

CBL Official 7/8 Baseball Rules

Fall 2024

The Columbia Baseball League utilizes all standard little league baseball rules, except as modified in the rules below:

1. All coaches must be members of the Howard County Coaches' Registry. Anyone who is not a member of the Coaches' Registry is not permitted on the field of play for practices or games.
2. The Home Team will arrive 30 minutes prior to game time to prep the field for play. This includes lining the batter's box, first/third base lines and installing the bases.
3. The Coach/Team listed as the Visitor is responsible for removing the bases and secure them in the equipment box.
4. A baseball game consists of 6 full innings or 90 minutes, whichever occurs first. A new inning cannot start after 80 minutes has elapsed.
5. Batting:
 - a. Outs will be recognized. **Three outs end an inning.**
 - b. If three outs are not recorded the inning ends once **6 players** have come to bat.
 - c. No more than 6 players may bat in an inning.
6. Ball hit to the outfield encourage your runner to take two bases. We do not want to have station to station baseball.
7. NO bases are to be awarded on overthrows.
8. NO Leading/Stealing.
9. NO infield fly.
10. Scoring: Run nor the final scores and standings will not be recorded. However, Coaches are encouraged to count outs. Outs require teamwork and most kids enjoy making an out verse getting a hit.
11. Bases shall be set at 60'. The Coach Pitcher should position **30'-35' away** and throw from a kneeling or seated position. Coach of batting team shall pitch to his/her players.
12. Coaches should position themselves throughout the field to assist the defense.
13. You should place a Coach or Parent behind the catcher to keep up the pace of play. Have a ball bucket next to them so that they have a place to put past ball.

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14. You may use parents as your 1st and 3rd base coaches. It is not necessary to have a Certified Volunteer as a base coach.

15. All batters will **receive up to Six** pitches. If after those six pitches the batter has not put a ball in play, the coach will bring out the batting tee for the batter to utilize. If the final pitch is tipped in any way the batter will receive an additional pitch until the ball is put in play or a clean swing and miss. This will keep up the pace of play and avoid fielding players to become distracted.
 - a. From day one work with your players hitting off a tee. It helps when you reinforce that professional baseball players still use batting tees to work on their swing.
 - b. **If you bring the ball bucket on the field with you while pitching, please remove it when the tee is brought in. Many kids have hit that bucket.**

16. All players must play the field each inning.
 - a. Catchers are utilized and must wear full protective gear.
 - b. A player may play a maximum of 2 innings in the same position for a game.
 - i. No player may play pitcher more than once in a game.
 - c. Players are not to play back-to-back innings in the outfield.
 - i. Exceptions are to be made for injuries.

17. If an opposing team is short a player or two, please offer one of your players that is not batting that inning to play the outfield. Just good sportsmanship.

18. All fielders must start each play in the traditional fielder position. Once the batter makes contact with the ball fielders may move as necessary to make the play. Kids naturally creep closer as the inning goes on. Just be aware and remind them to step back.
 - a. Infielders are not to be more than one step inside of the base line.
 - b. Outfielders are to be two steps into the outfield grass.
 - c. The pitcher **must** stand next to the pitching rubber **until the ball is hit**. The pitcher can stand on either side of the pitching rubber. Coaches may place a cone at the pitching rubber if needed.
 - d. **No playing infield shifts.**

19. Discourage the outfielders from running in and tagging a base. Encourage the throw to the infielders so they can make plays.

- 20. The most important rule, have fun.**