



## Monroeville Baseball & Softball Association Rules

### Coach Pitch League (7-8 year olds)

#### Length of the Game:

1. The MBSA Executive Commissioner has the right to change game start times as he/she deems necessary to accommodate MBSA's game schedule at Monroeville Park West/East. Lights are available at these locations so later start times are possible for all divisions.
2. Forfeit time for games will be 30 minutes after the scheduled start time.
3. Four innings will constitute a game. Three-and-one-half innings shall constitute a legal game if the home team is ahead. A legal game tied is a complete game and will not be rescheduled. Legal games suspended in mid-inning revert to the last complete inning at restart.
4. There will be 6 innings in a game. Extra innings will be played only if time allows.
5. Mercy Rule in effect
  - 15 after 3
  - 10 after 4
  - 8 after 5
6. No full inning will begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the start of the game. Once the game begins, a consensus among head coaches and umpires (if used) shall determine if the game can continue because of darkness or field/weather conditions or other circumstance.
7. In the event of visible lightning in the vicinity of the field, both teams should discontinue play and seek shelter until 10 minutes past the last lightning strike.
8. Suspended games not yet legal will resume from the point the game was suspended.

#### General Rules:

1. A minimum of 9 players, of which 3 must be outfield positions, is required to begin a game.
  - a. Late arriving player will be placed at the end of the lineup in the order they arrived. Coaches should exchange a line-up prior to the start of the game.
2. A team must field a catcher if 9 or more players are present.
3. All decisions of the umpires are final.
4. The home team manager will determine if the weather conditions permit the starting of the game. Head Coaches should consult the MBSA Executive Commissioner prior to cancellation of any games. Make up games are unlikely based on field availability or make up games may need to be played on auxiliary dirt fields.
5. If games are cancelled and not made up, each team will get 1 loss.
6. The HOME team is listed second on the schedule.
8. There will be 6 innings in a game. Extra innings will be played if time allows.
12. No team shall play more than 11 players in the field (6 infielders and 5 outfielders).
13. Only 4 coaches, including the head coach, are allowed on the bench during a game.

**Exception:** to this rule will be made in certain circumstances and should be discussed with the MBSA Executive Commissioner prior to game time. The MBSA Executive Commissioner will then communicate the exception that was made to the head coach of the other team.

  - a. If a parent/MBSA member has volunteered to manage the bench during the game, this will NOT count as a coach and may assist as needed.

#### Playing Rules:

- 1.) Base runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit. One warning per player per game will be given. Any subsequent time that base runner leaves early will result in an immediate OUT.
- 2.) The batter must swing hard. No bunting or half swings.
- 3.) No infield fly rules are active in coach pitch games. Any infield fly ball does not require tagging when hit in the infield. A caught infield fly ball will result in all runners returning to the base they previously occupied.
  - a. Tagging up is only required on balls hit and caught by an outfielder only.

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- b. Runners may attempt to advance after tagging one base at their own risk in each situation.
- 4.) Base runners may not advance on overthrows from the infield. Play shall cease and the runners will return to the base they last occupied.

#### **POSSESSION RULE:**

**If a ball is hit to the outfield, the runners can run freely around the bases until the ball is brought under control by an infielder. Under control is defined as an infielder having the ball in their hand or glove with 1 foot in the infield within the foul lines. At this point, a play can be made at a base to get the runner out. If the runner is out, he/she is out. If the runner is safe, it will be to the umpires to determine which base the runner is awarded. The deciding factor of which base the runner should be awarded will be the position of the runner when an infielder has the ball under control. If the runner had left the previous base he had safely acquired, then the runner will be awarded the next base if safe. Only one extra base will be awarded if a ball is deemed "out of play."**

- **Any incident that results in a differing of opinions will require a head coach conference to decide an outcome (unless an umpire is present during the game)**
  - **If the incident cannot be agreed upon the MBSA Executive Commissioner (or designee) must be called to evaluate the circumstance. Both parties will describe the event and the Executive decision made on the outcome.**
    - **This decision is final, non-negotiable and any negative interaction regarding its decision by players, coaches, or fans will result in immediate expulsion from the grounds.**
- 5.) All players present at the game will be in the field at once. Outfielders must be evenly spaced – no rover is allowed. Those players that exceed the normal positions will be placed a minimum of 30 feet beyond the infield diamond. No outfielders may advance inside the infield space until the ball is hit. All players must play their position in a reasonable vicinity of that position. Violations of the above rule will be a judgement of the umpire. Players must stay within 3 feet of the base line and pitchers inside the 10-foot diameter circle at the mound.
- a. No outfield players can make an out on a base themselves. The outfield player **MUST** exchange the ball to an infield position for an out to be recorded.
    - This rule is in place to encourage game play and teach the players more about the sport, teamwork, and trusting teammates.
- 6.) **Rotation of players:** Coaches are required to rotate defensive player positions throughout the game. Players must play at a different position each inning. No player is permitted to play all-infield or all-outfield. Exceptions to the player rotation rule by each coach's judgement based on safety and ability who is permitted to play first base. Any exception must be discussed with the opposing head coach **PRIOR** to the games start.
- 7.) Every player must play an infield position (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, SS, 3<sup>rd</sup>, P, C) at least two innings per game. Every player **MUST** play an outfield position at least two innings per game. The only exception would be if a parent requests, in writing to the MBSA Executive Commissioner (commissioner@mbsagators.com), that their child **NOT PLAY THE INFIELD**. This document must be presented to the head coach of the players team, the league commissioner, when applicable, and MBSA Executive Commissioner. This "no infield" designation should be exchanged with the opposing head coach as a courtesy

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prior to the start of the game. All players must play in the infield before the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning so that they don't miss their opportunity because of being on the losing visiting team. Coaches should try to prepare a fielding line-up prior to the game so that the transition from offense to defense goes smoothly and quickly.

- a. Due to safety a coach may play the safe player at first base 2 innings per game.
- 8.) From the top of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning to the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, each team can score 5 runs per inning or three outs, whichever comes first. Tie games will result in a ½ win and ½ loss to each team.
- 9.) In the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, 3 outs must be recorded in the top and bottom of the inning. There are no run limits in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning of any game.
- 10.) No batter shall throw the bat at the end of a swing.
  - a. **Penalty** - one strike is called. The second infraction during the same at bat is an out. A "thrown bat" is that which is dangerous or potentially dangerous to players and coaches. Remember – safety first.
  - b. The umpire will make this call.
  - c. The warning will carry throughout the game. If the bat is thrown by the batter warned the next at bat it will result in an automatic out.
    - Scorekeepers for each team should mark the warning in the scorebook and enforce the rule if called.
- 11.) If a player is frustrated with the at bat and throws equipment a warning will be issued by the head coach of that players team. A 2<sup>nd</sup> offense of the same kind will result in the player being ejected from the game.

### Pitching Rules:

- 1.) All players will be pitched to. The head coach, assistant coach or MBSA member will do all the pitching for their teams or in the case of an MBSA member pitching the entire game. The coach must pitch on or behind the 35-foot line.
  - a. Exceptions should be voiced during the coaches meeting at the plate prior to the games start. Exceptions will only be allowed to be made up until the 5<sup>th</sup> game played. At this point (game 6 and beyond) all players must receive pitches from the standard distances described above.
- 2.) All players will receive a maximum of 7 pitches in which to hit the ball or have 3 strikes. NO WALKS ARE PERMITTED even if the player is hit by the pitch. If the 7<sup>th</sup> pitch is fouled off, an additional pitch will be given. This will continue if the ball is fouled with all subsequent pitches until the ball is hit, no swung at or is a swinging strike. Batter will not be called out on a foul ball unless it is caught by the defense.
- 3.) Pitches must be straight with some form of velocity. Throws that have a significant arch and decreased speed have a negative impact on the development of players for the next level.
- 4.) The adult who is pitching will make every effort so as to not hinder, obstruct, or impede an infielder from making a play on a ball that is put into play. The adult pitcher shall not make a play on a ball nor attempt to make a play on a hit ball. If a ball is batted "at", "to" or "toward" the adult pitcher and the ball is redirected or becomes trapped the adult pitcher shall immediately related the ball and let it fall free. At this point, the umpires will call for a replay of the entire at bat. No strikes or pitches will be held against the batter. A clean slate will be granted. The entire at bat will be replayed. An adult pitcher can protect themselves during game play.
- 5.) Once a ball is hit into the field of play the adult pitcher should make any attempt

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necessary to no interfere with the play. If an adult pitcher does not make a clear attempt to avoid interference the runner will be called out, but all advances will remain.

#### **Equipment:**

1. League equipment will be issued to each team manager who will be responsible for its return.
2. Players must be in full uniform at all times. Hats are considered part of the full uniform, but if a child arrives at the game without it, opposing coach will be notified as such and the child will be allowed to play.
  - We encourage all coaches to enforce a "tuck it in" rule. All jersey's should be tucked in for the entirety of each game played.
3. Metal spikes are prohibited.
4. Pitchers are not allowed to wear wristbands, jewelry or a batting glove under their fielding glove. These are distractions to the batter. If inclement weather is a problem, the uniform jersey must be worn outside all other clothing. All non-pitchers, although permitted to wear batting gloves and wristbands, are not permitted to wear jewelry.
5. Players are allowed to use their own bats provided they meet MBSA specifications (2 5/8" Max) USA Stamped.
6. Intentional and flagrant throwing of equipment - automatic ejection.

#### **Sidelines:**

- 1.) No throwing of balls on the sidelines once the game has started.
- 2.) All players must always be under control. Teams should assign an adult/coach to manage the bench during game play.
- 3.) Under no circumstances during a normal game situation should a coach touch a player while the ball is in play. This includes pulling a player back onto the base or pushing him toward a base. Voice and hand signals only.
- 4.) Teams playing defense may designate one coach to roam the field to assist with positioning, game direction, and safety. That coach shall follow the same rules regarding play interference as the adult pitcher follows.

#### **Umpires:**

- 1.) Please remember that Coach Pitch umpires are volunteer parents/coaches. Mistakes may happen and should be handled responsibly by the active coaches/fans of each team. Any significant disputes will need to be addressed by the league commissioner, if applicable and/or MBSA Executive Commissioner.
- 2.) The MBSA Executive Commissioner or member of the MBSA Board of Directors may determine if any disciplinary action should be taken against any threatening situation. i.e – inappropriate behavior or comments related to the call being made. If two umpires are present the one closest to the bag shall make the call.

#### **Safety:**

- 1.) Please remember these are children. Raising of your voice is permitted to convey the point you are trying to make; however, no swearing is allowed. If swearing is overheard the coach will be immediately ejected from the game.
- 2.) Coaches are not babysitters; however, they are volunteering their time and effort to give the children a positive experience playing baseball while learning to play in a safe way. The rules set forth in this document are to protect the players and the game. A parent/guardian must always be present at each game/practice and is responsible for their player. If no adult is present the player will not be able to participate until an adult is present.

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#### **General Conduct:**

1. Any player, coach, or parent who provokes or participates in a fight either before, during, or after an MBSA game will be subject to a disciplinary review by the MBSA Executive Commissioner and the established disciplinary committee. Any manager, coach, or parent who is ejected by an umpire will immediately cease the argument and leave the field of play. Both managers must report all incidents in writing to the MBSA Executive Commissioner ([commissioner@mbsagators.com](mailto:commissioner@mbsagators.com)) within 24 hours after game completion.
2. All managers will control their players so as not to harass or hinder other players, coaches, or umpires. Coaches are responsible for their own benches and fans.

#### **Miscellaneous:**

- 1.) Field specific ground rules will apply as agreed upon, prior to each game, during the coaches' conference at the plate.
- 2.) Coaches must not leave the field until all participating players have been picked up and have ride homes.
- 3.) The home team is responsible for marking the field as necessary and providing the games balls for the game unless otherwise state by MBSA rules or policies.
- 4.) No coach, player or fan will be allowed behind the backstop.
- 5.) Under no circumstances will MBSA members/coaches/players be allowed to dig trenches for water draining at auxiliary dirt fields.
- 6.) Alcohol is prohibited.
- 7.) An instructional league player may play as a "call up" if a team has less than 7 players. That player must be an outfielder the entire game and bat last.

#### **Protests:**

- 1.) There are no protests in Coach Pitch

**Monroeville Baseball & Softball Association  
Executive Commissioner  
Pending**