



MONROE TOWNSHIP BASEBALL
ASSOCIATION

RECREATION BASEBALL RULES
AAA DIVISION

Updated as of 4/1/2019

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Section 1 – General Rules

1. A player's age for the Spring Season will be determined by their age on April 30 of the current year (ex. Spring 2019 age is determined by age on 4/30/19).
2. A player's age for the Fall Season will be determined by their age on April 30 of the following year (ex. Fall 2019 age is determined by age on 4/30/20).
3. All players (tee-ball through Pony) must wear a protective cup (boys) and heart guard.
4. No metal spikes are permitted in any division... sneakers or rubber/plastic cleats must be worn.
5. No Jewelry of any nature may be worn on the playing field, unless considered medical or religious.
6. All players must wear their league provided uniform in full. The caps must be worn with the bill in front. Teach the children to look like baseball players.
 - *Travel and School team players are not to wear their travel or school uniform caps or jerseys. Every effort should also be made to not wear the school pants, socks or belts either.*
7. No smoking in James Monroe Park, Thompson Park, Woodland School or Oak Tree School other than the parking lots.
8. To be on the playing field or in the dugout with the players, all volunteer managers and coaches must be: RUTGERS S.A.F.E.T.Y. CERTIFIED, MUST HAVE TAKEN AND PROVIDED VERIFICATION OF THE NFHS CONCUSSION TRAINING COURSE and MUST ALSO HAVE PASSED THE PRESEASON BACKGROUND CHECK as mandated by Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball. THE MTBA WILL MAINTAIN A LIST OF APPROVED VOLUNTEERS ON OUR WEBSITE (www.monroebaseball.com) VERIFYING ALL IT'S VOLUNTEERS HAVE FULFILLED THESE OBLIGATIONS. In addition, it is strongly suggested that all managers and coaches have their Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. certification card on their possession for every game and practice.
9. The MTBA will also make available to its volunteers CPR/AED training and certification. While this is not mandatory, it is highly recommended that our Rec managers and coaches take advantage of any opportunities to receive certification.
10. The Division Director, MTBA Executive Board Member, Field Supervisor, Umpire in Chief or The Monroe Twp. Recreation Department will declare the game cancelled based on weather or poor playing conditions before the start of any game. If a game is cancelled due to weather or poor field conditions, this is not an open invitation for a team to use the field for practice.

11. 'No Contact Rule' - NO CONTACT specifically refers to commenting negatively or arguing calls with the Cadet Umpires once the game has started. This NO CONTACT rule not only refers to the manager, but also the coaches, the players and the parents of the players. Any game rules or special circumstances for certain players should have been discussed prior to the start of the game. Positive comments and questions about the game (count, # of outs) are ok. All umpires for AAA games are Cadet Umpires. It is the responsibility of the manager to enforce this rule with their players, coaches & parents. If there is ever a problem with a Cadet Umpire, complete the game and notify the Division Director(s), AVP of Recreation Baseball or VP of Recreation Baseball. Any Manager or Coach that breaks this rule may be ejected from that game and would be subject to further disciplinary action as outlined in the Monroe Twp Recreation Baseball Codes of Conduct. Spectators breaking this rule may be asked to leave the bleacher area. There is no tolerance for breaking this rule.
12. A player who is ejected from a game by an umpire will be suspended one game. The player must leave the field immediately. The suspended player must show up to the next game in full uniform and BUT NOT PLAY. The player will not be able to play until he or she does show up in full uniform and sits out a game.
13. Any manager, coach or spectator yelling or harassing an umpire may be ejected from the game and must leave the field and stay in the parking lot for the remainder of the game so they can bring their child home after the game. As outlined in the Monroe Twp Baseball Codes of Conduct, they then must be addressed by the Executive Board and will be suspended for at least two games. If they decide to show up for those two games they must stay in the parking lot. If ejected a second time in one season they will be suspended for the rest of that season. If they decide to show up they must stay in the parking lot.
14. No foul language will be permitted. If a player, manager, coach or spectator uses foul language they may be ejected from the game and subject to further disciplinary action as outlined in the Monroe Twp Baseball Codes of Conduct.
15. Any rules not listed in these rules will refer back to the Official Cal Ripken or Babe Ruth Rule Book.

Section 2 –AAA Rules (ages 7 & 8) – Spring & Fall

Rules that are underlined and italicized are only relevant for the Fall Ball Season

1. Games must be played on a little league-sized field.
2. Each team will provide the umpire one game ball prior to the start of the game.
3. The home team will occupy the first base dugout on all fields. The schedule will dictate the home team.
4. Games are six innings or 2:00 whichever comes first. No new inning may begin after 1:45 minutes from scheduled start, not the actual game start. **No new inning of any game played at any facility can start after 10:00pm.** The umpire will declare the last inning.
5. No extra innings are permitted.
6. The inning will be completed when either five runs have scored or the defensive team makes three putouts, whichever comes first.
7. An official game is four innings. Three and a half if the home team is leading. Scores can be kept but there will be no official winner or loser and no standings will be kept.
8. We encourage the use of the scoreboards at JMP but we should temper the score posted as to not accentuate any lopsided scores. A suggestion is to count inning wins as the score posted. So for example, if the home team wins the first inning 5-1, the score depicted on the scoreboard should read 1-0 in favor of the home team after the first inning. If both teams score the same amount of runs in the second inning, give both teams a run in the second inning and have the scoreboard read 2-1 after the second.
9. In the Spring Season, through May 15th, one coach from the defensive team is allowed on the playing field standing behind second base in the outfield grass to instruct their players. Under no circumstances is the defensive coach allowed to touch a live ball. After May 15th one coach will be allowed to coach from in front of their dugout to instruct their players. They must remain in foul territory during play at all times. *In the Fall Season, during the entire season, one coach from the defensive team is allowed on the playing field standing behind second base in the outfield grass to instruct their players. Under no circumstances is the defensive coach allowed to touch a live ball.*
10. Coaches should do their best to have all players get a chance to play some infield positions. But, please keep the safety of the players and the pace of the game in mind.
11. Ten defensive players must be used in the field if the team has at least ten players. They will be used as follows:
 - a. Pitcher - Pitcher stands next to the coach when the coach is pitching.
 - b. Catcher
 - c. First Base

- d. Second Base
 - e. Shortstop
 - f. Third Base
 - g. Four Outfielders (all must be positioned on the outfield grass)
12. All players must play a minimum of three innings per game defensively (at least two innings if the game lasts only 4 innings). There is free defensive substitution of all defensive players.
 13. All bats must comply with the USA youth bat standard and code (which started in the 2018 season). All bats must have the USA baseball stamp on the bat. 2 5/8" barrels are permitted but 2 1/4" barrel bats are recommended for AAA. All illegal bats must be removed from the game.
 14. Two adult coaches are mandatory for coaching the bases.
 15. Tagging up is not permitted.
 16. No walks will be allowed.
 17. Hitters will run to and stay at first base on all batted balls. Batters may only take an extra base (advance more than one base but no more than 2) on balls batted that reach the outfield grass, either **on the fly or on the ground**. A base runner may only advance by the number of bases the batter is allowed (1 base on a single, 2 bases on a double, never more than 2 bases). The runners can be put out by the defense if the runners choose to take an extra base.
 18. In the Spring Season, games through May 15th, runners cannot advance on any overthrows. After May 15th, runners can advance one base on an overthrow of first base only. Base runners ahead of the batter may also advance one base. The runners can be put out by the defense if the runners choose to take the extra base. *In the Fall season, there is no advancing on overthrows*
 19. There is no infield fly rule.
 20. There is no leading off of any base, even after the ball crosses the plate, unless there are two outs (when stealing is allowed...see bullet point 21 below). No leading off of third at all, under any circumstances. Players cannot run until the ball hits the bat.
 21. Stealing is allowed only when there are two outs. The runner can only advance one base at a time and can only steal 3rd base...THERE IS NO STEALING OF 2nd BASE! They can only steal when the ball reaches the catcher (hits the mitt or gets by the catcher). The runner cannot advance on an overthrow. No stealing of home is allowed. He will be called out if he is out.

22. The speed up rule is mandatory for the catcher only. A courtesy runner for the catcher is permitted when there are two outs only. The last batted out will become the runner. In order to speed up the time between innings, managers must have the catcher ready to go right out to warm up the pitcher.
23. No head first sliding to any base. If a player slides headfirst they will be called out.
24. Bunting is permitted.
25. If a batter shows bunt, the batter must either bunt or withdraw his bat. If he pulls back and performs a full swing, he will be called out. This will not be an appeal play.
26. The umpires will decide when a game should not continue due to inclement weather or poor playing conditions during a game.

Pitching Rules

1. In the Spring Season, through May 15th, a coach from the batting team will pitch from the mound area, overhand, for two of the first four innings, and the 5th and 6th innings. Players will pitch any 2 of the first four innings based on the decision of the pitching team's managers. A suggestion would be to have the kids pitch the 2nd & 3rd innings. After May 15th the pitching order will be: the coach – 3 innings (one of which is the 6th inning) // players - 3 innings of the first five innings based on the decision of the managers. A suggestion would be to have the kids pitch the 2nd, 3rd & 5th innings.
2. *In the Fall Season, a coach from the batting team will pitch from the mound area, overhand, for two of the first four innings, and the 5th and 6th innings. Players will pitch any 2 of the first four innings based on the decision of the pitching team's managers. A suggestion would be to have the kids pitch the 2nd & 3rd innings. Later in the season (only if both coaches agree and both teams have 3 kids that can pitch) the pitching order can be: the coach – 3 innings (one of which is the 6th inning) // players - 3 innings of the first five innings based on the decision of the managers. A suggestion would be to have the kids pitch the 2nd, 3rd & 5th innings.*
3. Only players that can reach the plate should be allowed to pitch in the games. There is no mandate that all players have to get a chance to pitch. We must keep the pace of the games moving. Players that cannot pitch in the games should be allowed to pitch in practices. Additionally, coaches should do their best to place a catcher in the game that can catch the ball and throw the ball accurately back to the mound, especially when the players are pitching.
4. When players pitch, the pitcher must throw from the rubber on the mound (at 46 feet). No players will pitch from closer than the pitching rubber unless agreed upon by both coaches.
5. Players that are playing down (playing in a division that is not age appropriate for them) at the request of their parent(s) based on ability or any other reason, are not allowed to

pitch in any games. For AAA, this would affect any player that will turn 9 years old on or before April 30 whose age appropriate division is Minors.

6. When coaches pitch, they should be directly in front of the mound and not too close to the batter. It is suggested (but not mandatory) the coach kneels on one knee so they are a similar height to the batter and it is also suggested (but not mandatory) they throw the ball with some velocity and less of an arc. It is easier for the batter to hit the ball coming in on more of a straight line and with some velocity, than it is a slower pitch with an arc.
7. When a player is pitching, the offensive coach will take over after a HBP, four (4) balls or six (6) total pitches to any batter. The count remains the same and the coach will finish the pitching duties until the batter strikes out or puts the ball in play. The player will then resume pitching to the next batter up.
8. After a player has pitched to six (6) total batters (approximately 35 pitches in the inning), the offensive coach will finish the inning. A second player is not permitted to pitch the same inning.
9. A player can only pitch one inning per game. This is true at all times in the AAA Division.
10. At the start of the game the umpire will call balls and strikes on both the pitchers and the coaches. An umpire will call a non-swinging strike if it is in the strike zone and call batters out on strikes. The strike zone will be larger than the traditional strike zone to permit the games to move quickly and promote swinging. From the start of the season, through May 15th, the umpire should only call a looking third strike when a player is pitching, not a coach. After May 15th, players can be called out looking at a third strike regardless of the pitcher. *In the Fall Season, the umpire should only call a looking third strike when a player is pitching, not a coach.*
11. As stated in the prior bullet, the strike zone will be from the shoulders to just below the knees and from the **inside** of each batter's box lines. The cadet umpires are taught this to promote swinging and keep the pace of play in mind. If the batter can hit it, they should be swinging.
12. Please adhere to "three strikes and you are out" for most if not all batters. On a rare occasion, an extended at bat will be allowed for a player and at the discretion of the umpire and coaches, but no more than one extra strike.
13. There are no walks. We want players to swing the bat and put the ball in play.