

# MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

Revised 04-15-2019

Any problem with the interpretation of a rule shall be governed by the original intent of the Board of Directors. Major League teams will consist of players aged 10-12 as of April 30<sup>th</sup> of that calendar year.

1. The batting order will consist of the entire roster of players present at the game. Players will bat regardless of whether they are playing defensively. If a player is injured and a substitute runner is required, the defensive manager selects the substitute runner. The batting order for the team will be presented to the opposing manager or his assistant prior to the start of the game. Any player arriving after his team has batted will be placed at the end of the batting order.
2. All players must play a minimum of (3) three innings or (1/2) half the defensive innings of a game. The innings played need not be consecutive and free substitution is allowed and encouraged. A player arriving late will only be required to play half the defensive innings of the remaining full innings or the lesser of half if there is an odd number of innings left. Example: If a player shows up after the 1<sup>st</sup> defensive inning has started, he is only required to play 2 defensive innings since there are only 5 full innings left.
3. A starting line-up and list of all available substitutes will be presented to the opposing manager or his assistant before the start of the game. It shall contain the names and numbers of all players and the positions of the starters. All substitutions must be announced to the opposing manager before they enter the game.

## 4. PITCHING RULES

- a) There will be no intentional walks.
  - b) The only pitches allowed are fastball, change up, side arm, knuckle ball, and submarine ball. If a pitcher throws a trick pitch (i.e. curve, slider, etc.), the pitcher will have an automatic ball called against him. One trick pitch constitutes a warning from the plate umpire, if the pitcher throws another one the umpire must remove him/her from the mound as a pitcher only. (rev. 2-16-12)
  - c) Pitching logs will be kept by the managers and will be available at the games.
  - d) The regular season pitching rules will be used for the playoffs, including between the end of the regular season and the start of the playoffs.
  - e) Refer to section 10 of the General Rules for innings pitched information and rest rules.
  - f) There is a maximum of 12 innings total that may be pitched by all twelve (12) year olds on a team combined in a calendar week for the first three games. In the event that there is a fourth game during the calendar week, an additional 3 innings will be added for a total of 15 innings combined that may be pitched by all 12 year olds on a team. Six (6) innings pitched maximum by an individual in a calendar week and the rest rules still apply.
5. Game scores, number of innings played, and pitching log for both home and away team **MUST** be reported by the winning manager to the division V.P., opposing manager, and communications officer within 24 hours or risk forfeiture of the game.
  6. If a team does not have eight players or cannot field a team for any reason by fifteen minutes after the scheduled starting time of the game, they will forfeit the game. While the game is forfeited, we strongly encourage the teams to scrimmage during this allocated game time.
  7. Free substitutions are allowed as long as players meet their minimum play requirement.

8. If a team has only nine players and a player is ejected from the game, they forfeit the game. If a team has only nine players and a player is lost to injury, the team may continue to play with eight players. Less than eight players, regardless of the circumstances, the team will forfeit the game.
9. In the Major League there is a limit of 7 runs per team each inning, regardless of the number of outs. This will apply to all innings played.
10. Managers, coaches, and players may be used for base coaches. Two adult base coaches are allowed. Any player coaching a base must wear a batting helmet. If not coaching, players must remain in the dugout. It is interference and the runner is out if a coach physically assists a runner in leaving, rounding, or returning to a base. Incidental contact, such as congratulating a player, is not considered interference.
11. Each team may have one adult manager and two adult coaches within the fenced-in playing area once the game has begun until it is finished. Only these three adults and the roster players are allowed on the field or in the dugouts during games. Because the dugouts are not large enough to accommodate twelve players and three adults, the adults are not required, as the players are, to remain in the dugouts when not participating in the game. The adults, however, must stay against the fence on the outfield side of the entrance to the dugout. At the discretion of the manager, a fourth adult acting in an official capacity may be in the dugout for the purpose of maintaining order in the dugout.
12. Only the **manager**, not the coaches, after requesting and receiving time from the umpire, may leave the dugout area to question a rule interpretation. Coaches may not leave the dugout area or the coaches' box, nor can they question any umpire's judgment call. (Violation is grounds for ejection.)
13. Major League team rosters will consist of eleven players. (rev. 1/12) All roster openings must be filled by opening day. If rosters are not filled, the Player Agent will assign a permanent player for the season to fill the openings.
14. If a player is lost due to vacation, sickness or injury, a temporary replacement must be called-up by the fourth game. If a player is not called-up by the fourth game, the Player Agent shall assign a temporary player for the fourth game or declare that the twelfth (or last) position in the batting order shall be considered a strikeout. This applies to regular season only (playoff rule to follow). This rule cannot be waived by agreement between the two managers involved in the game.
15. Major League after notifying the Player Agent, may bring up a temporary replacement from the Minor League *only* when the roster will be reduced to nine or fewer players or as in rule 14 above. The purpose of this rule is to prevent forfeits. The league President will investigate any forfeits and report the reasons to the Board of Directors
16. All temporary call ups must bat last in the order, may not play more defensive innings than any other player on the original roster, and are not eligible to pitch .
17. The manager will report immediately to the Player Agent any condition that necessitates a replacement player. No player may be brought up without notification of the Player Agent. The Player Agent will keep the Board of Directors advised of any replacement requirements. Managers **will not** contact the respective player until they have notified the Player Agent. The Player Agent will then notify the player, or at his option, permit the manager to contact the player directly. If a player is available but refuses a call up they will be ineligible to be called up to any other team for the remainder of the season.
18. No player may be dropped from a roster without permission from the Board of Directors. Any player who has been dropped by a Major League team for any disciplinary reason may not be brought up by any other team under any circumstances for the remainder of the year. The player will be returned to the draft for the following season, if eligible.