

AAA Minor League Rules and Guidelines

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

The AAA Minor League will focus on building a solid foundation of baseball fundamentals that will prepare players for the transition to the Pinto League. Emphasis will be placed on developing basic playing skills and introducing players to fielding positions and some basic baseball rules. Finally, the most important goal will be fostering enjoyment of the game for our children. Other key points are:

1. 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.
2. Each team **will attempt** to develop at least two players for the purpose of playing the catcher position at the next level of baseball/softball.
3. Each player will learn proper batting stance, fielding position, catching and throwing techniques.
4. All players should be able to recognize the various parts of the field and the positions normally played.

I. SAFETY

- A. Batters, on-deck batters, and runners are required to wear helmets.
- B. All catchers must wear full catching equipment and are encouraged to wear 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 instruction against this practice from coaches.
- D. A player who cannot safely attempt to catch the ball should not be placed at 1st base position.
- E. Every offensive player must wear a helmet when batting or running the bases. The defensive catcher must wear a helmet.
- F. **Ball:** A safety (cushioned) ball will be used.
- G. **On Deck Circle:** All offensive players except the batter and base runners must be inside the dugout. **There is no on-deck circle.**

II. PITCHING

- A. The manager or coach of the batting team will pitch to their team.
- B. **Pitches will be thrown overhand.**
- C. **Fair ball arc:** There will be a twenty (20) foot arc drawn from the first (1st) baseline to the third (3rd) baseline in front of home plate. A batted ball that makes contact with any part of this arc is considered a fair ball.

- D. **Safety Arc:** There will be a thirty (30) foot arc drawn from the first (1st) baseline to the third (3rd) baseline in front of home plate. Infielders must stay behind this line until the ball is hit.
- E. **Bat Throwing:** Coaches should warn players each time there is a bat thrown by a hitter. **Pitcher's Area:** Any player fielding the pitching position will stand to either side of the coach who is pitching.

III. Batting

- A. The batting team will bat through $\frac{1}{2}$ of its batting order each inning.
- B. Batters will receive 4 (four) pitches or 3 (three) swings at the ball, whichever occurs first. If the batter fouls on the 3rd (third) swing or 4th (fourth) pitched ball, the batter will receive 1 (one) more pitch before hitting off the tee. If the batter has not put the ball into play following 3 (three) swings or 4 (four) pitched balls, the player will hit off a batting tee. The tee will be placed on home plate and the batter will be given three additional swings to hit the ball.
- C. A batted ball must reach the Fair Ball Arc of the infield grass. If the ball doesn't travel past the grass arc, it will be called foul and the batter will continue to hit. D. No bunting is allowed.
- E. A coach may position a batter in the batter's box.
- F. All teams must use a continuous batting order. The batting order for each team shall consist of all players present.
- G. **On Deck Circle:** All offensive players except the at-bat player and base runners must be inside the dugout. There is no on-deck circle.
- H. All players arriving (in dugout) after the first pitch will be placed at the end of the batting order, in the order of arrival.
- I. The maximum bat barrel diameter is 2 1/4". The bat may be either wood or metal.
- J. There are no walks.

IV. Base Running

- A. Batters may advance to first base on balls hit in the infield. Runners may advance one base. Batters may advance to second base only on a ball hit into the outfield. The outfield is the grass beyond the infield dirt on the minor/major fields. Runners on base may advance one (1) base on an infield hit or two (2) bases on a hit that reaches the outfield. If a batter or base-runner is put out, that batter or base-runner will return to the dugout, but play will continue regardless of how many outs have been recorded. If not put out, the last batter may advance around the bases to home plate. All preceding runners will advance to home plate.
- B. **Overthrows:** Runners may not advance on any overthrow.
- C. Base stealing is not permitted.
- D. Leadoffs are not permitted.
- E. Sliding is not permitted.

V. Fielding

- A. When on defense, players will be placed in normal infield positions (6 positions, including catcher) and any remaining players should be placed in a reasonable outfield position. Position rotation (both infield and outfield) will be mandatory, unless it creates a safety issue.
- B. Managers should minimize the time between half-innings. Defensive assignments should be planned in advance to keep the game moving. Rotation of positions should occur at the beginning of each half-inning only. Players should remain at that position for the entire inning.
- C. The catcher will return every caught or stopped ball to the pitcher. If the pitch goes behind the catcher, a coach should be positioned to help retrieve the ball and return to the pitcher.
- D. **Catcher Placement & Equipment:** The catcher must be positioned safely behind the batter and must wear a catcher's helmet and mask with dangling type throat guard, shin guards, and a long model chest protector. The catcher is allowed to wear a fielder's glove. Male catchers must wear a metal, fiber or plastic type protective groin cup.
- E. Coaches are strongly encouraged to place capable players at the catching and 1st base position. Catchers should attempt to play the position and receive the thrown pitches in a manner similar to that at higher levels of baseball (i.e. squatting behind the plate, catching the ball in the air, attempting to tag runners at the plate, making plays on balls within range, etc.).
- F. The defensive team may use up to two (2) coaches in the field. Both coaches shall be positioned behind the defensive players.

VI. Game

- A. **Innings:** Games will consist of a minimum of 2 innings unless the time limit has been reached.
- B. **Scoring:** No game scores will be recorded.
- C. At the end of the game, each team, including coaches, will line up and shake hands with the opposing team.
- D. If possible, rainouts will be rescheduled in the order of occurrence.
- E. All attempts will be made to avoid teams playing more than 3 games in a week or more than a doubleheader in one day.
- F. **Home team will occupy third base dugout.**
- G. **Coaches will handle all umpiring duties from their respective positions on the field.**
- H. All players, coaches and spectators 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.
- I. Any player or coach 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), they may return.
- J. The second game will begin as soon as possible after the first game is completed without being earlier than scheduled time. Coaches are encouraged to keep the games moving as quickly as possible.
- K. Most games will be played on the T Ball 2 field. Towards the end of the season, games will be moved to a Pinto League field. The move is intended to prepare the AAA players for the transition into the Pinto League.

VIII. Miscellaneous

- A. Teams must clean up their respective dugouts and the surrounding area after each game. Failure to comply with this rule could result in forfeiture of game.
- B. All players and coaches should wear appropriate hat and uniform during MYBSA games.
- C. The MYBSA reserves the right to place players in a specific league or division, regardless of age or experience.