

Majors League Playing Rules

(rev. 03-12-2025)

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 30th 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 last batter out will be the substitute runner.
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 1st 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 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.
 - 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. This includes the rest rule
 - e) Refer to section 12 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.

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6. If a team does not have nine players, they can play the game with 8 players
 - a) 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.
 - b) If a team has only eight players and a player is ejected from the game, they forfeit the game. c) 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.
7. Free substitutions are allowed as long as players meet their minimum play requirement.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.)
11. Major League team rosters will consist of eleven players. 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.
12. 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. 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
13. 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 .
14. 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

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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.

15. 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.

16. Base runners shall not leave their base until the ball has been delivered and reached Home plate.

17. Baserunners may not advance or steal base before the pitched ball has reached home plate or when the pitcher is in possession of the ball on the mound or in the dirt around it.

The ball is considered dead while being thrown back to the pitcher from the catcher. Runners may not advance on a dead ball. Runners may advance to any base on a failed throw by the fielders that remains in fair territory or open field. Once the ball is returned to the pitcher, ball is considered dead and runners may not advance further. Umpire has final discretion on forward progress/runners returning to base.

18. In the Major League, unlimited runs scored in any inning is allowed and all regular season games will be terminated if one team is ahead by 10 or more runs by inning 4 ½, if the home team is up.

19. Bunting is allowed. "Slash bunting" is not allowed (e.g., square to bunt, pull back and swing) for safety reasons. Determination of whether a slash bunt occurred is at the sole discretion of the umpire, the batter will be called out if the umpire determines a slash bunt has occurred.