



**Monroe Township
Baseball Association**

RECREATION ROOKIE RULES

2024



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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 2024 age is determined by age on 4/30/24).
2. A player's age for the Fall Season will be determined by their age on April 30 of the following year (ex. Fall 2024 age is determined by age on 4/30/25).
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.
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: (1) Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. certified, (2) must have taken and provided verification of the NFHS concussion training course and (3) must also have passed the preseason Background Check & Abuse Prevention Training 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 its 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 in their possession (either physically or digitally) for every game and practice.
9. The MTBA will also make available to a limited number of 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. An 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.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL RULES

11. 'No Contact Rule' - NO CONTACT specifically refers to commenting negatively or arguing calls with the 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. It is the responsibility of the manager to enforce this rule with their players, coaches & parents. If there is ever a problem with an Umpire, complete the game and notify the 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.

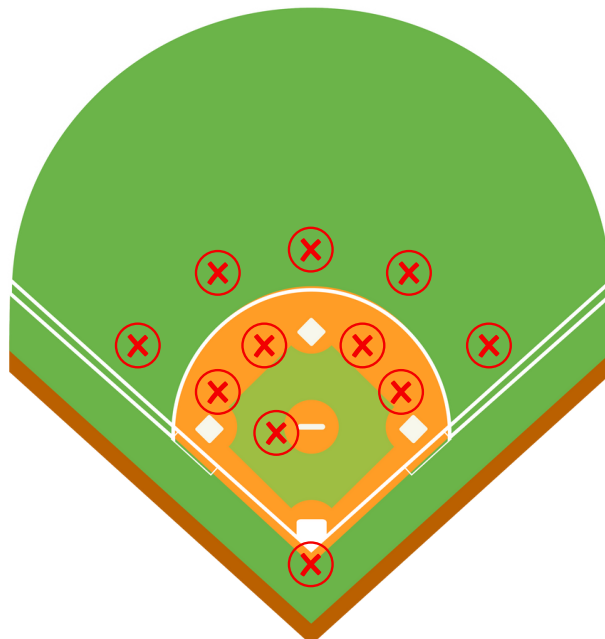
13. Any manager, coach or spectator yelling or harassing an umpire may be ejected from the game and must leave the field and stay in the parking lot for the remainder of the game so they can bring their child home after the game. As outlined in the Monroe Twp Baseball Codes of Conduct, they then must 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 - ROOKIE RULES (AGE 6)

1. Games must be played on a little league-sized field.
2. No umpires will be utilized. The coaches will be the base umpires. Any close play the runner will be declared safe at all times.
3. The home team will occupy the first base dugout on all fields. The schedule will dictate the home team.
4. Each team will provide one game ball prior to the start of the game.
5. Games are 5 innings or 1:45, whichever comes first. No new inning after 1:30 from scheduled start, not the actual game start. No new inning is permitted to start after 10:00pm at any complex. Both managers will declare the last inning.
6. The inning will be completed when either five runs have scored or the defensive team makes three putouts, whatever comes first. However, no score will be kept, there will be no official winner or loser and no standings will be kept.
7. All players (up to 11) must be used in the field:
 - a. Pitcher (will stand next to the pitcher's mound with the coach)
 - b. Catcher
 - c. First Base
 - d. Second Base
 - e. Shortstop
 - f. Third Base
 - g. The rest in the outfield (Maximum of 5, all must be positioned on the outfield grass)



SECTION 2 - ROOKIE RULES (AGE 6)

9. All bats must be a baseball bat which meets the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat). It shall be a smooth, rounded stick, and made of wood or of material and color tested and proved acceptable to the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat). The baseball bat shall bear the USA Baseball logo signifying that the bat meets the USABat standard. The bat diameter shall not exceed 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches. Illegal bats must be removed from the game. Illegal bats will have either no certification stamp, a USSSA stamp/logo or a BBCOR stamp/logo. Softball bats, regardless of their certification stamp/logo, are also deemed illegal.

A comprehensive list of approved bats and additional details can be found on this portion of the Babe Ruth League website (<https://www.baberuthleague.org/bat-rules.aspx>). Illegal bats must be removed from the game. Note: Solid one-piece wood bats are permitted for use. No laminated or experimental bats shall be used in a game.



Tampering or altering bats may violate certain federal and state laws and voids the USA Baseball certification, as well as all manufacturer warranties. Rolling is considered tampering and would void the bat's certification and make it illegal for play.

10. The penalty for using an illegal bat is as follows:

If the illegal bat is discovered prior to a batter completing his "at bat" the bat is simply removed from play and the "at bat" continues.

A player who uses an illegal bat or non-conforming barrel dimension and hits a fair ball will be ruled out. No advancement on the bases will be allowed, and any outs during the play shall stand. The "at bat" will be considered legal once a pitch is thrown to the next batter.

SECTION 2 - ROOKIE RULES (AGE 6)

Any bat discovered prior to the game that does not conform to the above rule shall be directed to be removed immediately and not be allowed for use during the game.

11. If there are more than 11 players attending the game, they should be kept busy by a coach while the others are in the field. Talk baseball, explain the rules or have a catch with them away from playing area, do not let them stand around and goof off in the dugout.

12. All players must play a minimum of three innings per game defensively. All players must be placed in the game by the third inning. There is free defensive substitution of all defensive players.

13. All catchers must wear a helmet with a mask, leg guards and a chest protector.

14. All batters, runners and on deck batters must wear a helmet.

15. If a base runner is injured, the last batted out will become the runner.

16. Two adult coaches are mandatory for coaching the bases (1st and 3rd base).

17. Two defensive coaches are allowed to be on the playing field during play. They will be positioned in the outfield grass one behind the second baseman and one behind the shortstop. Under no circumstances is the defensive coach allowed to touch a live ball.

18. Tagging up is not permitted.

19. No walks will be allowed.

20. 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 onto the outfield grass on a fly. 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.

21. There is no advancing on any overthrows.

22. There is no infield fly rule.

23. There is no leading off of any base or stealing of any bases.

SECTION 2 - ROOKIE RULES (AGE 6)

24. 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.

25. No head first sliding to any base. If a player slides headfirst they will be called out.

26. Bunting is not permitted.

27. Strikes will only be called on a swing. After five strikes maximum, the batter is out. If the batter fouls off the 5th strike, then he/she can receive another pitch.

28. Players should be moved around defensively to get a chance to play multiple positions throughout the season.

29. The managers will decide when a game should not continue due to inclement weather or poor playing conditions during a game.

30. Each Manager should give out a "game-ball" after each game - make sure all players receive one game ball during the season.

SECTION 3 - PITCHING RULES

1. A coach will pitch to his own players in every inning of every game. Coaches who are pitching to the children should do so while kneeling, so the trajectory of the ball is coming straight, not "downhill". Also, when pitching, throw overhand and with a little velocity. A lobbed ball is harder to hit than one that is coming in fairly straight.
2. Strikes will only be called on a swing. After five strikes maximum, the batter is out...keep the games moving along.
3. Even though players are not pitching, we recommend you spend a short time at least every other practice working on pitching mechanics and technique with your players.