant Coach; an Assistant Coach cannot be picked until after the draft.
4. Coaches are permitted to head coach only one team in QYBA. They will not be permitted to head coach one team in the Minor Division, and another in a different division.
5. Coaching responsibilities include:
 - a. Attending mandatory Coaching Clinics.
 - b. Following the QYBA Code of Conduct.
 - c. Assigning a Team Mom.
 - d. Securing umpires for ALL games their team is scheduled to ump.
 - e. Assure League playing time rules are strictly followed.
 - f. Do not allow any pitchers to throw breaking balls.
 - g. 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.
 - h. Enforce Code of Conduct with your team's players and coaches.

- i. All Head Coaches and Assistant coaches must produce a Pennsylvania State Background check to the Board before they can participate in practices or games.
- j. Gathering all signed Code of Conduct forms from their coaches, players, and parents and handing them into a Board member.

3. Player Eligibility

1. All ten, eleven and twelve year olds are eligible to play in the Minor League. Players must be 10 before May 1st and must not be 13 before May 1st.

DRAFT

1. General

1. Draft will be scheduled at least 4 weeks before Opening Day. It is mandatory for each Head Coach to be present at the draft.
2. Head Coaches must be picked before draft begins.
3. Returning players that played in the minor league the prior year are not locked on the teams they played for the previous year, but go in the Draft Pool (see 1.1.3).
4. An “Available Player List” and Player Evaluation will be made available to each coach before the draft begins.

2. Special Coach / Son Privilege

1. Each Head Coach will have their son/daughter assigned to their team.
2. Brothers / Sisters will be kept together on the same team unless a request is made by the parents to separate the siblings

3. The Blind Draft

1. The draft will start promptly at 7:00pm on the date designated by the QYBA Board of Directors.
2. The Minor League Draft board will consist of the League President, the Vice President and the Minor League Coordinator. If a Draft Board member is a Head Coach in the Minor League, then the board will choose an independent third party replacement.
3. All eligible 10, 11 and 12-year-old players will be drafted using a Blind Draft Format.
4. The goal of the Blind draft is to have balanced, competitive Minor League teams. Having coach’s draft teams before knowing which team they will coach, will provide the incentive to make all teams as equal as possible.
5. The final Head Coaching assignments will be determined by a lottery after the last available player is drafted. Each Coach’s child or assigned player will be placed on their team at that time.
6. The first two rounds will be for assigning top pitchers evenly among the teams. This will be assigned in a snake format, i.e. 1 and 20, 2 and 19 etc. The Minor Draft Board and the consensus of the Minor coaches will determine the placement.
7. After the first two rounds players will be assigned in snake order to fill the rosters. All picks will need the consensus of the Minor coaches; in a tie the Draft Board will vote.
 - a. Draft order will be determined based on the assessment of the returning player talent, via player evaluations.
8. Rounds will continue until all available players are drafted.



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9. At the end of the draft, the Minor 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 coaches sons at the end of the draft.
10. Once the draft is completed, rosters will be distributed to each team; and no movement of players between teams is allowed, unless extreme special conditions exist and approval is received from the QYBA President.

PRE-SEASON

1. General

1. Each coach is responsible for calling all players on their roster. Each coach should communicate the following to each player:
 - a. Introduce themselves
 - b. 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. Once the QYBA fields have been prepped for the season, a schedule of practice games and practice times on these fields will be distributed.
 - a. The Minor League Representative will be responsible for preparing and distributing the practice schedule.
 - b. Teams may schedule their own practice games based on field availability.
 - c. The team that was assigned the field for a particular time is responsible for returning all equipment, raking the field, picking up trash, and locking up.
3. Each team is encouraged to practice at least two to three times per week.
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 Field.

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 for each team: A Minor League game schedule and an Umpire Schedule.
 - a. The Minor League schedule 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.
3. Games are 6 innings.
 - a. Official games are not to exceed two hours. Once a new inning is begun within the 2-hour timeframe, that inning **MUST** be completed. An inning is considered to have started when the last out of the previous inning has been made.

- b. After 4 full innings are completed, and the game must be stopped because of rain or darkness, it is considered complete and official; AND reverts to the score at the end of the last full inning. The umpire will decide when weather conditions have made the field unsafe and will stop the game.
 - c. If the game must be halted (rain, darkness) before the home team has completed the 4th inning within the 2-hour timeframe, the game is postponed and must be continued, according to the aforementioned rules unless the home team is ahead. Mark the time and continue the game with in the guidelines (2-hour timeframe).
 - d. If the 2-hour timeframe halts a game and 4 innings are not complete, the game is considered official once the home team bats.
4. Pre-Game warm-up starts at least one hour before any scheduled game. The Home Team uses the field first and must be completed warm-ups 25 minutes before the scheduled game start, and then the Visiting Team gets the field until game time.

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. Continued arguing, nagging, and harassing of umpires or opponents, including noise that may disrupt the game, 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 the ejection of a coach, player or fan will be brought to the attention of the Minor 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 Minor 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.
 - 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.
8. Teams may lend players to their opponent. Example, if a team only has seven

players, their opponent may lend them a different defensive player every inning in order that they have eight players (two outfielders) and the game can be played.

9. All uniforms are to remain unaltered. No names or patches may be added, or alterations made without the approval of the board.

3. Home 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.
 - c. Lining the field
 - d. 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. Locking up.
3. Inclement weather
 - a. QYBA Board of Directors has final responsibility for canceling a game due to inclement weather.
 - b. If a game is postponed, the Home Team Head Coach is responsible for contact the Minor League Coordinator.
 - c. 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 Minor League Coordinator. The game must be rescheduled ASAP (within in 14 days from the date of cancellation).
 - d. The Minor League Coordinator must ensure that games are rescheduled in a timely manner ASAP.

4. Playing Time

1. The line-up will consist of all players on the roster and will be continuous. The line-up will bat through all players.
 - a. No player can sit on the bench more than six outs per game nor can they be consecutive innings (this applies to playoffs).
 - b. Free defensive substitution is permitted and encouraged.
 - c. The only exception to this rule is illness, injury or disciplinary action, in which the opposing head coach and lead umpire are to be notified.
2. Coaches may contact the Minor league coordinator or Call up coordinator to call up players from the Pony Division (see Call-up Rules) should they have less than 9 players for a game.
3. Penalty for non-compliance of the mandatory playing time rule is forfeit of game. All cases will be reviewed by the QYBA President to determine if a further penalty is needed.

5. Ground Rules

1. The Pitcher's Rubber is 46 feet from home plate.

2. The bases are 60 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.
 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 more 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.
 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, and the play is call dead.
 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 (the coach will also be warned). If there is a second offense, that player will be ejected from the game and suspended from the next game.
- 6. Game Rules**
- 1. Pitching**
 - a. 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.

- b. Once a pitcher throws one pitch in an inning, that constitutes a whole inning pitched.
- c. 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.
- d. 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 visits rules are per pitcher.

2. Pitchers – Pitch Count Rule

- a. Pitchers will be limited to 85 pitches per day (11 and 12 year olds) and 75 pitches per day (10 years old and under)
- b. 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
- c. 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.
- d. A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play catcher for the remainder of that game
- e. 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.
- f. **NO PLAYER MAY PITCH MORE THAN 6 INNINGS IN ONE CALENDAR WEEK (SUN-SAT).**
 - **IF THERE ARE THREE OR MORE GAMES SCHEDULED THEN A PITCHER MAY PITCH 7 INNINGS IN ONE CALENDAR WEEK (SUN. – SAT). ALL PITCH COUNT RULES REMAIN IN EFFECT.**
- g. If a pitcher reaches his allotted maximum pitch count limit during an inning, the pitcher will be allowed to finish the current batter and then must be removed from the mound.
- h. A player is not allowed to pitch in more than 1 game per day.
- i. Pitches delivered in suspended games shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility.
- j. In suspended games resumed on another day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for that day, provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest.
 - Example 1: pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on the following Thursday. The pitcher is not eligible to pitch in the resumption of the game because he/she has not observed the required days of rest.
 - Example 2: pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when the game is suspended. The game resumes on Saturday. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game because he/she has observed the required days of rest.
 - Example 3: pitcher delivers 70 pitches in a game on Monday when

the game is suspended. The game resumes two weeks later. The pitcher is eligible to pitch up to 85 more pitches in the resumption of the game, provided he/she is eligible based on his/her pitching record during the previous four days.

- Suspended games resumed on another day negate the concept of the “calendar week” with regard to pitching eligibility.
- k. 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.
- l. 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.

1. Batting

- a. The Line-Up will be a continuous batting order – all Players will be in the Line-Up.
- b. All batters must wear a NOCSAE-approved helmet.
 - Note: Each team will be provided a one-size fits all helmet with a facemask as part of the team’s equipment bag upon request.
- c. Bunting is permitted.
 - No player may bunt or attempt to bunt in more than two at bats per game.
 - A bunt will constitute any “squaring around to bunt or attempted drag bunt” whether contact is made or not. If a batter attempts to bunt and later in the same at bat swings away that at bat is still defined as a Bunt at Bat.
 - A third bunt attempt will be penalized as a strike on the batter. If contact is made the play will be considered cancelled, all runners will return to their original positions and the batter will be charged a strike and resume their at bat. If the penalty strike is the third strike on the batter then the batter is ruled out.
- 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.

2. Baserunning

- a. No headfirst slides are permitted. Diving back to a base is permitted.
- b. All baserunners must wear a helmet.
- c. No leads are permitted. The runner is NOT permitted to leave the base until the ball passes home plate.
- d. Runners may advance after any pitched ball is hit. He/she may continue advancing until the play ends by the pitcher receiving the ball and being in the dirt area of the pitcher’s mound (or within a lined circle).
- e. Stealing of 2nd, 3rd is permitted for the entire year. A player may not leave the base until the ball passes home plate. Stealing of Home is NOT

permitted. This means that a catcher can make an attempt to throw a runner out at 2nd base on an attempted steal, even with a runner on 3rd, the runner on 3rd base is NOT permitted to run home.

- Otherwise the runner at 3rd can only advance if the following occurs: bases loaded walk or bases loaded hit by pitch, base hit with runner on 3rd, tag up at 3rd on fly ball or an error on a hit ball.
- f. 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. Any player that does not slide and makes contact with the fielder when a play is being made, he /she will be ruled out.

PLAYOFFS

1. **All teams will make the playoffs.** This is done to encourage teams to develop depth during the regular season.
2. Official Games may be ended due to darkness. The score at the end of the last complete inning will be the final result.
3. Un-official Games interrupted by weather will be rescheduled by the Division coordinator and played to completion.
4. The single elimination bracket format will be used, based on seeding.
5. Playoff seeding will be determined by regular season standings / winning percentage.
6. Tie-Breaking rules are as follows:
 1. Head to head record
 2. Team who allowed the fewest runs
 3. Team who scored the most runs
 4. Coin toss
7. Highest seeded team is always the home team
8. Bracket example:
 1. In round one: the first place team will play the eighth place team, this is game A; the second place team will play the seventh place team, this is Game B; the third place team will play the sixth place team, this is Game C; the fourth place team will play the fifth place team, this is Game D.
 2. In round two: the Winner of Game A plays the winner of Game D, and the winner of Game B plays the winner of Game C
 3. Victorious teams will play in the championship game.
9. Both teams in the Championship game will be awarded trophies.
10. Pitchers – Pitch Count Rule is same as regular season.
 1. At the beginning of Playoff week, all pitching innings are erased. Each pitcher enters the playoff week with “0” innings pitched.
 2. Every attempt will be made to schedule all playoff games with 1-2 calendar days rest between games.
 - a. This is done to encourage teams to develop pitching depth during the regular season.
 - b. In the event of inclement weather and rescheduled playoff games, the originally scheduled days rest will apply to the rescheduled game.

AMENDMENT HISTORY

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Description:</u>
2/21/2011	<i>Initial approval at Board Meeting</i>
2/20/2012	<i>Include 'noise that may disrupt game' to section on good sportsmanship; add 'play is dead' to Infield Fly Rule; add play ends when pitcher has ball on mound; added section on "suspended games resumed on another day", under Game Rules, Pitch Count; Clarified base running rules – added "or overthrows 3rd base on an attempted steal of 3rd".</i>
1/20/2014	<i>Baserunning section F: change the Slide rule to read the baserunner may slide or avoid contact. This is a change that the baserunner must slide.</i>
2/22/2015	<i>Pitching Rules and Counts updated according to Little League Guidelines</i>
2/15/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Games, General 1. Changed to reflect schedules made available on website.</i> • <i>2. C. changed to allow game to complete if home team is ahead</i> • <i>Batting a. – league-approved changed to NOCSAE-approved</i> • <i>Miscellaneous spelling, grammatical errors corrected.</i>