

Brooklyn Park Athletic Association



Baseball Rules

For

8/9-Year-Old

National League

Last Updated: March 10, 2022

General Rules and Information Page

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Rules	Description
1.0	The MYAS/Gopher State Baseball Rules will govern play for all Brooklyn Park Baseball Athletic Association 8/9NL games during the 2019 season except for the BPBA rules stated below, which will override such rules.
1.1	This BPBA list of rules and regulations is NOT intended to cover all the playing rules, but rather highlight the areas that are referenced most often by coaches. It is the responsibility of each coach to know and understand all the rules.
1.2	Only the head coach will talk to the umpire about the rules, in a professional manner, see code of conduct. If the head coach has a question about a rule, it must be done before the next pitch. Coaches should have a copy of the BPBA Rules. At each game for reference.
1.3	Field Set up. The designated Home team shall complete all field preparations and take down, which include setting bases, mounds, field grooming etc. This must be completed 30 minutes prior to the start of the game.
Equipment	Description
2.0	Players will not use metal cleated shoes, molded cleats or tennis shoes are approved. Prefer molded cleats. If player is found with metal cleats he will have to remove them and use approved type foot wear or not play.
2.1	BPBA approved Diamond or Rawlings leather baseballs are the approved baseball. Home Team will Provide one new baseball at the start of the game. Visiting team will provide like new for back up. Baseballs will be provided by BPBA.
2.2	Players must be in BPBA uniforms while playing, Numbered jersey, long pants, socks and hat.
2.3	Players must use an approved batting helmet while in the batter's box and or in the on-deck circle. Helmet must cover both ears.
2.4	Pitchers may not use a white under shirt while pitching or arm guard that is not solid dark color, i.e. Black, Dark Blue, No multi-color or camo
2.5	Players are not to wear jewelry while playing in the game or warming up. This includes but not limited to ear rings, necklaces, watches
2.6	USSSA or USA approved bats only 2-1/4" barrel; includes big barrel bats. See bat section for more details
Playing Time	Description
3.0	There will be continues batting order. The coach can make a new batting line up for each game of the season and tournament games.
3.1	Players are to have equal playing time during a game and over multiple games; this includes games shorter than six complete innings (the intent is

	equal play for all players). Teams with 11 players shall rotate players over multiple games equally. In the event a player comes late to a game, they will be allowed to play in the field the next inning and equal time from that point forward.
3.2	If a player is not being played for disciplinary reasons, the player and parents must be informed prior to the game taking place along with the opposing coach being notified before the start of the game. If during the course of the game disciplinary action needs to take place due to a player conduct, this will be the discretion of the head coach and communicated to the player at the time and after the game if needed.
3.3	No player may play the same position for more than 2 innings in a game.
3.4	All players must play at least one inning at an infield position. The inning must occur within the first four innings. <u>The catcher position does not count as an infield position.</u> The intent is that each player should play in the infield two innings per game.
3.5	Every player must play at least one inning at an outfield position per game. This mandatory player placement must occur within the first five innings.
3.6	Players will not be benched for missing practice if a parent/guardian has notified the coach before practice starts and is an excused absence.
Game Length	Description
4.0	A regulation game will be 6 innings long.
4.1	No new inning will start after 1 hours 50 minutes. The umpire will keep the official time with his/her clock. The umpire will notify both coaches after the first pitch of the official start time. Coaches will write the start time in their scorebooks.
4.2	All games that are tied after 6 innings AND have not met the 1:50 hour time limit will go to the California tie breaker, where the next inning will start with 1 out, runner on second base. Play will continue until a winner is determined. In the event play becomes unable to continue due to darkness, (sunset time for that day) game will end in a tie.
4.3	If the game is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed terms at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning; unless the home team, in their half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, in which case, the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called. Games can end in a tie during regular season play. In the event of a weather stoppage. Games are official after 4 complete innings or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead.

4.4	In case of inclement or extreme weather conditions, including thunderstorms, extreme heat, and rain, lengths of games can be modified on-site by both coaches and the umpire if it is fully agreed to by all parties and that it ensure safety of the players and the condition of the Field (time suspended for water break during high heat index)
Run Rules	Description
5.0	There will be a 5-run limit per inning except in the 6 th inning and beyond, in which there will be no limit on runs.
5.1	The 10-run rule will take effect after 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead or after 4 innings if the visiting team is ahead. If a visiting team is ahead by 10 or more innings in the 5 th or 6 th inning. The home team shall complete they're at bat.
Field Layout	Description
6.0	Base lengths will be set at 55-60 feet. NOTE: All games played at Brookdale will be played with bases at the second peg (55ft), all games plated at Northwoods will be played with bases at the closest peg (60ft).
6.1	Base length between Home Plate and 2 nd base will be set at approx. 78ft.
6.2	Machine Pitch: The pitching mound will be set at 38-42ft. from home plate. Home team is responsible for providing the pitching machine.
6.3	Player Pitch: The pitching mound will be set at 40ft. from home plate.
Pregame Warmup	Description
7.0	Batting practice can be done by the outfield back stops at Northwoods
7.1	Infield grounder practice can be done outside the foul lines of the infield next to team bench and field back stop.
7.2	There is no batting practice allowed on the infield.
7.3	Outfield practice can be done on teams' side of the outfield.
Game Play	Description
8.0	Coaches and players are not allowed directly behind backstop during games. Please refrain from having parents' coach from behind the backstop. If this happens, the opposing coach and/or umpire has the right to ask them to move.
8.1	The defensive team has 2 minutes between innings to take the field and for the pitcher to throw 8 warm up pitches
8.2	The home team will occupy the dugout on the third baseline. Visitors Team will occupy the first baseline dugout.

8.3	On a dropped third strike the batter is out.
8.4	Batter-training equipment (i.e. lightning sticks, ball-on-a-stick, etc.) will <i>not</i> be used during game play or between innings. Such equipment must be used under adult supervision.
8.5	If one team is short players, the other team will supply the required number of missing players as outfielders, from the bottom of their batting line-up. There will be no forfeits in this league or outs recorded for less than 9 players (10 players if there are four outfielders).
8.6	All defensive players, except the catcher, will need to have both feet in fair territory until the batter has contacted the ball or the ball has crossed the plate.
8.7	Coaches are not allowed in fair territory in the field of play while their team is on defense unless they are operating the pitching machine, assisting injured players, or talking to and/or replacing player/pitchers. They may come off the bench into foul territory to communicate to their players. Coaches may be behind the outfielders only. Coaches must stay behind players and not become an obstruction of play.
8.8	The strike zone shall be from the nose to the bottom of the knee, and one ball width on either side of home plate (“big strike zone”), as called by the umpire. 3strike, 4ball count
8.9	Each team can play with 4 players in the outfield.
Batting	Description
9.0	A continuous batting order will be used. All players must stay in the same batting order throughout the game. If a player shows up late they will be placed at the bottom of the batting order. If a player shows up after a full batting rotation, the player will enter the lineup after the last batter; the second time through the order. If a player leaves game, no out will be recorded for that spot in batting order.
9.1	If a player is injured or disciplined during a game and cannot take their turn at bat, that player will be taken off the batting rotation and will have to sit remainder of the game with no penalty.
9.2	There will be no penalty for stepping out of the batter’s box between pitches.
9.3	The batter shall not leave his position in the batter’s box after the pitcher comes to the set position or starts their windup without requesting time from the umpire. If time is not granted by the umpire the pitch will count.
9.4	The on-deck hitter will be able to warm up in one of the on-deck circles. The on-deck hitter will stand on the first base side for a left-handed hitter and on the third base side for a right-handed hitter.

Bats	Description
10.0	The official bat for league play shall be round in cross section, straight in length and measure not more than 36 inches long, including tape or other grip additions to the bat, shall have a knob at the end of its handle. Weight shall not exceed 31 ounces including tape or grip addition to the bat. The bat shall have a grip of tape or some other material to facilitate holding the bat during the batter's swing. The grip shall be not less than 10 inches long, nor extend to the touch the taper or barrel of the bat.
10.1	The 5- ounce bat rule will not be enforced.
10.2	Big Barrel bats are allowed.
10.3	The use of an illegal bat will result in the batter being called out and any play resulting from it will be nullified. A second occurrence player will be suspended from game. Head Coach will be suspended from game.
10.4	All required graphics, including USSSA or USA markings, must be permanent and cannot be applied as decals or by any other method. See examples.



Courtesy Runners	Description
11.0	Courtesy runners may not be used except in the event of an injury to a base runner. Injured player must be able to run their own bases next time at bat or taken out of the lineup for the remainder of the game with no penalty.
11.1	Courtesy runner for injured player will be the last out that was made.

Base Running	Description
12.0	The runner may not lead off or steal any bases. After the third strike, the ball is dead. Runners may not advance.

Slide Rule	Description
13.0	The base runner must slide or attempt to avoid body contact <i>when a tag is being attempted or on a force play</i> to avoid collisions and possible injuries.
13.1	Violation of slide rule 13.0 results in the player being called out; the ball is dead.

13.2	A fielder may not block a base or home plate without the ball. If he does, the runner is safe (unless the ball is in flight).
13.3	Any runner is out when sliding headfirst while advancing a base. Does not apply when returning to a base from a rundown or pick off situation.
13.4	For safety, all runners should run through first base (the intent is to teach running through 1 st base).

Pitching	Description
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	Machine Pitch
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14.0	Batter gets 3 strikes. If batter will not swing at pitches in the strike zone then pitcher (coach) must tell player to start swinging or call pitches strikes. There are no base-on-balls. There will be a maximum of 6 pitches in the strike zone without swinging per batter; result is the batter is out.
14.1	The defensive pitcher must stand no further than 5 feet from coach that is loading the pitching machine.
14.2	Four outfielders can be used, which must stand in the outfield grass when the ball is being pitched.
14.3	Head coach or an assistant will use the pitching machine for his/her own players when they are batting.
14.4	Machines will be used throughout the year, with kid pitch being phased-in the first game after the mid-season tournament.

	Kid Pitch
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14.5	Once player pitch is implemented, machine pitch will take place during the 1 st -3 rd innings, and player pitch during the last 4-6 innings.										
14.6	<p>Players and coaches will be required to adhere to the following per game pitch limits and days of rest limits:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th># Pitches</th> <th># Days Rest</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1-20</td> <td>No Rest (can pitch next day)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21-35</td> <td>1 Day Rest</td> </tr> <tr> <td>36-50</td> <td>2 Days Rest</td> </tr> <tr> <td>51-75</td> <td>3 Days Rest</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	# Pitches	# Days Rest	1-20	No Rest (can pitch next day)	21-35	1 Day Rest	36-50	2 Days Rest	51-75	3 Days Rest
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14.7	All players that would like to pitch must have the opportunity to pitch in one full inning (defined as 3 outs, 5 runs, or 30 pitches) during the season.
14.8	A 3 rd trip by a coach to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause that pitcher's automatic removal from the pitching position, only. The player may play other positions during the game.
14.9	The coach is prohibited from making a second visit to the mound while the same batter is at bat.
14.10	Any pitcher may leave the pitching position during a game and return again as the pitcher, but this move can be made only one time per game per player. An appearance as pitcher, even if only a single pitch to one batter,

	counts as an inning pitched (this however does not count as an infield position played as far as Rule 2.4 requires unless the pitcher plays the full inning: 3 outs or maximum runs are scored).
14.11	Use of an ineligible pitcher should be brought to the attention of the coach immediately and should be rectified. If a coach refuses to abide by the rule after being notified, it will result in forfeiture of that game.
14.12	A 4-ball 3-strike count will be used.
14.13	Kid pitch will be implemented the first game after the mid-season tournament. Machine pitch will be the innings 1-3, Kid pitch will be 4-6.
14.14	Pitchers can have 8 warm ups as a new pitcher, 5 pitches between innings
14.15	Illegal Pitches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curve Ball - 1st Offense: dead ball & pitch is called a ball • Curve Ball - 2nd Offense: dead ball & pitch is called a ball, AND pitcher is not allowed to pitch the remainder of the game • No Intentional Walks
Overthrows	Description
15.0	<u>Runners are not allowed to advance on any overthrow.</u> Purpose is to teach kids to attempt to make force out plays.
Dead Ball Rule	Description
16.0	If a player is already past a base and considered to be advancing to the next, they are considered to be advancing to the next base and may continue.
16.1	Runners may not continue to advance once a batted ball to the outfield has been fielded and thrown back to the dirt portion of the infield (hits the dirt; the ball need not be in possession of an infielder). Purpose is to emphasize getting ball back to infield as quickly as possible. Runners may continue to the base that they are advancing to, as long as the ball has not yet reached the dirt. Defensive players may still attempt to tag the runner out. The coaches and the 8/9 Year Old Commissioner should discuss this prior to the season and games to insure that they all agree on how to coach his/her team.
16.2	If a player hits the ball and the ball hits the pitching machine, the ball is a dead ball.
Infield Fly Rule	Description
17.0	No infield fly rule.
Substitutions	Description

18.0	Players will play on only one team, but will fill in for opposing teams with 9 or less players.
18.1	Players who are not registered players of BPAA Baseball may not participate as a substitute player.
Scorebook	Description
19.0	All players on the roster who are playing will be listed in the scorebook. This will be the continuous batting order, whether they are playing in the field or not.
19.1	Score keeper will write game start time given by umpire.
19.2	During kid pitch, each team will have own pitch counter and volunteer counting pitches.
19.3	Score Keepers shall report score and/or pitch count to umpire after innings
Sportsmanship	Description
20.0	All Coaches, players, parents, or fans are subject to the Code of conduct. They are not to direct any verbal abuse, profanity, or any other form of ridicule at any other player, coach, umpire, parent, or fan. Any player, coach, parent, or fan doing so will be ejected from the game and will be asked to leave the park immediately. The umpire may elect to call the game a forfeit to the non-offending team.
20.1	A player will be automatically ejected from the game for flagrantly throwing his bat or helmet, or for displaying poor sportsmanship. No Warning. Umpire's discretion.
20.2	If verbal abuse is observed and is not dealt with in a professional manner by the Head coach or Umpire, please contact a BOD member to report the issue.
Umpires	Description
21.0	All umpire's decisions are final. No protests on judgment calls will be allowed during game.
21.1	Balls and strikes are not subject to review. The umpire's call is final.
21.2	Any possible rule violations shall be directed in a professional manner to the umpire at the game. The coach must show in writing, via the High School Rule Book or BPAA Baseball Association Rules before the next play begins. Umpire will then review the rules and determine if a rule has been violated.
21.3	Board approved and supported umpires will be furnished for all games.
Protests	Description
22.0	Protest must be made in writing to the Baseball President. The Baseball Board will review protests.

22.1	No protests are allowed on judgement calls.
22.2	Any head coach filing a protest will submit the protest in writing within 24 hours of the incident along with \$10.00 to the BPBA president. If the protest is upheld, the money will be refunded. If the coach loses the protest, the money will be donated to the baseball program.
Suspected Rule Violations	Description
23.0	Suspected Rules Violations should be discussed with the coaches, umpires and commissioners. Should, after having the violation brought to his/her attention, a coach willingly continues to violate the rule, disciplinary action, including forfeiture of games.
Tobacco & Alcohol	Description
24.0	The use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages in any form is prohibited on the playing field, benches or dugouts. Tobacco is prohibited on all school properties. Alcohol is prohibited on all park properties in Brooklyn Park. Coaches and umpires are strongly urged to enforce this rule.
League Standings	Description
25.0	League standings will be based on points accumulated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 points for each win • 1 points for each tie • 0 point for each loss
25.1	Tie breakers will be decided by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head to head win/loss record • Head to head run differential • Total run differential • Coin toss
25.2	Standings Listed on-line are not considered final. Not all Tie breaker rules are able to be implemented in the online system. League Commissioner will publish official standings at mid-season tournament and post season tournament if different that the online system.
Tournament Rules	Description
26.0	Mid-Season Tournament: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mid-Season tournament structure, will be determined one week prior to the tournament. • Seeding for Mid-Season tournament will be determined by the league standings by last game prior to the tournament.

26.1	<p>End of Season Tournament:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The End of Season Tournament will be determined one week prior to the tournament.• Brackets will be published by the league commissioner.• Brackets will be formed based on the League Standings at the end of the regular season.
26.2	<p>Rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rules for the tournament games will be issued prior to the start of the tournament.