

MYBSA Pony League

Rules and Guidelines

Primary emphasis will be placed on fundamental aspects of baseball including pitching, hitting, fielding and base running. These basic fundamentals will be taught to further enhance the knowledge and enjoyment of the game of baseball for our children. Key points are:

1. Coaches are encouraged to let each player have the opportunity to play both infield and outfield positions and bat in different positions in the batting order.
2. Each team should develop as many pitchers as possible while maintaining the integrity of the game.
3. No individual player will sit on the bench for two innings before every player sits one. This rotation will be maintained from game to game. It is the coaching staff's responsibility to maintain the integrity of player rotations.
4. Coaches are NOT to discuss the calls of balls and strikes with umpires. If concerns occur, they are to contact either the Umpire Director or League President.
5. Team Managers are permitted to discuss with umpires the clarity of In House Rules, etc. when conducted in a professional manner.
6. The MYBSA Coaching Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced. Any violations will be addressed by the MYBSA Board. Please refer to the MYBSA Code of Conduct Sanctions for additional details.
7. **Protests:** There will be NO protests processes regardless of the circumstances.
8. **Dugouts must be cleaned out completely after each game.** Each team should designate a parent as the "Dugout Coach". The Dugout Coach will insure the dugout is clean prior to leaving. Teams playing the first game of the night are encouraged to clean out the dugout prior to the end of the game. Teams playing the second game must keep their players from entering the dugout until everyone has exited from the first game.

I. SAFETY

- A. Batters, on-deck batters, and runners are required to wear helmets at all times.
- B. All catchers must wear full catching equipment and a protective cup at all times while playing the catcher position. All other players are strongly encouraged to wear a protective cup.
- C. **Bat Throwing:** A batter that wildly throws the bat will receive a warning from umpire. A second instance of bat throwing by the same player will result in a called out.
- D. **Injury Incident Report:** Coaches or other league representatives are required to fill out the "MYBSA Incident Form" if a serious injury occurs or medical attention is required for any individual playing in or attending a MYBSA event. If the form is not readily available, a blank copy is available from the MYBSA website documents section.

- E. **Extreme Weather Policy** – The MYBSA approved Extreme Weather Policy must be followed by all MYBSA stakeholders including coaches, parents, umpires and spectators. The policy can be found on the MYBSA website in the important documents section.
- F. Any player, coach, or umpire who is visibly bleeding must leave the field of play to stop the bleeding. When the bleeding has stopped and the injury is bandaged (if necessary), the player may return. No penalty applies to any missed at bats.
- G. If a player is removed from the game for illness, injury, ejection or any other reason causing a team to drop below nine eligible players, an automatic out is declared in the batting order position of the player that left the game unless there is an eligible substitute.

II. PITCHING

- A. Each pitcher may pitch a maximum of 7 innings per week.
- B. A pitcher can throw a maximum of 7 innings in one game.
- C. A pitcher can throw a maximum of 7 innings per day.
- D. The number of innings pitched during the same calendar week will ‘reset’ at 12:00 am Monday morning.
- E. A pitcher is considered to have pitched one inning after one pitch is thrown.
- F. Once removed from the mound, pitchers cannot re-enter the same game as a pitcher.
- G. Team managers will report the amount of eligible innings each pitcher is available to pitch on the lineup cards exchanged with their opponent. Note: It is important that you include available innings to pitch, NOT how many innings they have pitched in prior games.
- H. A pitcher is considered to have pitched one inning after one pitch has been thrown.
- I. **Warm Up Pitches** – At the beginning of each half-inning or when a pitcher relieves another, no more than one minute of play may be used to deliver no more than five balls to the catcher or other teammate. Exception: A pitcher is allowed 8 warm-up pitches at the beginning of a game.
- J. An intentional walk may be issued upon request. Four (4) pitches need not be thrown.

III. Batting

- A. **Legal Bat:** A bat is considered legal when the following conditions are met;
 - 1) Barrel size does not exceed 2 5/8 inches.
 - 2) Bat Performance Factor (BPF) does not exceed 1.15 or bat meets the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance guidelines, and such bats shall be so labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark.
 - 3) Is clearly identified by stamp or seal as being sanctioned by at least one of the following baseball governing bodies; Little League International, USSSA, Pony, Cal Ripken, Dixie Youth, Babe Ruth League, NFHS or Baseball Players Association.
*Refer to MYBSA Bat Guidelines for additional details.
 - 4)*A bat that is not clearly marked with 1) a BPF and sanctioning body stamp or labeled as BBCOR certified will be considered an illegal bat.

Penalties for Use of Illegal Bat: A batter is out for illegal action when a batter enters the batter's box with one or both feet entirely on the ground with an illegal bat or is discovered having used an illegal bat prior to the next player entering the batter's box. In addition, all base runners must return to their previously occupied base prior to the infraction. The bat will also be immediately removed from play.

Note: If the infraction is discovered before the next player enters the batter's box following the turn at bat of the player who used an illegal bat:

- 1) The manager of the defense may advise the plate umpire of a decision to decline the penalty and accept the play. Such election shall be made immediately at the end of the play.
 - 2) For the first violation, the offensive team will lose one eligible adult base coach for the duration of the game. The base coach cannot be replaced for the remainder of the game.
 - 3) For the second violation, the manager of the team will be ejected from the game. Any subsequent violation will result in the newly designated manager being ejected.
- B. **All teams must use a continuous batting order.** The batting order for each team shall consist of all players present, and they will bat in turn either until three (3) outs are recorded or until the maximum runs per inning have been scored.
- C. **8 Player rule:** When only 8 players are in the lineup, an automatic out will be recorded each time the 9th batting position is due to hit.
- D. All players arriving (in dugout) after the first pitch will placed at the end of the batting lineup, in the order they arrive.

I. Baserunning

- A. Batters are allowed to advance to first on dropped third strike.
- B. Infield fly rule shall be enforced.
- C. Base stealing is permitted.
- D. Basic base running rules apply including leading off and stealing in accordance with KHSAA guidelines.
- E. **Sliding Rule:** Whenever a tag play is evident, a runner must slide or seek to avoid contact with the fielder and / or catcher. Attempting to jump, leap, or dive over the fielder and / or catcher is not interpreted as seeking to avoid contact. Malicious contact shall supersede all obstruction penalties.

Penalty: The runner shall be called out and may be ejected from the game at the umpire's discretion. When enforcing this rule, the umpire should judge the runner's intent. If the umpire feels that the contact was unintentional, then the runner should only be declared out. If the umpire feels that the contact was intentional and / or malicious, then the runner should be declared out and ejected.

II. Fielding

- A. No player will sit out more than one (1) consecutive inning, except in the case of injury.
- B. No player will sit out two (2) innings in one game before all other players have set for one (1) inning in that game.

- C. Team parents will be encouraged to monitor their child's playing time.
- D. Nine (9) players will be used in the field.

III. Game

A. Length and Time

- 1) **Official Game** is 7 innings or time limit. For time limit purposes, no new inning may start once one hour and forty minutes (1:40) has elapsed from the game's official start time.
 - 2) The umpire will announce the official game time at first pitch. The official scorekeeper (home team) will record the game's start time in scorebook.
 - 3) **Time Limit** - For time limit purposes, official game time is determined at the point the final out of the bottom half of the inning is recorded. In enforcing this rule, the home team shall not bat if they are winning and the time limit has been reached during the inning. Similarly, if the home team is batting and the time limit is reached the home team shall cease batting and the game shall end.
- B. A game is official when each team can field a minimum of 8 players. However an automatic out will be called each time for the 9th batting position. If a player arrives after the game has started, the automatic out will not be assessed.
- C. **Forfeited Games:** A team must forfeit the game if they are unable to have at least eight (8) players available 10 minutes past the announced game time.
- D. **Temporary Player Rule:** In the spirit of NOT having to forfeit a game due to having seven players or less, a "Temporary Player Rule" has been implemented. If a team has less than the required 8 players, a coach can secure a player from another team in the league. The 'temporary' player must meet certain requirements. Those requirements are; 1) the temporary player's draft position may not exceed the cumulative average draft position, rounded to the higher number, of all missing players. For example, a 10 player team is missing 3 players. The missing players were 10th, 7th and 6th draft picks. The average draft round of the three missing players is 7.67, therefore is rounded up to the 8th round. The temporary player must have been drafted no higher than the 8th round.
1. A team can only add temporary player(s) to bring their game roster up to eight players, which is the minimum number to be considered an official game.
 2. Temporary players cannot pitch.
- E. **Substitutions:** Free defensive substitutions are allowed at any time.
- F. **Extra-Innings:** Extra-inning games will only be played in the following situations: 1) After local schools have dismissed for the summer, 2) Games played on a weekend or 3) Postseason tournament. During the regular season, only one extra inning will be played, starting with a base runner occupying second base. The base runner must be the player who made the last out from the prior inning. If, after one extra inning the game remains tied, the game will end in a tie. Each team will earn a ½ win for tie breaking purposes. Post season games will continue until a winner is decided.
- G. **Rain Outs:** Games in progress will be considered an official game when 4 full innings, or 3 ½ if home team has the lead. If the game has not reached the minimum amount of

innings then it will be rescheduled and start from the beginning. The innings pitched from an unofficial game **will** be counted.

- 1) Rainouts will be rescheduled in the order of occurrence
- H. All attempts will be made to avoid teams playing more than 3 games in a week or more than a doubleheader in one day.
- I. **Home team** will occupy third base dugout.
- J. **Home team** will be considered the 'official' scorekeeper.
- K.. **Mercy Rule:** If a team is leading its opponent by at least ten (10) runs prior to the final scheduled inning to be played, or if the home team is ahead by at least ten (10) runs in the bottom ½ of the inning just prior to the final inning, the game shall be terminated and the team in front declared the winner.
- L. All players must adhere to high standards of good sportsmanship and fair play during games and practice sessions. No razzing, heckling, taunting or "riding" of opposing players will be allowed by players, managers, or coaches. Penalties can include a warning, an out for the offending team and ejection.

IV. Post Season Rules

- A. Depending on the number of teams in the league, a consideration will be for a single or double elimination. Final determinations will be made as we progress through the season.
- B. All regular season rules will apply for Post Season Tournament. The only exception or exclusions are listed below.
- 1) No time limit for tournament games. The 'extra inning' rule utilized during the regular season will be followed during extra innings until the game is over.
 - 2) Tournament seeding is determined by:
 - A. Regular season record
 - B. Ties are determined by head to head competition
 - C. If tied after head to head competition, seed is determined by coin toss.
- C. Highest seed of each tournament game will be home team.
- D. Coaches: Please report to the home plate umpire after each game the number of innings your pitchers pitched each game. Innings pitched by all pitchers will be maintained and communicated, by tournament director, to the coaches as the tournament develops.

V. Miscellaneous

- A. Metal cleats ARE permitted.
- B. The MYBSA and its representatives reserve the right to render a final decision on any situation not covered by these rules and reserve the right to amend them when it is deemed necessary.
- C. Teams are to clean up around fields following every game. **Epecially dugouts!**
- D. Home team is responsible for maintaining the scorebook.
- E. Visiting team is responsible for maintaining the scoreboard.