



## ABA/ARAA 2024 Baseball Rules

### 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - 10U

The Andover Baseball Association and Anoka Ramsey Baseball Association's mission is to provide an educational, safe, and fun environment. This will be achieved for the children through playing our national game of baseball.

#### Conduct Policy

- Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated on any level in ABA or ARAA Sports. Any player, coach, manager, or spectator can be ejected from a contest for flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct. After ejection, the person/people will not be permitted to return to a game prior to meeting with their respective league Director or Commissioner.
- Some examples of "Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct" include but are not limited to: abuse of the game and/or officials, use of a declared ineligible player, fighting, repeated use of profane language, etc.
- No tobacco, vaping, alcohol or profanity is allowed on or near the field of play. It's all about the kids!

#### Rules

- All games will start as stated on schedule. Game time is forfeit time. A team must have 8 uniformed players to start.
- Games will consist of 6 innings. If extra innings are required, play will continue. No new inning should begin after 1 hour and 50 minutes of play has elapsed. Ties will stand in games called because of darkness. What is too dark to play safely is at the umpires sole discretion.
- The host team from the city where the field is located is the home team. The home team will sit on the first base bench. The visiting team will sit on the third base bench. The visiting team will take the infield 30 minutes prior to the game time and the home team will take the infield 15 minutes prior to game time. Both teams will provide one game ball and the home team will keep the official score book.
- Each team will play 10 players in the field at a time. Consisting of 4 outfielders, 4 infielders, 1 catcher and a pitcher. **In the event that an opposing team cannot field 10, each team will field 9 players (3 outfielders).**

- Innings 1-5 will consist of 3 outs or 5 runs scored. The 6<sup>th</sup> inning and all extra innings will consist of 3 outs regardless of the number of runs scored. **NOTE:** If a game does not make it to the 6th inning, the last inning played will be considered the same as the 6th inning with the inning consisting of 3 outs regardless of the number of runs scored. This will be agreed upon prior to the start of that inning by both head coaches and the umpire.
- 10 Run Rule: If any team is ahead after 4 full innings, the game will be considered complete, and the final score is recorded. If a 10-run rule is called after 4 innings, all coaches can make the decision if they would like to continue play though a complete game by league definition without keeping score.
- Rain Outs: If a game has completed 4 innings, it is not considered a rain out but will be an official game. The score reverts to the last completed inning if the game is called. If called with the home team batting and in the lead, it will be considered a completed inning. If there is any doubt about playing, go to the field. The coaches will reschedule the game based on the field availability. Coaches may not reschedule games unless due to bad weather. Penalty is a forfeit. **Rescheduled games are considered “Suspended” and shall resume exactly where they left off. If the coaches disagree on whether or not to postpone due to weather, the umpire shall have the final say. If an official umpire is not present, it shall be the decision of the home team coach. If lightning appears anywhere in the sky, the players must leave the field.** A 20 min. wait is allowed to see if the game can be resumed. If severe weather sirens are activated, the game is canceled, and everyone must leave the field immediately.
- The head coach is required to report the score of the game to their League Commissioner. League standings will be posted on the respective league websites. If there is an interleague game, report your score to your commissioner, win or loss. Andover Baseball Association does not keep records, so Andover coaches need not report scores.
- Umpire: An umpire is provided by the league. If an umpire does not show up, please call Eric Esboldt @ 763-443-8536 to report it. Make sure to leave information about the game time and location. There will be “on call” umpires that will make an attempt to get to the field as soon as possible. If a volunteer is used, they must stand behind the pitcher unless they have full gear.
- Helpful Hints: To speed up the game, coaches should inform the player who is scheduled to catch the next inning so that player can get a head start on getting the gear on. Coaches are strongly encouraged to conduct parent meetings prior to the first game. Explain the rules, solicit help, distribute uniforms, outline expectations, and answer any questions.

## **Hitting**

- Continuous batting is mandatory for all age groups. Everyone Bats
  - An injured batter or runner that cannot continue to participate will be replaced by the last player to be put out. This will end the injured players participation for the remainder of that game. It will not be recorded as an out unless it drops the batting lineup below the required minimum 8 players.
- Each team’s batting order will include all team members. Each player will bat in order even if they are not playing the field. Batting out of order will constitute an out and the base runners (If any) return to their original base.
- Bunting **IS** allowed

- Batters **may not** attempt to advance to first base on a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike.

## Pitching

- A player may pitch a maximum of 2 innings per game and no more than 6 innings per week. One pitch in an inning constitutes one inning pitched. A week is considered Monday- Friday.
- Any pitcher may re-enter the game at any time, as long as they are within their game/weekly inning allowance.
- All tournaments are treated as a new week and inning counts are covered in the tournament rules.
- If a pitcher hits two batters in an inning or 3 in a game, the pitcher must be removed from the position for the rest of the inning. Batters hit by a pitch will be awarded first base. Batters must make an effort to avoid getting hit.
- Curve balls are NOT allowed. The first offense will result in a warning to the pitcher. The second offense will result in an ejection from the pitcher's position.
- No balks should be called. However, if a pitcher purposefully attempts a "fake pitch", the umpire should give the team a warning and the next occurrence of a "Fake pitch" will be considered a balk, resulting in a dead ball and all runners advancing a base. **Since unintentional balks are not called, an out cannot be recorded on a balk. If a balk causes the runner to steal, or begin stealing, the pitcher should not be able to throw him out. Instead, a warning will be issued and the runner will need to return to the base.**
- Pitching distance is 46 feet from the point of home plate to the front of the rubber.
  - Bases are 60 feet.

## Fielding

- Play is frozen when any player holds/controls the ball on the infield. To be consistent at all fields we will apply the definition of outfield as 15 feet beyond the base path. No chalk will be provided to mark this line and therefore be sure to coach players that are in the outfield to field beyond this distance and get the ball back to an infielder to ensure that an opportunity exists for the play to be frozen.
- Players rounding any base before the ball is in the infield may advance to the next base at their own risk. The defensive team has the option of holding the ball and forfeiting the base or making a play on the runner. **If a play is made, the ball remains alive.**
- Infield fly rule is in effect at the umpire's discretion.
- All outfielders need to be at least 15 feet from the base-paths.

## Base Running

- The runner may lead off and/or steal after the ball crosses the plate.
- Runners may not steal home under any circumstances at any point of the season.
- Runners may not advance more than one base on a steal attempt, even if the ball goes out of play.
  - This is to allow the catchers to develop and not be penalized for trying to make a throw to the proper base.

- On a batted ball, overthrows that go out of play will advance the runners to the base to which they were running **plus** one base. Out of play area is at the sole discretion of the umpire and should be decided prior to the start of the game.
- A player running to 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>, or home should slide to avoid contact if there is a play at the base/plate.
  - If the runner does not attempt to slide, the umpire should give the team one warning. Any subsequent failure to slide when there is a play at any base or home plate will result in an out.
- All slide attempts must be feet first, unless diving back to the occupied base while leading off. A clear attempt of a player sliding head first will be called out. (This is at the discretion of the umpire)

### **Miscellaneous**

- Each player is required to play at least 12 defensive outs. (Exception being a game called early)
- No player can play more than two innings at one position. At least two innings must be an outfield position and two innings in an infield position. Pitchers and catchers **are not considered** "infield" positions.
- Coaches may call one time out/mound visit per inning per pitcher during any dead ball. A second mound visit in the same inning to the same pitcher requires removal of the current pitcher from the position.
- Standard baseballs are to be used at this age.
- Players are required to wear batting helmets while hitting and running the bases.
- Cleats must be made of plastic or rubber. No metal cleats.

Any questions or concerns should be directed towards your age specific directors.

### **Directors:**

ABA 9-12 Year House Director: Ray Koppes – 763-639-8667

ABA Scheduling Director: Kerri Reichers - 763-639-2304

ARAA Sr. House Director: Kyle Meyer – 612-790-3609

ARAA Tournament Director: Nikki Olson – 612-816-9989

ARAA Commissioner: Adam Byrd - 763-354-8435

ARAA Player and Coach Director: Eric Roering- 612-202-4028

### **Umpires:**

Rum River Umpires Contact: Eric Esboldt - 763-443-8536